



Northwest Georgia Walk to Emmaus

November/December, 2009

A Word from Linda

Luke 21:26 "But I am among you as one who serves."

When I arrived at the Camp for this last women's walk of 2009 I was embarrassed. I still had not worked out the scripture and message for team communion. "Why Lord," I asked, "am I so unprepared. I always have this together and am ready to start when I get there, but not this time." And God answered me, "The reason Linda, is that this is MY walk, not yours. It is not about YOU. I will give you the message in my time and you are to wait on me and trust me and do as I ask you to do." I did, He did, and the weekend was glorious. It was the same old God with the same old miracles.

I am reminded of Dante's inferno where over the gates of hell are inscribed the words, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here." I think that over the doors of the Kings Retreat should be, "Welcome to all who come here to serve." Quite a different statement isn't it? The focus remains the same. At the Kings retreat it is not all about us. It is all about God and serving him in ways that he dictates that provide comfort, support, encouragement, joy, witness and help to the message and mission of the Walk to Emmaus.

Towards that end may I make a suggestion? We are invited to be "one who comes to serve". It is our privilege and joy to work on the support and Conference rooms teams, to pray for the weekend, to make agape, to be guardian angels and cook brownies. But we do not need to be on the team to come to candlelight, to come and help in the kitchen and the dorms -- especially on Sunday when they are all so exhausted and need help with the cleaning and tidying up of the camp, and stay for the rejoicing at closing. We are blest to be a blessing and these are ways that we can be a real blessing when it is most needed. After all- it is not about us. It is all about God.

In Christ, Linda



They Missed Him

They were looking for a Lion, He came as a Lamb, and they missed Him.

They were looking for a Warrior, He came as a Peace maker, and they missed Him.

They were looking for a King, He came as a Servant, and they missed Him.

They were looking for Liberation from Rome, He submitted to the Roman cross, and they missed Him.

They were looking for a fit to their mold, He was the mold maker, and they missed Him.

They were looking for their temporal needs to be met, He came to meet their eternal need, and they missed Him.

What are you looking for? Lion? Warrior? King? Liberator? What are you looking for?

He came as a Lamb to be sacrificed for your sin. Will you miss Him?

He came to make peace between God and man. Will you miss Him?

He came to model servant hood for all mankind. Will you miss Him?

He came that we might have true Liberty. Will you miss Him?

He came to give you eternal life. Will you miss Him?

When we submit to the lamb we will meet the Lion. Join with the Peacemaker and we will meet the Warrior. Work with the Servant and we will meet the King. Walk with the Submitted and we will meet the Liberator. Concern ourselves with the Eternal and we will have the temporal.

If Jesus is not fitting into the mold you have, then come to the mold maker and get a new one. Submit to His plan for your life and you will see the eternal need met first, then all the other things you have need of will be taken care of as well.

Matthew 6:33, Ephesians 3:20, Proverbs 3:6, Isaiah 61:1, Romans 8:21, John 3:16

-Author Unknown

Brothers and Sisters,

As we look ahead to Thanksgiving and prepare for Christmas, we have so many things to be thankful for and much to anticipate as we prepare to celebrate the birth of The Best Gift ever given.

I'm thankful to each community and board member for their prayers, for their support of these weekends, for their support of this Emmaus community and for their support of increasing His kingdom one pilgrim at a time.

I'm thankful for the four great Walk to Emmaus weekends this year and added 74 pilgrims to our community from Men's 45 - 46 and Women's 46-47. These pilgrims didn't miss Him. He was on the face of the team members and on the face of the community members at candle light serenade. The team members didn't miss Him when they responded to His call and agreed to work the teams. The community didn't miss Him when they sacrificed the time to attend send-off, candle light serenade and closing, prayed during the seventy two hour prayer vigil, when they cooked or made agape and wrote agape letters. Leigh, Marsi, Nathan, and Guppy didn't miss Him when He asked whom shall I send and they said, send me. Their obedience to Christ has been a model to us all. Your Emmaus Board didn't miss Him as they sacrificed to meet regularly during this past year to do His work and to plan the work of His community.

I'm thankful for the four members whose service on the board ends December 31st (Jan Lemke-Springmier, Karen McEntrye, Billy Halbrooks & Pat Stevens) and for the new members whose service on the board begins January 1st (Coleen Knowles, Karen McEntrye, Matthew Fowler & Roger Logan).

(They Missed Him, con't)

I'm thankful for Calvin Waddell who served on the board for the last two years and Larry Mahle who will finish Calvin's term ending in 2010.

I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve this community and this board for the last year as Community Lay Director.

I'm thankful for Leigh, Marsi, Nathan, and Guppy for their obedience to Christ as lay directors for 2009 and I'm thankful for Coleen Knowles and Allen Olmstead, our lay directors for Spring 2010.

I'm thankful for the Lion that came as a Lamb, the Warrior that came as Peacemaker, the King who came as a Servant, the Liberator that surrendered to the cross for my sins, and the God that came as a baby in the most humble of places so that we could celebrate the Christ in Christmas.

Blessings to you, your family and your church family as we share our thanks and then celebrate the Greatest Gift ever given. Please remember to pray for our military & the families, our leaders both local and national and our country. Also, be in prayer for Coleen Knowles and Allen Olmstead as they begin planning for the spring Walks.

Your brother in Christ, Ed



GROUP REUNIONS

The Group Reunion itself is one of the chief values of the Emmaus Movement - one of the greatest treasures the Walk to Emmaus contains. It is a way of persevering in the life of grace so that those things that are valuable to you during the weekend will not be lost when you return to your life in the world - the Group Reunion serves the life of the Emmaus Community.

- Day Four: The Pilgrim's Continued Journey

In many ways, the health and vitality of an Emmaus community is more accurately measured by the number of active Reunion Groups within the community than the number of Walks per year or even number of pilgrims. Reunion groups are what sustain us in our Fourth Days. Please allow me to summarize some ways our community can strengthen its Fourth Day efforts:

1. Sponsors are committed to their pilgrim's Fourth Day. Help them find and become a member of a Reunion Group.
2. The message about the value of Reunion Groups is clear on Emmaus weekends. Several talks specifically emphasize the importance of Reunion Groups.
3. Follow-up/Fourth Day Committees are active.
4. Emphasize Reunion Groups at Gatherings.
5. Do not limit Reunion Group membership to Emmaus pilgrims. Small accountability groups are a vital part of the life of the church as well as the Emmaus community.
6. Team selection places priority with those who are active in a Reunion Group.

within the NW GA Emmaus Community. Having this type information available to sponsors

(Group Reunions, con't)

To date, we do not have a central collection point for information on active reunion groups and pilgrims would help seekers find and plug into a Reunion Group in their geographical areas. The bottom line is, if we want a more healthy and vibrant community, we need to be more deliberate in forming and sustaining Reunion Groups.

To that end, if you are currently in an active Reunion Group, please forward the following information to me at RevTommyHolder@gmail.com:

1. Your Reunion Group name
2. Where your Reunion Group meets
3. When your Reunion Group meets and with what frequency
4. Type of Reunion Group (men / women / mixed)
5. Contact person for Reunion Group (name, phone, email)

Once we get an idea of how many and where our Reunion Groups are, I will begin asking for a Reunion Group coordinator in each city/geographical area to serve on a committee to be a point of contact for persons interested in forming a new Reunion Group or joining an existing one.

Shalom, Rev. Tommy Holder

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ARE THINKING ABOUT SPONSORING?

Sponsorship is a very vital part of Emmaus. Without sponsors, there would be no walks. It is more than "signing up people". The first thing to do is to pray about whom God would have you sponsor. The aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christian who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ. When God puts a person's name in your mind, go talk to that person or couple for the purpose of discussing participation in Emmaus. Extend an invitation and explain the basic elements of the Walk, its purpose, and follow-up dimensions that help us live in grace for the rest of our lives. Take the attitude that you are giving the person a wonderful gift rather than that he or she needs to go. Give them a registration form. To get the registration form, go to the website: www.nwgte.net. On the left side of the page, click on "Participating." Click on "2010 application." Print out both pages, one for the pilgrim, and one for you, the sponsor. Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the pilgrims, for the Emmaus community, and for the church. It demonstrates agape love, making us instruments of Prevenient grace.

SPRING WALKS

Men's Walk #47	March 4-7, 2010
Women's Walk \$48	March 11-14, 2010

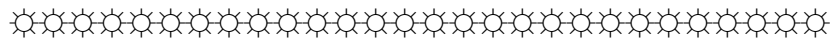
Contact info:

Men's – Alan Olmstead	770-822-5844	alli_o@bellsouth.net
Women's –Coleen Knowles	770-328-5332	knowles.coleen@yahoo.com

Board Members for 2009

Chair: Ed Beacham	Set -Up/Tear Down – Billy Halbrooks
Vice-Chair– Steve Standridge	Send Off/Candlelight – Steve Standridge
Secretary – Sharon Gladstone	Communications – Sharon Gladstone
Treasurer – Jan Lempke-Springmier	Kitchen – Karen McEntyre
Registrar – Evelyn Waters	Follow-Up – Larry Mahle
Gatherings – Donna Grenier	Agape/Training – Debbie Beck
Literature/Supplies – Donald Stevens	Team Selection – Gary Henkel
Ex-Officio – Pat Stevens	
Clergy – Linda Hessel, Julie Fuller, Tommy Holder, Frank Boone	

PLEASE GO TO OUR WEB SITE TO GET THE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THESE YOUR SERVANTS WWW.NWGWTE.NET



We say “good-bye” and “thank you” to board members who are rolling off their 3 year commitment to the Northwest Georgia Emmaus Board of Directors:

Jan Lemke-Springmier, Karen McEntyre, Billy Halbrooks & Pat Stevens.

A HUGE thanks to Ed Beacham who will roll off as Board Chair, but will remain on the board as Ex-officio member.

We welcome our new board members:

Coleen Knowles, Karen McEntyre, Roger Logan, Matthew Fowler
Keep all of us in prayer as we continue to serve you, our community.