

Wilmington Emmaus

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CHANGED LIVES MATTER

from Robyn's Roost

When was the last time you invited someone to church or share group?

Many people have let the world mold them (like plaster over them) holding them back from being all that God created them to be. This is where God can and wants to use us. Maybe it is just a smile or a hug that will start to crack the plaster. Some of us will plant, some will water and some will harvest (1 Cor. 3:5-9). When the plaster begins to crack ever so slightly-you begin to see the light shine through because there is something beautiful inside. They would receive peace, joy and hope in their life.

Take a few seconds and think about these questions:

- Who do you know that needs your encouragement?
- Who needs what only you can do or give?
- Who needs to hear about Christ from you?

Some people feel so overwhelmed by their troubles, they have difficulty believing that anything good could happen to them. If God has given you joy, share it with someone else. Bring light into their darkness.

PEOPLE SEE GOD EVERY DAY, THEY JUST DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM!

Is the way you are living attractive and contagious? Does your attitudes, the words you speak, the way you handle challenges and setbacks cause anybody to want what you have?

Your prayers for others are acts of love. Through prayer God can transform relationships, through prayer you help others become changed persons and support them in their new life. Through prayer, God can open opportunities to reach out and witness.

I would like to share a devotion from the Proverbs 31 Ministries by Glynnis Whitwer titled "Why Should I Care?"

"Our van drove snake-like, around tight corners and up steep mountain grades to reach a neighborhood in the hills above Quito, Ecuador. No fresh mountain air greeted us as we stepped carefully on to the streets. Instead the thick smells of garbage, outdoor cooking and animal droppings blanketed us. Walking through the tin shacks I understood helplessness as I never had before. There was no government support, no food bank down the street. Unless someone stepped into these people's lives with a helping hand, they

would stay trapped in poverty.

Something shifted in my heart that day. I had always been committed to missions and evangelism in an academic way. Sadly, however, there was always this secret part of me that thought people could...no they should... help themselves.

This experience changed my motivation to reach out. Rather than simple obedience, urgency gripped me.

I was starting to understand Jesus' compassion. Was this what He felt like? The disciple Matthew captured Jesus' heart with these words: "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." (Matthew 9:36) Jesus saw the helplessness of those He loved. Standing on a dirt street just south of the equator I got it. The helpless cannot help themselves. Just as the lost cannot find their way back on their own. They need someone to step in to their despair, into their darkness, and bring hope and help.

My heart burned with a new understanding. It's not just those broken under the weight of poverty and injustice (continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Changed Lives Matter | 1 |
| Wise Words | 2 |
| Keep These Important | 2 |
| Passing Time | 3 |
| Prayer List | 3 |
| Newsletter Editor Job | 3 |
| Bits & Pieces | 4 |
| Devotion | 4 |

WISE WORDS FROM WAYNE WIEDER

A servant, who, me? You have got to be kidding. Ever felt that way? For some, the word servant does not fit in with church leadership. What needs to change in our thinking is our “attitude.” No matter what position of ministry is embraced, whether leader or not, one must see themselves as one who serves in that position. It is the attitude that is most important.

Our greatest example, except for Christ, is a young Jew from Tarsus by the name of Paul. He was an apostle but conducted himself and carried himself as a servant. Paul had three basic characteristics of the servant image: transparent humanity, genuine humility and absolute honesty. With these three, Paul blows all of our excuses for not being a servant out of the water.

Let’s look at transparent humanity (1 Corinthians 2:1-3), “When I came to you, I did not come with superiority of speech or wisdom and I was with you in weakness and fear and trembling.” What a shock! This great man of God didn’t have it all together and he wasn’t perfect, but he didn’t hide it. Servants do that! He had needs and admitted it. Servants do that!

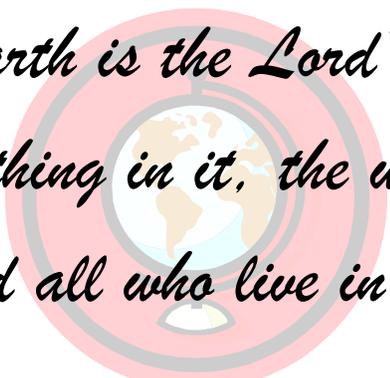
Genuine humility (1 Corinthians 2:4-5): “And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but on the power of God.” This is authentic humility because he wants people to know that it is not in his ability but his availability and the power of God. When people follow servants of God then God is exalted, not man.

Absolute honesty (1 Thessalonians 2:3-4): “For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by deceit, but just as we are approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men but God, who examines our hearts.” Notice the absence of hypocrisy, and political games, and no ulterior motives. A servant does that!

Think about becoming a servant by being human, humble and honest. The message here is that to be a servant, you must be real. Being real is being who you really are, a child of God, and then allowing God to develop in you a style of servanthood that fits you. De Colores.

In His Service,
Wayne
(Reprinted from May, 1985)

*The earth is the Lord's, and
everything in it, the world,
and all who live in it.*



KEEP THESE IMPORTANT FACTS IN MIND WHEN SPONSORING A PILGRIM!

Emmaus is right for many people, but not for everyone!

Prospective pilgrims should already be on a pilgrimage, willing to grow and move forward in his or her journey of faith. The walk is not designed to provide a salvation experience (although it can and has happened). It is designed to take faithful, active Christians and create leaders who will go back to their churches on fire and yearning to make a difference.

The person should have a Christian orientation and know God can and has made a difference in his/her life.

The pilgrim is not so consumed by other situations that he or she will not be able to give full attention to the message and experience of the Walk to Emmaus during the 72 hour experience and follow-up activities.

It is the sponsor’s duty to watch over those that the pilgrim will be leaving behind during the weekend. If meals need to be prepared, or children cared for, the sponsor fills in the void.

Remember that we have a fund created to assure that no one who desires the Emmaus Walk experience will not be able to have it due to financial considerations. Read the sponsor and pilgrim applications for more information regarding scholarships.

CHANGED LIVES MATTER *(continued from page 1)*

tice that Jesus cares about – although He loves them desperately. He cares about all who feel helpless. Like the divorced woman who wonders if anyone will ever love her again. Or the man who can't find a job. And the teenager looking for approval and acceptance in all the wrong places. Ones holding on to bitterness, fear, rejection – no idea where to turn. These are the lost and helpless living on my street and your street. And they need to hear about the hope that only Jesus can bring.

Jesus gave His disciples an important command before He returned to heaven. He said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptiz-

ing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20)

If I close my eyes I can see myself on another dirt road filled with the smell of animals and cooking, and I see Jesus' eyes of compassion staring at me. "Glynnis," He says. "Listen carefully. I'm going back to My Father, and I need you to go to those who are helpless. They don't all look the same, so don't make any assumptions. And you don't

have to go everywhere, because I'm going to tell your sisters and brothers the same thing. But I want you to go where I send you."

This command isn't just another Bible verse now. It doesn't go on my to-do list. It's been engraved on my heart. Now I get it.

What is your plan? Change begins with one small step. What can you do to make a difference? The validity of our witness is not proven in immediate results. As disciples, we are not called to be successful but to be faithful – doing what we can, with what we have, where we are, to advance Christ's kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven".

Love like Jesus loved. His love can change the world one life at a time.

DE COLORES!

Robyn Hinman

PASSING TIME

Sitting in airports—I've done a lot of it in the last 3 days, mostly thanks to a wonky cargo bay door that refused to close. I travel so infrequently these days that I always forget how frustrating, tiring and yet interesting airports can be. But I got to thinking.....

The Wise Men could have used some faster means of getting to Bethlehem. I've never ridden a camel myself, but it doesn't look all that comfortable. Of course, after you've been stuffed into today's airline seats, how bad could a camel really be? Where was the Orient Express when those wise guys were traveling?

I guess you could say that Jesus was the first person to travel by air, just not in an airplane. Don't you think one could technically call the ascension, "travel by air"?
-Editor

PRAYER LIST

Prayer was requested for these people at our April Gathering.

Those on the Autism Spectrum

Dave & Dinah Bond

Rod Bryant

Debbie Duff

Financial Problems

Family of Carl Gilmore

Family of Lauren Hill

Brooke Hutchinson

Ivan Hutchinson-Leach

Becky Kersey

Justin Leach

Linda

Donna Oppenheimer

Patty Reynolds

Family & Friends of LeRoy Toppins (2yr old)

Two Unspoken Requests

Kelly Wagner

Larry Williams

Heather Willis

What does the newsletter editor do?

The community chair writes an article each month. The Spiritual Directors of the community take turns writing the newsletter articles. In addition, on months when we have a walk, we include the names and addresses of those on the walk. Additional items are included as needed, then the entire newsletter is printed. The current editor lives in Hillsboro and, using paper bought by Emmaus, he copies the newsletter at one of three churches.

Another community member and her husband (BJ and Jim Gee) then fold the newsletter, apply the address labels and stamps,

tape the newsletter closed and mail them. The editor maintains the mailing list. The editor can choose to perform this duty or find willing servants to help.

The editor sends a pdf file of the newsletter to the web servants to be posted on our site.

Have you been wondering what service you could perform for the Wilmington Emmaus community? Perhaps becoming the newsletter editor would be that service! If you would like more information, contact Robyn Hinman or John Glaze at the next Gathering! The current editor will serve thru December 2015.

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:
MAY 12
7:00pm
Singing starts at 6:30pm
Wear your nametag!
Bring a snack to share!

Bits & Pieces

The June Ladies walk invitations have been sent out! So far, only 9 positive responses. If you have a pilgrim on the list, please contact her to make sure she received an invitation. If she did, encourage her to send back her response. If she hasn't received an invitation, contact the registrar!

If you have a lady interested in going on a walk, get that application sent in!

Chandra Bills will be Lay Director on the June Women's Walk.

CHRYSALIS—A version of Emmaus for teenager—After several years on hiatus, the Chrysalis community in Washington Court House is reorganizing and working on getting started again! Would you like to assist in this venture? Do you feel a calling to do this? Contact either Robyn Hinman or Mark & Janet Workman and they will get your information passed to the proper person. There is plenty of work for everyone who wants to help (or there soon will be!)

In the meanwhile, please pray for Chrysalis in Washington CH and for teenagers' lives which can be changed and their faith strengthened.

Would you be interested in becoming the next Newsletter Editor? Contact John Glaze or Robyn Hinman for more information about this opportunity to serve our community!

Watch our website! There are design changes coming!

Bub Taylor and family have relocated to Alabama. Please pray for their adjustment to a new locale. (I've already clued him in on the 2 closest Emmaus Communities!

Devotion

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem.

My husband and I both take Fridays off. It is our Sabbath. Weather permitting, we often take a long walk or a hike. It's a nice way to unwind after a busy week. There's something about the rhythm of walking that can be healing and restorative. Sometimes we talk, catching up on our lives. Other times we walk side by side in silence.

Today we hear of two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus. No one knows where Emmaus was. But perhaps it's good that it's not confined to one place. As Bible scholar Marcus Borg writes: "Emmaus is nowhere. Emmaus is everywhere."

Emmaus happens to you and me as we travel along the road of our lives. Like the disciples, we often hit the road with our questions, our concerns, and our doubts. Our faith is not a destination, but a way. Like the disciples, we often don't recognize Christ when we see him—or we recognize him only in hindsight. And like them, we encounter Christ on the road, in the gathering of the community, and in the breaking of bread.

Where is Emmaus for you?

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