

RAINBOW BEND

Coastal Bend Emmaus Community Newsletter

NOVEMBER 1994

"THE BEST WALK EVER"

It's happening again..."The Best Walk Ever" will take place about the same time you receive this newsletter. Men's Walk 393 is happening November 10-13 at Bishop Drury Retreat Center. The Lay Director, Ralph Sauter and Spiritual Director, Jim Roberts covet your prayers and presence in support of this CBEC special event. Community participation begins at 8:00 Saturday evening with a "warm-up" sing-a-long session before our Fourth Day/Candlelight service at 8:30. Sunday morning "Cock-a-doodle-doo" at 5:30 is Las Mananitas and of course...don't forget closing at 3:30 Sunday afternoon. Note: that there is NOT a pot-luck dinner gathering Saturday evening. In response to the Community's request, pot-luck gatherings have been moved to be a part of Community Gatherings in months when a Walk is not scheduled.

Pilgrims on Walk 393 are: Jeff Atkinson, Alan Barre, James Berg, Curtis Blomstedt, Tom Bond, Ted Boriack, Lamar Brooks, Elwood Brown, David Brown, Fred Capps, David Cheek, Robert Cody, Tom Covey, Richard Crenshaw, John Dorgan, Les Huddleston, Clay James, Michael Link, Roy Mayo, B.J. McNeely, Sam Morales, Jim Moretich, John Olson, Dwayne Patterson, Harmon Stoops, Michael Swatner, Pat True, Bob Washburn, Gary Wesson, Ken Wilbur, San Williams, Joey Williams, and John Worley.

Walk 393 Team members are: Bob Abbott, Mark Adams, Roger Bain, Michael Ball, Larry Blomstedt, Jon Borhauer, Steve Burck, James Cochran, Haskell Cook, Charlie Dobbs, Mark Doty, Scott Elliff, Norman Fleeman, Calvin Frazier, Jim Freeman, Randy Golden, George Husted, Ben Jackson, Jim Kidwell, Tom McClung, Pat McMahan, Dan Morrow, Craig Olney, Bill Redding, Medicus Rentz, Robert Rios, Jim Roberts, Ralph Sauter, Andy Sewell, James Vaughn, Jerry Vollmer, Winston Wainscott, Wes Warren, and Clark Williams.



PLANNING FOR CHRISTMAS

It seems hard to even think about Christmas yet with the Thanksgiving season still a couple of weeks off. Although, we must put the Community plans before you so that we can get our calendar's synchronized for this festive and celebrative season. Our Emmaus "Christmas Special" Community Gathering will be held on Saturday, December 17th, in the Corpus Christi First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. This promises to be our largest Community Gathering of the year with possibly six hundred or more persons attending. It will be a special time of sharing and fellowship and you won't want to miss it. Each of our CBEC church Emmaus groups is asked to bring "seasonal food and entertainment" to share with the rest of the community. We will start with a gathering around the sumptuous food to share, and then each Reunion Group or church Emmaus group will have the opportunity to share their "gift" of a Christmas skit or song with the rest of the Community. We will sing lots of Christmas songs and celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord. Our Fourth Day celebration will be awesome as usual and will include a special time of "candlelight" sharing.

Two things you can do for yourself this Christmas season to escape to the "mountain top" (do you remember the "mountain top?"): (1) make a conscious decision now to celebrate the birth of Christ with your brothers and sisters in Christ in the Emmaus Community (mark your calendar today) (2) give the gift of this wonderful time of fellowship to an inactive Emmaus brother or sister in your own church or Reunion Group by bringing them with you to this special time of sharing. After all, giving is the reason for the season, and it's what Emmaus is all about.

Put the date on your calendar now, start thinking about your gift of skit or song to share and oh yes, don't forget the tasty Christmas treat you will bring to share. Get ready to celebrate the birth of Christ!



Have you ever lost something, something very valuable, and not known that you lost it? How can you find something if you're not even aware that you no longer have it? What an awful feeling to realize that slowly, ever so slowly, you've lost something very precious.

I very recently realized that I am addicted to being busy (what a surprise to those that know me, NOT!) Ok, fine, I said, let's do something about it! As I began to assess what I do and, more importantly, why I do it, God helped me realize that things weren't as He wanted them in my life. I knew I was "struggling with my busyness and God's will in my life," but what I didn't realize was what I had slowly lost in all of my busyness. **JOY!** So, it really wasn't my busyness after all that I was wrestling with, it was my lack of joy in my servanthood. I can't tell you how freeing it was to discover that. For the last several days, it has been a real blessing to actually realize that my joy is slowly returning!! Of course, I wanted it to return immediately, all at once, but God helped me see that just as slowly as joy in my servanthood had left my life, would it return. He knows that I need it that way so that I will appreciate joy more when it returns.

So, I'm trying to no longer view my service opportunities, like SWTC Emmaus Lay Director, as burdens, but instead I want to view them as an awesome privilege and responsibility to share the gifts and **joy** that God has bestowed upon me.

I recently heard Josh McDowell say that "we don't work for God, He works through us." Hmmmm, could my mistaken attitude of working for God have anything to do with my feeling burdened? MOST definitely!! So, from now on I pray I will remember to continually remind myself of those words. I DO NOT WORK FOR GOD, RATHER GOD WORKS THROUGH ME!!! I pray you will remember these words in all of your service. *De Colores, Brenda Vavricek, SWTC Emmaus Lay Director*