



SONrise

May/June 2009

EMMAUS

NEWSLETTER

... Strengthening the Local Church

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Why Emmaus?

So, why should you or others be part of Emmaus? Why has God blessed this movement and why have so many of us been personally blessed by being a part of the SonRise Emmaus community? We have all sat at Closing and listened to a wide variety of answers to the questions, "What has this weekend meant to you?" and "What are you going to do about it?". These answers are certainly vital to the individual at the time they go on the Walk. But I ask you those questions now based on your entire Emmaus experience, "What has Emmaus meant to you?" And "What do you intend to do about it?". If someone asks you, "Why Emmaus?", what do you say?

One of the great things about Emmaus is the sense of the larger Christian community that exists in the area where we live. For many of us before our Walk, it was easy to limit our community of believers to the church where we attend. But when our eyes are open, we see that the Body of Christ is all around us. When our hearts are open, we feel God at work in many amazing ways in the community. We like the feeling of that nice warm blanket of God's grace and love that wraps around us when we are walking with God in the Emmaus community.

Often you hear Emmaus people express the wish that their church could be more like Emmaus and we see people who have a much greater spiritual connection with Emmaus than they do their church. They might even begin to see Emmaus as their church. However, we must never forget that the stated purpose of Emmaus is to "strengthen the local church". We are not in the business of taking the place of the local church or the church family where you are serving. It is a mistake if we focus inward as a closed community.

I pray that most of us have gained a greater understanding of God, His grace, and His love expressed through this community of believers. Emmaus should be giving us a glimpse of the way things can be as we serve, love, pray, and grow in ways that I believe God intends in our churches, our homes, and our workplaces.

As members of this community, I believe we must shine that light to others. In strengthening the local church, look at yourself and what you bring (or don't bring) to your church. People who will never attend an Emmaus Walk from your church can and should experience the love and light of Christ coming through you. They should see a servant who does what needs to be done whether or not they ever know you are part of the Emmaus community. They should see that light shine because we are all in the family of a Loving God and we are all called to share that love. Of course we all know that we always fall short of being just what God wants us to be. The people around us fall short also. And as we learn in Emmaus, God loves us anyway.

Take that Emmaus Spirit with you as you live as part of your local church congregation. Be loving. Be forgiving. Be a servant. Be a conduit of God's grace. And in all things, give God the Glory!

DeColores!

Winston

