



*SONrise*

*Feb/Mar 2009*

**EMMAUS**

**NEWSLETTER**

**... Strengthening the Local Church**

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**WALK REGISTRARS**

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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

***Christ is Counting on You!***

*"Christ is counting on You!" ... "And I am counting on Christ." Remember that exchange from your Walk? We easily remember that we are counting on Christ. We know the wonderful comfort that Christ provides when we need Him and the peace that exists in our life because of Christ. But what about "Christ is counting on you!?" Do our actions indicate that we believe that statement?*

*How does Christ count on you? Christians are the hands and feet that Christ uses to accomplish God's work here on earth. We see that as we get to serve as members of Emmaus teams and as members of our church. We see it in the spiritual growth of our children and in the chance to be a Christian witness at work or in the community. Many of us found our "eyes were opened" to what we could do for Christ on our Emmaus Walk. We also learned how much richer our lives can be in living and serving in the way that Christ asks of us.*

*The stated purpose of Emmaus is to strengthen the local church. If we live both counting on Christ and being counted on by Christ, the Emmaus Walk will strengthen our local church.*

*So, what does that have to do with you and Emmaus now? Serving on teams and coming to serve a meal on Walk weekends are parts of the continued growth for those who have been on the Walk. But, Emmaus' greatest impact for most of us came on our Pilgrim Walk. Someone took the time and effort to sponsor you on the Walk. That effort was an "investment" that I pray has paid great dividends for you and for your church. But, Emmaus could not have impacted you or your church if someone had not responded to God's nudging and sponsored you.*

*So, who is God nudging you to sponsor? Remember, Christ is counting on those of us who have been on the Walk to do the job of sponsoring. I firmly believe that God's hand is in control of the Emmaus Walk and he already knows who will be Pilgrims on the Emmaus Walks for 2009. I also believe that God knows who will not be on the Walk in 2009 because we did not take the time to pray, recognize, and act on the Spirit leading us to be the sponsor for some "Pilgrim in waiting".*

*The Walk is a wonderful instrument and it continues to influence many local churches. But, we have seen a decline in sponsorship. We rarely tell a prospective Pilgrim that the Walk is full and "wait till next time". I have heard some wonder if the "Walk has run its course" in Kingsport. I say a resounding "NO!" We have completed 80 Emmaus Walks with around 2500 Pilgrims. That is a great number, but when you consider that people have come from the greater Kingsport area stretching well into Southwest Virginia and over into Boone, I believe 2500 people is just scratching the surface of potential Pilgrims God will use to strengthen His church.*

*So remember, "Christ is Counting on You!!" Look around your church, your neighborhood and your workplace and then pray for the Spirit to let you know who you should be sponsoring on Walks in 2009! Then, respond to the Spirit and have a great time in helping someone else have one of the best weekends of their life.*

***DeColores!***

***Winston***