



SONrise *January-February* *2004*
EMMAUS
NEWSLETTER
... Strengthening the Local Church

Do you trust your conductor?

Here we are starting a new year for SONrise Emmaus with a new Community Lay Director (but the last name stays the same) and it's a little un-nerving to think about where we might be headed this year. Think of the uncertainty of starting off with plans for this entire year yet to unfold.

Back in the days before summer jobs, extended mission trips, and other conflicts with our children's schedules, the Rochelles and the Downs families would go to Atlanta during the summer to see a Braves game. We always stayed near a subway stop so we could hop the train in to the game. Usually it'd be standing room only on the train, sometimes riding on top of the ground where you could see out, but closer to town we'd be underground (hey, that's where you find most subways) in the dark. There'd always be lots of starts and stops and jerking around on the tracks and we'd just hold on to the handrails as we bounced around. There was one place in particular that if you were going to the stadium, you'd better be on the train that made that sharp turn off the main track.... Otherwise there's no telling where you'd be heading. We would sometimes watch "first-timers" trying to figure out if they were on the right train, worrying about that turn as though they could control which way the train would go! But we would just trust the conductor to get us to the stadium. He was driving. Not us. We just made sure we were on the right train when we left the station. Then, even though there were lots of people getting on and off at the stops, and lots of jerking on the rails, and sometimes we could see out the windows but often our vision was obscured by the darkness... through all that we trusted we would eventually get to see the Braves!

Isn't that how it really is? We're hurtling down Life's tracks, seeing people come into our lives, but also leave. Sometimes we can see where we're going but often circumstances befuddle us and we're caught up with the crowd. We think we're "in charge" and can control our destiny and pick which track we follow... until an unforeseen sickness strikes. Or a plant closing leaves us looking for a new job. Or a dear friend leaves us by dying. That's when we feel Life's tracks jerking us and we often find ourselves just hanging on to the handrails... What are your "handrails" in Life? Your own abilities? Close friends? Whoever happens to be next to you? What are you holding onto right now?

What we need to do is (1) make sure we got on God's train back at the station, then (2) trust the "Conductor". If you're on His train, then even though there's lots of jerking and track-changing, you can trust that you will get to your final destination and see the team that's been pulling for you all along!! Your ticket is punched when you accept Jesus. You board His train when you agree to work for the Kingdom. And when the train finally stops and you disembark.... The stadium will have streets of gold!

So, who's worried about starting a new year? Not me! But it may be a wild ride!

Steve Rochelle
Community Lay Director 2004.