



SONrise *March-April* *2003*
EMMAUS
NEWSLETTER
... Strengthening the Local Church

New Life

Greetings!! God is blessing us with the season of new life - tender shoots, beautiful blooms, and the shedding of dormancy. Our Spring Emmaus Walks were filled with the same glories - tender shoots, beautiful blooms, and the shedding of dormancy in our pilgrims AND in the lives of those of us in the community who were privileged to serve. Praise God!!

Writing this newsletter article is on today's "to do" list. As I was doing my Bible study this morning from Beth Moore's Beloved Disciple, God so faithfully gave me my article to share with you. The lesson today was on koinonia, the Greek word for fellowship that we each heard about on our Emmaus Walk. Beth shared that two concepts are wrapped up in koinonia: partnership and partaking. Our partnership in God's kingdom involves responsibilities, so evident from the backstage view of an Emmaus Walk. Literally hundreds of God's people were involved in offering the Spring Walks. The complement to this responsibility is that we also partake in the surplus (God's work never runs a deficit!) of God's overflowing blessings and rewards of fellowship.

1 John 1:3-4 We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete.

My prayer for each of us today is that we walk in koinonia with the Father, and that we find the balance we need with partnership and partaking. Some of us tend to be doers or have major responsibilities for the kingdom right now, and I pray that none become so caught up in God's work that he or she misses the rich surplus of a life in fellowship with God. I also urge each of us to listen for God's call to us to take on the responsibility of the kingdom in our families, our churches, the Emmaus community, and the world at large. Remember the words at Crossing when you received your Emmaus cross. Christ is counting on me and I am counting on Christ.

De Colores!
Carolyn Rochelle, Community Lay Director