



*SONrise November-December 2002*  
**EMMAUS**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**... Strengthening the Local Church**

**Immanuel: God is with us!**

Here we are almost to the end of another year. I can hardly believe how quickly this year has gone by - may have something to do with my age? Anyway, we are approaching a busy season of the year. First comes Thanksgiving, a secular holiday to remember the roots of our nation. But it is also a wonderful time to pause and give Thanks to the One who created us, and the world we live in. I have been richly blessed again this year. I am thankful to the Emmaus Community for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Community Lay Director. Someone recently asked if I was glad the year is almost over, and in some ways I am - it certainly has been challenging and a bit more than I expected.

However, it has also been one of the most rewarding as I got to see God working in and thru so many individuals and as I experienced God teaching me a number of things. Lessons I hope I have learned include recognizing it is not about my way and me but rather about God, His way, and His control all for His glory. I hope I have learned a little more about patience as I waited on His timing and not mine! He has the plan and will for my life if I only let go and let him have the control. Not easy lessons believe me, but ones I know I will continue to learn! I also am very grateful for the support of a wonderful Board, committees, and the community. We had a number of holes - some like the Grand Canyon - and yet whatever needed to be accomplished was always done, so to all of you thank you for whatever capacity you served in this past year. I am most grateful for the Teams and the Walks that occurred this past year and the new members that we have added to our community. That is truly where God is just amazing and always does more than we could ever imagine.

Following Thanksgiving we move directly into Advent. Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" That season of the year when we look for Jesus, we watch and wait and prepare for His coming. We celebrate His birth, that first coming, but we also look forward to that time when He will come again. John 14: 1-3 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." My prayer is that each of us will spend time thinking about the true meaning of Christmas and celebrate the most wonderful and costly gift ever given. Ephesians 2:8 "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God." Have a glorious; joyful Christmas

looking with great anticipation for the One who is to come, Immanuel, and God is with us!

A Poem by William W. How

Jesus:

Name of wondrous love, name all other names above,  
Unto which must every knee bow in deep humility.

Jesus:

Name decreed of old to the maiden mother told -  
Kneeling in her lowly cell - by the angel Gabriel.

Jesus:

Name of priceless worth to the children of the earth  
For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall his people save."

Jesus:

Name of wondrous love, human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee, helpless, O our God to Thee

Amen.

**De Colores,  
Sandy Winsor - Community Lay Director**