

DECEMBER
2009

Ideally Speaking

My thoughts, My words, My heart



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.... Quickly time goes by. It is my desire that even though we live in an extremely face paced world, we, I, stop to take the time to really celebrate this season. Recently I attended a beautiful Christmas banquet where we were reminded that while we are out buying that "perfect" gift it is amazing to think that the first and only "perfect" gift was given that morning in Bethlehem. God giving His only son for the salvation of the world is a gift we cannot comprehend. It is what Christmas is all about. It is what we are all about. I am so thankful - aren't you?

A big part of Christmas for many of us is family. It is so fun to get together and tell funny stories about each other, eat good food, and enjoying being with each other. That's how I feel about the Emmaus family. I look forward to being with Emmaus family members all over - we are a big family you know.

I have had the opportunity to visit many places this year and was blessed by each one. Yes, there were funny stories, good food, and lots of enjoyment. There was also prayer, loving, and learning. Leadership Development has been the number one priority this year. The goal of strong, active, FOURTH DAY communities continues to be the focus. Fulfilling the purpose of Walk to Emmaus : The renewal of the church through the renewal of the Christian is happening! Developing Leaders to make a difference for Christ in our homes, our churches, our world, is the point.

I've said this before, and I will keep saying it, Walk to Emmaus is NOT, is NOT, about the weekend. It is about what happens when the pilgrims get home. Christ is still counting on us to make a difference for Him.

What is your part in this family? Are you on the board of your community? Are you an active member? Has it been a while since you participated? Walk to Emmaus, just like any family, is only as strong as it's members. Some communities are struggling with filling teams, sponsoring pilgrims, even finding Lay Directors for weekends. Be an active, participating supporting family member. Keep your board in prayer, attend gatherings, candlelights, and closings. Sponsor a pilgrim. Be on team. You are a vital part of your family (community) and you are needed.

I look forward to what God has in store for all of us in 2010. I hope that includes spending time with you.

Merry Christmas to my wonderful Emmaus family. Love you all!

HEWLETT-PACKARD

The WALK in the West

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

EQUIP

ENPOWER

EDUCATE

A program designed for strengthening
Boards and Communities

*The purpose of Walk to Emmaus is the renewal of the Church
through the renewal of Christians.*

FIRST OFFICAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT EVENT FOR 2010.

The Puget Sound community in Washington has graciously agreed to be the host community. We will be meeting April 9 and 10, 2010.

PLEASE DISCUSS THIS EVENT WITH YOUR BOARD and plan to attend. While everyone is invited, it is a great resource for new board members.

All three Western Regional Leaders, Ideal Curtis (Emmaus), Susan Jackson (Chrysalis), and Ron Grielich (Clergy) will be there. AND, Greg Engroff, the International Lay Director from the International Office in Nashville will also be joining us.

BE WATCHING FOR MORE DETAILS

You will begin to hear more about **OPERATION: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT** over the next few months. All of the Regional Leaders, Clergy Regional Leaders, Chrysalis Regional Leaders, and the Upper Room staff are committed to making this something of great value for communities.

We have heard your requests, your concerns, your questions, your suggestions and have kept you our primary focus as we have put this program together.

Walk to Emmaus is only as strong as it's servant/leaders. Our goal is to partner with you in building and sustaining healthy, strong, active, 4th Day, *Walk to Emmaus* communities all over the world.



UPPER ROOM/WALK TO EMMAUS STAFF:

International Spiritual Director - Victor Perez
Assistant to International Spiritual Director - Laura Feliciano
International Lay Director - Greg Engroff
Assistant to International Lay Director - Deana Fredrick

CONTACT THEM AT:
877-899-2780

HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE UPPER ROOM WEB SITE? There are so many resources there for your community. One of which is The Emmaus Library. This series of 10 books covers everything from The Early History, to The Board of Directors, to Fourth Day. They are inexpensive and are wonderful for your book table at Walks and other events. Check them out!

www.upperroom.org/emmaus

2010 LETTERS OF AGREEMENTS ARE IN THE MAIL

Please be looking for yours. This covenant agreement should be prayed over, read together, and signed at a community gathering/event. Everyone should be involved in this process. They need to be returned by March 1, 2010.

PRAISE REPORT

I was so blessed to be a part of the First Walk in the Bahamas. What an incredible weekend. Our team consisted of people from all over - West Virginia, Florida, Texas, South Carolina, California. In addition there were wonderful ladies from there in the Bahamas working as well.

The best part? The Holy Spirit was amazing. Lives were healed, changed, transformed. It will be exciting to see that community grow into a strong, active, FOURTH DAY community!

My favorite part? Working an Upper Room model weekend. It works! It works! Seeing the impact that was made without all of the "stuff" we've added along the way was wonderful.

Please keep the Sonshine Community in the Bahamas in your prayers.

Working With Each Other.....

This is an email I received recently - if you have any additional input, or a way your community handled this question, and would like to share it please email me at: idealcurtis@yahoo.com.

Hello Ideal,

How are you? I love reading your Regional newsletter. It is so "down-to-earth", has lots of information, and is very interesting.

I have a question to ask you, one that our community is now struggling with. I was wondering how your various communities determine which members should be classified as "inactive", and how do they arrive at that conclusion? Our community is getting too big to manage, and we are constantly wasting time calling people for service opportunities who are no longer interested in being involved in the community. But some of them still want to get the newsletter. And who on the board handles this function? Does it initially involve a clean-up of the database, in some way contacting all of the members?

Any input you may have would be great as I treasure your comments!

Blessings,

Jim

Your question is one that I hear often. Here are some of my thoughts and suggestions:

It is very important that you keep current, correct information on your community members. The best way to do that is thru a good database system, which requires lots of time and effort. A lot of communities do have someone on their board that is in charge of maintaining the database. I was involved with my home community cleaning up and really beginning to utilize a database and it took months to get it back in good order. But it was so worth all of the work! Once you have someone in place, start by gathering information - in your next newsletter ask for people to update and correct their information: address, phone, email, and then ask if they are still wanting to participate, what teams they have previously worked on, do they still want to receive the newsletter even if they don't want to work/sponsor at this time, and any other specific questions about your community. Have them respond to an email address (probably the database person) and you will get some responses than by snail mail... From that information you can clean up or build your database with those who are still wanting to be involved. I would not delete those who don't and I would continue to send the newsletter and any other announcements to them - you never know when they may decide to reengage. I don't think anyone should ever be eliminated from any community. They will always be a part of the community where they took their walk. Tell them that in your newsletter as well. Ask them to keep praying for your community even if at this time they are not able to be active, and that you will, as a board, pray for them. On another note - there are good ways to filter who wants to work and be active on weekends. Does your community have team work applications? Do you have a good team selection committee in place? Are you tracking thru your weekend Lay Directors those who they see potential for leadership? These are all ways to put together good, strong teams. Using these methods and then having a good database to manage the information will make team selection easier for all. And lastly, sponsorship is the key to all of this. Good sponsorship is what builds a solid community. Are you holding regular gatherings where sponsors bring their pilgrims? This is the perfect place for community Leadership Development including discussing being on a team and what that involves. I know that this is a long answer and covers more than you asked for - but hopefully it will help.

SPONSORSHIP

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 the key 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.

FOLLOW UP MEETING

Each walk should include a Follow Up Meeting. This should be held in a few days following the walk. All conference room team members. Sponsors, and board members should be there. This is the first step to insuring a strong 4th Day community.

A sponsorship talk should be given. There are guidelines in the Upper Room manual.

FOURTH DAY/GROUP REUNION

Walk to Emmaus is a 4th Day Movement. This means that your emphasis should not be on the 72 hour weekend but rather on what happens next. Group Reunions are vital to your community. Every board member as well as conference room team member should be in a Reunion Group. Every pilgrim should be encouraged to be in one as well.

**SPONSORSHIP IS THE KEY TO FULFILLING
THE PURPOSE OF EMMAUS**

CHRYSALIS CORNER

Hello! I am Susan Jackson, the Western Regional Chrysalis Leader.

As you may already know, Chrysalis, like Walk to Emmaus, provides a 72 hour "short course in Christianity" during which participants live in Christian community, hear and respond to fifteen talks on God's grace and Christian discipleship, attend worship services, pray, sing, and celebrate. Chrysalis is led by adults and young people who have experienced a three day event. It is offered for two age levels. Flights are for youth in grades 10-12 and Journeys are for college-age young adults 19-24. In Chrysalis, a true metamorphosis can begin in young people: a transformation from a taught faith to a faith of their own. Such important work is crucial in today's fragile world. With this in mind, The Walk to Emmaus movement embraces Chrysalis as its primary outreach. As your Regional Chrysalis leader, I am here to help with resources and answer questions. I have met with many communities in the last couple of years, and happily anticipate our Regional Leadership events starting in 2010.

I look forward to hearing from you and helping in any way I can to forward this precious movement called Chrysalis.

Agape, Susan Jackson

email: jensvenjack@comcast.net

phone; 425-747-8350

COMMENT? QUESTIONS? SUGGESTIONS?

Please keep your Regional Leaders in your prayers. It is our joy to partner with you in this incredible ministry.

We welcome your comments, suggestions, concerns.

You, the communities, are our top priority!

CLERGY INFO

From your WESTERN REGION CLERGY LEADER: Ron Grielich

As the "new kid on the block" beginning August 1, I have been very busy with training and preparing for ministry as your Emmaus Western Regional Clergy Leader. I have been in Nashville for sessions with all the Regional Leaders from across the nation. I have had two one on one, training times in Louisville, KY and Monroe, OH. Both were very helpful.

We in the west have just begun our clergy certification process. While the time frame for this has been extended we want to complete this as soon as possible. So here are the steps, as I understand them.

1. Each clergy, Emmaus and Chrysalis fills out the application. (It is on the Emmaus web site.) Send to me.
2. Obtain two letters of reference, at least one from a supervisor of your denomination/association. Send to me.
3. After my review these go to the Community Board of Directors for review and recommendation.
4. I send them to the national Emmaus office for final review.
5. Certificates will be sent to each clergy from the national office.

I am sure there will be questions. Feel free to ask. I will do my best to answer, or find an answer. I encourage you to get those applications in as soon as possible even though you may have questions. Be specific on dates you have served.

I appreciate your patience as we work through this process.

Dr. Ronald Grielich
Western Regional Clergy Leader
1480 Santa Ana Ave
Clovis, CA 93611
Phone: 559-346-1633 email: greilich21@sbcglobal.net



Oh Come let us adore Him...
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For He alone is worthy.
For He alone is worthy.

The WALK in the West

The Walk in the West is brought to you monthly by Ideal Curtis, the Walk To Emmaus Western Region Leader for the Upper Room.

**LINK IT TO YOUR WEB PAGE
SEND IT AS AN EMAIL BLAST TO ALL
COMMUNITY MEMBERS
ADD IT TO YOUR NEWSLETTER**

If you have something you would like to see in this newsletter, please contact me at
idealcurtis@yahoo.com or 530-258-2168.