

Rainbow Bend

February 2009 Vol. 16, Issue 2



Sponsorship

After my pilgrim walk in 2000, I could not wait to share the wonderful gift I had received and proceeded to ask all my friends to go on the Walk to Emmaus. I probably did everything wrong; I wasn't discerning, I didn't really pray very hard and certainly not long enough to wait for an answer. I may have been a little over zealous, since I thought Emmaus was the best thing since sliced bread. In fact, about the only thing I did do right is I did not ask unbelievers, knowing the Walk is to build up leaders in the church and is not intended to be a conversion experience. Plus, I realized you do not want to ask someone who is going thru a difficult time in their lives such as loss of a job or loved one, has a deadline looming or is experiencing protracted health problems. To get the full benefit, your pilgrim should be able to set aside three days without worrying about the outside world.

As I am getting a little older and wiser, I realize timing is everything and God's timing is always perfect. My opinion of Emmaus has not changed. It is an amazing once in a lifetime experience. It brought me closer to the Lord in three days than twenty years of church attendance. In my favorite devotional, My Utmost For His Highest, Oswald Chambers says "One life wholly devoted to God is of more value to God than one hundred lives simply awakened by His Spirit". I still want to share this gift with everybody, but I try to be less pushy and more discerning.

The Upper Room has recently put together some wonderful training material that can be found on the website at <http://umcswtxprograms.org/emmaus/>. In the left hand column, under Walk to Emmaus, scroll down to Documents and the fourth item is Sponsorship Training. Here are some key points I learned from the training.

Good sponsorship is the key to building up our community and the Body of Christ. It requires lots of deep knee bends, releasing our expectations to God and allowing Him to work through us. We think of agape as the great food and gifts you receive during the weekend, but sponsorship is the "first act of agape". The sacrificial love we give our pilgrims undergirds the whole weekend. They have some great tips on who to sponsor and who not to. **Look for someone who is already on a pilgrimage and wants to grow in their faith journey.**

At a minimum, you should collect agape letters for your pilgrim, go to Candlelight and Closing. Review with them the major events of the weekend and answer any of their questions. Tell them there will be some special surprises in store for them. During the weekend, spend as much time as possible in prayer. It is also a good idea to check on their family or take care of their pets if they live alone.

After the Walk you should assist your pilgrim in joining a reunion group. You may want to take them and become a part of the group until the group is established. Invite your pilgrim to the next Candlelight and Closing. You might also want to share with them opportunities to serve. Pass it forward, show them how to be a sponsor. If you are not comfortable sponsoring someone for the first time, then ask a more experienced person to co-sponsor with you.

Southwest Texas Conference requires that we have 20 pilgrims two weeks prior to the Walk for the Walk to make. So please turn in your pilgrim's application at least three weeks before the Walk. Do not hold your application to see if the Walk makes. Team formation takes six to eight months and during this time they pour their heart and soul into preparing for the pilgrims. It is very nerve wracking to get an accurate head count when sponsors wait to the last minute. Everything you need to sponsor a pilgrim is on the Coastal Bend Emmaus website, <http://www.coastalbendemmas.org/> and on the application itself. Please do not hesitate to ask myself or the Walk Lay Director with any questions you might have.

I love the Lord and the Walk to Emmaus is one of the best ways I know how to share His unconditional, unending, unfathomable and outrageous love. Pass it on!

Gail Anderson
CBEC Lay Director

Emmaus Notice

It has been discovered that some names inadvertently got dropped from the database. If you know of anyone not receiving their newsletter please email the name and mailing address to cindymcm7@gmail.com

Men's Walk #1482 scheduled for February 19-22nd. Did not make and we are greatly sadden to have to cancel it. If you were sponsoring a pilgrim please contact the San Antonio registrar, Adrian Gonzales to transfer your pilgrim to another Walk. We regret any inconvenience this has caused the pilgrims or sponsors.

Adrian Gonzales
16400 Huebner
San Antonio, TX 78248
Emmaus@umcswtx.org
W-210-408-4528
Toll Free- 888-349-4193
Fax-210-568-2171
Hrs.-M-F: 8:30-5:00

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you in hopes that you will be able to help a brother in need.

Some of you may remember Tamara Berry; she was Lay Director on Walk #1374. Her son, Taylor, had a heart transplant at the age of four. Taylor is now twelve and has grown into an awesome young man. He, at a very young age, grasps the meaning of receiving from the Body of Christ. When he was in Houston he received so much support from this community it changed his life. When he was able to return to Corpus Christi it became a priority for him to give back. They have told Taylor he will have to have another heart transplant. He is not on the transplant list yet, but that will happen in time. So, we are gathering testimonies to be compiled into a book; the proceeds of which will go the Taylor Berry Foundation to cover expenses. The name of the book is "Testimonies from the Body of Christ". You may submit a testimony of your salvation experience or any situation where God interceded in your life in a big way.

This is not an Emmaus endeavor so please spread the word to anyone who you know might be able to contribute to this book's success. I know that this will be a HUGE blessing to Taylor but it might make an eternal difference in the life of someone you may never meet that picks up the book and reads your testimony.

Please submit your story to Terri Shook via email: tshook3664@aol.com, or snail mail 6406 Haubourdin, CC, TX 78414.

Also, you may go to Taylor's Caringbridge site and sign up to receive updates of his journey. To visit the website:

1. Connect to www.caringbridge.org

2. Enter the website name "taylorberry1" in the box under 'Visit a CaringBridge website'. **Be sure you are using only lower case letters and NO spaces.

3. Click 'go'

4. Depending on the security level an author has set up, you may be prompted for additional information such as:
- your e-mail address and Visitor Password

Romans 12:5 "so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Journey to Damascus Community Board names Board of Trustees

The Journey to Damascus Corpus Christi Community Board elected

five members to serve on the newly created JTD Board of Trustees. The new board members were commissioned, by Bishop Edmond Carmody, at the community gathering on January 22nd. Curtis Cantwell, Dr. David Miller and Rev. Billy Storms will serve as members at large on the board. Jim Kollaja and David Walsh will serve as Corpus Christi community members on the board. The Houston Community board elected Dan Clark and Mark Thibaut to serve as it's representatives on the board of trustees. The JTD Board of Trustees was instituted to provide overall guidance and assistance to local community boards and to assist emerging communities in other areas of the state. We ask your prayers for the members of the new board as they begin the work of supporting existing communities and guiding developing communities.

Upcoming Ash Wednesday Service

What: Community interfaith Ash Wednesday service (with Bishop Carmody).

When: Wednesday, February 25th, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.

Where: Corpus Christi State School Gymnasium, 902 Airport Rd. , (888-5301).

Greetings Emmaus and Journey Communities;

On Wednesday, February 25th from 9:30 - 10:45 a.m., the 9th community interfaith Ash Wednesday service with Bishop Carmody will be held at the Corpus Christi State School gymnasium, located at 902 Airport Road .

Assisting with the service will be the Rev. Billy Storms , the Rev. Gregg Hackett and CrossTide from First United Methodist Church and the Silent Angels Deaf Choir will be interpreting the service for the deaf and hard of hearing. Residents of the CC State School will lead in scripture readings.

We are hoping to have an Emmaus / Journey style of worship experience and we welcome everyone to join us in this outstanding service.

De Colores and Blessings...

Chaplain Tom Dowdy

Corpus Christi State School

(361) 844-7887



Walk to Salom #6

Feb 26th-Mar1st
Mark DeKoch LD



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the longing of my heart and my prayer is that the homeless men might be saved. For the scriptures tell us that no one who believes in Christ will ever be disappointed.

The Walk to Siloam focuses on teaching men how to live a Christian life within the homeless community, while spiritually nurturing them toward a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. We thank the community for your past support and appreciate future assistance since each Walk to Siloam is responsible for meeting its own agape and financial needs. We are especially hopeful of your prayers and your letters as the homeless men are estranged from their families in many cases. This year we are hopeful for assistance in the following areas:

- All traditional agape – crosses, sayings, emblems, knickknacks
- Food agape – the men love individually packaged snacks, healthy snacks
- Drinks – bottled water, canned or bottled sodas, tea, lemonade etc.
- Pilgrim sponsorships – approximately 35 pilgrims - \$125/man
- \$ 5 Whataburger Gift Cards
- Printing costs - \$200
- Sanitary kits – soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, comb etc. – 35 sets

Candlelight Attendance on Saturday, February 28th , is greatly appreciated!!!!!!!!!!

You can obtain directions at zbcamp.org (Camp Zephyr's website). In Corpus Christi Vans are available at the following locations to transport you to Camp Zephyr and return you to Corpus Christi.

First United Methodist Church, 900 S Shoreline (Downtown Area)

Grace Presbyterian Church, 6301 Yorktown (Southside Area)

Annaville Baptist Church, 4025 Violet Rd (Annaville / Calallen area)

Please be at the locations by 6:30 pm.

▪ Blessings to all of you.

Contacts: Mark DeKoch, Lay director cell 361-779-5907
Randy Finch, Head Cha 361-533-0091

▪ You may deliver agape if you wish to:

1) Stewart Strayer, Ashmore Paint Co., 1736 S. Staples St., (near 6 Pts.) ,CC,Tx.,78404

2) Mark DeKoch, Burkett Law Firm, 538 S. Tancahua, Corpus Christi, TX 78401.

Emmaus Team Service Application

This is a renewal or update of my information already on file
(Please print & fill out completely)

Personal Information:

Name: _____ Gender: Male Female Birth Year _____
(First) (last) (defaults to 1900 is left blank)

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone (home): _____ (work): _____ (cell): _____ (other): _____

Email: _____ Other email: _____

Church Home: _____ Denomination: _____

Pilgrim Information:

I was a pilgrim/butterfly on: Emmaus # _____ Chrysalis # _____ (other) _____ # _____

My pilgrim walk/flight was: Month _____ Year _____ Lay Director _____

Application information:

I would like to serve on a team for: (check all that apply) Angel / Cha Table or Asst Table leader Asst LD

Music Singer Instrument(s) _____

I am a Medical professional (occupation & title) _____ - _____

Place me on track to eventually serve as a Lay Director I qualify as Clergy

Are you active in local Emmaus gatherings? Yes No Are you active in a Reunion Group? Yes No

Previous Team experience: (The team Selection Committee is charged with maintaining a balance of experience on each team. Please fill out as completely as possible) List most recent team first

Emmaus # _____ Position: _____ Date: _____ Lay Director: _____

Chrysalis # _____

Other # _____ Talk Given: _____ Location: _____

Emmaus # _____ Position: _____ Date: _____ Lay Director: _____

Chrysalis # _____

Other # _____ Talk Given: _____ Location: _____

Emmaus # _____ Position: _____ Date: _____ Lay Director: _____

Chrysalis # _____

Other # _____ Talk Given: _____ Location: _____

Emmaus # _____ Position: _____ Date: _____ Lay Director: _____

Chrysalis # _____

Other # _____ Talk Given: _____ Location: _____

Emmaus # _____ Position: _____ Date: _____ Lay Director: _____

Chrysalis # _____

Other # _____ Talk Given: _____ Location: _____

(list additional experience on separate page)

**Please update your information after serving on a team. This application is kept for 5 years.
Submit a new application after that date if you wish to remain in the Team Selection Database.**

Mail form to: Emmaus Database, 5906 McAlpin Dr, Corpus Christi, TX 78413 or email to cindymcm7@grandecom.net

Future Events

Men's JTD #70 W Walk #1494
 April 2-5 April 16-19
 Hector Salinas LD Alene Snodgrass LD

W JTD #71
 April 23-26

W H-JTD #72
 Apr.30 - May 3
 Sandy Steffes

Prayer Vigil

Your prayers for the team and pilgrims are an essential part of each Walk weekend. In fact, we will not start a Walk until all 72 hours are covered in prayer! You may pray from your home, work or where ever you are during your time slot. Praying the Prayer Vigil will be located on the website in the near future.

Team Service

If you are interested in serving on a team and have not done so in a while, please fill out a team service form, found In the newsletter or at <http://www.costalbendemmaus.org> Mailing directions are on at the bottom of the form.

WANTED

People With a Servants Heart

The Coastal Bend Emmaus Community is needing a couple of willing servants. We are in need of a person to take on the job of Prayer Vigil Coordinator and Data Base Coordinator these people will also need to be willing to serve on the Emmaus Board. If God puts one of these opportunities to serve on you heart please contact Gail Anderson at H (361) 854-6326 C (361) 816-6937 or by e-mail pga@agcm.cc

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pga@agcm.cc

JTD Information

5620 Gollihar Rd.
 Corpus Christi, TX 78412
 Voice Mail: 1-888-546-7382
j2damascus@yahoo.com

Chrysalis Information

Julie Brown
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 Corpus Christi, TX 78466
 361-949-0152 dbrown@stx.rr.com

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2008/2009 EMMAUS BOARD

Lay Director	Gail Anderson
Asst. Lay Dir.	Jim Schuchardt
Co-Spiritual Directors	Rev. Gloria Lear Rev. Mark Porterfield
Treasurer	Gale Bridgeman

Website:

www.CoastalBendEmmaus.org

2007/2008 DAMASCUS BOARD

President	Jim Kollaja
Vice President	Maury Jarrell
Spiritual Director	Father Tom Goodwin
Asst SD's	Rev. Billy Storms

Treasurer Leonard Lee

Website:

www.JourneyToDamascus.org

2008 CHRYSALIS BOARD

Lay Director	Julie Brown
Asst. Lay Dir.	Brandon Crawford
Spiritual Director	Rev. Chuck Miller

Website:

www.ChrysalisCoastalBend.org

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