

Inside this  
issue:

Blossoms from Bloom	1
Chrysalis?	2
Devotional Thoughts	2
Fourth Day Talk	3
Kairos	4
Music for Gatherings	4

## "Revive Us Again"

### QUICK MESSAGES

**Non-messy,  
finger food  
for snacks  
in August!  
(in parlor)**

**Let's FILL  
the Men's  
Walk in  
September!**

**COOKIES  
for  
KAIROS!**

## Blossoms from Bloom

**B**eloved,  
Summer is at its peak. Hot, steamy rays from the sun could cook a hot dog without a fire these days and put a smile on any child's hungry face! Swimming pools splash and picnics unfold as family reunions gather to celebrate any occasion imaginable! It's summer fun, we're engaged, and enjoying it! :o)

But, before long, summer vacation will be over, students will be back in the saddle again triggering strict schedules to follow, disciplined study habits to exercise, and a harvest of learning and understanding to be brought to fruition. It's a good time, when parents, students...and individuals alike, harness energy and focus on a purpose.

There are times in our Christian Journey when our walk needs rejuvenated in the same way. Just like summer vacation is needed for educators/students, there are times in our lives as laity/clergy

that we need to rest! All work can lead to exhaustion and make productivity labored. The Father did not design us to be harnessed to a work ethic. The human spirit gives so much in our daily routine that it must be refueled!

In Mark 6, the disciples had been working diligently without even a chance to eat! Jesus recognized their fatigue and took them away to a quiet, solitary place to get some rest. God's work is so important and for us to do it effectively, we need a breather!

So, how do we know when we need to take a break? And, when is the right time to hang up our spurs and chill? For me, it's when life

becomes too demanding and I feel myself getting angry at the smallest of things. And, I must confess...I am there! :o/

John Bloom and I both grew up in families who worked, worked, worked. As children, neither one of us took a vacation. And sadly, when raising our own family, we did the same thing as our parents...work, work, work!

It wasn't until our children were raised that we realized... *"Hey! We've never taken a break!"* So, after all of the kids were married, we packed up our children and their spouses and their kids and started taking family vacations. We went to quiet places like The Smoky Mountains, North Carolina and Florida's beaches. Beautiful places where God's nature speaks to you in a language all of its own! Each time we went I found time to be with the Lord, to feast on His presence and came home refreshed!

In Psalm 85: 6 the Psalmist quotes, "Will you not revive us again, Oh



# De Colores!

## DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS

Lord, that your people may rejoice in you?" God is capable and willing to bring us back to life when we are spiritually parched! He is willing to pour out His love on each one of us... renewing our love for Him. *His goodness* will fill us so we can rejoice while "harnessing the energy" to follow our tight schedules, as we discipline ourselves to study and pray and focus on His purpose for our lives!

I want you to know I am taking a *much needed* vacation this week. I plan to be still and feast on the quiet of my Lord. I pray you, too, will find rest from your labor as the summer comes to an end. Just know that when you do take that much needed break and seek for Him...the Savior will be waiting to enter your heart! :o)

De Colores!

### Cindy

Do you know a teen who would love to experience Chrysalis?  
For more information, contact Adam Tissandier.



#### MARY MAGDALENE

Early in his ministry Jesus had cast out Mary Magdalene's demons, and she had become a supporter. She traveled with Jesus, the twelve disciples, and other women as they proclaimed "the good news of the kingdom of God" and provided for the ministry out of their resources. The church once taught that she had been a prostitute, perhaps because the church feared strong women, but there is no scriptural evidence of that as her profession.

Mary Magdalene is a helpful model. Grateful for her healing and citizenship in the kingdom of God, she followed Jesus and shared her resources. Faithful to the end, she met the risen Lord and proclaimed the good news.

*Almighty God, whose blessed Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of body and of mind, and called her to be a witness of his resurrection: Mercifully grant that by your grace we may be healed from all our infirmities and know you in the power of his unending life; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

-Holy Women, Holy Men, page 481

#### "FOLLOW ME"

After you have repented, turned away from whatever consumes and fascinates and confine and controls you, and turned toward the Lord Jesus, then what? "Follow me."

Jesus' words are few, simple, and direct. It is not complicated. My mother-in-law, a woman of profound but clear and simple faith, said that no one was ever converted after the first seven minutes of any sermon: therefore no sermon should last more than seven minutes. How often we complicate the call of Jesus with our intellectual constructions and behavioral rules! Jesus sums it up in just two words: "Follow me." There is little more to say after that. Repent, then follow Jesus.

Karl Barth, whom many say was the greatest Christian theologian of the twentieth century and whose published works fill several shelves in any good theological library, was interviewed as he departed the United States for his native Germany. Would he, could he sum up his theology in a few words? "Why, yes," he replied. "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." Follow Jesus.

From "Forward, Day by Day" Vol. 76, No. 3 and Vol. 77, No. 2 used by permission  
Contact Forward Movement at 800-543-1813 or visit [www.forwardmovement.org](http://www.forwardmovement.org)

Although it was such a long time ago that I went on my original walk to Emmaus, it seems like only yesterday, because I remember exactly what I said that day at Closing. I held up that cross and said, "I want to take everything I have learned here at Emmaus and use it to pick up and carry that cross for Jesus!"

I was so fired up and excited, I envisioned myself going back to the street corners of Xenia, carrying that cross and shouting out things like, "Don't anticipate!" or "DeColores!" or "Remember, the main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing!"

Our church set up some projects and I jumped in. First, I went to the neighborhood across from our church to pass out pamphlets, inviting people to church. Some were accepting, but most wouldn't even answer the door, or said, "Sorry, not interested."

Then we had the right to life vigil. I thought this was it. I stood on the street corner in the center of Xenia holding up signs that said, "God loves you" and "Abortion is Murder!" I couldn't get over the fact that some people blew their horns with approval. Others gave me the thumbs up, but I couldn't get over how many drove by and gave me the sign that I was "Number One!" (If you know what I mean.)

It reminded me of the old saying, "Be careful what you ask for, because you just might get it!"

I finally realized that what I said that day at Closing was right; but my perception of how to do it was wrong! I always thought of carrying that cross as a physical thing—and I was a pretty big guy: I could do it! Then I finally realized it was a humbling, submission thing! I needed to give my weaknesses to Jesus Christ to be my

strength through Him in me-to pick up that cross and carry it! I remember learning at Emmaus to take those three days back to my family, my church and to my community.

First, my family: three years earlier, my father had passed away and was buried on my birthday, Oct. 29. I was OK with that, but it was always tough thinking of it on that day, and the Lord knew that. Three months after my walk, he gave me the greatest birthday present ever as my wife stood at the podium on her Emmaus Walk and said, "Happy Birthday, Honey." I didn't even realize it was Oct 29. God is good!

I took it back to our church, helping Ernie Slone set up Emmaus Men's Share Groups and helping sponsor other members of our church and seeing our numbers grow to triple digits of those attending a Men's or Women's Walk! There were times when I got to do Communion Meditations at our church, and I remember one Saturday morning, sitting in a team meeting when the late Tom Rankin, with whom I was privileged to be on two Emmaus teams, as he gave the most powerful Communion Meditation that I ever heard. To honor him, I took that meditation back to our church and gave it and everyone said how powerful it was! I would never have heard those Godly words if not for Emmaus.

Then, to my Community: I remembered all of the agape I received on my walk: from people setting up my bed to people serving meals to me. So, a group of us from Emmaus went to serve meals to the homeless and down-and-out people of Xenia. I helped with "Interfaith Hospitality Network" by moving and setting up beds for others as they helped the homeless in Greene County, taking Christ to my community.

THEN CAME MY FOURTH

DAYS. Someone once said that you have to go through the valleys to get to the mountain tops. A few years after my and my wife's walks, she began to have very serious mental health problems. She was diagnosed as Bipolar with depression and psychotic episodes. We were at a loss at what to do, but we cried out to Jesus together and He reminded us of the tool He had given us at Emmaus. That gift was PERSEVERANCE. We still use it today!

I loved to play softball and before I knew it, I began to let it come before God and my family. GROW THROUGH STUDY!

When one of our daughters began to backslid and fall away from God, we cried out to Jesus and He reminded us of the tool He had given us at Emmaus. We reminded our precious child of the beautiful PREVENIENT GRACE of Jesus—that He was still pursuing her even when she did not pursue Him!

We had our mountain tops also. When my oldest daughter, Shannon, married, her new husband, Rob, was a great guy, but he had never gone to church much. We cried out to Jesus for their marriage and He reminded us of the tool He had give us at Emmaus: DISCIPLESHIP. I knew I had to witness and mentor Rob. One Sunday, a couple years later at church as I was serving Communion, Rob came up to me out of the blue and told me he was ready to accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior and be baptized. Needless to say, after communion we had a baptism and a year later I was privileged to bring Rob to his Walk to Emmaus!

I've gone to hear some of the greatest Christian speakers of our time. I heard Tony Evans at Cedarville University; in Cincinnati, I listened to Chuck Swindoll and Bill McCartney, founder of Promise Keepers. I

stood with 65,000 men in Indianapolis and sang "How Great Thou Art" and had goose bumps on my arms! But all of those experiences, as great as they were, don't compare with the mountaintop experiences I've felt here in this building with Jesus Christ!

Often we sing, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, there's just something about that name," and it's the same with Him on an Emmaus walk: there's just something about it!

If I could encourage you to do anything, it would be to serve on an "Emmaus Team." Just think back to how you felt after your walk and imagine that you get to feel that feeling again, over and over!

People ask, "How do you describe Emmaus?" I don't know that words really can! Because it's not about Emmaus. It's all about spending three days with Jesus Christ and experiencing HIM in ways you could never imagine! In your Fourth Days it's all about JESUS CHRIST and crying out to HIM and He will remind you of the fifteen tools He gave you at your Walk to Emmaus. Though you may stumble and fall, always get back up.

When I stumble and fall, I have a song I like to listen to. It's by Christian recording artist, Bob Carlise and titled, "We Fall Down."

Here is the chorus:

We fall down, we get up.  
We fall down, we get up.  
We fall down, we get up.  
And the saints are just  
the sinners,  
The saints are just the sinners  
who fall down and get up!



Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus—WUMC  
 PO Box 191  
 Wilmington, OH 45177

**SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING!**  
**August 9**  
 Singing starts at 6:45pm  
**SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT SNACKS:**  
 VBS will be in session at WUMC. Snacks will be in the parlor. Please bring "neat, non-messy finger food type items!"

**Emmaus Choir**  
 Did you know that we have started an EMMAUS CHOIR? We meet for 15-20 minutes after the Gatherings to practice and will sing at an occasional Gathering. JOIN US!

**COOKIES for KAIROS!**  
 Rod Bryant is looking for some willing folks to bake cookies for Kairos Weekend #23 (Ross Correctional). For details on "Dos and Don'ts" of cookie baking for Kairos, see <http://kairosOhio.org/KairosPubs/KOhioCKBroWeb.pdf>  
 Deliver cookies to: Church of Christ, 909 W. Locust, Wilmington by 5pm on August 3 or Grace United Methodist Church, 303 E. Market St, Washington CH by August 4.

**MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS**

<b>MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS</b>			
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>SPECIAL MUSIC</b>	<b>PIANO</b>	<b>SONG LEADER</b>
AUGUST	Bronwyn Jones	John Glaze	Cliff Klutts
SEPTEMBER	Herma Current	OPEN	OPEN
OCTOBER	Sandie Wingo	OPEN	OPEN
NOVEMBER	Justin Tong	OPEN	OPEN

Planning ahead! Do you have musical talent you would be willing to share with the Emmaus Community? As you can see, the months are filling up. We typically have two music specials at a Gathering and need a song leader and an accompanist. Although "piano" is listed, we can have guitar accompaniment...or any other instrument able to lead group singing.  
 To volunteer for a monthly Gathering contact JENNI E HARNER at 937-987-2518 or [harnersewing@yahoo.com](mailto:harnersewing@yahoo.com).