



SONrise

Aug/Sep 2009

EMMAUS

NEWSLETTER

... Strengthening the Local Church

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WALK REGISTRARS

Men's Registrar	
Ellen Johnston	366-2046
Women's Registrar	
Linda and Barry Smith	288-6563
Boy's Chrysalis Flight/Journey	
Larry Arms	239-5475
Girl's Chrysalis Flight/Journey	
Phil Clemons	367-6917

How Can I Keep From Singing??

When it comes to singing, I am definitely one of those people who fall into the "make a joyful noise category". I always like the encouragement of the T-shirt worn by one of our great men's Emmaus Song Leaders that says "Real Men Sing Real Loud". And while I am sure the women have a great time on their weekend singing out, there is nothing like the point on a men's weekend when all the men have decided it is okay to sing out and they just let loose without worrying about how it sounds or what the person next to them might think. At that point it is all about a spirit of Praise, Worship, and Fellowship and we all just realize "How Great is Our God"! When the weekend gets to that point, how can anyone keep from singing? And when we think about what Jesus had done for us, each of us should ask ourselves daily "How Can I Keep from Singing?"

I remember on my Pilgrim Walk how on Friday morning everyone around me seemed to know all the songs and to sing with such enthusiasm. Of course, I didn't know how many of those people were on the team, or how long that team had been meeting, or how ready they were for the weekend. But on Friday morning the Spirit was already moving and that spirit was contagious. And every song session seemed to be better than the last as the weekend kept getting better and better. And each night of the Walk as I struggled to sleep, the songs of the day kept going through my head over and over. God was speaking to me through the words of those songs as they kept repeating. And each day of the Walk and in the days just after, my heart was full. "How could I keep from singing?"

So, one of the many great gifts that I got coming out of my Emmaus Walk was a strong desire to hear more and more Contemporary Christian Music. Susan and I found a local Christian radio station we liked and that radio station still gets most of our radio air time when we drive around town. Over the years, we have invested in a large collection of Christian CDs. Starting with the time after our Emmaus Walk, that is what our children most often heard when riding in our car and we often found them listening to Contemporary Christian Music when we rode in their cars. I really enjoy the wide variety of musical "styles" that I found in Christian Music, and I believe those different musical styles are a gift from God.

But the real gift of Christian Music is how those songs have words that Praise God, or wrap you in God's Love, or challenge your Christian Walk, or.... As I turn off the radio or CD, just like the nights on my Emmaus Walk, the music and the words don't stop. They keep going through my head over and over. God keeps speaking to me in those repeating words all day long. If I allow the words to get through the clutter of the day, my heart can be full. If I remember what Jesus did for me and what a Great God we serve, I feel a sense of awe and praise. Even if I am one of those who can only make a joyful noise, "How can I keep from singing?"

DeColores!

Winston