



*SONrise*      *November-December*      *2003*  
**EMMAUS**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**... Strengthening the Local Church**

### **Gifts**

This is the time of year when children are making their lists and moms are frantically searching for the perfect toy. One year Katherine asked for a dental kit. Since neither Santa nor I knew where to find one, that was one item that did not show up under the tree. When it was on the list the following year, Santa decided to have one of his elves custom make a personalized dental kit with "Dr. Katie" painted on the case. She was thrilled to have her long awaited dental tools and bag.

Adults, too, love gifts. Steve and I recently received in the mail a wonderful surprise. Bobby Sharp sent us a beautiful rainbow swirl, "De Colores" candle that is now being used at each Emmaus board meeting when we "light this candle." It is all the more cherished because of the bond we share with Bobby and all of our Emmaus family in Jesus Christ. Every time we watch the flickering flame on this candle, we will have this special reminder.

Christmas is the time we celebrate the ultimate gift, the birth of God's son come to earth as a new born babe. When you think about it, Christmas represents the gift not only of birth, but also the gift of earthly death because of its promise of eternal life.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

So, I am thankful for God's gift of his son's birth and death on the cross for me. I cannot celebrate Christmas without remembering Easter. What an awesome God we serve!

Finally, as I write my final newsletter article, I am thankful for the gift of trust you placed in me to serve with you this year. I am also thankful and humbled as I have seen all the gifts of love and service so many of you have given on His behalf. Let us celebrate His birth together in this special season!!

De Colores!  
Carolyn Rochelle, Community Lay Director