



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

Luke 24:15

**Upcoming Events:**

- Gathering July 26
- Gathering August 23

Next Community Gatherings at 7:00 p.m.  
The Maysville Church of the Nazarene  
156 Maple Leaf Rd.

*If possible, please bring a snack to share!*

Board of Directors:  
7/26/05 at 5:45 pm  
8/30/05 at 7:00 pm

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# From the Spiritual Director . . .

Hello Beautiful Emmaus People!

When Abraham wanted to find a wife for his son Isaac, he sent his most trusted servant on a journey to his kinfolk. (Genesis 24) The servant devised a very wise test to discern who would be the "right one" for his master's son. It would be the girl, who when he said, "Please let down your jar that I may have a drink," would say, "drink, and I'll water your camels too!" I use this illustration to teach my children one of the most important characteristics to look for in a choosing the Lord's mate for them is to discern if that person has a servant's heart. A servant's heart is essential to healthy relationships. To have a heart to serve as God leads in the mist of our life is the path to renewal and freshness in everything.

For our last month's gathering we met out at Ruggles Camp for a great meal, worship, and communion. How we have grown! So many new faces! If given the time, I know each face I saw could tell a story of how Emmaus has acted as a catalyst to trust God in new ways and how it's brought a fresh breeze of the Holy Spirit. That same Spirit will lead us again and again to difficult places of faith because that's the only way we can grow mighty in Spirit.

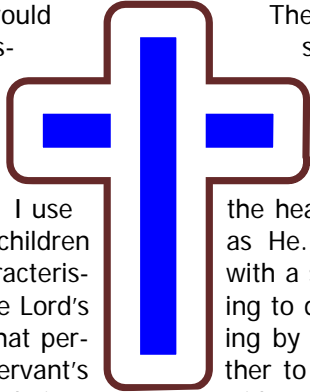
One noteworthy thing to remember about the wonderful story in Genesis 24, is that Rebekah, the girl who eventually passed Abraham's servant's test, had to face the difficult decision of leaving home, going to a strange country, and marrying a young man she had never met. Both Rebekah and Isaac had to make adjustments to trust God in new ways. So it will always be with us.

After our Emmaus experience God continues to lead us to trust Him in totally new ways within the context of the community of faith. The same servant spirit that caused her to be chosen by Abraham's servant also helped her through some difficult

"family issues" that could have disrupted God's plan.

When we are growing, there will always be birth pain issues we have to face and resolve with a servant's heart.

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Thesalonians 5:10: "He (Jesus) died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him." What is it to "live together with Him"? At the heart of this life is to serve others as He. It's to face birth pain issues with a servant's heart. Jesus was willing to die so that we might live believing by faith he could count on his Father to resurrect and give life. So it is with us as we are intentional servants in the faith communities where God has placed us.



*DeColores,  
Michael Canada  
Community Spiritual Director  
Gulf Coast Emmaus #22 Table of Peter*

## Horse Sense!

Just up the road from my home is a field, with two horses in it. From a distance, each looks like every other horse. But if one stops the car, or is walking by, one will notice something quite amazing.

Looking into the eyes of one horse will disclose that he is blind. His owner has chosen not to have him put down, but has made a good home for him. This alone is amazing.

Listening, one will hear the sound of a bell. Looking around for the source of the sound, one will see that it comes from the smaller horse in the field. Attached to her bridle is a small bell. It lets her blind friend know where she is, so he can follow her.

As one stands and watches these two friends, one sees how she is always  
*(Cont'd on Page 2)*

# FREEDOM

By Stacy Downing, - Community Lay Director

We just celebrated our country's freedom. How exciting to live in the land of the free! But what exactly is freedom? What does the Bible tell us about freedom?

The dictionary defines freedom as *voluntary; without restraint, without cost; to set at liberty*. "Freedom" is used many times throughout the Bible. In Genesis, God tells Adam and Eve, "You are free to eat from any tree..." In Psalms 118:5 we read, "In my anguish I cried to the Lord, and he answered by setting me free." Isaiah tells us in 55:7, "Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon." As we read the Bible and seek to understand the word of God, we can begin to understand freedom in a new way - a freedom that only when you walk with God can you truly understand and live.

John 8:32 tells us, "... and the truth will set you free." God's word is the truth. The more we read and learn about God's will for our life, the more freedom you will gain. This freedom is the ultimate freedom. This freedom allows you to truly understand God's role in your life and his plan for your life, freeing you to live your life pleasing to God.

By spending time in the precious word of God, you will be lifted directly into the presence of God. You will be free to obey God - out of love, not necessity, and through God's power, not your power. You can be assured that when you stumble - and we all will stumble - you will not fall back onto the ground. Instead, you will be caught and held in the loving arms of your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Freedom. As I am walking on this journey, my definition of freedom has changed. I am free. The freedom that was given us when Christ took our sins and died on the cross. Ironic isn't it? Being a slave to Christ actually sets us free. Praise God! May you find the true freedom - the only freedom that truly matters.

## From the Worship Director...

Hello Love Community, I thought that you would like to hear from one of our newest members who just happens to be the "love of my life" here on this earth. The July article is by Linda Naylor, L.O.V.E. Community Walk #10, Table of Abigail. Here are her thoughts on Worship:

Over the years, many Christians have relegated "worship" to a segment of Sunday morning's church service, usually the part involving singing. Although worship can certainly occur while we are singing songs to God in church, worship should be a regular part of our daily interaction with God--with or without singing!

God earnestly desires our worship. Scripture gives us several insights into the type of worship that pleases God. John 4:24 tells us, "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth" (NIV).

What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth? Paul tells us about spiritual worship in Romans 12:1, urging us to "offer our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--which is our spiritual worship" (NIV). Doing God's will as one of His servants provides us with the opportunity to fulfill God's desire for spiritual worship. Did you ever think of teaching Sunday School or collecting the offering or preparing a meal for someone as "worship"?

Matt Redman helps us focus on the truth of worship in his song, "The Heart of Worship". The chorus begins, "I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about you: it's all about you, Jesus." Jesus is frequently described as "The Truth" in the New Testament. Understanding that Jesus is the truth that provides the foundation for our relationship to God makes our worship of Him complete.

Have you found "The Heart of Worship"? Is your offering of worship something that God desires? Remember that God is looking into your heart make sure you give Him everything!

Linda Naylor

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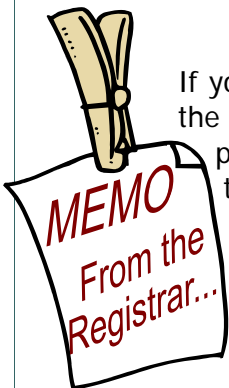
checking on him, and that he will listen for her bell and then slowly walk to where she is trusting that she will not lead him astray.

Like the owners of these two horses, God does not throw us away just because we are not perfect or because we have problems or challenges. He watches over us and even brings others into our lives to help us when we are in need.

Sometimes we are the blind horse being guided by God and those whom he places in our lives. Other times we are the guide horse, helping others see God.

Author Unknown

Thank you to Brenda Frodge for sharing this story!



If you are going to sponsor anyone for the September or October walks, please turn in the application and the \$15 as soon as possible.

Thank you and De Colores,  
Cyndi Frodge  
LOVE Community Registrar  
Membership@LOVEmmaus.org

# WHAT DO WE SHARE FROM WEEK TO WEEK?

Many people that I have talked with are concerned about what format to use during a share group. Again, I will be using many paragraphs out of the small book published by the Upper Room – *The Group Reunion*.

"Each person who attends the Walk to Emmaus receives a group reunion card on the third day. The outline of the card reflects the flow of the weekly meeting."

## ***The Prayer to the Holy Spirit***

The Prayer to the Holy Spirit is a centuries-old prayer paraphrase of Psalm 104:30, which celebrates God's sovereignty over humanity and the Spirit's recreative work in this world. The opening prayer is a reminder that the reason for meeting is not only to be with one another; it is to gather with openness to the renewing presence of the Holy Spirit. The prayer signifies the group members' recognition that the Spirit accompanies them in their daily walk and in their weekly gathering, just as the spirit of Jesus accompanied the two disciples on the walk to Emmaus that first Easter afternoon.

## ***The Service Sheet***

The service sheet represents a basic outline of each person's service to God in the areas of piety, study, and action. Each member shares what he or she did in each of these areas for the sake of being present to God during the week. By sharing the benefits as well as the difficulties encountered in the keeping of the discipline, the review becomes more than a legalistic ticking off of pious practices. The time becomes a rich opportunity to gain insight into one's life patterns, areas of resistance, and learnings about the walk of faith.

## ***Closest Moment to Christ***

After everybody has reviewed the quality of their service and presence to God during the week, the group moves on to the reflective questions. The attention shifts to their awareness of Christ's presence and call to them in the midst of everyday life. The first question is, "*At what moment this past week did you feel closest to Christ?*"

The Emmaus road story illustrates the meaning of the question. Grief, disappointment, and loss of faith dominated the two disciples' experience of life. And yet, in the midst of their anguish, the risen Christ "drew near and went with them." God's love broke through to them even in their desolation. And so, we ask ourselves each week—if not each day—what situations and challenges have dominated our experience of life? In what ways has Christ drawn near in the midst of it all, and where have we known God's love?

We may experience Christ's closeness in a moving worship service, in an act of compassion, in a time of joy and gratitude, or in a sense of assurance about a tough decision. Avoid limiting awareness of Christ to only positive experiences. What about Jacob's closeness with God when he wrestled with God through the night? (See Genesis 32:22-32) What about Mary's troubling experience when visited by the angel Gabriel? (See Luke 1:26-38) Whether for comfort or challenge, close encounters with Christ always open us to Christ's redemptive presence afresh. They are reaffirmations of God's love and faithfulness.

## ***Call to Discipleship***

At what moment during this week did you feel you were responding to God's call to be a disciple? Where did you participate in being the Church this week?

The message of the Walk to Emmaus is that God loves each of us with an unconditional love and that our discipleship consists in sharing that gift of love with others. In reviewing the service sheet, we share how we followed through on our planned commitments to Christian action. In the "Call to Discipleship" we examine our awareness and responsiveness to God's call of love in the midst of everyday life. When did we help someone become open to God's love? When did we reach out to a friend in need or go out of our way for someone we did not even know?

The question invites us, first of all, to think positively about the ways we responded faithfully to God's call to love, witness, and service during the past week. Responsiveness to God's call of love comes naturally. When Jesus came as a stranger to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, they received him without question into their company. When they arrived at Emmaus, they invited him to stay over and to share their food.

By naming even those ways in which our discipleship comes naturally, we celebrate the ways in which God's grace is active already in who we are. Discipleship is seldom a rare and heroic deed. It is, at its best, a lifestyle of grace that expresses itself in everything we do.

The question also challenges us to reflect upon the ways God may be beckoning us to share Christ's love in a new and unanticipated ways. Which persons continually surface in prayer and thought? What human need continues to interrupt our peace? What injustice keeps us awake at night? Sometimes faithful response requires planning and collaboration with others. Sometimes it means changing our plans. Sometimes it means sacrifice. Sometimes it means finally forgiving someone or seeking forgiveness in a relationship that needs healing."

There are a few more suggestions that I will include in the article for next month. This has been an illuminating experience for me as I have re-read this great little book. I feel charged and ready for my share group this Thursday. I know I have a much better understanding of these first couple of questions. Our sharing can only become beneficial when we are open with God and with each other. Let's lift each other up in Christian love so that others may see us as Christ's disciples.

De Colores,  
Colette McGinnis—*The Good Shepherd*  
GoodShepherd@LOVEmmaus.org



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

## Upcoming Walk Dates Announced!

### Walk #11

Men: September 8-11, 2005

Women: October 6-9, 2005

[www.LOVEmmaus.org](http://www.LOVEmmaus.org)

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