



SONrise *November - December* *2005*
EMMAUS
NEWSLETTER
... Strengthening the Local Church

God Loves You, Pass it on

As we come to the close of another Emmaus year, I thank God for His many blessings on this community. Our local churches will reap the bountiful harvest of 160 new pilgrims and caterpillars that joined our SONrise Emmaus family during year 2005. I am especially grateful to have had the opportunity to serve as your Community Lay Director this past year. It has truly been an honor, privilege and blessing to serve in this capacity.

We have truly been abundantly blessed with gifts from God and the greatest of these was the gift of his son, Jesus Christ. "I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly" John 10:10. This time of year we tend to get in the "hurry up" and "be aggravated" mode. We let the crowds irritate us and get upset because we missed out on the "One Day Sale" of that one special item we had our heart set on. We get upset because someone rudely cuts us off and takes the parking space that WE have been patiently waiting on. We can let this special season just pass us by OR we can bathe ourselves in God's Grace and demonstrate the love of Christ to all we come in contact with. All we have to do is look around at the beauty of God's gift of nature (the fall colors, the animals scurrying to collect their harvest for a long winter, the birds singing their last songs of fall and even the crisp cold mornings with light frost on the ground) to realize that God is all around us. Take time to relax! Enjoy and think about everything that God has provided for our pleasure, our needs and our enjoyment. Most of all think about what this season is all about: The coming of the Christ child to be born, to walk on earth and to become the sacrificial lamb for our sins, that we may live life more abundantly. What a great feeling to know that all we have to do to ensure eternal life is to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and to know that one day we will have the pleasure of sitting at his feet.

Remember, as you are out in the crowds this season, to reflect on the gifts we receive everyday from God. Pass those gifts on to others, in the form of a loving smile (even to those who have taken your parking space or to that person with 150 items in the Wal-Mart 20 item or less line). It's not what happens to us, but how we respond to it, that will show Christ's love to others.

May God be with each of you throughout this season and to eternity.

Rick Shaver
Community Lay Director 2005