



From The Bread Of Life Walk to Emmaus

CRUMBS

Volume 19, Issue VI

Dec 2005

... from your Community Lay Director ...

The focus of Emmaus is God as known in Jesus Christ and how that finds expression in the local church. The objective of Emmaus is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action in their home, churches, and places of work. Emmaus lifts up a way for our grace-filled life to be lived and shared with others.

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Holiday Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior! What a blessing it was to see God's mighty hand and blessing on Walks 79 and 80 this past month. I want to take this opportunity to once again welcome our new 4th Day pilgrims to the Bread of Life Emmaus Community. Wait a minute – that's not personal enough – on behalf of the Community, a **BIG** welcome and **DeColores** to: Gil, Bradford, Gary, Wayne, David, Dennis, Sam, Craig, Larry, Chet, Tom, Steve, Quincy, John, Dave, Jack, Pat, Bill, Tom, Traci, Lu, Kathy, Nancy, Becki, Diana, Debra, Marilyn, Deena, Jeni, Jeannie, Marjory, Nancy, Ann, Sheila, Deb, Kathy, Coleen, Coda, Bobby, Kris, Audrey, Brenda, Sandra, Margaret, Dalene, Tina, Michelle, Jane, Janelle, Jackie, Billie, and Cheron – YOU ARE AWESOME! We are so excited to have you join our Emmaus family!

As I prepared to write my last message to this community that means so much to me, a patchwork of images came to mind: the bags of agape that I have in my closet from Walk 40 as well as the other Walks I was privileged and humbled to serve on as part of the conference room team; those wonderful agape letters that have kept me warm and secure as I read them when I'm walking in the valley instead of on the mountain top; the laughs and hugs I've shared with many of you over the years (the best agape ever!); and, the praise I give our Heavenly Father knowing that I have so many loving brothers and sisters in Christ because of the Walk To Emmaus.

It has been such a blessing to serve as your Community Lay Director this past year. Thank you for your words of encouragement you have given me, either in person or by email, and I also thank you for your willingness to share with me your concerns. It is my prayer that we continue to grow as a community in love and grace so that together we can continue to build His kingdom here on earth!

As my gift to each of you, I'd like to leave you with this verse from one of my very favorite songs. May the joy and love of this Advent season be with you always in your 4th Days!

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother
And in His Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy Name!*

Christ Is Counting on Us! Lisa Schneider, Community Lay Director
(Walk 40, Table of Rachel)

... area community gatherings ...

For this month only, please refer to your last Crumbs issue or the website for information concerning the Community gatherings. We do this to allow space for our Board members to send you their love and blessings.

... dear bread of life emmaus community ...

I wish to give thanks to you and our Lord for the opportunity that has been mine to serve through the Emmaus ministry. Your help and support given me the past year in the area of Sponsorship is much appreciated. We rejoice that almost 350 individuals have completed the sponsorship training. It is so encouraging to see the interest and enthusiasm in which you serve the pilgrims in your role as sponsors. Your performance as a sponsor is the pilgrim's first glimpse into Emmaus and the ministry opportunities that follow their Walk experience. Continue to prayerfully consider whom God would have you sponsor on future walks. Laura Davis, Sponsorship (Walk 50, Table of Sarah)

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Wow! It has been a great year and I have many to thank. First: God - for all of you that helped with all of the walks this year. I am very thankful for all that you all could do and did. Second, I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for your words and support while I have served the Community on the board as the "facilities dude". I look forward to being able to help my predecessor and maybe even get back to helping Don and the kitchen crew a little more. God is truly an awesome God and it is so cool to be used by Him for His service. Again, I thank you all. In His Love, Mike Gaddie, Facilities (Walk 67, Table of Mark)

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I would just like to say thanks for everyone's support and patience with me during my first year as registrar. It was definitely a learning experience. I would ask for any input that would help me do a better job as well as your prayers. God Bless! Barbara Gray, Registrar/Secretary (Walk 64, Table of Martha)

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I would like to thank everyone for your support of the Bread of Life Walk to Emmaus. Over the past two years it has been a blessing to see those of you who have supported the Emmaus community through your service and volunteerism I look forward to talking with many of you over the next year as we plan for our 2006 monthly gatherings. If you are interested in giving a 4th day talk, helping lead music, or a clergy person that would like to serve at one of the gatherings, don't wait for me to call. Listen to God calling you to His service and contact me with your interest. You can reach me at work: 316-265-7683, at home: 316-838-9314, or email me at aharr@superiorschool.com. Blessings, Alan Harr, Fourth Days (Walk 35, Table of Paul)

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What a pleasure it is to work with God's humble servants of this Emmaus Board of Directors and above all working with those humble servants that have worked in the kitchen this last two years. In looking forward to this next year it makes you excited what God is doing with this community. My prayers go to the whole community. Don Janssen, Kitchen (Red River Walk 22, Table of Mark)

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Merry CHRISTmas to all! As the secular world tries to remove Christ from this special holiday, by substituting "Happy Holidays, or Season's Greetings, instead of MERRY CHRISTMAS, I am so thankful that I know Christ is indeed the center of this holiday. I am so blessed because the church I attend and the community in which I live embrace the fact that "Jesus is the Reason for the Season." Earlier this evening our church held it's traditional "Hanging of the Greens" service. Each year in the glow of candlelight, and with wonderful favorite Christmas Carols filling the air, we transform our sanctuary into the beautiful Christmas scene that memories of made of. The boughs of evergreen are draped; the Advent Wreath is symbolically lit; the striking red poinsettia is prominently placed on the altar; and the beautiful Christmas Tree, shining with hundreds of lights and Chrismons, is set aglow. I was reminded once again this is where one celebrates Christmas, the birth of God's son. We find the true meaning of Christmas, in the quiet of the holiday season. It's not in the malls shopping for the perfect gift, it's not in all the busyness of the Christmas season, but it is found in the quietness of a church pew. As you prepare to celebrate the birth of God's son this holiday season, I wish you quiet times. Quiet moments to rejoice, to embrace the Holy Child, to thank God for the greatest gift of Christmas, the precious gift of his son. As Christians, we seek to pass on our heritage to our children and to those who, by faith in Christ, become part of the Family of God. It is through the work of the Holy Spirit in your life and mine that the Gift goes on. May you and your family be truly blessed with opportunities for quiet moments this Christmas season to tenderly embrace the greatest gift of all, God's son. MERRY CHRISTMAS, Barbara Jarboe, Prayer Room/Treasurer (Walk 70, Table of Mary)

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I would like to take this time to let you know how thankful I am for your servant attitudes in all aspects of the walk weekends. Without your support, love, and care for people's lives, my duties would be impossible. I am so thankful that God has shown me how the Body of Christ can work when we put all our own beliefs and our own doctrines aside and we are all here for one purpose - to serve and honor the Lord. I look forward to the next year with much excitement! God has provided so many opportunities for us to serve in other areas this next year. We have been all truly blessed this year and this holiday season. May God be with you in the coming months, and I will see you in April! Thank you once again for your willingness to serve the Lord with us. We are the hands and feet of Christ. DeColores! Jennifer Long, Agape (Walk 58, Table of Sarah)

... we wish you a merry CHRISTmas ... we wish you a merry CHRISTmas ...

... dear bread of life emmaus community ...

I took a vacant position on the board in March. I have never liked "politics", and was wary of tainting the innocence and pure joy I find in serving God through the Emmaus community. What I found instead was a board filled with people earnestly and genuinely striving to find God's will and fulfill it. I found humbleness, servanthood, honesty, sensitivity, and more fun than I could have imagined! It's just like God to pull us out of our comfort zone and then give us more rewards than we ever could have imagined for our willingness to follow! The deep gift of friendship I've found on the board has been one of the greatest blessings this year, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue serving in this way. Pam McCutcheon, Supplies & Literature (Walk 68, Table of Ruth)

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Christmas Greetings to All! I pray that each of you have a joy filled season and are truly blessed by our Lord during this special time. I'll take this opportunity to say thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve on the Bread of Life Board this past year. Seeing all of you at candlelight and closing especially warms my heart and soul. I have been truly blessed by your presence. You truly have a Board dedicated to serving the Lord, and the Emmaus Community. A special thanks to those who have assisted me by sharing your talents, prayers and leadership this past year with walk activities (Candlelight, Closing). With three walks scheduled this coming year, it will take all of us, serving hand in hand with the Lord to make them successful. If you are interested in helping with music this spring and/or summer please let me know. I look forward to the opportunities and challenges of a new year of service and pray God's blessings on you and your family. Steve Mead, Walk Activities (Walk 1, Table of Paul)

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I'd like to express my humble thanks to all of you for allowing me the honor of serving on your Board of Directors for the past year. Looking forward, I am struck again by the awesome responsibility and gladdened once more that God does not see me as I see myself. He sees me as His precious child and allows me the opportunity to be of service to Him through Emmaus. How blessed I am, and how thankful I am to you for your encouragement and support. I look forward with great anticipation (uh-oh!) to the next two years of service and pray God's blessings on you all. Peg Sanson, Crumbs Publisher (Central TX Walk 167, Table of Ruth)

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What a joy it has been to serve our Emmaus community these past three years. Thank you for placing your trust in me when you elected me. It has been so much fun and such a blessing to work with Diana Stapleton and many of you as God chose to use us in this manner to spread God's love and grace around. Again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity. In His service, Lois Smades, Snacks Co-Chair (Walk 50, Table of Naomi)

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What a blessing it has been for me to serve you for the past 3 years on the Board of Directors. In that time, I have seen the hand of God in our community in so many ways! I know that we have been rocked with changes that bring us in closer adherence to the "Model," and I have been so thrilled to take part in the tremendous healing that has begun in our Community. We have welcomed many new pilgrims as a result of strong sponsorship and have further developed leaders for the local church and our community through several very successful Walks. As I read in a book on a recent browsing trip to Barnes and Noble, "I think the statute of limitations has run out on anything "tragic" that has happened in the past,"... now is the time to move ahead with renewed commitment to spreading the Good News of Christ, and following His leadership model. I look forward to continuing to work alongside each of you as we prepare for three more Walks in 2006! DeColores! Susanne Smith Team Selection/Training/Past Chair (Walk 40, Table of Rachel)

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Ah, what a wonderful and awesome opportunity and honor that you have allowed me to be a servant to the board on the Walk to Emmaus. What joy this last year has been to work with this board. Thank you one and all! I would also like to thank Lois for taking me on as co-chair on the Snack committee; we have had a very special time together. This area (snacks) has been a wonderful experience with everyone donating their monies, snacks and time to work in this section of Emmaus. A special thanks for all the chocolate that came in on Walk 80 - it was awesome. I leave the board this year with sadness; I think we have had such a wonderful bonding and I will miss you all. God has another plan for my work and I'm looking forward to the path he has prepared for me. I thank the community for allowing me to serve as one of your board members. Praise God for this Walk to Emmaus and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in this community. God's Blessings to all. Diana M. Stapleton, Snacks Co-Chair (Walk 52, Table of Mary)

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December marks the end of my first official year on the board. I have actually served two years, one year filling in for someone who could not finish their term. This year has been a blessing because we as a board have worked through many problems and challenges. We have been blessed by our board chair, Lisa Schneider, who is so grace filled and always has a kind answer. I personally have enjoyed my time on the board because everyone is so willing to help. The long car rides have been time to get to know fellow western Kansas board members. We get to share in a time of fellowship that we would not ordinarily have. I have enjoyed being the 'chicken director' and learning the fine points of leading the flock. Thank you everyone who has sang in the chorus, been the chicken, or played the piano. It is with much anticipation that I look forward to another year on the board. For one, there will be new members to become acquainted with. Secondly, Garden City will host the spring Emmaus walks. We are like children at Christmas, bursting with anticipation, even though we are not supposed to anticipate! We could not accomplish anything with the larger Emmaus community. Thank you everyone who helps behind the scenes. Sidney Worf, Entertainment (Walk 28, Table of Naomi)

BREAD OF LIFE WALK TO EMMAUS
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Wichita Gathering
Saturday, December 10, Asbury Church

... new website up and running ...

IT'S HERE AT LAST!! Please check out our Community's new website located at www.breadoflifecommunity.com. (It's pretty wonderful if we do say so ourselves!) You'll find lots of information about our Community, the Board, how you can serve, etc., as well as links to the Upper Room and other related organizations.

*JESUS is the Reason for the Season!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*