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Chatter Matters October 2011

Dayspring Walk to Emmaus <dayspringwalktoemmaus@gmail.com>

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Chatter Matters

Dayspring Walk to Emmaus

October 2011

In This Issue

Welcome!
 Pilgrim's Progress
 The Website
 Message
 Sponsorship
 Chrysalis
 Importance of Journey/Chrysalis



Welcome to Our New Members!

We are so excited to have you as the newest members of our Dayspring Emmaus community. God knew what He was doing when He sent you to us and we could not be more pleased! We look forward to serving with you in the future!

To Sponsors and especially New Community Members (please know that everyone is invited to come and learn more):

SAVE THE DATE

Sustaining the Spirit will be held October 4, 2011 at 6:30pm at Statesboro United Methodist Church. To learn more about the Walk to Emmaus, Sponsorship, and how you can get involved, you need to be there! Please RSVP to Beverly MacGregor, Training Coordinator, at Cell: 912-682-4133 or pandb@pineland.net

Sponsors, please also check with your pilgrims to be sure they are receiving email correspondences and that their names are spelled correctly in the system. If they are not, have them email us at

dayspringwalktoemmaus@gmail.com and then keep checking with them again until you are sure that they were added successfully. If your pilgrim does not have an email address, make sure they receive the Chatter Matters by mail shortly after the first of the month. It is vital that you insure that your pilgrim gets connected properly. Thanks so much!



Pilgrim's Progress

by Trish Tootle

Approximately three years ago my husband David and I signed up on two different occasions to attend the Dayspring Walk to Emmaus. Due to David's declining health we were unable to attend. My dear friend and sponsor said you will go on the walk when God is ready for you to go on the walk. It will be in His perfect timing.

David and I had served God together for 36 years and The Walk to Emmaus was something we were looking forward to doing together to enhance our service to our Lord.

In August of 2010 my husband David went home to be with the Lord after a three week bout with cancer. The Lord gave me a perfect peace about David's death, that peace that passes all understanding. My prayer to God was to comfort my family and show me the direction of service he had for my life without my partner and best friend.

David and I had always served together. I knew if God had left me here, He still had a perfect plan for me. I also knew that David left me with a great spiritual foundation, but now it was not Trish, David & God but Trish & God.

Six months after David's death I had two very special friends that sponsored me and I was able to actually go on the Walk to Emmaus! It was at that time I realized that God knew exactly when I needed to go on the walk, it was His timing and He knew exactly what He was going to show me.

The walk was extra special for me because I grew up at the Tattnall Campground. My great grandfather Eason was one of the founders of the campground. During the walk I often wondered if he and the other founders knew what an impact these grounds would have on so many lives.

As I knelt at the altar during the walk, the same Jesus that saved me there at the age of 12 was renewing my spirit and giving me direction 40 years later.

I went out on my fourth day confident that God still had a purpose for my life, even without my David. During the walk I realized that even though David was no longer by my side in the ministry, God was! I thought about one of my favorite scriptures Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

My fourth day has been a time of encouraging others, serving others, and loving others. I try to remember God's commandments and that I am to love the Lord with all of my heart and my neighbor as myself.

It is wonderful to be a part of the Emmaus family and to know there is a community of believers praying for you and supporting you. Jesus said in Matthew 25:40 "In as much as you done it unto the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me."

It is such a blessings to see believers from different denominations and backgrounds come together to worship the one true and living God. We are truly one body and I am so thankful, humbled and blessed to be a part of the family of God.

On all of our fourth days I believe that we should focus on Philippians 1:6 "Being confident of this very thing, that He who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ".

De Colores!
Trish Tootle
Dayspring Walk to Emmaus #75
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The Dayspring Emmaus Website

by Angie Whiten

Welcome to the Dayspring Community. We have so many ways to communicate these days; hopefully, there is something for everyone! One way we communicate is our website. You can find us on the internet at: www.dayspringwalktoemmaus.com.

The website is full of information including: event calendars, pilgrim and servant applications, contact information for the Board of Directors and directions to Tattnall Campground. In and around the times of a walk you will find pilgrim rosters, links to the prayer vigil, and emergency contact information for the current walk. In addition to the day-to-day needs, you will find information on Journey and Chrysalis, links to the larger Emmaus community and the Upper Room. You can even read past issues of Chatter Matters to see the impact God has had on so many of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. If you have any suggestions or questions we would love to hear them.

DeColores!
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Has Your Outhouse Been Topped?

by Becky Livingston

As I sit at my desk writing this Article for Chatter Matters, the Men's Fall Walk has just been completed and the Women's Fall Walk is about to take place. Sandwiched

between these two very exciting times, I wanted to ask a question to each of you: Has Your Outhouse Been Toppled? I recently read the following story that I have to share with you:

Many years ago, a little boy lived in the country, out in a rural part of West Texas... For facilities, his family had to use an outhouse, and the boy hated it because it was hot in the summer, cold in the winter, and stunk all the time... Well, one afternoon after a hard spring rain, the little creek near the outhouse became so swollen that the boy decided it was his perfect chance to get rid of the much-hated outhouse. He pushed until the outhouse toppled backward into the creek and floated away...

That evening, his dad threatened a punishment for the boy, without explanation. The boy decided to play innocent and asked why. His father replied, "Someone pushed the outhouse into the creek today. It was you, wasn't it, son?" The boy thought for a moment, switched strategies, and answered, "Yes. But, Dad, I read in school last week that George Washington chopped down a cherry tree and didn't get into trouble because he told the truth." His dad said, "Well, son, George Washington's father wasn't in that cherry tree!"

For those of you who have been on the Walk to Emmaus, did you come home feeling like your outhouse had been toppled? I know that I did. It is such a wonderful and overwhelming experience but at the same time it does cause us to pause and really try to figure out where we are in the "creek of our service life" in God's Kingdom here on earth. We are commanded to do more than just love God. We are to serve God. As I prepare to speak this weekend on Christian Action, I am reminded all over again that Jesus Christ commanded us to serve our fellow man and in doing so, we serve Him. Ask yourself:

- Are you in the outhouse that has been toppled? **"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope." Matthew 5:3(a).** If you are, you can remain in the box and feel pity and frustration and bitterness that you have been toppled into the creek. You can think and live as if God has forgotten about all the efforts you have made in the past and just abandoned you in an outhouse in the middle of a creek. **"With less of you there is more of God and his rule." Matthew 5:3(b).**
- Are you trying to get out of the outhouse that has been toppled, but finding that you continue to struggle to get out of the creek itself? **"You're blessed when you're content with just who you are-no more, no less." Matthew 5:5(a).** If you are, then perhaps you realize that you can float along with the drift of the creek and never attempt to get out of the turmoil of the flow. You can find yourself just drifting along as if nothing has really happened to you to shake up your sense of service and your realization that God has given you the opportunity to live for Him in this earth and to show the very face of Jesus to those whose paths you may be honored to cross. **"That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought." Matthew 5:5(b).**

- Are you willing to get out of the outhouse and out of the creek, take the first step onto the bank of the life of service for which you have been called and reap the benefits of the shakeup that has occurred and live life to its fullest by being the servant you have been called to be? ***"You're blessed when you get your inside world-your mind and heart-put right. Then you can see God in the outside world." Matthew 5:7***

I submit to you that if your outhouse has been toppled by the Walk to Emmaus, and frankly anyone that has attended has experienced such a topple, then I challenge each of us to get out of the outhouse, get out of the creek, and take to the bank of the Kingdom here in the earth and reach out and be the servants that God intended us to be. When you think about the little boy's response to his dad with the story of George Washington, you soon realize that he was offering an excuse. What he got is what each of us gets when we confess our sin of not serving and being what we should in the world for Jesus-forgiveness. I am sure that the young boy had hoped for leniency. What he got was a lesson-if you are going to topple an outhouse into the creek, you better know what is inside! If your outhouse has been toppled because you just returned from a Walk or because you served as a servant on the Walk either by being on the Campground physically or in prayer during the Walks, examine yourself to see which way you are going to react to the topple. I am praying for the spirit of service to overwhelm our Community with such a positive vigor for the Lord. ***We will be "blessed when [we] get [our] mind and heart-put right....and see God in the outside world." Matthew 5:7.***

Becky Livingston, Dayspring's Secretary
 Dayspring Walk to Emmaus #67
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Sponsorship

by Ken Warnock

What is Sponsorship?

According to the dictionary, a sponsor is one who takes responsibility for another. The suffix "-ship" refers to the skill involved in the activity. So sponsorship is the skill of taking responsibility for another. Each person who attends The Walk to Emmaus has a sponsor. A sponsor is a person who has been through an Emmaus experience and is willing to share that experience with another new Emmaus participant. The sponsorship of a previous participant frees the current participant from any personal responsibilities that might distract him or her while on the experience. Sponsorship also undergirds each participant's 72-hour experience with prayer and other expressions of God's love. Only second to prayer, sponsorship is the single most important aspect of the Emmaus experience, and is a vital component to a community's ability to continue to build a stronger, more committed body of Christ.

The Aim of Sponsorship

The aim of a sponsor should not be "to get all my friends to go," to fill up the weekend, to fix people's problems, or to reproduce one's own religious experience in others. Rather, the aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who will, in turn, bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ.

A Sponsor's Responsibilities

Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the participants in the Walk to Emmaus, for the Emmaus Community, and for the church. It is a demonstration of agape love. A sponsor will:

- Pray for the participant's openness to God's call to discipleship.
- Make an appointment with the participant (or participating couple) to discuss his or her participation in Emmaus.
- Invite the participant to take part in Emmaus for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ. The sponsor shares his or her faith, explains the basic purpose, elements, and follow-up dimensions of the Walk.
- Ask the participant to make a commitment by filling out a registration form. If the participant is married, the sponsor will speak with both partners and encourage an equal commitment by both spouses.
- Support the participant's Walk through prayers and otherwise. The sponsor will also support the participant's family by house-sitting, baby-sitting, watering plants, picking up mail, feeding pets, or just checking in with a spouse to see if any help or support is needed.
- Encourage the participant in his/her continued journey and take the participant to Emmaus "gatherings" after the Walk weekend is over.
- Help the participant re-enter his or her church and consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm.
- Help the participant sponsor others.

How to Become a Sponsor

In order to sponsor someone on the Walk to Emmaus, a person must first have been on The Walk itself. A sponsor should also be active in Fourth Day. Having been through the experience and being engaged in ongoing spiritual formation through Fourth Day gives one perspective on how to sponsor. You are encouraged to attend "Sponsorship Training" which is provided by the Dayspring Community as part of "Sustaining the Spirit" which is offered to all community members after each set of Walks.

Beyond these requirements, the basic attitude of a sponsor is one of prayerful discernment. This results in intentional acts of unconditional love, or what is often termed "the first act of agape." A resource for further help is the Emmaus Library Series booklet, [Sponsorship](#), by Richard and Janine Gilmore. The following is an excerpt from [Sponsorship](#):

"Sponsorship can be unwise or wise. Unwise sponsorship results from unbridled enthusiasm that wants everyone to have the same

experience. Sponsors with unbridled enthusiasm approach anybody and everybody with the admonition that "you need to go on The Walk," and that open invitation is the primary (sometimes the only) emphasis. This approach lacks discernment and will result in a burden for the church. Such efforts in sponsorship frequently result in religious fringe groups within the church or possibly a "parachurch of Emmausites." While the individual being sponsored may benefit, that individual does not go back into the church to foster growth and renewal. The lack of commitment at this point is contrary to the purpose of Emmaus."

Be Responsible

When considering someone to be a pilgrim, you should make sure the person is psychologically stable and is not involved or has not recently been involved in any situation of emotional distress which could interfere with them giving his or her full attention to the message and experience of the Walk to Emmaus.

The ultimate reason for recruiting someone to attend the Walk is to deepen that person's existing relationship with Christ and to create an enthusiastic disciple to work in God's Kingdom. We should not look upon Emmaus as a "hospital" where every human ill can be cured which could potentially have a weakening effect on the entire community. Your motivation in sponsoring someone should not be "to get all my friends to go," to get this pilgrim "straightened out," to change this person, or to make a new Christian.

Wise sponsorship is careful, intentional, prayerful, and purposeful because it results from God's leading. The pilgrims return to their churches and community renewed in their commitment to be "effective disciples." God calls all of his children to be disciples and the Walk to Emmaus builds stronger, more committed disciples for the Body of Christ.

God Speed!

Ken Warnock, Dayspring's Director of Music

Dayspring Walk to Emmaus #26

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Portions of this article were taken, edited or modified from:

<http://upperroom.org/emmaus/invitation>

The Emmaus Library Series, Walk to Emmaus, Sponsorship

Pilgrim Application found at www.dayspringwalktoemmaus.com

Chrysalis

by Cayla Turner

My experience at Chrysalis was amazing and inspiring. I learned so much about Jesus Christ and I finally realized that he actually died for me.

My name is Cayla Turner and I attended Dayspring Chrysalis Flight number 63...my table name was the G7AI.

At the beginning, I was scared to go...I knew that I was far away from home and I really never went somewhere without my family. As I got there and saw that we could eat, I was happy. Anyway, the days were long to me and fun...I know I cried a lot and never prayed so hard in my life. As

the day's passed, I did not want to leave.

When I got home and my life began, I knew Jesus was working in me. I felt a lot better than before; and, I would randomly go up to my friends and just start talking about God...they looked at me funny and they knew something had changed in me.

Before I went on the journey I was the typical high school teenager..I didn't really care about my life and the people in it, but now I'm thankful...me and my parents don't fight anymore and I pray every night.

God has worked through me and I never realized it. I'm now 18 years old and I feel every bit of it, but it still has not changed my belief in Jesus Christ. My time there was amazing, and I got to tell everything that I never told in my life--my feelings and problems--and I don't have those problems anymore.

God through Chrysalis changed my life, and I'm glad!!!

Thank you for listening.

Cayla Turner
Dayspring Chrysalis Flight #63
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Reflecting on the Importance of Journey/Chrysalis

by Terra Winslett

My Emmaus walk was at Honey Creek in the fall of 2008, and my walk was literally inscribed on my heart. So much so that I have committed to serving in the Emmaus community ever since. Why? Because with every walk, he teaches me that there is something in my life that needs tweaking. Every walk he blesses me with avenues of love to my life with new Christian friends. Every walk he challenges me, strengthens me and flows his love through me. Why would I want that to end? At the close of every walk I have served, I feel elated, loved, and EXHAUSTED. Within weeks.... I can't wait for the next one!

I wanted everyone to experience this Agape Love... so I inquired about Chrysalis, the youth version of the Walk to Emmaus for my daughter and some of her closest friends. During the Summer of 2010, I travelled to this place called "Tattnall County" to drop off some very leery teenage girls and guys, who by the way tried to follow me back to my vehicle when I went to head home. I had prayed that the experience for them would be awesome, and I have to admit I wondered.... Would teenagers "get it"? They have a whole lot of life to live, experiences to go through, and heart aches to bear. As a young adult, would it really touch them as it did me on my walk? As the weekends progressed, I prayed, attended candlelight and closing and I couldn't wait to talk to these youth about their experiences over the weekend. I was curious did they have the same schedule? Did they play the same games? Listen to the same talks? On the way home from closing, I felt like a kid again. Chatting and laughing about the best parts of the weekend like the newfound friends, the talks, the worship, and the skits! Wow, they had just as much fun as I did on my walk. What I realized later was I wasn't experiencing the feelings of being a kid again, more likely what I was feeling was God's love that they had felt through their

experiences of that amazing weekend! Let's just say "Did they get it?" may be an serious understatement!

Since that walk, I have had the honor of serving beside these young people who unselfishly donate weekends of their busy teenage lives to serve for others who attend Chrysalis and Journey. These young people have transformed from shy and unspoken to Christian leaders in their communities. They are the outspoken ones in Sunday school class. They lead prayer at their weekly accountability groups. They are on stage leading worship at their Wednesday night church youth gatherings. They hold seats on the Dayspring Chrysalis Journey board. Did they get it? Oh yes.... They got it!

Now my heart wonders.... If my walk with the Lord has been moved so much closer since my Emmaus walk just three years ago, what if someone had sponsored me at their age?

Fly with Christ!
Terra Winslett, Dayspring's Journey/Chrysalis Registrar
Golden Isles Walk to Emmaus #13
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Calendar of Events

October 4, 2011 6:30pm Sustaining the Spirit
(Statesboro First United Methodist Church, Statesboro)

October 6, 2011 6:30pm Dayspring Walk to Emmaus Board Meeting
(Statesboro First United Methodist Church, Statesboro)

October 22, 2011 6:00pm Dayspring Emmaus Gathering
(Brooklet United Methodist Church, Brooklet)

November 1, 2011 Servant Applications Due for Spring Walks

November 3, 2011 6:30pm Dayspring Walk to Emmaus Board Meeting
(Statesboro First United Methodist Church, Statesboro)

December 1, 2011 6:30pm Dayspring Walk to Emmaus Board Meeting
(Statesboro First United Methodist Church, Statesboro)

December 3, 2011 6:00pm Dayspring Emmaus Christmas Gathering
(Millen United Methodist Church, Millen)

I hope this finds you faithful, well, and happy.

Kate Keith, Communications
Dayspring Walk to Emmaus #10
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