

Wilmington Emmaus



WALK TO
EMMAUS
THE UPPER ROOM®

Volume 31 Issue 1

January 2016



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EMMAUS
GUSTO!

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church!

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Bob Brown

IN THE BEGINNING

Well, the Christmas rush is over. The decorations are down and put away. Now it is time to put out our new calendars because it is time to start a new year - 2016 has arrived.

Can't believe it, it does not seem as if it was very long ago that we were all worried about Y2K. I worked with a guy who told me he has 6 months of water and food in his basement in case of a "nuclear attack" or the world's coming to an end. Never could figure out what he was going to do with this food and water if the world did end.

As we are entering into this New Year, let us remember that we will be facing change - new changes, difficulties, and challenges.

We need to remember all the challenges Jesus had to face as he came upon this Earth. He came upon this Earth to accept all mankind's challenges and even carry them with Him to the cross.

Let us remember all of our sins Jesus carried for us to the cross.

So as we start out this New Year, with its challenges and difficulties we will be facing, let's remember that all we have to do, no matter how bad it gets, all we have to do is *Take It To the Lord in Prayer.*

HAPPY NEW YEAR

and

God Bless,

Bob Brown

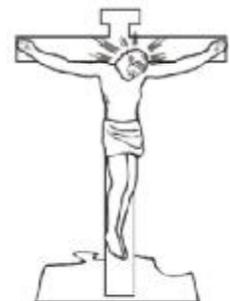
RESOLUTIONS

Making resolutions?

Making resolutions for 2016?

Keep this verse in mind:

II Thessalonians 1: 11-12
"To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and very work of faith by His power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."



HAPPY NEW YEAR

JOY from Joy Stanforth

2016! Wow! How did we get here so fast! I remember as a child hearing adults say, "The older you get, the faster time flies by." I remember thinking, "That is crazy. There are 60 minutes in every hour, 24 hours in every day, 7 days in every week..." Now that I have gotten "older," I understand it. I can't believe that we have arrived to year 2016!

The scripture tells that there are different seasons in our lives. The older you get the shorter each season seems. It seems I no sooner put the Christmas decorations away and it is time to get them all out again. I love the Advent Season. I enjoy the devotions of Advent, the joy of Christmas, the excitement of the children, the generosity of people. I marvel all over again every year that Christ came as a baby in a manger, the angel told the shepherds, the amazement of Mary and the wonderful man Joseph was. Maybe you can, but somehow I can never separate Christmas from Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, and Christ's return. For me Christmas was the beginning of a tremendous price for my soul and yours. It was the means to Easter.

As I think about our lives, I wonder – what is our purpose? What was I born for? What does God want to do with my life? What does he want to accomplish through me? What is my life the means to?

In a small group daily Bible study, I recently read a devotion tying Christmas and Easter together.

The author in reminding us that we are to share the gospel with the world relayed the scene at the

tomb this way, "The angel said it. The women shared it. I believe it. Do you," That phrase has stuck with me. I can't get away from it.

We have HEARD the Good News! We live in a country where we can freely go to church, to Sunday School, to Worship Services. To Revivals. To Christian Small Groups. We have the Bible and all kinds of Christian help books at our fingertips. We have Christian Radio and Christian TV. We have HEARD! "From the lowliest of us, like the Shepherds, we have HEARD! We have had the opportunity to be taught and trained in the scriptures in ways the shepherds never had access to. Many of us have heard from our parents, our grandparents, ministers, teachers, musicians, testimonies, but also straight from the Word of God and through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We have been so blessed to HEAR.

Every day we are each given windows of opportunity to SHARE! To share through the way we live our lives. To share with word, action and deed. To allow the Holy Spirit to work through us wherever we are, whatever we are doing, that Christ may be seen. What a privilege! What an opportunity! Are we sharing? Are we taking the opportunity? 'The scripture also teaches us that to whom much I given, much I expected. We have HEARD! We must SHARE!

Oh, how I BELIEVE it! I believe the gospel is true. I believe the word of God from cover to cover. I believe all that I have HEARD from the word of God. I believe the words of songs that I have been taught like "Jesus loves me, this I KNOW," "The

B-I-B-L-E, that's the book for me," "Amazing Grace, that saved a wretch like me." I believe all that the angels told the shepherds. I believe that the message wasn't only for the lowly shepherds but also for lowly me. I BELIEVE! I BELIEVE it to the point I want to live it. I want to SHARE it. Have you HEARD it? Are you SHARING it? Do YOU BELIEVE IT? I do. **Do you?**

There are different seasons in our lives. I have HEARD, and I must continue HEARING! I have SHARED, and I must continue SHARING! The methods sometimes change. The audience sometimes change. The windows of opportunity sometimes change. As the seasons of my life change, so does the venue, so does the method. The message remains the same. May 2016 be a year in which we bloom where we are planted! Allowing God to feed us. To HEAR where we are. To SHARE whenever and wherever doors of opportunity are opened. We've HEARD! We BELIEVE! Let's SHARE!

Joy Stanforth



For those of you who know and enjoy Tony Williams' singing, he has a CD out now! For information, you can check out our Facebook page. More info on how to get a CD will be in the next newsletter, or you can call Tony at

937-701-1298.

TABOR TALK

“Life is difficult...”

Some time ago a popular psychiatrist began his latest and greatest book with those three words! It was one of the nationwide bestsellers for the next four years.

Life IS difficult, isn't it? But the real question isn't the difficulty of life, but rather how can we get a handle on it? How are we supposed to cope with those difficult situations and relationships that life seems to hand us on a silver platter?

In the book to which I just referred, the author suggests that what people really need in order to understand and handle the trials of life is to “reach a HIGHER level of SELF-understanding!”

I disagree. Respectfully, I would like to suggest that what people REALLY need in order to get a handle on life, especially when it seems so hard and hurts so much, is a DEEPER level of GOD-understanding. In the words of the popular song writer: “People Need the Lord!” I need the Lord. You need the lord! We all need the Lord!

You see, the truth of the matter is" Life IS difficult. There is nothing we can do about that! And because it is, the very best “therapy” for each difficulty is to take a good long look at the Lord God as He is revealed to us in and through the “Word” of God – both living (that’s Jesus) and written (that’s the Bible)!

The Bible even says: “The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

And when He came, it was his own cousin John who said: “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29) In other words take a good long LOOK at Him! He is THE Son of God! The Savior of man. He is he ONLY in-bearer and THE BEST care-giver this world will ever know! That is why we sing

O soul, are, you weary and troubled	Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
No light in the darkness you see?	LOOK full in His wonderful face,
There's light for a LOOK at the Savior,	And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
And life more abundant and free!	In the light of his glory and grace.

So LOOK to Him with the eyes of faith. Sue, LIFE IS DIFFICULT! (And who knows what this New Year will bring,,,) But when you LOOK to Him, what you will see is One who is more than ADEQUATE for all those times when life seems so...so... IMPOSSIBLE! And remember, he has promised that He would always be present with us, and that His grace would always be SUFFICIENT for us!

Yes, life IS difficult. But don't forget that “It WILL be worth it all When we SEE Jesus.” What we see then is what we will get! And what we get is not only ADEQUATE but also INFINITE! Life IS difficult but He is INFINITE!

God bless...

Chuck Tabor

Note from editor: Thank you, Chuck, for a last minute message.

Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus

Wilmington United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 191

Wilmington, OH 45177

We're on the web:

ww.wilmingtonemmaus.org

See you at the
GATHERING

January 12 - 7 p.m.

Singing - 6:45 p.m.

Bring a snack to share
During fellowship time!

You receive the WILMINGTON EMMAUS NEWSLETTER in the mail for one year following your walk. If you would like to continue receiving the newsletter in the mail, simply mail a check for \$6.00 to the address shown above.

This partially covers the cost of the paper, mailing labels and postage for the newsletter,

-OR-

You can hand \$6.00 (cash or check) to our treasurer at a Gathering.

-OR-

You can opt not to receive the newsletter in the mail and begin reading the newsletter on our website: www.wilmingtonemmaus.org

You can also read back issues (about 20 years' worth!) on the website. At any rate, be sure to read the newsletter each month to stay up on Emmaus Happenings!

Thank you to *John Glaze* for faith in me, patience, and cooperation; **thank you** to *Jennie Harner* for a lifelong friendship and helping print and send the newsletters while

I am in sunny Florida. Thank you to the *Emmaus community* for putting up with my learning mistakes and growing pains as I tackle a new challenge. I look forward to learning the ropes of putting together the newsletter. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

PUT GOD FIRST IN

Finances

Interests

Relationships

Schedule

Troubles