



Northern Colorado Emmaus Community Northern Lights

May/June 2009

And now abide faith, hope, love, these three;
but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

From your community Lay Director – Perry Cogburn

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Spring is upon us and I pray that God's spirit has blossomed in your homes and He lives in each of your hearts! As we begin to prepare for the Fall season of Walks to Emmaus I have begun to reminisce about my Pilgrim Walk and how this movement has truly changed my life. I know that it has changed yours as well.

In addition to belonging to a great Reunion Group I also have a group at work that meets every Tuesday morning. Recently we have moved from a prayer meeting to a study group and we are currently studying how God transforms His children. We have moved along from what a changed life looks like, actually morphing toward His likeness, reasons we fail – dealing with sin, and currently, where do we get the power for this morphing process. As I read this week's chapter and we discussed it, I realized that my experiences in the Emmaus Community have been so instrumental in my life change.

This week we shared that our life change has to begin with the truth, God's word. None of us were reading our Bibles as much as we thought we should and we realized that if we are to understand the truth, we need to immerse ourselves in it. It gets back to the Grow through Study talk doesn't it? We all know the Easter and Christmas stories, but how often do we really get into the day to day life stories of our Biblical ancestors?

Our second challenge was to act on the truth. What are we doing with the knowledge we are gaining? God requires that we are not passive and that after we are "in Christ" our mission is to share the Good News. We begin the process in our lives and those around us, little by little, with God's help the process of holy transformation, moving toward the likeness of Christ. After all these years and hearing the Grace talks several times I believe I finally understand the difference between justification and sanctification. We have heard His knock at the door and now we have opened the door and invited Him in. My love of Jesus grows and as it grows I talk more about Him and want to share His love with others. Isn't God great?

This knowledge of the truth and desire to share cements in my heart that this holy transformation is both a gift and a responsibility. Holy transformation is something only God can accomplish in us, growing from the inside out. Take those steps toward a life in Christ and God's grace floods you and you can be the person that perhaps you had no idea you could have become. God gives grace not only through His Spirit and His Word, but through the lives of other people, people with a gift and a responsibility. Radical change, something only the Spirit of God can accomplish in the heart of a believer by His grace. The same grace I learned about on my weekend.

Please join me in preparing for a pair of great Emmaus Walks this fall by sharing the love of God with others. Whether you serve on a Team, Sponsor a Pilgrim, or simply pray for these weekends remember that you have already been given the gift of God's grace and now you have a responsibility to share that love with others. How will His Spirit, through your life, bring about change in the life of another this fall?

Perry Cogburn, Community Lay Director



“The Inner Voice of God”

Bruce Van Voorhis recently visited our church to share his experiences from 18 years as a missionary to Hong Kong. Bruce preached and talked about his work on human rights in Asia.

The stories he shared of human suffering and injustice were heart wrenching. His sermon focused on listening to the inner voice of God to discover the mission God calls us to accept.

His message sparked my memory of the many people who have said an inner voice tempted them. The inner voice told them to eat or drink something harmful because they deserved it; or the voice told them to do or say something hurtful because others are doing or saying it too.

One young man jumped off Hoover Dam because an inner voice told him to. While these messages were from an inner voice, I don't think they were from God.

The inner voice from God carries a different message. One young lady who went on a Walk last year heard the inner voice of God inviting her to use her gifts to tour with the Continentals sharing God's word through music. A retired minister heard the inner voice of God calling him to continue to volunteer in the church and community. Others heard the inner voice of God inviting them to train to serve God as ministers. Many youth heard the inner voice of God calling them to sacrifice their summer to go on Mission trips. Others heard the inner voice of God inviting them to serve the homeless, teach classes in their churches, drive buses to bring people to church, sponsor youth groups, build with habitat for humanity, give sacrificially, visit shut-ins and hospital patients, sing in choirs and praise teams, serve or work support on Walks, sponsor pilgrims, and the list goes on and on.

The inner voice of God always invites us to do or be what God created us for in the beginning.

The voice of God calls us into loving relationships to serve and show the love of God we experience for ourselves. We must choose to listen and respond to the inner voice of God.

The Walk to Emmaus helps people listen to the inner voice of God so they can go back to their churches and communities as God's missionaries. Many may participate in the Walk to Emmaus for what it brings to them. I challenge us to listen to the inner voice of God and discover what we can bring to the world for Christ.

We live in a broken and hurting world that needs the touch of God's love. We have many opportunities in our Emmaus community and churches to help bring healing to the world. One of these opportunities has your name on it. Pray and listen to the inner voice of God for the ministry that is right for you. Remember God loves you more than you will ever know, and so do I!



Tom Webster, Community Spiritual Director

SPONSORSHIP

By Ideal Curtis, the Walk to Emmaus Western Region Leader for the Upper Room.

The purpose of Emmaus is the renewal of the church through the renewal of the Christian, developing leadership and changing our worlds for Christ. *Sponsoring the right pilgrims is one of the keys to fulfilling that purpose.* Good sponsorship insures the health of your community. Those sponsored will come back to work and will become sponsors themselves. Sponsorship should be a life time commitment, not just for the weekend. Those sponsored should be:

Strong Christians

Active in their local congregation

Involved or willing to be involved in leadership

Not someone needing "fixed"

Not someone in a crisis – personal, emotional, medical, etc.

A board approved sponsorship talk should be required prior to sponsoring. Informing the community about the need for good sponsorship and how to be a good sponsor must be a priority. The board needs to oversee the implantation of sound sponsorship policies. Every time your community meets a sponsorship talk should be given so that the expectations and understanding is clear. Here are some suggestions:

- ✦ Candlelight (while waiting on the pilgrims)
- ✦ Closing (while waiting on the pilgrims)
- ✦ Team meetings
- ✦ Follow-up meetings
- ✦ Gatherings

You might consider adding a sponsorship talk as a *requirement to your pilgrim application.*



Notes From Africa: Renny Stoltz, International Rep for Africa

Africa South: Seventeen communities represent Emmaus and Chrysalis. The focus is on a concerted effort to eliminate any traditions/practices that are not part of the model and to move away from the "the way we used to do it" to what the program is supposed to be-- "simple."

Ghana: Two Walks were held in 2008. Walk #37 was blessed with an amazing rainbow above the Prayer Room.

Zimbabwe: Four sets of walks were held in two communities welcoming 110 new Pilgrims. Zimbabwe now has 933 Emmaus members. They face challenges in putting on Walks: lack of fuel, lack of funds, lack of food, and lack of venues.

Please keep these and all of the Emmaus communities around the world in your prayers.

Kairos Calendar

5-8 November Sterling North #14 Contact: Thomas Sonntag tsonntag@hamilton.net
3-6 December DenverWomen's#12 Contact: GlendaCondon ggcondon@gamil.com

Link to the Kairos website: <http://www.kairosprisonministry.org>

Walk schedule for 2009

Date	Application	Location
June 11-14, 2009		EOTR Women's Walk # 136 -- Hermit Basin 1699 Camino Rd. Westcliffe, CO Map To Hermit Basin
June 18-21, 2009		EOTR Men's Walk # 137 -- Hermit Basin 1699 Camino Rd. Westcliffe, CO Map To Hermit Basin
September 24-27, 2009 Apply here	Deadline: September 10, 2009 Apply here	Men's Walk # 30 -- First UMC, Laramie 1215 E. Gibbon Street, Laramie, WY Map to First UMC, Laramie
October 1-4, 2009 Apply here	Deadline: September 17, 2009 Apply here	Women's Walk # 31 -- UMC of Fort Morgan, 117 E Bijou Ave, Fort Morgan, CO Map to Fort Morgan UMC
October 1-4, 2009		Columbine Emmaus Men's Walk # 16 -- Id Ra Ha Je, Bailey, CO Map to Id Ra Ja He
October 8 - 11, 2009		Columbine Emmaus Women's Walk # 17 -- Id Ra Ha Je, Bailey, CO Map to Id Ra Ja He

2009 NCEC Calendar

- Gathering Picnic, Saturday, June 13th, Welcome Table Christian Church, Brighton Rec Center, 555 North 11th Ave, Brighton, Co
- Gathering, Saturday, July 11, Yuma UMC, 520 West 4th Ave, Yuma, Co
- Gathering, Saturday, August 8th, First UMC Laramie, 1215 E Gibbon St, Laramie, Wy
- Gathering, Saturday September 12th, Westminster Church of the Nazarene, 3501 W 104th Ave, Westminster, Co
- Men's Walk #30, September 24-27, 2009, First UMC, Laramie, Wy
- Women's Walk #31, October 1-4, 2009, UMC of Fort Morgan, Fort Morgan, Co
- And more... see [web page](#) for more information on our upcoming schedule and addresses for events

2009 Board Representatives

TITLE	NAME
Chairman and Community Lay Director	Perry Cogburn
Vice Chairman	Pat Olsen
Secretary	Rus & Kris Bakich
Treasurer	Anita Williams
Community Spiritual Director	Rev Tom Webster
3-Day	Karl Winegardner
Facilities	Sue Poet
Agape	Pete and Jorie Maggs
Chrysalis Coordinator	Pat Olsen
Communications & Newsletter	Sherry Wells
Fourth Day	Perry Cogburn
Gatherings	Bruce and Sherry Case
Kairos	Rus & Kris Bakich
Leadership Development	Todd & Renee Howard
Music	Judi Taylor
Nominations	Pat Olsen
Outreach/Hospitality	Elaine Prascher
Prayer Coordinator & Pre-Emmaus	Karl Winegardner
Registrar	Taylor and Millie Learning
Team Selection	Bill & Kim McAleb
Pre-Emmaus	Roger and Anita Williams

Board Happenings

Your NCEC Board met Saturday, May 9th at Longs Peak UMC, Longmont. Prior to the meeting we had a 'Board Retreat' during which Board members shared information regarding the duties and responsibilities of their assignments. This was a wonderful way to review with the group not only our responsibilities, but each person's interpretation of their duties as well as a forum to discuss questions, concerns and comments.

Items discussed include:

- Short discussion regarding Walk 29
- Prayer Room manual being developed
- Community Survey
- New Song Books
- Team Selection
- Minute by Minute update

The Next Board meeting will be June 13th at Welcome Table Christian Church in Brighton.

Don't Forget!

† The Gathering Picnic, Saturday, June 13th, Welcome Table Christian Church, Brighton Rec Center, 555 North 11th Ave, Brighton, CO

† Don't forget to prayerfully consider whom you would like to bless by inviting them to attend a "Walk to Emmaus".

† Don't forget to get involved in a Reunion Group.

† Don't forget to start thinking about table or pillow agape for the Fall Walks.

† Don't forget there are other Emmaus walks scheduled. Visit

<http://www.upperroom.org/Emmaus/community/default.asp> to sign up for a prayer vigil in a far away place.

† Don't forget "Christ is counting on YOU!"

† Don't forget to count on Christ!

Visit the Northern Colorado Emmaus Community website often.

The address is <http://www.northcoloemmaus.org/index.htm>.

To include an article or personal story in the May issue of Northern Lights, it must be received by June 22nd. Email it to Sherry Wells, Communications at:

cosherrywells@yahoo.com.

DeColores,

Sherry