

Wilmington Emmaus

Volume 30 Issue 4

April 2015



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

RELY ON THE GOOD SHEPHERD

RELY ON THE GOOD SHEPHERD- HIS LEADERSHIP IS PERFECT!

After His resurrection-did you know that Jesus had a bible study while walking with the two men to Emmaus? They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24:32

Jesus is our role model for leadership. He was and is the greatest leader who ever lived. He led by being a servant to all of those around Him. He knew who He was because of His intimate relationship with His Father, and out of that relationship He ministered to the needs of

individuals.

God did not create us to be a reservoir that only collects, He created us to be a river that's constantly flowing. When we live selfishly, always receiving, always taking but never giving, we become stagnant and polluted. As Joel Osteen says, "We start to stink." God wants to pour good things into your life, but we must learn to allow those good things to flow through us to others.

Share your time, your energy, your friendships, your love, and your resources. Be a friend to somebody. Share group meetings are tools that God uses to build relationships and

from Robyn's Roost

through them we have the opportunity to do just that. Come as you are and share life. Learn God's word and fellowship with people that care about you. They stand with us as we face hardships and struggles, as well as celebrating the good times.

Over the last twenty years, Dave (my husband) and I have been a part of and led many share/life groups. Recently a member of a group submitted this description: "We are a group of people who all have the same goal; to get closer to and strengthen our intimate relationship with our heavenly Father. We laugh, we cry, we pray together and for one another. We share about our week and any struggles or triumphs we've met in our lives where God laid His mercies and blessings onto the situation. We are family united by our love for our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome any new comers with open arms, open hearts and open minds."

Will you consider starting your own share group? I would love to help you get started!

DE COLORES!

Robyn Hinman

Inside this issue:

Rely on the Good Shepherd	1
Share Groups	1
Tabor Talk	2
Devotions	3
Prayer List	3
TV Program Alert	4
Devotion	4

SHARE GROUPS

Just finish your walk or did you go on your walk 15 years ago? Share groups are not only great for your mental, spiritual and physical health, but being in a share group is expected for those serving on a live-in team.

Having trouble finding a share group? Contact the Men's or Women's Good Shepherd for assistance. These folks attempt to keep lists of active share groups and will try to connect you with one in your area. Remember, being on an Emmaus walk is NOT a requirement for being in a share group. You can start a group of men or women in your church. Sometimes you may have luck contacting some of the men or women at the table you were seated at on your walk. They may be looking for a group also.

A share group needs to meet regularly. This can be weekly, (continued on page 3)

TABOR TALK

The other day I was having lunch with a pastor friend and, as happens in a lot of these lunches together, we got to “talking shop.” The subjects ranged from our views on specific Bible passages to ministry in general, and finally, to that topic of all topics – funerals. We both shared some of our different funeral experiences, especially since at various times in ministry, we had both ministered in very small and rural communities. My friend was telling me that in one of his previous churches, he officiated at sixteen different funeral services – in just one year! I had to then tell him about my experience: in one church, I had been called upon to officiate at twenty-six funerals in one calendar year, and four of those occurred between Christmas and New Year’s Day, the busiest time of the year for pastors! I hope no one reading this thinks that either of us was making light of the seriousness of those moments. Indeed, funerals and memorial services are always times of loss, and yet for the believer in Jesus Christ, they are also celebrations of joy!

We are entering into the time of the year when we celebrate what is commonly known as Easter. Many followers of Christ are celebrating the season of preparation for Easter called Lent. One of the features of this time of the year is, if you will bear with me for a moment, a funeral. Or at least, a death, and burial. There really was no funeral service or memorial service when Jesus died and was placed in the tomb. And when

Jesus died, most were thinking that was the end of the matter. Boy were they wrong!

A fellow named John was working as a denominational official in Minnesota. One of his jobs was to travel to little rural communities where they didn't have churches to do funerals. He would go out with an undertaker, and they would drive together in the undertaker's hearse. One time, they were on their way back from a funeral, John was feeling quite tired. He decided he would take a nap. Since they were in a hearse, he thought, *Well, I'll just lie down in the back of the hearse.*

Sounds like kind of a creepy thing to do, but this is a true story. The guy who was driving the hearse pulled into a service station, because he was running low on gas. The service station attendant was filling up the tank and he was kind of freaked out, because there was a body stretched out in the back. While he was filling the tank, John woke up, opened his eyes, knocked on the window and waved at the attendant. John said he never saw anybody run so fast in his whole life.

When it comes to Easter, that is what happened. On the night Jesus was arrested, his closest friends and family scattered to the four winds. Oh, they watched from a distance, but they scattered to the four winds, nonetheless. In commenting about the message of Easter, Pastor John Ortberg writes, *"When people see life where they were expecting death, they start running. On the third day, everything changed! Where everybody*

thought they were just going to see death, there was life! And that shook things up! After the third day, as a matter of historical record, his followers, who were shattered, disillusioned, and heartsick following the Crucifixion, went out to face all kinds of difficulties and suffering and imprisonment and spread the word, because they believed they had seen life where they were expecting death. That shakes people up!"

Isn't that the message of Easter? Seeing Life where you were expecting Death? My prayer for each one reading this column is that this year, as you read and meditate on the Biblical record that relates the Easter story (Try Matthew 26, 27, and 28, for starters!), you will be JUST like the disciples, when they lived through it. They were changed! Their world was shaken up! And after they had seen their blessed RISEN Savior, they could never go back to being the same old disciple. THEY were shaken up! And they changed the world! My prayer for each of us is exactly the same – that the sight of the Risen Savior this Easter will change our lives and shake up our world! Will you pray that prayer with me as well?

God bless...

Chuck Tabor



SHARE GROUPS

(continued from page 1) bi-weekly or monthly—whatever works for you. A group can be two or three people, up to eight or more. It's a good idea not to get too large, however, as the amount of time needed for each person to share could cause your share group to last way too long!

Work that group reunion card you received Sunday afternoon of your walk! A share group isn't just a time to get together to visit. Stick with the card and follow the order given there. Once your group finishes the "official" meeting time, those who need to leave can and those who want to stay and visit can do this.

Remember those hallmarks of a share group—serious, confidential, etc. Go back and review your notes from the talk about share groups on Sunday afternoon.

Don't put off looking for a share group! You'll grow to love the others in your group, but it is doubtful that anyone will come to your house and ask you to join a group. Sometimes you need to take that first step. You'll never regret being in a share group—the others will become as close as brothers or sisters!

Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life.

John 6:27

Remembering Grandmother's biscuits makes me smile to this day. They were the best hot out of the oven when you could watch the butter melt the instant it hit the fluffy bread.

As a young child, I only thought about the end product—the delicious biscuits. As I got older, I began to notice what went into making them.

There was a big, wooden sieve for the flour. The dough was prepared in a beige bowl that had flowers painted on the side. There was a rolling pin, the old-fashioned kind with red handles, and Grandmother would sometimes wipe her brow while using it. And she made biscuits almost every day, usually before sunrise.

The older I got, the more I realized that those products of Grandmother's oven were much more than simple nourishment for the body. They came to feed much more in me, as love always does.

I wish now I'd paid more attention to making them so I could share the biscuits with my grandchildren. Maybe the story of them will be enough.

A TRIO OF DEVOTIONS!

For they no longer dared to ask him another question.

Luke 20:27-40

It is unfortunate that so many people are afraid to ask questions regarding our faith. Many feel that to ask questions is to doubt and that doubt is a sin. That is simply untrue.

This passage does not chronicle the questions of those who are truly seeking to understand, but of those who are seeking to trick our Lord into misspeaking, hoping to expose him as a fraud. The issue in this passage is the intent of the question, not questioning itself. Any time the gospels tell us that a person approached our Lord with a heartfelt inquiry that expressed a soul truly seeking God, we are also told that the person who received and answered and taught.

Questions and doubts are not the opposite of faith; many times they are the seeds of faith. God is ultimately dialogical. The pondering of our hearts, the wonderings of our minds, the questions of our faith are very often God beginning a conversation with us in order to lead us to a deeper knowledge and love of him.

Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.

James 1:16-27

When introducing themselves at a newcomers' reception recently, several new people said that what attracted them to our parish was all the outreach we do. This seems to be a trend these days: newcomers in church do not seem very interested in doctrine. This is a change from the past, when visitors would often first ask about our denomination and its origins, or ask what we believe or what our position is on certain issues. Today, instead of asking what we believe, they are more likely to ask what we do.

The letter of James is all about what to do. The writer, addressing a structured Christian community in the early church, seems concerned that they have misunderstood Paul's affirmation of faith over works. The works that Paul denounced were empty practices, attempts to do things to gain God's favor. James speaks instead of the acts of love and care for one another that are essential. Without them, faith is meaningless.

Our faith—what we believe and hold fast to—is important. But it is how that faith is embodied in the world that makes a difference. Sometimes we can spend too much time thinking, when God's injunction comes in the form of a Nike commercial: Just do it.

PRAYER LIST

Prayer was requested for these people at our March Gathering.

Ronda Andrew's father
Chris Blair
Jim Blair
Maggie Copley
Pat Sewell
Jeff Sheridan
Adell Shoe

*These devotions are from
"Forward, Day by Day"
used by permission.
Contact Forward Movement
at
800-543-1813 or visit
www.forwardmovement.org*

Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus

Wilmington United Methodist Church
PO Box 191
Wilmington, OH 45177

We're on the web:
www.wilmingtonemmaus.org

See you at the GATHERING:
APRIL 14
7:00pm
Singing starts at 6:30pm
Wear your nametag!
Bring a snack to share!



TV PROGRAM ALERT! *A. D.: The Bible Continues*

Mark Burnett of *Survivor*, *The Voice* and *Shark Tank*, along with his wife, Roma Downey, who played Monica on *Touched By An Angel*, are following up their productions of *The Bible* and *Son of God* with *A. D.: The Bible Continues*.

Roma wrote an article for the April edition of *GUIDEPOSTS* magazine titled, "The Most Dangerous Prayer". Can you guess what that prayer might be? In her life, Roma reports the prayer is "Lord, use me." She goes on to write, "You don't quite know what will happen after you say those words, but you'd better be ready." and "Mark and I were ready to take a deeper dive into our calling by bringing the Book of Acts—and the story of the birth of the church—to television in a brand new series for NBC."

The new series begins airing on Easter Sunday and continues for twelve weeks.

Roma discusses one of her favorite scenes in *A. D.*
at
www.guideposts.org/downeyprayer

Devotion

*Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to
God for them is that they may be saved.*

Romans 10:1

What is your heart's desire? What is your prayer? Who are the "thems" in your life? What does it mean to be saved? These are daily questions for those who believe in God and how we answer these questions changes everything. This chapter of Romans speaks about salvation being for all, and that in Jesus there is "no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him." Knowing that God seeks to save the whole world should encourage us to view each other differently, with more respect and greater dignity.

As we approach Holy Week, I invite you to answer the questions about by listing five answers for each. For instance, my heart's desire: 1. That there be love and peace for all; 2. An end to violence in the name of God; 3. That our churches will be communities of joy and faith-filled worship; 4. That we all may know more deeply the presence of God; and 5. That I may be more like Christ in every way. What are your desires, prayers, the people you pray for, and your understanding of salvation?

*From "Forward, Day by Day" Vol. 81, No. 1, used by permission.
Contact Forward Movement at
800-543-1813 or visit
www.forwardmovement.org*