

The Rainbow Connection

Volume 6 ~ Issue 5

May 2010

Upcoming Events

Emmaus Monthly Gathering

May 23, 2010, 3:00pm
First UMC
New Lexington

Satellite Emmaus Gatherings

June 8, 2010, 7:00pm
Lancaster Gathering
6th Avenue UMC
June 14, 2010, 7:00pm
Logan Gathering
Trinity Lutheran Church

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Pilgrim List from the Spring Emmaus Walks

...Please welcome them to our Emmaus
community

Emmaus Family Picnic

Mark your calendar

Understanding the Bible (part 11)

The Return

Boardmember Contact Information

Keep this handy in case you would
like to contact a board member.

2010 Fee Schedule

Weekend Fees

Pilgrim Fee.....	\$125
Team Member.....	\$120
Logistics & Agape.....	\$75
Extra Meals:..... breakfast -	\$6.00
..... lunch -	\$7.00
..... dinner -	\$8.50

Mailed Newsletter.....	\$7.50/year
Emailed Newsletter.....	Free

LETTERS FROM CHRIST

Some time back I felt called to step out of my safe zone and accompany a mission team to Nuevo Progreso, Mexico. With my experience in nursing, I was able to effectively minister to the men, women and children in that community at a neighborhood medical clinic and experienced much personal and spiritual satisfaction. At the same time, great bonding occurred among all the medical and auxiliary persons on this trip, and I particularly remember our spiritual advisor asking us this question, *"Are you going on a mission trip, or are you being sent?"* We each had to answer this question for ourselves with varying responses. One lady's response was from 2Corinthians 3:3 where Paul is reminding and commending the faithful people of Corinth, *"You are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."* And I especially liked this metaphor that we are all letters from Christ to our families, friends and neighbors in the communities in which we live. We can be letters of encouragement and letters of love whether we are at home or in some other part of the world. Perhaps we may at some time in our lives be "letters of introduction" about Christ for someone who doesn't know Him. What a privilege and what a responsibility! Which brings me to my next statement-- It is so important for each one of you, whether sister or brother in Christ, to be part of a "Sharing Group". You heard about sharing groups on the last day of your 3 day Walk to Emmaus. Another name for this is a "Reunion Group". This is where all the meaningful work that was done for you during the Walk and where the Spirit of God touched that your heart comes into focus. For in all your 4th days, you will need the companionship, study and accountability that such a group can provide. And it may be up to you, or your sponsor to be able to form such a group. If you need any assistance, please don't hesitate to call myself, or Stacy Queen, our SOE Good Shepherd. I would like to leave you with this poem entitled, "Two Seeds".

Two seeds lay side by side in the fertile spring soil. The first seed said, "I want to grow! I want to send my roots deep into the soil beneath(continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1)... me, and thrust my sprouts through the earth's crust above me—I want to unfurl my tender buds like banners to announce the arrival of spring---I want to feel the warmth of the sun on my face and the blessing of the morning dew on my petals!" And so she grew.

The second seed said, "I am afraid. If I send my roots into the ground below, I don't know what I will encounter in the dark. If I push my way through the hard soil above me I may damage my delicate sprouts---what if I let my buds open and a snail tries to eat them? And if I were to open my blossoms, a small child may pull me from the ground. No, it is much better for me to wait until it is safe." And so she waited. A yard hen scratching around in the early spring ground for food found the waiting seed and promptly ate it. The moral of this story: Those of us who refuse to risk and grow get swallowed up by life. May our Christ who gave his very life for you find you willing to act for Him and to be the Letter of Christ to others! Amen.

In Christ's Love,

Barb Shiplett

SOE Board vice-chairman ...

Avoiding the Trap

Those who have heard me give the Obstacles to Grace talk may recall that I refer to an interesting section of the Book of Romans. It occurs to me, however, that it is just a passing reference to a very important subject, so I want to take this opportunity to expand on it a bit.

The situation arises at the end of chapter 5 and the beginning of chapter 6 of Romans. I am going to mix and match my references to various translations of the Bible in an effort to make it as understandable as possible.

At Romans 5:20, Paul writes: "God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were." That's clear enough. We understand that we are a sinful people. The problem stems from what he writes next: "...but

where sin increased, grace multiplied all the more." He meant it, of course, to show that God is wonderfully kind and merciful. But people being what they are, some twisted it around for their own purposes. They promoted the idea that people should sin more so that more grace would come into the world.

Clearly, that is a perverted interpretation of what Paul intended, so he is now writing to correct that idea. As he says at Romans 6:1-2: "Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more kindness and forgiveness? Of Course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it?"

We have a conflict here between two concepts that Dietrich Bonhoeffer calls cheap grace and costly grace. The people that Paul was criticizing, and their successors right down to our day, have made a fundamental error in believing that because grace is free, there is no cost associated with it. Now I may sound like I'm contradicting myself here, but please follow the rest of what I have to say.

If you think about it, what those original sinners were saying is that God's grace would cover their sins even if they did not really repent. Under their theory, they could continue in the same sins without ever even attempting to change their lives. To quote Bonhoeffer here, "Cheap grace means the justification of sin without justification of the sinner." There is nothing of following Christ involved in cheap grace.

Costly grace, on the other hand, is grace that calls us to repent, to change our lives, to take up our crosses daily, and to follow Jesus Christ, not just by lip service, but in actual thought, word and deed. When we understand that accepting God's grace must lead us to a life of discipleship, then we have truly become Christians.

De Colores!

David Rohrer

Community Spiritual Director



Please welcome the newest members of the Southern Ohio Emmaus Community...

Pilgrims - Women's Walk 48 (April 15-18,2010)

Dorothy "Lou" Burgett	Lancaster
Brandy Ellinger	New Straitsville
Sharon Funkhouser	Lancaster
Emily Haley	West Jefferson
Libby Hensley	Lancaster
Emma Hockenbery	West Jefferson
Tracy Huffer	Stoutsville
Marci Murphy	Malta
Heidi Norman	Malta
Josie Porter	Corning
Betsy Postle	West Jefferson
Jenn Potts	Crooksville
Mary Ann Simms	Nelsonville
Barbara Swartz	Lancaster
Cindy Tackett	Circleville
Sarah Tipton	The Plains
Kathy Vannoy	Amanda
Shelly Walker	Rushville

Pilgrims - Men's Walk 48 (May 13-16,2010)

Daniel Ansel	Lancaster
Jeffrey Bragg	Malta
Dennis Childress	Logan
Bart Hampson	Lancaster
Jerry Hoy	Logan
Steve Hubbard	Logan
David Jenks	New Straitsville
Gary Mummey	Stockport
Clint Porter	Corning
Steve Rinehart	Logan
Christopher Schwind	Hilliard
Joshua Squires	Logan
Erwin Wolfe	Logan

Thank you to all who served during these spring walks...

Team Members – Women's Walk 48

Spiritual Director: Dave Sherman

Assist. Spiritual Director: Mike Queen

Lay Director: Heather Pullins

Assistant Lay Directors:

Georganne Thomas, Dawn Barnes, Candi Drake

Table Leaders: Valerie Murry, Sue Penix, Kathy Morgan, Alice Money Penny, Stacie Dearth, Carol Howdyshell

Assistant Table Leaders:

Robin Yingling, Wanda Snyder, Debbie Brookins, Jean Jeffries, Kim Russell, Karen Martin

Music Directors:

Teresa Garey, Sharla Snedden,

Board Rep: Penny Canter

Clergy Talks: David Rohrer, Fred Kinne, Rodney Rogers

Agape: Bobbi Parsons, Rachel Bentley, Connie Walker

Logistics: Karcy Rush, Cheri Bauman, Brenda Stimmel

Team Members – Men's Walk 48

Spiritual Director: Ricci Arthur

Assist. Spiritual Director: Stanley Strode

Lay Director: Dan Pullins

Assistant Lay Directors:

Floyd Tackett, Richard Fast, Dave Kelch

Table Leaders: David Bankes, Mike Helber, Jim Stimmel, Larry Money Penny, Chris Stone, Bob Yingling

Assistant Table Leaders: Chris Dearth, Mark Brookins, Nathan Wince, Tom Parrish, Roger Taylor

Music Director: Dwayne Tackett

Board Rep: Bob Barnhart

Clergy Talks: Bruce Livingstone, David Cady, Fred Kinne

Agape: Linda Guseman, JoAnn Creiglow, Shirley Jadwin, Katie Jewell

Logistics: Greg Rush, Rodney Embrey, Roger Harris, Jerry Stimmel

Note: It is so hard to name all who helped and we know there were many who served for partial days during these spring walks. This thank you is for all those who served but weren't named.



April 2010 Emmaus Gathering Joys and Prayer Concerns

Concerns: Need for Probation Officers, Harold Moneypenny, Page Family, Lou's son (stranded travelers), Jayden Smith (custody hearing), Doug Neal, John Altier, Tom West, Dusty Garey, Men's Walk 48, Troops across the world, Lou Ann Erick, Stacy Queen, Revivals

From your Good Shepherd

A Big Welcome to all our new Emmaus members. I just want to encourage everyone to sincerely seek joining a share group as soon as you can. I read a scripture that is very clear to what we need to be doing. Out of The Message: Proverbs 13:20. Become Wise by walking with the Wise, hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces.

We need to surround ourselves with other Christians, that's why share groups are so important. It gives you that quality time with other believers. They help hold you accountable, which in return helps you with your daily walk with the Lord. Share groups also helps you stay in touch with what's going on in our Emmaus community.

If you don't have a share group or are looking for one please contact me or the Good Shepherd in your area. We'll either help you find one or possibly start one in your area!

On the same note of share groups, I would like to ask all members who already have a share group or plan on starting one to please contact me by phone or e-mail and let me know the day and time your group meets. I would like to keep track of all groups in our community. So when a member of the Emmaus community needs a share group we don't have to look far!

I would also like everyone to know that we do have a prayer chain of prayer warriors online if you would like to be a part of this prayer chain send me your e-mail address or you phone

number and you will be contacted when a prayer is needed. My phone number is (740)342-5429 and my email address is mqueen342@att.net.

Be blessed in your daily walk with Jesus,
Stacy Queen
Good Shepherd

Logistically Speaking

Attention all new pilgrims!! (As well as those of us who have been around awhile!). During your walk, did you ever stop to think or wonder how the dining room got all changed around between supper Saturday and candlelight later that night, and then changed back again by Sunday breakfast? Or where the books came from and who put them out, without your knowing? Or, who cleaned the bathrooms, put those agape gifts on the dining tables and on your bed, or built your campfire Friday night??? The answer to those questions is....Logistics and Agape team members did all these things for you out of their servant hearts! Now, does this sound like something you would be interested in? The Logistic team usually consists of four men and/or women and their duties include things like rearranging the dining hall between events, keeping the trash cans emptied, cleaning the restrooms, setting everything up for special things like candlelight, visualizing Christ campfire, closing ceremony, etc. The job does require some physical work, but when shared between four servants, it is not too bad. This may sound like work, (and it is), but it is a most rewarding experience knowing you are showing the pilgrims, most of whom are total strangers, your unconditional (agape) love. Working on a logistics team costs \$75.00 to cover lodging and food. You can also help out just for a day to two and pay only for the meals you eat. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, fill out a volunteer form and send it in right away. I'm looking for a '*few good men and women*' to fill the spots for the upcoming fall women's and men's Emmaus walks, as well as future walks.....Is God calling you to serve in this capacity?? Think it over, pray about it.....then let me know!

Karcy Rush
Logistics Chairperson
(740) 385-0945
karcyj@email.com



Southern Ohio Emmaus – Family Picnic

When: Saturday August 7, 2009 (campfire fellowship and camping Friday night, Aug 6)

Where: New Hope United Methodist Church, 9825 Gore Church Rd, Logan, Ohio
(8 miles north of Logan on SR93, Gore, Ohio)

What to Bring: Food, Lawn Chairs, Musical Instruments

Plan on a day of great music, fellowship and delicious food.

Bring your family, a friend, someone from your walk and come for the day. Hamburgers, hot dogs and tableware will be provided. Please bring a covered dish to complete the meal. Great desserts are always appreciated!

Want to come early? You can actually spend **Friday night** around the campfire with music and fellowship. Campers and motor homes are welcome. There will likely **not** be Electric or Water for campers in the camping area, so generators would work well. Bring your camper, or stop in for a while for informal fellowship and music. We'll have a campfire and snacks as we fellowship and share music throughout the evening.

Those spending the night: make sure you bring your campfire food for the evening and don't forget all the ingredients for s'mores made around the fire.

Special Music will be provided by those from the Community.

If you would like to participate in the music or provide some sort of entertainment, let us know.

Schedule of Events:

Friday August 6, 2009 (after 5:00pm)

Primitive Camping (bring your camper or tent)
Campfire
Fellowship & Music

Saturday August 7, 2009 (come anytime)

Family Picnic
Outdoor Games
Bring your favorite game
Fishing (bring your pole)
Fellowship & Music
Covered Dish Dinner at 1:00 noon
Worship at 3:00pm
Fellowship & Music
More Outdoor Games & Fishing



Note: *Children will need adult supervision while fishing*

Contact Greg Rush for more Information or if you have some ideas:

(740) 385-0945

gr44gregr@yahoo.com

If you intend to camp, please RSVP (385-0945) so we can plan space for your camper



The Return (Understanding the Bible)

When the Israelites went into exile, they were a confused and drifting people. They suffered both physical and mental anguish during the seventy years they were in Babylon. Yet God sent people, both Jews and Gentiles, to minister to them. It was a long way to Babylon, and the walk home was just as long. In the process, they seem to have heard what God was telling them, and they came back ready to resume their worship of the one true God.

Destruction and Disrepair (Nehemiah 1:1-3). Recall from part ten of this series that in 586 B.C., Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem, conquered it and destroyed the city and the temple. The royal court, prominent citizens, skilled craftsmen and a large portion of the general population were taken to Babylon, where, as the prophet Jeremiah had warned them, they were held in captivity for seventy years. During those seventy years the city of Jerusalem, having already been sacked by the Babylonians, fell into further disrepair from erosion and neglect. News about this reached the captives in Babylon, causing great sadness among them.

Rebuilding the Temple (Ezra 1-6). Recall also that during this time, Persia conquered Babylonia. It was part of God's plan to use Cyrus, the Persian king at the time, to permit the captives to return to Jerusalem, and to finance the rebuilding of the temple.

Zerubbabel is the Jewish leader of the effort to rebuild, and Haggai and Zechariah are the two prominent prophets in Jerusalem at the time. Despite opposition from Gentiles in the area, God speaks through the prophets and works

through Zerubbabel, so that the restoration of the temple is finished.

Rebuilding the Spirit (Ezra 7-10). As the temple is rebuilt, the spiritual lives of the people are rebuilt as well. It has been seventy years since there has been worship in the temple, and many of the people have never heard the Law of Moses. It is Ezra who takes on the job of reeducating the people about God's law and leading them to practice it. As he does so, the people are gradually reestablished as God's people.

Restoration Complete (Nehemiah). The book of Esther is proof that not all of the people returned at the same time; however, many did return. The temple restoration was completed first, but that still left the walls of the city in disrepair. This presented two problems: first, it was a matter of dishonor to the people, and second, it was a threat to their security because it made it difficult to defend the city. Nehemiah led this project, and, with funding from Artaxerxes, the new king of Persia, the rebuilding was completed.

Next: The Silence.

This article is based on chapter eleven of Max E. Anders' book *30 Days to Understanding the Bible*, available through amazon.com or christianbook.com.

This article is part eleven of a series. Earlier articles in the series can be found in previous editions of The Rainbow Connection beginning in June 2009, available at <http://www.southernhioemmaus.com/documents/newsletter.html> Your comments and questions are welcome, send them to: pastordavid@newhopelogan.org.

Pastor David Rohrer

2010 Southern Ohio Emmaus Board of Directors

This is the current contact list of our 2010 Board of Directors. Keep this list handy so you can contact the board with needs, concerns, ideas, and information. Please keep the board in your prayers that they may honor Our Lord as they serve Him and our community.

Spiritual Director

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Note: Each boardmember name is followed by the year their term ends

Updated: March 28, 2010

Southern Ohio Emmaus

c/o Greg Rush
38032 Scout Rd.
Logan, Ohio 43138

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE