



*SONrise*

*September - October*

*2005*

**EMMAUS**

**NEWSLETTER**

**... Strengthening the Local Church**

## **Through our commitment the Church will strengthen and grow**

In God's world there are many unknowns to us, the mere occupants of this miraculous place. We experience God's beauty and love every day as we open our eyes and/or ears to the world around us, the sights and sounds created by God. We also experience the power and strength of his creation as we witness the devastation resulting from Mother Nature's acts. We can only react to these events, we cannot change them and we must accept this fact. We can provide support and prayer, but we cannot prevent the action nor change it. We must keep in mind the poem/prayer:

"God, grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can and Wisdom to know the difference,

Living one day at a time

Enjoying one moment at a time

Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace

Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it.

Trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His will,

That I may be reasonably happy in this life

And supremely happy with Him forever in the next. " Amen

We cannot change Mother Nature, but, we can change the focus of our world away from sin by devoting ourselves to God's work as he calls us to do. Through Christian witness, being active in our church, and being active in our Emmaus community we can make a difference. The Emmaus community has been very meaningful to all of us and we have all seen the influence on Christian growth in our community. For this to continue to flourish we each have to renew our commitment to strengthening the local church through building up the SONrise Emmaus community. We can do this through prayerful support of the community, actively participating in Emmaus events, but most of all through sponsorship of new members.

I encourage each of you to pray for all those affected by the recent disaster, pray for your Emmaus community that it will continue to grow and flourish as it supports the strengthening of His Church, and pray about sponsorship. It is through this community that we can help rebuild and grow the Christian Church.

Rick Shaver

Community Lay Director 2005

*We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the temple that was built many years ago.  
Ezra 5:11*