



The Emmaus News

Columbus Indiana Area Emmaus Community, Inc.

Letter to the Community:

VOLUME 17 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2009

I had been wondering what I was going to write about this month. I knew I would be getting the monthly email reminding me that the article was due and I was drawing a blank this month as to what I would have to say. That was until last night. After the program that I witnessed last night I knew why I couldn't think of anything for the newsletter. God had an experience in store for me that would be the inspiration for this writing. The program that I am speaking of is a performance by the African Children's Choir. Robin and I went to see these amazing children last night and I knew it would probably be an entertaining program, but I was not prepared for what I witnessed. Every now and then we have an opportunity to see examples of scripture in action. What I saw last night was a living example of Mark 10:16 which says, "and He took the children in His arms, put His hands on them and blessed them." These children obviously understand the idea of "blessed to be a blessing". This group of young children who have been orphaned as a result of disease, war or other circumstances that have made them vulnerable to the world, have been scooped up into the arms of Jesus and they work to support other children in Africa that are like them – without parents, without food, without shelter and without love. God is using the organization called the African Children's Choir to show His love and His compassion to those who love Him. This organization provides food, housing, and an education to children who would otherwise be swallowed up in the world. Many of these children have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, engineers, ministers, teachers and whatever they choose to be.

While I was enjoying the program, I was encouraged and refreshed with the reassurance that God is still in control regardless of what we experience daily and hear in the daily news from around the world. I looked around and saw several members of our Emmaus community being blessed just as I was during the performance. Who knows, this experience could even wind up in a "Christian Action" talk someday.

Reflecting on this program, I am also reminded that we all still have work to do. We all need to be the hands and feet working to make a difference to the people that God puts in our path every day. All of us may not be able to sing or dance but God has equipped each one of us for the specific role that he has given us.

Dates for Upcoming Walks & Flights

Chrysalis Flights #33 & #34	Sept. 5 - 7, 2009
Men's Walk #73	October 22 - 25, 2009
Women's Walk #74	Oct 29 - Nov 1, 2009



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This brings me to another subject that is near and dear to my heart. This subject is something that I talk about quite often. I usually speak of this topic at each gathering too. If you haven't guessed yet, I am leading up to the subject of sponsorship. Sponsorship is something that we should never take lightly. Sponsoring someone on an Emmaus experience is more than just making sure the pilgrim shows up for send-off on Thursday night and picking them up on Sunday afternoon. Sponsorship should always be the result of praying about how God wants us to lead someone who He has chosen to experience the blessing of Emmaus. That blessing continues to leading the pilgrim beyond the walk weekend to experiencing the blessing of being a part of the Emmaus Community. Everyone who has become part of our community has a specific purpose that God has for them to fulfill as a member of the community but the sponsor is the key to getting the pilgrim introduced and involved in the community. I still praise God for my experience in the Columbus Emmaus Community and it all started with someone that loved me enough to share what they had found in our community.

I have truly been blessed again this month not only by the African Children's Choir but also by serving as your community lay director. I only hope that I can be a blessing to someone else as God has blessed me.

Serving God together,
Bill



Board Nominations Deadline is Near

We have been praying for guidance in the selection process for new Columbus IN Area Emmaus Community Board members for 2010. August 31st is the deadline to nominate those servants that God has chosen to do His work on the Board for the next three years.

If you have been led to nominate someone, contact Carolyn Pool, Team Selection, cpool@columbusinemmaus.org.



A Reminder to Sponsors

Part of your responsibility as a sponsor is to keep in touch with your pilgrim and encourage them in their Fourth Days. As sponsors you need to encourage reunion group participation, Gathering attendance, and to make sure your pilgrim knows about other community activities and opportunities to serve. Your responsibility does not end when their Fourth Days begin!



Meet a New Board Member

Re-Treads: a motorcycle club for those over 50. Re-Cycle: to re-use or reprocess to avoid waste. I'm A.C. Reeves, one of the "newest" members of the Columbus Emmaus Board.

I guess all of the above apply; I ride a cycle, am over 50, and am constantly being re-used. Maybe "in the beginning," as in Genesis 1:1 also applies. God created me, and He also has created the Columbus Area Emmaus.

When I made walk #17 in Madisonville, KY in Fall 1985 (known Emmaus communities in this area were rare then), I also was asked the final two questions of the weekend. What has this weekend meant and what do I intend to do about it? I had no clue!

As God continued to interact in my life, He was actually using me to help create this spiritual renewal movement in this area. I got involved in the South-Central Emmaus Board in Indianapolis that then covered the Indianapolis area and south. I began lobbying The Upper Room to allow us to charter a local Community. Although contrary to National Emmaus policy at the time, my discussions with Stephen Bryant eventually culminated in the signing of a contract with The Upper Room, and Columbus IN Area Emmaus was officially born. I became the first Lay Director, maybe by default!

God has blessed us; and this community has reached out and grown over these past 20 years. So now I feel the question I've been asked is: *Why am I now on this Emmaus Board?* I think God still has plans for us in this and surrounding communities. Low numbers of Pilgrims on too many recent walks have challenged the continuation of some walks. Sponsorship and responsibilities of sponsors perhaps needs addressing. Sponsorship is the lifeblood of this organization. Integration of new people into the Community following their walks (and their excitement) may need review. Drawing back those who were active in years past and who have many talents to share is a concern for me.

So, maybe for these and other reasons, this "old man of Emmaus" is being "recycled". Let's pray that we can all work together to understand God's direction for this Community. Let us all be **"Blessed to be a Blessing"**.

My wife is Donna, and between us we have raised 6 kids, and have 14 grandchildren; my youngest daughter has her first on the way, and Donna's son is marrying in December, so likely more potential there!

See you "on the Road".
De Colores!
A.C.



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Home Page:

www.columbusinemmaus.org

Emmaus Information Page (for community members):

www.columbusinemmaus.org/emmaus/members

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**COLUMBUS INDIANA AREA
EMMAUS COMMUNITY, INC
P.O. Box 2184
Columbus, IN 47202-2184**

www.columbusinemmaus.org



www.upperroom.org

August Chrysalis Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 4, 2009—6 pm
First Christian Church
531 Fifth St., Columbus, I N

August Emmaus Board Meeting

Saturday, August 8, 2009—9:00 am
Rocky Ford Free Methodist Church
3990 Rocky Ford Rd., Columbus, I N

August Hoot

Sunday, August 16, 2009—2:00 pm
Check website for location

August Gathering and Chrysalis Team Dedication

Friday, August 21,, 2009—7 pm
Trinity UMC Church
333 S. Chestnut St., Seymour, I N
Childcare provided for ages 6 & under
J-Z responsible for refreshments

