



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

L.O.V. Emmaus Community

Limestone-Ohio Valley Emmaus Community

Christmas Issue

L.O.V.E. COMMUNITY NEWS

December

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them.

Luke 24:15

Upcoming Events:

- Gathering: December 28
- Gathering: January 25

Gatherings are held at the Maysville Church of the Nazarene, 7:00 pm. If possible, please bring a snack to share.

Board of Directors:
December 28, 5:45 pm
January 25, 5:45 pm

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A Christmas Story



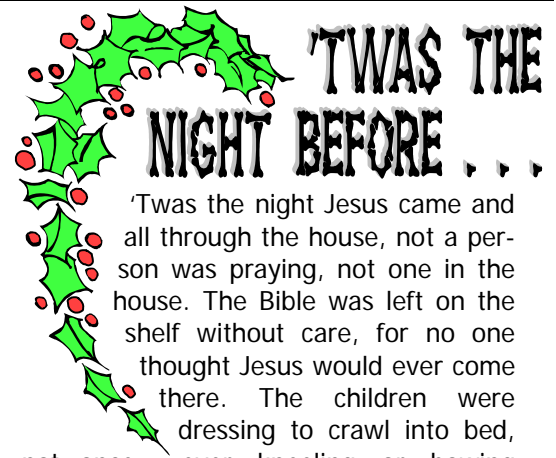
There was once a man who didn't believe in God, and he didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays, like Christmas. His wife, however, did believe, and she raised their children to also have faith in God and Jesus, despite his disparaging comments.

One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a Christmas Eve service in the farm community in which they lived. She asked him to come, but he refused. "That story is nonsense!" he said. "Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!" So she and the children left, and he stayed home.

A while later, the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blizzard. As the man looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening. Then he heard a loud thump. Something had hit the window. Then another thump. He looked out, but couldn't see more than a few feet.

When the snow let up a little, he ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. Apparently they had been flying south for the winter when they got caught in the snowstorm and could not go on. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter. They just flapped their wings and flew around the field in

(Continued on Page 2)



'Twas the NIGHT BEFORE . . .

'Twas the night Jesus came and all through the house, not a person was praying, not one in the house. The Bible was left on the shelf without care, for no one thought Jesus would ever come there. The children were dressing to crawl into bed, not once ever kneeling or bowing their head.

And Mom in the rocking chair with babe on her lap, was watching the Late Show as I took a nap. When out of the east there arose such a clatter, I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.

Away to the window I flew like a flash, tore open the shutters and lifted the sash. When what to my wondering eyes should appear, but Angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.

The light of His face made me cover my head... was Jesus returning just like He had said? And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth, I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself. In the Book of Life which he held in his hand, was written the name of every saved man. He spoke not a word as he searched for my name, when He proclaimed "It's not here." My head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love, He gathered to take to his Father above. With those who were ready He rose without sound, while all of the others were left standing round. I fell to my knees but it was too late, I'd waited too long and thus sealed my fate.

I stood and I cried as they rose
(Continued on Page 3)

WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Rejoice with Christmas Music



*On December 28, at 7:00 PM,
the L.O.V.E. Community will
have a special
Christmas Gathering!*

We will be blessed by the musical talents of the following members of our Community: Brent Arn (trio), Mary Banks, Kathy Bisotti (& the Grace Gals), Denise Burke (& niece), Mike Canada, Roger Cheesbro, the Ebenezer UMC Choir (Which is made up of several L.O.V.E. Community members), Frosty Frost, Rita Harper (quartet), Tim Naylor, Debbie & Donna Shoemaker, and Sharon Snider.

Musical selections will range from traditional to contemporary. This will be a great time to escape the "hectic holidays" and concentrate on celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Come enjoy the fellowship of the family of God as we praise and worship the King of kings and Lord of lords!

Joy To The World, The Lord Is Come



*"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good
will toward men."*

-- Luke 2:14



*"When they saw the
star, they rejoiced with
exceeding great joy."*

--Matthew 2:10



(Continued from Page 1) low circles, blindly and aimlessly. A couple (of them had flown into his window, it seemed.

The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It is warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he walked over to the barn and opened the doors wide, then watched and waited, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside. But the geese just fluttered around aimlessly and did not seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them.

The man tried to get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them and they moved further away. He went into the house and came back out with some bread, broke it up, and made a breadcrumbs trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on. Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them! and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered in every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be warm and safe.

"Why don't they follow me?!" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?" He thought for a moment and realized that they just wouldn't follow a human. "If only I were a goose, then I could save them," he said out loud. Then he had an idea. He went into barn, got one of his own geese, and carried it in his arms as he circled around behind the flock of wild geese. He then released it. His goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn -- and one by one the other geese followed it to safety.

He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife earlier. "Why would God want to be like us? That's ridiculous!" Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were like the geese -- blind, lost, perishing. God had His Son become like us so He could show us the way and save us. That was the meaning of Christmas, he realized. As the winds and blinding snow died down, his soul became quiet and pondered this wonderful thought. Suddenly he understood what Christmas was all about, why Christ had come. Years of doubt and disbelief vanished like the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow, and prayed his first prayer: "Thank You Jesus for coming in human form to show me the way out of the storm!"

Author Unknown (Thank you to Melony Furby for contributing articles to this month's newsletter!)

JOY

A Slumbering Miracle

WITHIN US ALL is a slumbering miracle, a latent Christ, a Light, a Power, and immediacy with God. To find this "indwelling Christ" actively, dynamically working within us, is to find the secret that Jesus wanted to give people.

It isn't a matter of believing in the Inner Light; it is a matter of yielding your lives to Him.... it is having a Center of creative power and joy and creation within you.

-- Thomas Kelly
THE SANCTUARY OF THE SOUL

Fa,La,La,La,La,La,La,La

Can the world get any busier? Can we, the body of Christ, survive the Christmas season intact and in love with God our Creator? I look around and see strain, stress, weariness and forced enjoyment of this Holy season. There is no need to list the variety of activities that run us all ragged. Yes, I do too much decorating. Yes, I do too much shopping and spending. Yes, I say "yes" instead of "no" too many times. Yes, I am involved in too many good projects. But..... when I deliberately take the hour and spend it with my share group each week, the world levels out again. I regain perspective, beginning with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit, through sharing our weaknesses and our strengths, our ups and DOWNS, our concerns about our doubts, and fi-

nally closing with that simple but oh, so powerful prayer....."Almighty God, who lives and reigns forever, we give You thanks for all the gifts You have bestowed upon us. Amen." You won't believe this, but I tear up each time with that prayer! It always turns my eyes back to the greatest gift, the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Oh, how much He loves us.

Try a share group. Join a share group. Begin a new share group! The blessings of a share group help me remember Who is in control of this busy world. Have a blessed and enjoyable Merry Christmas.

Colette McGinnis—The Good Shepherd
GoodShepherd@lovemmaus.org

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out of sight, Oh, if only I'd known that this was the night. In the words of this poem the meaning is clear the coming of Jesus is now drawing near. There's only one life and when comes the last call, we'll find out that the Bible was true after all...

B Basic
I Instruction
B Before
L Leaving
E Earth



From the Spiritual Director...

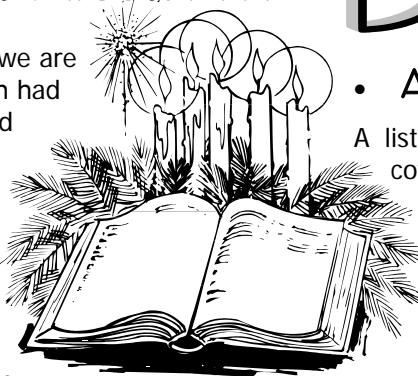
Hello beautiful Emmaus people!

During the Christmas season we are reminded the impact Christ's birth had on family, community, nation, and world. We tend to minimize the impact of the integrity our own personal spiritual growth has upon family, friends, church, community, nation, and world.

When my family and I were in ministry not many miles from the inter-coastal waterway that began outside Ft. Myers, Florida going East to the Atlantic, I learned that boats traveling that route were expected to watch their speed as their wake could cause premature erosion along the bank. I heard stories of residents who had property along the waterway actually running down to the bank and indicating displeasure (in ways you might guess) with those who were not sensitive to the long-range impact their actions would have.

The life and strength of any community of faith is to not minimize the impact of the integrity our spiritual journey has upon others. Jesus sacrificed everything so that the fellowship of the Spirit might be born and flourish among the people he has given us to serve. Let's keep doing it so God's impact will not be minimized anywhere we serve.

DeColores,
Michael Canada
Community Spiritual Director



Board News:

• A note from the registrar:

A list of upcoming walks can be found on the back cover. If you are thinking about sponsoring someone, please have them fill out a form and send it in. The form is available on the website. If you have any questions feel free to give me a call 606-759-5006 or drop me an email at: Membership@LOVEmmaus.org.

Have a Wonderful Christmas and remember

Christ is the Reason for the Season!

DeColores, Cyndi Frodge—Registrar

• A note from the Social Group

Bill & Georgjean Shelton would like to thank everyone for all the support, good food and help. Wanda and Jim Bowman will be your new faces in the kitchen. Bill is still committed to "Quality Control" and is looking forward to sampling all the food to be sure it is safe for everyone else to eat. "We have enjoyed every minute. And a big thanks to Tom and Shirley for all their help! God Bless!"

• A note from the Lead Committee:

The Lead Committee will meet in January, time and date to be announced. As the new chairperson, Georgjean requests everyone's prayers!



L.O.V.Emmaus Community
Limestone-Ohio Valley Emmaus Community

**Upcoming Walk
Dates Announced!
Walk #10**

Men: May 5-8, 2005
Women: June 2-5, 2005

Walk #11

Men: September 8-11, 2005
Women: October 6-9, 2005

www.LOVEmmaus.org

December, month of holly,
pine, and balsam,
Of berries red of candles'
mellow light.
Of home and fireside, laughter,
happy faces,
Of peace that comes upon
the holy night

**Health and
Happiness**



L.O.V.E. COMMUNITY
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Maysville, KY 41056

We wish you,
a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry
Christmas We wish you a
Merry Christmas And a
Happy New Year: Good
tidings we bring to you
your kin We wish you
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy
New Year