

SonShine

www.emmaussonshine.org

October/November 2006

Message from the Lay Director

I'm Kirby Miller, and I walked on Richmond #5, where I sat at the table of "Triumphant Joy." Recently, in Disciple Bible Study, we have been studying Paul's travels, teachings, and some of the letters he wrote to various churches. He writes to each of the churches with instructions to keep them all on the same path. He addresses the individual concerns, for the churches have all begun to stray from the model he gave them when the churches were established. Each has gone in a different direction, depending on the local influences. The "local flavor" they have included has become a distraction, and in many cases, has become detrimental to their ministries.

The Jerusalem Council, after much prayer and discussion, had established guidelines for the new believers. Paul's letters kept the new churches true to the spirit of these instructions.

Emmaus communities have also included activities that have become distractions to the spirit of the Emmaus movement. Without consulting our national office, we have changed our walks in ways we thought would be better. Our weekend training event on September 29 and 30 by our regional representative, Greg Engroff, served as our wake-up call. It is time for us to re-examine our walks and the direction of our community. As Greg told us, his community had strayed from the model and had stopped growing. Once they changed their focus from a "walk driven" community to a "fourth day driven" community, and had their walks conform to the national model, their community has grown tremendously. This has happened in many communities across the country.

As the early churches recognized and honored the authority of the Jerusalem Council, we must recognize and honor the authority of our national Emmaus Board of Directors. With the help and guidance of our regional representative, our local Board of Directors is committed to leading this community in the direction God is directing. Please be in prayer that we will have the foresight and strength to make the right decisions. We believe these changes are necessary, and that God will continue to bless SonShine Emmaus. Your help and input are vital. Pray that God will show you what role you will fill in this very important and exciting ministry.

DeColores!!
Kirby

Women's Walk Update

At our recent Board meeting, it was voted not to have a Fall Women's Walk. We did not have a Lay Director, Spiritual Director nor anyone who had any musical experience at all. However, as our Board Spiritual Director, Carol Bookwalter, so eloquently stated, "Maybe God is telling us the timing is not right." We, who serve on the Board, labored over this decision, but felt that Carol was absolutely correct. In talking to a member of the community the other evening, the individual said that "the SonShine Community is not a walk-driven community, but is a Fourth Day Community." What a compliment for our community!

In light of the new changes that will be coming over the next several years, the Board also voted to only have one Spring Women's Walk and one Fall Men's Walk in 2007, and then in 2008, move towards having the four walks per year.

However, in order to have Walks, we need applications. We need team applications and we need pilgrim applications. We cannot have a walk if we do not have a sufficient number of applications of both team and pilgrim. You are encouraged to be in prayer to see if God is leading you to team, and if not team, who is He leading you to sponsor for a walk. I cannot emphasize the importance of first praying on these actions and then taking the action - of following the leading of the Lord. If we all were to sponsor one person, we would have a very long waiting list. Think of the joy you experienced on your walk. Think of the love you received and how you just wanted to share that love with the world. Let's do this! Let us share God's love with the world and invite them to go on a Walk to Emmaus and to spend 72 hours with the Lord. How exciting can that be!!

If you have any questions, or need an application to team or sponsor, please call Vicky White at 730-9763 for team and Debbie Gillis at 672-8130.

Decolores!

Vicky White

SonShine #42 Changes

In an effort to begin our transition to go by the model (see Lay Director's Remarks), at the August 19 Board Meeting David Ogburn discussed several changes the team for SonShine 42 would like to implement. The Board voted at the August 19 meeting to implement the following changes.

1. Walk #42 will have no banner.
2. The team will use the same song before each talk, but a special song to the speaker may be sung before this one.
3. They will not introduce the team at sponsor's hour, but will call names of all team and pilgrims.
4. The team will not wear their cross and lanyard.
5. They will begin the weekend on Thursday evening by calling a few team members names, who will in turn repeat their name, then once the pattern has been established pilgrim names will be added until all team and pilgrims have been called.
6. They will have a time of silence after each talk.
7. They will have a back table for the cadre.
8. They will reduce team agape (Team from Team) – Focus on Pilgrims
9. The ALDs will be giving the talks of Priority, 4th Day and Perseverance.
10. All other aspects of the walk will be in line with the old manual.

SonShine Men's Walk #42

Pilgrims

Buddy Arbogast
Steve Barnes
Stony Creery
Bill Gibson
Scott Halder
John Hall
Morgan Harrell
Gerald Hemphill
Tommy Latham
John Savarese
Phil Sparks
Brad Western
Buddy Whitlow

Team

M. O. Beck
Michaux Bullock
Bob Cartwright
Jeff Carty
Tom Davis
Dean Dorset
Bob Gibson
Jeffrey Marsh
Gene Mims
David Ogburn
Paul Ogburn
Dean Pittman
Bill Robinson
Henry Van Gils
Tom Verbeke
Tony Western
Chris White
Russell Williams

ATTENTION FORMER TEAMERS

We are trying to establish a database that shows the following:

When you teamed

What position you held

What talk you gave

Example: John Smith, Teamed Richmond 5, Assistant Table Leader; Sonshine 1, Table Leader, Talk on Christian Action; SonShine 5, ALD, Talk on Priorities; Sonshine 10, ALD, 4th Day Talk.

If you have teamed, please e-mail this information to kdmiller54@verizon.net

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SonShine Emmaus 2006 Calendar

October 19 – 22		Men's Walk #42
October 19	6:30 – 6:45 PM	Pilgrims Arrive
October 21	6:30 PM	Gathering & Candlelight at the Abbey
October 22	3:30 PM	Community gather at Abbey for Closing
November 18	4:00 PM	Day of Deeper Understanding
Wear Emmaus Colors	5:30 PM	Covered Dish Dinner
	6:30 PM	Gathering
December 16	6:30 PM	Gathering – Nominating Committee will present recommendations for new Board members for election.

Watch for more updates in future Newsletters and on the website www.emmaussonshine.org.

Walks are held at the Abbey and other activities are held at Mechanicsville United Methodist Church.

Team and Pilgrim Applications Needed

In addition to the need to fill specific team positions for a Women's Walk, we also had very few pilgrim applications. Please begin praying to see if God is leading you to team or sponsor someone next spring. Also, it isn't too early to begin planning for the next men's weekend next fall.