

MAY
2010

Ideally Speaking My thoughts, My words, My heart

I am once again amazed, impressed, overwhelmed at how our God works in our Walk to Emmaus communities. Here's a little bit of what's been happening in our Western Region so far this year:



San Diego will hold their 25th Anniversary Celebration July 17th. I'm sure anyone is welcome to join them as they reflect on the goodness of God all of these years. The most exciting part for me is the fact that they were almost ready to close their community. Lack of participation, low pilgrim count, it looked dismal at best. Through lots of prayer, good leadership, and a desire to be intentional about being a Fourth Day community and re-evaluating the hows, the whys, and the ways they were doing things, they now have waiting lists for pilgrims and are holding 2 sets of walks a year. WOW! For more information regarding San Diego and their celebration email: msklauer@aol.com.

Orange County Walk to Emmaus has decided to begin the process of restarting their community after some time of inactivity. We held the first steering committee meeting and are well on the way to a revived Fourth Day Community. For more information or to get involved email: sparker103@cox.net

Idaho Walk to Emmaus is in the midst of becoming a healthy, strong, Fourth Day Walk to Emmaus community. Holding rallies all over the state, attending Leadership Development events, they are united in their efforts. For more information or to get involved email: snicker_d00dle@msn.com

Puget Sound Walk to Emmaus hosted our Leadership Development event in April. There were members of communities from Washington, Oregon, California, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and Nevada. YES! That's what it's all about. Communities coming together - loving each other, encouraging each other, supporting each other, praying for each other.

Northern Colorado is hosting our Leadership Development in June in Longmont, Colorado. See the information in this newsletter and join us!

Southern Nevada is hosting our Leadership Development in August in Las Vegas, Nevada. See the information in this newsletter and join us!

We are discussing Leadership Development events in Santa Barbara, Hawaii, and Nevada.

And these are just the ones that I am aware of. I'm sure there is a lot more going on - I'd love to hear what's happening in your community. Please share what's going on in your community.

Let's keep all of these communities, our region, our regional leaders, the international communities, and all leadership in our prayers.

God is amazing and He continues to bless us every day!

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

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.

WALK TO EMMAUS WESTERN REGION

The WALK in the West

**WALK TO EMMAUS/CHRYSALIS
Leadership Development Event
Registration Form**

Leadership Development Event Location: _____

Leadership Development Event Date: _____

Name: _____

Emmaus/Chrysalis Home Community: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ **Cell phone:** _____

Email: _____ **Emergency phone:** _____

Board Member: **Board Position:** _____

Community Member: **Clergy:** **Youth:**

Attending Clergy Certification: **YES** **No**

Attending Friday Night Gathering: **YES** **No**

Transportation to Event: **Car** **Plane** **Train**

Do you need shuttle to church? **YES** **No**

Lodging Request: **Motel**

Stay at church

RV in church parking lot

PLEASE BRING SNACKS AND DRINKS FOR SATURDAY

**LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT THE CHURCH FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
\$5.00 PER PERSON**

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY JUNE 15TH TO:

[Ideal Curtis at idealcurtis@yahoo.com](mailto:idealcurtis@yahoo.com)
[Or Susan Jackson at jensvenjack@comcast.net](mailto:jensvenjack@comcast.net)

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

*EQUIP
EMPOWER
EDUCATE*

EVERYONE
IS
WELCOME

A program designed for strengthening
Boards and Communities

COLORADO

BOARD AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT JUNE 25 AND 26, 2010

Clergy Certification Friday, June 25 - 9:00 am

Community Gathering Friday, June 25 7:00 pm

Leadership Development Saturday, June 26 - 9:00 am

EMMAUS - CHRYSALIS - CLERGY Regional Leaders will be there
with Leadership Development for all three.

VICTOR PEREZ, INTERNATIONAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR WILL BE THERE!

The Northern Colorado community has graciously agreed to be our hosts.

WHERE: Longs Peak United Methodist Church

1421 Elmhurst Dr.

Longmont, Colorado

LODGING: Emmaus style camping at the church

Springfield Suites

Special rate of \$99.00 - mention Emmaus

RV parking at church

Fees: No Registration fee

\$5.00 Lunch

You are welcome to bring snacks/drinks

YOUR BOARD AND COMMUNITY MEMEBERS WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

EQUIP

EMPOWER

EDUCATE

A program designed for strengthening
Boards and Communities

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

BOARD AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

August 13 and 14, 2010

Clergy Certification Friday, August 13 - 9:00 am

Community Gathering Friday, August 13 7:00 pm

Leadership Development Saturday, August 14 - 9:00 am

EMMAUS - CHRYSALIS - CLERGY Regional Leaders will be there
with Leadership Development for all three.

More details to follow.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

BE THERE!



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

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Once again the International Advisory Committee met in Nashville April 20 and 21. I truly wish you all could have been there to hear the exciting, wonderful things God is doing in the Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis movements all over the world.

This year there were representatives there from Australia, South Africa, Germany, and all over the United States. We gather for two days of sharing, listening, praying, and discerning for the communities all over the world.

Each year we hear reports from each country and region of the United States. To hear how Australia is thriving, and growing, how South Africa continues to beat the odds and hold Walks, how communities here in the States are strong and healthy - well there is just one thing to say—Praise God!

We also address questions or suggestions brought to us by communities as a group - discussing them, debating them, discerning them. As a whole we come to a consciences regarding each one.

We are blessed to hear from both of our Leaders, Greg Engroff and Victor Perez. Greg spoke on being in a covenant relationship. Victor talked about living a Cross Shaped Life. There is no doubt God has placed these men in this place at this time.

We also take an offering each year. Communities send gifts, individuals give cheerfully and in the end this year almost \$5,500.00 was given toward the continuing of the International movements. Again - Praise God!

AGAPE

So-what's the purpose of agape on a weekend? How much do we give? Who do we give it to? What difference does it make when we give it?

Ever ask yourself these questions, discuss it as a board or community?

There is usually some talk about agape on weekends in some form or another. Let's take a look at just what was the original intent and purpose of personal and general agape on our weekends.

First some definitions:

PERSONAL AGAPE - 12 to 15 letters or cards for each pilgrim. If it fits in a sealed envelope it works. Given to pilgrims on Sunday afternoon.

GENERAL AGAPE - Table agape, pillow agape given to every pilgrim. If one gets it, everyone gets it. Often things made or provided by reunion groups, communities, or individuals.

The intent of the personal agape given on Sunday afternoon was to help the pilgrim begin the transition back into the real world. A reminder of the love that awaits them there. If these are given at other times throughout the weekend often their focus shifts to that outside world away from their very special time with Jesus. The idea of the cloistered environment not only includes distractions from outside people, but anything that might interrupt the Holy Spirit. A note from a young child easily distracts that mom's heart and mind. A message from a long loved friend can fill minds with memories and thoughts of yesterday, taking away from the power and importance of the day on their weekend.

General agape is another tangible way to show God's love, to show how special the pilgrims are in His sight through the hands and feet and hearts of others. That said, what message does it send when one or two pilgrims receive lavish gifts and others receive something lovely but simple? Again, we do not want to place distractions or doubts or fear in the weekend.

Some communities think that the more the better! PLEASE think about the intent—the original intent and YOUR intent when you give agape.

*Guidelines on agape can be found in the Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus.
Check it out!*

LEADERSHIP REALLY DOES MATTER....

I don't know about you but good LEADERSHIP is important to me. Nothing gets me fired up quicker than being involved in a group, a committee, a church, a business, or whatever the case may be, where poor LEADERSHIP has the potential to derail the whole thing.



On the other hand, nothing gets me fired up quicker, and motivates me more than seeing good LEADERSHIP in action. To see the "team" geared up and ready to go. To see things accomplished. To see the purpose achieved.

We have all seen how important LEADERSHIP is to an Emmaus community. There are hundreds if not thousands of people depending on that LEADERSHIP in the individual communities. Hard to believe that over one million people have experienced a Walk to Emmaus weekend.

Now, That takes some LEADERSHIP!

Which is why I am so excited about the LEADERSHIP Development opportunities for our Region in 2010. We are beginning a new era in which we make available, several times a year, a weekend of gathering of several communities (all are always invited) in close proximity (or as close as we get in the West). We have looked at the map and have tried to come up with areas in locations doable by multiple communities.

All of the Western Regional Leaders (Susan Jackson – Chrysalis, Ron Grielich – Clergy, and myself for Emmaus) will be there with LEADERSHIP Development for each. We will also have some special guests along the way, Greg Engroff and Victor Perez from the International Office in Nashville will join us when they can.

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND that your board does whatever is necessary to have someone at one (or more) of these LEADERSHIP Development events. Not only do you learn a lot from us, but there is great value in community members networking, supporting, questioning, encouraging, praying for, other community members.

The response has been overwhelming from those who attended last year's event. We held it in Southern California and had people there from Idaho, Nevada, and all over California. Every one of them said it was worth the effort, and the money to be there. I suggest that boards sponsor their Community Lay Director, and any new members. The only cost is getting there and lodging.

Believe me, it is a great investment in the life of your community!

Be sure to check out the flier that was included in your Letter of Agreement packet (I'll get you a copy of you can't find yours).

BE A PART OF GOOD LEADERSHIP. *Make a difference for your community.*

Please discuss it in your community, pray about it, and then commit to being there. Currently we have four scheduled: June - Colorado, August - Las Vegas, and California.

I also want you to be there for a selfish reason. I just love being with all of you- getting to know you, praying for you, encouraging you, loving you. I can't wait to see you in 2010!

WESTERN REGION LEADERSHIP TEAM

Ideal Curtis	Walk to Emmaus	idealcurtis@yahoo.com
Rev. Ron Grielich	Clergy	greilich21@sbcglobal.net
Susan Jackson	Chrysalis	jensvenjack@comcast.net
Aubrey Sloan	Assistant Walk to Emmaus	aubreys1@verizon.net
Galen Shott	Assistant Chrysalis	galen@shottsgarden.com

Please feel free to contact any of these leaders with questions, concerns, or suggestions. It is our privilege to serve together and with you.

The Purpose of Emmaus

The purpose of Emmaus is to renew the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

Emmaus expands participants' spiritual lives, deepens their discipleship, and rekindles their gifts as Christian leaders in their churches and communities. These aims are accomplished not only during the three-day Emmaus Walk but also through participation in group reunions and community Gatherings, sponsorship, prayer, support of Walks, and service on teams. Persons whose spiritual lives are renewed and strengthened through Emmaus are called to share within their community the grace they receive. They become leavening influences in their local churches. The purpose of Emmaus is not fully realized during the three days of the event itself but in the Fourth Day.

OUR VISION:

FOURTH DAY LEADERS EMBODYING CHRIST

OUR MISSION:

***EMPOWER LEADERS (PILGRIMS, CATERPILLARS,
BOARD MEMBERS) THROUGH EMMAUS AND
CHRYALIS TO BE THE HANDS AND FEET
OF CHRIST.***

Write for new Emmaus and Chrysalis Devotionals

Calling all devotional writers! (And even those of you who do not consider yourselves writers but have a story to tell . . .)

Upper Room Books is creating two new undated devotional booklets for Emmaus (*Fourth Day Forward*) and Chrysalis (*Taking Flight*). We need your help!

The booklets will each be based on the 15 Talk topics from the Walks and the Flights (see below). Which one could you write about?

Daily meditations should be 150-250 words long.

May include scripture verse or suggested text (state version of Bible used)

Deadline: July 1, 2010 or before.

Email to Robin Pippin at rpippin@gbod.org or mail to Robin Pippin, Upper Room Books, 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, TN 37212.

** If we choose to use your meditation, we will notify you before publication.

EMMAUS TOPICS for *Fourth Day Forward*

Priority	Growth through Study	Body of Christ
Prevenient Grace	Means of Grace	Sanctifying Grace
Priesthood of All Believers	Obstacles to Grace	Perseverance
Justifying Grace	Discipleship	Fourth Day
Piety	Changing Our World	

Some Tips for Writing:

Devotional writing should *invite* people to come closer to God.

Devotional writing should tell about *real* experiences of *real* people who are struggling to apply their faith to daily life.

Devotional writing should express only *one main idea*. It should leave one memorable image with the reader.

Devotional writing should lead persons into *further conversation with God* after they finish reading the meditation.

Your *journal* can be a great source of devotional writing because it records your real thoughts about your experiences.

Thanks for sharing your gifts with Chrysalis and Emmaus!