

SonShine

visit our website at www7.brinkster.com/ssemmaus

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The Sonshine Emmaus Community Newsletter is published quarterly.

All members of the Community are encouraged to assist with creation and publication by submitting Community news and articles of interest, to:

Fred Hedgecoth
2600 Red Wing Lane
Richmond, VA 23231

or by e-mail at

Predestin8@aol.com

Please submit articles early to ensure inclusion in upcoming issues!

from the lay director



I greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, our strength in the face of adversities and the Good Shepherd who watches over us, His lambs. When we turn on the television or pick up the newspaper, we see the media talking about talking about the constant terrorist threats. They ask us if we can continue living a "normal life" with these threats hanging over our heads. Your answer should be *YES!* You see, our Good Shepherd is watching over us, His lambs. We should be happy as lambs knowing that He is there to watch over us. He may lead us down roads that may seem rough, but He has gone on before us and He will be there with open arms to receive us. He loved us, His lambs, enough to die on a cross for us. Yet when we look at the cross it is empty and so is the grave. As a Good shepherd will do, he has gone on ahead and sent the Comforter to be with us and watch over us until we can see Him face to face.

If you doubt that Jesus is alive, ask the ladies who saw Him in many ways on Sonshine #33. His agape love touched the lives of these lady pilgrims and also the team that walked with them on the road to see Jesus. Thank you ladies for saying *YES* to Jesus. Remember "*Jesus is counting on you*". This statement applies not only to members of this last walk, but to *ALL* of us.

As we head into the summer months, our thoughts turn to vacations and weekends away from the stress of everyday work or chores. We all need a rest and time away, but remember Jesus never takes a vacation, *PRAISE GOD!* He is always there for us. Likewise our Sonshine Community is always there for us. So before you make your plans for the summer months, pause a moment and pray about our fall walks.

The deadline for the walks is here! We need your support. If you wait until after your vacation, it will be too late. There were men pilgrims that God had called to go on a walk and we had to tell them they would have to wait because of a lack of team applications, especially clergy applications. Please don't make us have to tell them no again. For if we do, they may seek Jesus in another Emmaus Community.

The dates of the fall walks are: Men-October 24-27, Women-November 7-10. Remember if you are applying for the first time this year, the cost has changed. The cost is \$170.00... \$25.00 with your application, the balance due at time of teaming.

Don't forget our gatherings are once a month at Mechanicsville UMC. The dates and times are: July 20 at 6:30, August 17 with covered dish supper at 5:30 and gathering at 6:30.

"Let the light in your eyes show the Jesus in your heart"

God Bless

Jim Sims

Lay Director

We are taking a survey of you the Sonshine Community, on two issues that will take effect next year if you so desire.

1. Would you like to see the gathering moved to Friday night rather than Saturday night ?

2. If you have access to e-mail, would you like to have your newsletter sent to you electronically?

We need your response before the first of October to allow the schedules for the coming year to be prepared.

*Call Jim Sims at 737-4322 or e-mail
jodysims@juno.com*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Angie Perkins, who just finished her walk this past weekend, has asked for prayer for her mother Rose. Surgery has revealed a malignant mass. Please pray for GOD's will to be done and lift up the family, friends and the doctors.

Also a friend of mine asked that I pass this request to get more prayer going for a family. The wife works with my friend and has just found out that the husband (almost 41) has cancer of the kidney.

Please pray alot for these requests.

PRAYER JOY!

The women just had a wonderful walk (#33) I wish all of you could have been there... maybe the next walks.

Love in Christ,

Bill Giese



Sonshine Website News

Our website address has changed to **http://www7.brinkster.com/ssemmaus/**.

The web host changed this with no warning and I apologize for any problems this has caused.

Other changes at our website include the addition of a discussion board called **E Gathering**. To view and make posts there, please contact Cathy Davis by email at Gatekeeper4ss@cs.com to register. This has been provided as another means to be in fellowship with others in the community when we are not physically gathered together.

Your Webservant,

Delany Deavers

dl_deavers@cavtel.net

APPLICATION TO SERVE ON A SONSHINE EMMAUS TEAM

Name _____
Name you like to be called _____
Street Address _____ Home Phone: () _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Work Phone: () _____
Church You Attend _____

Name/ Denomination

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Where and when did you make your EMMAUS/CURSILLO weekend?
Location _____ *Date* _____

Emmaus/Cursillo courses of training obtained in addition to your initial weekend:

DDU? Yes _____ No _____

Previous Team experience (*please list team members by number, when, where, jobs held and talks given*)

EMMAUS/CURSILLO Community activities (*Reunion Groups, Ultrayas/Gatherings, Mananitas, Candelights, Palanca/ Agape, support, committees, etc.*) _____

Do you play a musical instrument? Yes _____ No _____
If so, which one(s)? _____

TEAM MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE THE COST OF THE WEEKEND. If you are not able to contribute the cost, you are still needed and welcome to serve on a team. Please indicate in the space below your need for financial assistance. *Financial support is available through the community!*
(Total weekend cost is \$170.00: \$25.00 with application, \$145.00 due before walk)

Yes, I am requesting financial assistance

Husbands and wives must submit separate applications. I understand this commitment to God, Pilgrims, Team, and the SonShine Community. **I further agree to commit to attend 6 (six) gatherings in the 12 month period following my teaming.**

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Please mail all TEAM applications to :
SonShine Emmaus
P.O. Box 55
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Attn: Team Selection Committee	For completion by Team Selection Committee :
Update 10/13/00	Date application received _____
	Date applicant called _____ Y / N

SONSHINE EMMAUS PILGRIM APPLICATION

Name _____ Name you like to be called _____

Street Address _____ Home Phone: () _____

Work Phone: () _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Church You Attend _____

Name/Denomination

Minister's Name

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Sex: M / F Birth Date: _____ Occupation: _____

Marital Status: _____ Spouse's First Name _____

Are you on a diet/medication? If so, please specify _____

Do you have any health problems or physical handicap
that may affect your attendance? _____

Do you play a musical instrument? Y / N If so, what? _____

Please bring it with you!

Church organizations with which you work: _____

Please give a brief, frank statement about why you would like to attend an EMMAUS weekend, what you expect from it and anything about yourself and your faith you wish to share:

A deposit of \$25 must accompany this application. In the event it is not possible to assign you to a weekend, the deposit is refundable. If you are assigned to a weekend and fail to attend, the deposit is not refundable. ***There are no additional costs to you for your weekend*** as expenses are being underwritten by gifts from individuals who have experienced a weekend and wish to share the experience with you. This is only an application. Notification of your acceptance for a weekend will be made by phone and mail about one month before the weekend. After you have completed this application, please give it to your sponsor for completion. If you do not have a sponsor, mail the form to the address found below. Be sure to include your \$25 deposit made out to: **SONSHINE EMMAUS**

Signature of Applicant _____

Date _____

Please mail application to:

SONSHINE EMMAUS
P.O. Box 55
Mechanicsville, VA 23111
Attn.: Pilgrim Selection Committee

For completion by PILGRIM Selection Committee: Sponsor: _____

Application Deposit received: _____

Date application received : _____

Date(s) applicant called : _____

Update 10/13/00

This month's interviews are with **John and Sheri Coker** **Sonshine Emmaus #31 and #32**. If you are interested in being interviewed or have suggestions for this column, contact Bobby Gibson at 550-0813 or by e-mail at **ibprayzn@hotmail.com**.



Do You Know...?

Name: John C. Coker

Home Church: Emmaus Christian Church

Housewife/househusband: Sheri

Children and ages: Rachel 6; Hannah 5; Baby Coker Due 8/28

Employment: Pleasantis Hardware, Builder Sales Dept.

Hobbies/pastimes: Biking, Walking, Camping in backyard with the kids

Information about your walk:

Community and #: Sonshine Emmaus #31

Date: Sept 19-21, 2001

Theme: In Remembrance

Table Name: Table of Joy

Information about Your fourth day:

Are you active in the 'Group Reunion'?

Yes...we meet with the Emmaus Christian Church Group at Emmaus Christian Church every other Sunday at 7:00PM

Do you attend 'The Gathering'? Yes

Have you served on the Board or served as an officer in the Community? No

Have you sponsored any pilgrims? Not yet.

Have you served on a Team? No, I was on the last men's walk. I have sent in my application.

What ministry are you involved with for Jesus Christ (in and/or outside of the local church)?

I have led Disciple I twice, Disciple III once, and just finished Disciple IV, I co-teach adult Sunday School and am Chairman of our Building and Grounds Committee. We are currently preparing to

build a 4200sq. ft. addition to our church.

What does the Walk to Emmaus Ministry mean for you? The Walk to Emmaus Ministry is a great way to help people leave behind the world for a few days, shed their baggage and get close to God. I have only been able to do it twice, but watching the faces of the Pilgrims at the closing ceremony is priceless. The mix of tears and smiles, the messages of what people want to do with their lives, and the closeness of the community is a great uplifting force that helps me stay focused on Christ.

What has your walk done for you? Has it made a difference for you? If so, how?

To say my Walk to Emmaus has made a difference in my life is about the biggest understatement I could make. Without going into a lot of detail, I had a life changing experience at my walk and knew my life had been changed forever. I asked God that weekend to help me rededicate my life to him. I knew when I went back to work that I had a higher Call in my life. I prayed to God to help me and open doors as he saw fit to answer his Call. I was laid off two weeks after my Walk. I tried for some time to get work until one day my wife said I should stop fighting it and pursue my Call. I applied and have been accepted into the Master of Divinity Program at Union Theological Seminary. I do not know exactly what God's Call for me is, but I have put my faith in Him and will go where he calls me. Classes start in September...wish me luck!

DO YOU KNOW? (cont'd)

Name: Sheri Coker

Home Church: Emmaus Christian Church,
Powhatan

Housewife/househusband: John Coker

Children and ages: Rachel, 6, Hannah, 4, and baby
due in August (sex unknown)

Employment : homeschool parent

Hobbies/pastimes: Reading (inspirational fiction
and nonfiction), games (board games, card games),
and spending time with my family (I especially like
the mountains).

Information about your walk:

Community and #: SonShine Emmaus #32

Date: November 29, 2001 ñ December 2, 2001

Theme: Lord, I Offer My Life to You!

Table Name: don't recall

Information about your fourth day:

Are you active in the 'Group Reunion'?

Yes, we meet at Emmaus Christian Church every
other Sunday at 7:30 pm

Do you attend 'The Gathering'?

Whenever possible

*Have you served on The Board or served as an officer in
the community?*

no

Have you sponsored any pilgrims?

Yes, but she was unable to attend the Spring Women's
Walk

Have you served on a Team?

No

What ministry are you involved with for Jesus Christ (in and/or outside of the local church)?

Within the church: Sunday School (teacher),
Vacation Bible School (teacher, director), Adult Bible
studies (teacher), Finance Committee, Evangelism
Committee, Stewardship Committee, Congregational
Care Committee, and Nursery Coordinator.

Outside of the local church: By teaching my
children God's Word everyday as a part of our
homeschool curriculum, I hope to raise children who
love the Lord and will make significant contributions
to His Kingdom during their lifetimes.

What does 'The Walk to Emmaus' Ministry mean for you?

It is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship with
other Christians both in the 3-day retreat and in the
Emmaus community following the walk. Because
my husband and I have both walked, it is exciting to
be able to participate in the community activities as
a family (and to be able to include our children in
community activities).

What has your walk done for you? Has it made a difference for you? If so, how?

Ironically, I think my husband's walk (he walked the
month prior to me) has done more for me than my
own. Although I had a wonderful time on my walk,
it did not change my life the way his walk changed
his. It has been a tremendous joy to have him take
charge (for the first time) as the spiritual leader of
our family. I am excited about his future ministry
to our Lord (he begins seminary in the fall!)

*Just a gentle
reminder...*

Pilgrim and Team applications for
upcoming Walks are due no later
than January 1st and July 1st!
Please take these dates seriously
and if you believe God is calling
you to team or sponsor a Pilgrim

**PLEASE GET THOSE
APPLICATIONS IN BY
THE DEADLINE!**

Sonshine Emmaus Community

P.O. Box 55

Mechanicsville, VA 23111

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US Postage Paid

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from the clergy

Unfortunately, due to the failure to meet the deadline for newsletter submissions there is no message from our clergy appearing in this newsletter.

Our apologies to the community.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?

Be sure to notify Jerry Cooney at 795-2976 or by e-mail at JerryCooney@netzero.com