



SONrise *November - December* *2004*
EMMAUS
NEWSLETTER
... Strengthening the Local Church

The Legacy of Emmaus: Sponsorship

Have you thought about how many people have gone through SONrise Emmaus over its 15 years of existence? 2600 maybe? There are 1600 on the current mailing list which includes couples, children etc. So let's say 3000 for good measure. Where did all those people come from? Make the question more personal. How did YOU get to Emmaus? Did you happen to hear about it from a friend and asked for more information? Or, as is more typical, did a friend... no, did a *good* friend ask you to consider going? Maybe, even close to bugging you to go? That's how you got to Emmaus. Someone was willing to sponsor you so that you had a nametag waiting, to have a "new friend" that first night, to meet a small table of mostly strangers who were no strangers by the end of the weekend, to die to anything that had been hanging over your head or being dragged along behind you like a ball-n-chain. You got to see a glimpse of Heaven, then to bask in the glow left after all those candles, and you got to read letters from friends and family, perhaps parents or children too. Your sponsor made all that possible.

Now, here's the hard question. *How many people have you offered to sponsor?* It's taking a big step with lots of responsibilities. Has going on the Walk to Emmaus made you different now from the Christian you were before? Was it new direction... new enthusiasm... or new life without some baggage you had been carrying? Maybe just time to reflect and charge back out with new purpose... Even if it was a while ago, are you still benefiting from having gone on that 3-day trip? Is Emmaus/Chrysalis a good thing? When was the last time someone from your church was sponsored? Or your Sunday School class? Or your office group? Or your neighborhood? Or the group you sit with at football games? Or sing with in the choir? Or have children the same age as yours? If you often make the offer, some will come to fruition... If you don't offer, then you're depending on someone coming to you. But how will they know where to go? And who to ask? Offer to a good friend to consider going where you've been and share that "gift" with them. Ask them if they've seen a change in you. And would they like to experience a similar change.

Sponsoring is the gift that keeps on giving. Remember how it was "in the breaking of bread" that the two in Emmaus had their eyes opened and recognized Jesus at the table with them. It is only "in the sponsoring of new people" that a new group of pilgrims will have their eyes opened and get to see Jesus in the smiles and faces of those lining the aisle at Candlelight. Don't you want to share that experience? I'm glad Jim and Trish did. Have you thanked your Sponsor lately? Would you like someone to want to thank you?

De Colores!

Steve Rochelle
Community Lay Director 2004.

Luke 24: 32 "They asked each other, "were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road...?" Will you share the burning of hearts through the burning of candles with a friend?"