

# Wilmington Emmaus

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## DO NOT LOSE HEART

from Robyn's Roost

2 Corinthians 4:16,17:  
*"Therefore we do not lose heart... for momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison."*

I want to quote from a newsletter by Kay Arthur I read in the book "15 Minutes of Peace With God", by Emilie Barnes. It says:  
*"If you are having financial troubles, setbacks... it's not the end.*

*If you have been lied to and deceived... it's not the end.*

*If you have lost your home... it's not the end.*

*If something has been stolen from you or if you have been robbed of your inheritance... it's not the end.*

*If you have a child who is ensnared in a sin, entangled in a web of wrong relationships, failing according to life's report card, or refusing to communicate with you... it's not the end.*

*If your mate has walked away, chosen someone else instead of you... it's not the end.*

*If you have just lost a loved one to death-sudden death, expected or unexpected-it's not the end. Even if your loved you committed suicide... it's not the end.*

*If you have behaved like an absolute fool and are morti-*

*fied by what you did... it's not the end.*

*If you are incarcerated for a crime... it's not the end.*

*If you are losing your hearing or sight... it's not the end.*

*If you are in the depths of depression, if you are battling depression or a chemical imbalance that has thrown all your emotions and even your way of thinking out of kilter... it's not the end.*

*If you have learned that you have a terminal disease, a crippling disease, a wasting disease... it's not the end.*

*If you have stepped onto the threshold of death... it's not the end.*

*I can tell you all this with utmost of confidence and know that what I am telling you is truth. It may seem like the end... you may wish it were the end... but it is not the end because God is God and the end has not yet come."*

As I read this I was once again amazed how God's timing is always perfect. You know that feeling when reading a devotion, and it is as if it was written just for you for that day? Or while listening to Christian radio something is said that speaks directly to you, or maybe the lyrics in a song?

This newsletter was exactly what I needed today.

This past year particularly has been challenging and tiring raising a child with disabilities. Today was a hard one. God reminded me that I get through the present day by remembering that it is not the end. I know that what I'm thinking and feeling are only temporary even though it really hurts. The end (eternal) will be my final destination. I John 5:4 says:  
*"Whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith."*

We can be over comers through perseverance and faith. We have a future and a hope because we belong to a covenant-keeping God. He never breaks His promises.

Maybe this is what God wanted you to read today as well.

*"God helps us to do what we can, and endure what we must, even in the darkest hours. But more, He wants to teach us that there are no rainbows without storm clouds and there are no diamonds without heavy pressure and enormous heat."*

W.T. Purkiser

*Robyn Hinman*

### Inside this issue:

Do Not Lose Heart	1
Joy from Joy	2
Prayer List	2
Devotion	2
Share Groups	3
Leadership Training	3
Hierarchy	3
4th Day Speakers	4
Devotion	4

## JOY FROM JOY

*“Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou are called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”*

I Timothy 6:12

Today we are without a doubt living in uncertain times. Our world is changing rapidly before our very eyes and we never know where the next act of violence is going to hit. It might be overseas, it might be across the country, or it might be next door. However, we have a wonderful shield if we as individuals put our faith in God.

We must first remain faithful to God in our individual lives and remain true to the callings and gifts God has placed upon us. When I think of the faithfulness of God to me, I really do not want to fail Him. God has given us so much and asked for so little in return. We should be consciously giving Him our all.

We must realize someone around us is looking for the love of Christ and may need us to show them the way. May our daily lives be a light shining to the world that we belong to Christ. There are those in my life that have mentored me, loved me, guided me. As I have watched their lives, it is very humbling and gives me a feeling of huge

## FAITH MATTERS

responsibility to know there are those who may be watching my life and I don't even know it. There is a song that says "I've come to far to look back". Friends, we have come to far to look back. I am so glad that I can trust God in the good times and in the bad times, on the mountain top or in the valley, when all around me is at peace or at war. God is God, all the time!

I'm glad that this life is not the end. There is a Promised land that awaits us. No more pain, no more sorrow, no confusion, no hurt, no disappointment, no sickness, no death. An eternity in the very presence of God where there will be no dangers, no sin, no crime in the city.

May we grow in our daily relationship with God, holding on to His unchanging hand. No matter what the world throws our way, let us remember God is in control. It is eternity that matters! Let's agree together to "Fight the good fight of Faith".

DE COLORES!  
*Joy Stanforth*

## DEVOTION

*“The earth, O Lord, is full of your love.”*

Psalm 119:64

Early September is the season of not much happening. Vacations are over, school is solidly back in session. The year is winding down, falling gently, like a leaf, to its inevitable conclusion. It is a peaceful time after the energy of the summer and before the urgency of the holidays. Ordinary time, the liturgical calendar calls it. I think of it as extraordinary time.

There are golden days when the sun blazes in a clear blue sky. Days as hot and humid as midsummer, but other days that speak of fall with cool mornings. Most flowers are leggy and spent, but mums are bursting into bloom and the coleus on my porch has gotten crazy huge, sending up stalks of tiny purple flowers despite my daily and vigorous pinching. Everyone who gardens has an abundance of cucumbers and zucchini; I tactfully avoid friends who come bearing too much produce.

This in-between time has its own rare beauty and rhythms. It encourages walks and weekend road trips, makes me yearn to clean out my house, clear out the debris of my life, explore new directions. It is an advent of sorts, but with no carols—just the birds calling loudly in the trees and cicadas buzzing steadily each evening. It is a time in which I feel God's presence and peace.

The earth, O Lord, is indeed full of your love.

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Contact Forward Movement at 800-543-1813 or visit www.forwardmovement.org*

### HAVE YOU MOVED?

**GET RID OF YOUR LAND LINE?  
LET US KNOW SO THAT YOU  
CAN BE REACHED WHEN YOUR  
NAME COMES UP TO SERVE ON  
A TEAM!**

### PRAYER LIST

At our August Gathering, the following names were lifted up in prayer. Please continue praying for these folks.

David Barber  
Richard Martin  
Our Nation  
Danny Stringer  
Lasley & Iris Wilkinson

## SHARE GROUPS

During several of the talks on your Emmaus weekend, you heard about the importance of a Share Group and that we need to maintain a Christ-Centered fellowship with other Christians. Through Share Groups we can help support others and ourselves and provide mutual support, encouragement and accountability in a life of grace.

If you need help in finding a share group, your sponsor can be a resource and is expected to give you advice and support. Another option is to start a new share group with other Emmaus community members in your area.

We have a Men's Good Shepherd and a Women's Good Shepherd and they are available to assist you in finding a Share Group in your community. Feel free to contact either of them for assistance in locating a Share Group. You can get their contact information on our website.

What can you expect from a share group? Brothers and sisters would seem to be the closest reference. Not immediately, of course, but as you spend time sharing and caring for each other, your friendships grow and develop into that kind of close bond.

Some groups meet weekly, some bi-weekly, some monthly. The most important thing is to meet regularly, whatever interval that may be. Joining an ongoing group, at first, may give you the feeling that you are an intruder, as they will all seem to know each other so well. However, as time goes by, you will feel more than welcomed and as if you've been a member for years.

If you remember from your walk, share groups are not a source of gossip. What is said in group must stay in the group. This means you don't even share the information with your spouse!

## October 3, 2015 Emmaus Leadership Development

All of the registration is handled online, at [www.seemmauschrysalis.com](http://www.seemmauschrysalis.com). On the "Events" link there is a 'Register Now' option.

If you wish to register a large group, at the same time, you can simply email the information to Karen Tripp. Her email address is [karentripp@comcast.net](mailto:karentripp@comcast.net).

As registration occurs, Karen will inform me of the growing list of participants, over the next couple of months.

There is a \$10 fee for each person, which helps to cover lunch, snacks and drinks.

We may choose the Chic-fil-a box lunch, or our local community might prepare lunch.

Basic Agenda:

8:30-9:30 registration, introductions, instructions (church logistics), praise and worship

9:30-11:30 (2) training sessions with Q&A

11:45-12:45 lunch and fellowship

1:00-3:00 (2) training sessions with Q&A

3:15-3:45 game with prizes, wrap-up and communion

Feel free to contact me at any time.

Thank you,

Ben Talley

(859)386-4587 work

(859)393-9270 cell

(Some would say "especially with your spouse!") Why is this? You'll understand more after you've been in the group for a while. Things are shared there of a most personal nature. The problems of life, shortcomings, errors, etc. You want to feel that you can share anything with your group and they have your back.

What happens if you can't find an ongoing group? You can organize your own group! Usually groups are male only or female only, for much the same reason that there are Men's Walks and Women's Walks. There are some "co-ed" share groups out there....usually made up of couples. They will meet jointly for a while, then separate to have men sharing together and women sharing together.

How do you go about starting a group? Talk to people that you know have been to Emmaus. However, groups are not limited to those who have been on a walk. You can make an announcement at your church. At a monthly Emmaus Gathering, there is time to make an announcement that you want to start a new group in your community. Start with two people, but START!

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR SHARE GROUP!

## EMMAUS HIERARCHY

What is the structure of the Emmaus Community and the walks? It's very interesting and, if you remember from your walk, the purpose of Emmaus is to build up leaders to go back to their churches and be more active.

The first position on an Emmaus team is that of ASSISTANT TABLE LEADER. On the walk weekend, that person pretty much experiences the walk as the pilgrims. If table discussion needs a boost, that person will be more active to get discussion started. During team meetings, the ATL will present a devotion at one of the team meetings—a start at being in front of people and talking. The next step is as Table Leader. This person will present a talk during the weekend. Table leaders serve as such on two walks before moving up to Assistant Lay Director (ALD). Again, talks are presented by the ALDs, and in addition, they take more active roles in running the weekend. ALDs serve twice before moving on up to Lay Director (LD), the person ultimately responsible for the walk weekend. This person also presents a talk and several other smaller presentations during the weekend.

*(continued on next page)*

## Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus

Wilmington United Methodist Church  
PO Box 191  
Wilmington, OH 45177

We're on the web:  
[www.wilmingtonemmaus.org](http://www.wilmingtonemmaus.org)

See you at the GATHERING:  
September 8 - 7:00pm

Singing starts at 6:45pm

MEN'S WALK #59

1 Year Reunion!

6:00pm

MEN'S WALK #61

Mini Reunion

6:00pm

### 4th DAY SPEAKERS

September: Ken Houghtaling

October: Nick Blaser

November: Ed Wells

### Hierarchy (continued from page 3)

Other positions on the weekend include the Board Rep, the person responsible to monitor all things and make sure that the weekend follows the "model" as set forth by the Upper Room in Nashville. The music team can serve on many walks, mostly because of the relative scarcity of willing volunteers. It is preferred that no one serves on back-to-back walks.

The A/V tech serves to assist with creating PowerPoint presentations as well as displaying the words to songs on the television monitor.

So, just how do you get chosen for a team? It is preferred that folks be active Emmaus members for a year before serving on a live-in team. HOWEVER, you can serve on walk weekends by signing up to provide meal service or preparation, you can come to clean the bathrooms, you can come to help with setting up the beds or coming on move-in day to help carry luggage. Sign up to pray for an hour (or more!) on the 72 hour prayer vigil.

In addition, be an active member of your church and be in a share group. Then just pray God will choose to use you to serve in this way!

**DE COLORES!**

### Professional Worrier?

*"You are my refuge and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust,"...You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day.*

*Read: Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16*

Sometimes I think I could be a professional worrier-will I get everything crossed off the to-do list? What if I forget something? What if I miss a deadline? Have I paid the electric bill? Responsibility is important, but when I let myself get carried away with these concerns, my neck and shoulders become sore with tension, my mind buzzes with questions and accusations, and I lie awake at night unable to sleep in the face of all my looming tasks.

My worrying doesn't actually accomplish much. It doesn't add a hair to my head or an inch to my height or an hour to my life, and it certainly doesn't cross anything off my to-do list. All that it does is take me to a place of what the author Parker Palmer calls "functional atheism," which is the "belief that ultimate responsibility for everything rests with us."

When I am able to turn off or turn down my worries about my life and future, I am able to live in the present today, centered and thankful for the gift this day is.

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