

OCTOBER  
2009

## *Ideally Speaking* My thoughts, My words, My heart

I recently received an email from Greg Engroff, the International Lay Director for Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis that I would like to share with you:

*"The three days of the Walk to Emmaus belong to the Pilgrims. The team is God's instrument through which God may touch their minds and hearts. In the broadest sense, the principal objective of the Emmaus weekend is to provide an environment in which the Pilgrims may find a joyful encounter with Jesus Christ. To accomplish this, care is taken that there is no infringement upon or control over the Pilgrim's freedom to respond naturally to God's call at their own pace and in their own way. It is important that words or actions of the Emmaus team do not, however inadvertently, indicate an "expected" response on the part of the Pilgrims to a given experience during the Walk to Emmaus.*

*You, as an Emmaus team, are called to give God complete freedom to move in the lives of the Pilgrims during those precious 72 hours for which you are responsible. Those 72 hours are God's time, to be used by God in a way that is infinitely more powerful and lasting than human minds can perceive. You are called to prayerfully seek, discover, and embrace an attitude of mind and heart which will allow those 72 hours to be used most effectively. "*

***This is good information for communities, teams, Regional Leaders, and staff. Why ARE we doing this? Because we're being called to be instruments for God. Wow!***

I appreciate this email for a couple of reasons. First, this is taken from *Sustaining The Spirit* which I believe is one of the best publications there is regarding Walk to Emmaus. Second, this is Greg's heart. That's the kind of leader I want to follow—one that continues to help us fully realize that we are all called to be instruments for God. It is His weekend, His pilgrims, His Walk to Emmaus.

Walk to Emmaus is such an unique gift. We get to see God at work every weekend, every team meeting, every gathering. We get to see lives changed through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit. I'm thankful that He has chosen to let me be a part of Walk to Emmaus— aren't you?

I invite you to keep Greg, Victor, the Regional Leaders, and the rest of the staff in your prayers.



WALK TO EMMAUS WESTERN REGION

# The WALK in the West

# OPERATION: LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

*EQUIP  
ENPOWER  
EDUCATE*

A program designed for strengthening Emmaus  
Boards and Communities

**Want a strong community?**

**Want a committed community?**

**Want an active community?**

**Want a united community?**

**Then learn how to develop strong, committed, active, united leaders.**

**Contact me today and let's discuss setting up a Leadership Development event soon!**

Calvary greetings:

I would like to send my appreciation to you and the Western Region leaders for encouraging and giving me the opportunity to attend the leadership development seminar in Riverside, Southern California.

It was quite an enriching and informative time. I learned lots of things and thank God that as Zimbabwe we are not far from the model and we have been trying by all means to be obedient and follow the model and with God's help we will continue working hard and prayerfully be as close to the model.

Ideal and her team did a wonderful, fantastic job. It was amazing for me to see how communities that were present face similar challenges we grapple with even in Zimbabwean communities and how much such development seminars help clarify and explain issues. Such problems as clergy commitment, sponsorship, and forth day activities.

I am indeed looking forward to the leadership development in Zimbabwe in November, since the people there are so enthusiastic to learn and share more on Emmaus and Chrysalis and are committed to its growth and expansion to various other parts of the country.

God bless,

Mazvita

Zimbabwe International Advisory Representative

*MAZVITA ATTENDED THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN AUGUST.*



## 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](http://www.upperroom.org/emmaus)

## New Crosses

The International Emmaus and Chrysalis Office is pleased to announce the introduction of a new Walk to Emmaus neck cross and a new Chrysalis neck cross. Both crosses are made of Alder wood, a hardwood which grows in the Northern Hemisphere. Alder wood is straight-grained, shock and decay resistant and stains well. It is used in making guitars, artificial limbs and cabinets. There is a ring at the top of the cross so a wide or thin lanyard can be added to complete the neck cross.

The current pewter neck cross was introduced in 1988, ten years after the start of the Emmaus movement. The Chrysalis cross was added when that movement started in 1985. The pewter neck crosses require molds, thirteen of them for all the languages, and those molds wear out and need to be replaced from time to time. In addition to the molds, The Upper Room does not own the rights to the design or the rights to the molds. Our current manufacturer is the only company that will or can produce these crosses and we do not have the rights for the sale of these items. They are under no obligation to sell these neck crosses exclusively to us.

The new wooden crosses are our own design and can be laser-cut, leaving no reason to have and replace molds. We originally looked at many designs, sizes and materials. We eliminated some styles and once down to a "Final Four" for design and type of font, the Chrysalis, Emmaus and Clergy Regional Leaders chose the final design for our communities to use.

Emmaus crosses have been **sold out**, however, Chrysalis crosses are still available by using item number C210. Chrysalis crosses should be available until the end of 2009, or until our supply has been sold out. While over 90% of all Emmaus and Chrysalis communities use the neck cross that we provide, it is not a requirement.

Contact Greg Engroff with any questions

# Sustaining the Walk to Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus is a precious gift to us—an instrument through which our Lord can and will work to renew his Church. However, this gift bears an obligation for the Emmaus community to sustain it intact in character and spirit—not just in name. The fact that Emmaus exists as a viable, dynamic instrument for personal and church renewal makes it vulnerable to suggestion for change, challenge, and potential decay. As with any Christian experience, there will be subtle temptations to mold and shape it into a ministry and message that satisfies personal desires or views. For Emmaus to survive as a dynamic and continuing renewal experience, it must be cherished, nurtured, protected, and used within the context for which it is intended.

The Emmaus community bears the responsibility for assuring the continued identity and integrity of the Walk to Emmaus. The Board of Directors of your community and all team members have the responsibility to sustain the spirit, character, and dynamics of the Emmaus weekends. This calls for discipline and adherence to The Upper Room's guidelines for conducting the Walk to Emmaus. It is imperative, therefore, that you participate whole-heartedly in adequate and disciplined preparation of the Emmaus team on which you serve. You, as the team member, must be committed to the excellence in performance, discipline, and quality of the Emmaus weekend. Nothing can be left to chance—Emmaus, as an instrument of renewal, seeks to be and to achieve the very best. The Emmaus team represents the entire Emmaus community and enjoys little latitude for departure from the prescribed directions for the Emmaus weekend. Emmaus calls for excellence in team performance, and excellence cannot be achieved by re-arranging the fabric and dynamics of the weekend, to add, subtract, or amend various dimensions of the experience.

Although Walk to Emmaus exists as a single, identifiable entity for church renewal, it is by no means the only experience through which renewal can occur in our churches. There are countless ways that an atmosphere for spiritual growth can be created—Emmaus embraces only a few of these. Emmaus should remain just that—the Walk to Emmaus—and should attempt to achieve only those things it was designed to achieve. Your participation as a member of the Emmaus team will be a living-out of the message of Emmaus, visible to yourself as well as to the Pilgrims who will be called by God to attend the weekend upon which you will be serving.

With the indwelling Spirit of Christ, with a spirit of servant hood and humility, you will indeed sustain the spirit of the Walk to Emmaus.

## *Sustaining The Spirit*

*Sustaining the Spirit can be purchased on the Upper Room website. I recommend every team member read it each time they work a walk. It is a great resource for community leadership development— use it at a team meeting, candlelight or closing!*

# 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

In Closing.....

# PRAISE REPORT

**This Week:**

204 Walks

35 States

3 Countries

133 Women

71 Men

---

The Regional Leaders will be meeting in Nashville for their biannual planning meetings and L3 Incubator the middle of October.

---

I am blessed to be serving on the First Women's Walk in the Bahamas in October.

*Please keep all of these in your prayers*

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

*II Chronicles 7:14*

## The WALK in the West

*The Walk in the West is brought to you by Ideal Curtis, Western Regional Leader for the Walk to Emmaus International Office.*

**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.