

MARCH
2009

Ideally Speaking My thoughts, My words, My heart



I spent this last weekend sponsoring a dear friend of mine who was a pilgrim in the Central California Walk to Emmaus community. It was wonderful to be actively involved in a Walk weekend again. The sponsor's prayer hour is always so powerful. I couldn't help but begin to anticipate what God had in store for my friend as well as everyone else. Whispering a prayer each time the walk and my friend came to mind as the weekend progressed was a way to feel connected as well. And then of course Candlelight was incredible (aren't they always?). Hearing how the Spirit moved at closing is another wonderful part of the weekend.

But my favorite (and yes, I have several "favorites") part is always the closing communion service. Looking around that sanctuary at all of the shining faces, I can't help but think that this truly is the Body of Christ. Where we all go to church doesn't matter one bit. As we focus on the body and blood of Jesus and what He sacrificed for each of us, there is such a sweet presence that fills the room and the hearts of us all.

Every time I experience that I am reminded of what a gift Walk to Emmaus is. And to think that over 1 million people have been blessed to participate. What an impact it has had! As someone commented on our 30th Anniversary DVD: "Walk to Emmaus is the best thing that has ever happened to the church in lay leadership" (not a direct quote, but close).

What an opportunity to develop the leaders in our congregations. That is the purpose, you know, of Walk to Emmaus: The renewal of the church thru the renewal of the Christian. Which means that while the 72 hour weekend is indeed very special and life changing, the real reason for Walk to Emmaus is what we do in our 4th days. How do we change our world for Christ who is counting on us? How do we share His love and grace to a hurting, lost world? Are we being the hands and feet of Jesus?

The leadership of each community (the board) as the daunting responsibility of being the guardian of integrity and spirit of the Walks, and of the all important 4th day activities.

There will be challenges (that wayward Lay Director who wants to make "one small change"), the logistics concerns (expenses and facilities), the necessity of good sponsorship (the heart of a healthy, active, thriving community), and the clergy factor (no comment needed) all of which require dedication, commitment, and praying without ceasing. And every bit of it is worth it!

The same is true, but notched up to a community of 1 million, for the Upper Room. The responsibility has been the same for 30 years: love the communities, support the leadership, insure the integrity and consistency of the movement, and pray without ceasing.

No one involved in Walk to Emmaus takes these responsibilities lightly. After all, we are privileged to be used by God in His Walk to Emmaus ministry. His ministry. His weekend. His 4th days. He is counting on us.

If you haven't sponsored or worked on a walk for a while I encourage you to do so. Not only will you remember your own walk, but you will remember how important it is to be stay focused on the purpose, to be deliberate in decision making, and to pray without ceasing.

It also challenges us to re evaluate how indeed we are changing our world for Him.

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

WALK TO EMMAUS WESTERN REGION

The WALK in the West

OPERATION: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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EQUIP

ENPOWER

EDUCATE

A program designed for strengthening Emmaus
Boards and Communities

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

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.

HOT OFF THE PRESS:

**The new Emmaus worship books
(formerly known as the purple books)
are now available.**

For more information go to www.uppperroom.org/emmaus.

The Upper Room Corner:



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

ACCESS TO THE BOARDROOM AT THE UPPER ROOM WEB SITE:

Your password to utilizing the boardroom portion of the Upper Room website is always located on the copy of your signed Letter of Agreement you will receive back from the Upper Room.

If you have any questions, are not sure who will receive the Upper Room packet, or need further information please contact Ideal Curtis at idealcurtis@yahoo.com.

The Letter of Agreement is the covenant between the Upper Room and the individual communities. Please prayerfully read, understand, and know the Letter of Agreement. The board as a whole should pray about it, discuss it, and sign it together. When you as a board member sign this document you are doing so with the trust and confidence of your community members.

PILGRIM FEES

Another important thing to be current on is your pilgrim fees to the Upper Room. When does your community submit them? How much per pilgrim does your community pay? For how many pilgrims per year do you send a pilgrim fee to the Upper Room? Do you know the answers to these questions? If not, ask! Find out what and why your community is doing. The pilgrim fees is one of the main sources of income for Walk to Emmaus. Be good stewards and make sure your community is current.

UPPER ROOM NEWSLETTER

You can sign up to receive the Upper Room Walk to Emmaus newsletter online at: www.upperroom.org/emmaus.

FREE UPPER ROOM DEVOTIONALS FOR PILGRIMS

The Upper Room Devotionals are available free to all communities. These are a good addition to their 4th Day Packets they receive on Sunday of the walk weekend.

In Him I Live and Move and Have My Being. Acts 17:28

A message from the International Spiritual Director....

Dear friends:

A long process of transformation has preceded the revision of The Walk to Emmaus Worship booklet, better known as the "Emmaus purple book". We have engaged in prayer and dialogue with clergy and lay persons, members of our International Advisory committee, our Lay and Clergy Regional Leaders, and leaders from several Emmaus communities. We feel confident that we now have a better resource with updated liturgies, more modern prayers, and helpful aides for our pilgrims Fourth Day journey.

As of now your Board can order the 2008 revised version of the Emmaus worship booklet. The new item number is E-9810. The booklets will be shipped in packets of ten at a price of \$12 per packet. The few remaining old worship booklets have been removed from our warehouse to guarantee that only the revised edition will be shipped to you.

There are a couple of things we want to remind you. If your board still has copies of the old worship booklet and plan to use them during this year's walks that would be perfectly fine. However, once you start placing new orders you will receive the 2008 revised version. Eventually, you would need to make a shift to the revised version. As we mentioned earlier the revised version looks quite different from the old one.

Also, within a few more weeks, the Chrysalis Worship booklet will be available to the Chrysalis communities. The liturgy for Holy Communion is now the same in both Emmaus and Chrysalis Worship booklets to facilitate the participation of butterflies and pilgrims during community gatherings, candlelight services as well as regional events.

We are grateful to God for the revised Emmaus worship booklet that will enhance not only our community worship time, but our individual Fourth Day journey. If you need additional information regarding this new resource, please don't hesitate to contact your Emmaus regional leader whose contact information appears on our Emmaus webpage. You can also contact either Deana or Laura at 1-877-899-2780, ext. 7227 & 7230 respectively.

To order your revised worship booklets you can contact one of our customer service representatives at 1-800-972-0433. Please make sure you have your community account number which is found on page 3 of your finalized Letter of Agreement, as well as your ordering item number E-9810.

Within a couple of weeks your community will receive a sample copy of this new product. We look forward to our serving together side by side during this New Year.

De colores!

Rev. Victor Pérez,
International Spiritual Director
The Walk to Emmaus



THIS WEEK.....



108 WEEKENDS IN
29 STATES AND
4 COUNTRIES
52 WOMEN'S WEEKENDS
AND
56 MEN'S WEEKENDS

Let's keep them in our prayers!

The International Advisory Committee Annual Meeting
Will be held April 16-19, 2009
At the Upper Room in Nashville.

Representatives from all over the world will come together
to discuss the state of the
Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis communities.

Please keep these meetings and all those attending in your prayers.

There will be a report in the next issue of *Walk In The West*.

Please join me in supporting and praying for the Alaska Emmaus Community
as they seek God's guidance for their community.

I will be joining the Northern California Community for a board retreat April 24-25. We will be doing some team building/bonding activities as well as Leadership Development. Of course there will be food and fun! If your community is interested in putting something together for your board/community please contact me. Keep Northern California in your prayers.

FIVE CORE RESOURCES FOR THE WALK TO EMMAUS MOVEMENT

Each board member should have a copy of each of these and be familiar with their contents.

Team members on each walk should have the appropriate manual

Each speaker should have an outline of their talk and it should be followed

They can be used as a tool for community training at team work days, gatherings, etc.

They are also available for any community member interested in understanding the workings of Walk to Emmaus

- ***The Walk to Emmaus Directors Manual*** - This manual supports the role of the team leaders who serve in the conference room and carry out the three-day schedule during the Emmaus event: the Lay Director and Assistant Lay Director, the Spiritual Director and Assistant Spiritual Directors, the Music Director, and the Board Representative. The Director's Manual guides the work of these leaders during team formation and the three days. The comprehensive Walk to Emmaus Three-Day Schedule is found in this manual.
- ***The Walk to Emmaus Team Manual*** - Every team member who will serve in the conference room capacity (all team members, Assistant Lay and Spiritual Directors, Table Leaders, and Assistant Table Leaders) and who will participate in regular team meetings receive a Team Manual. The Team Manual helps the team develop an understanding of The Walk to Emmaus, expectations of Conference Room Team members. And the roles of speakers, Table Leaders, Assistant Table Leaders. Team Manuals are distributed to team members at the first team meeting and returned at the final team meeting so the future teams can use them, or individuals may purchase the Team Manual for their personal library.
- ***The Walk to Emmaus Talk Outlines*** (Includes Lay and Clergy Outlines) - This packet contains the fifteen Emmaus talk outlines. They are loose-leaf, three-hole punched, and packaged in a manner that enables the Lay and Spiritual Directors to distribute the material to the proper persons.
- ***Sustaining The Spirit*** - This book is a personal guide to the ministry of The Walk to Emmaus for members of Emmaus teams.
- ***The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus*** - This book contains explanations of the whys and hows of the Upper Room model of the Walk to Emmaus.

EACH OF THESE ARE AVAILABLE AT WWW.UPPERROOM.ORG.

THEY CAN BE PURCHASED THRU THE BOARDROOM SECTION

YOUR COMMUNITIES PASSWORD TO THE BOARDROOM IS LOCATED ON THE LETTER OF AGREEMENT SIGNED COPY RETURNED TO YOU BY THE UPPER ROOM

LEADERSHIP
LEADERSHIP

is based on

TRUST
TRUST

which is built on

RELATIONSHIP
RELATIONSHIP

it all begins with

COMMUNICATION
COMMUNICATION

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.