



SONrise
EMMAUS
NEWSLETTER
... **Strengthening the Local Church**

Sept./Oct. 2006

FROM A *DISTANCE* ???

Animal migration is certainly nothing new. The first time the animal kingdom responded to this urge was in Genesis 7 when male and female of the clean beasts by sevens, male and female of the fowls by sevens and male and female of the unclean beasts by twos all felt the urge to travel and headed toward Noah's ark.

We're nearing the month of October, the month the Monarch butterfly's migration is in full swing. Their flyway is along the Appalachian Mountains and they will be on their way to South America to spend the winter.

Most of the Sonrise Emmaus Community members live in upper east Tennessee, western North Carolina and southwest Virginia, just along the edge of the Monarch's flyway. In October we will see lots of Monarchs as they flutter through our area South America bound. Some have already begun their journey. Watch for them, their bodies are black and their wings are colored deep orange. The wings and the orange spots are outlined in black. God has added an interesting twist to this: camouflage. Camouflage for another butterfly whose coloring is very close to that of the Monarch. It is called Viceroy. Birds love to eat Viceroy's but loathe the taste of Monarchs. Viceroy's hang out with Monarchs -- they are safer that way. Stay with me, I'm going somewhere with this (not South America).

There is a popular song that says God is watching us from a distance. He is apparently out there somewhere, watching, as you and I and the butterflies live out our lives. Every Christian knows better than that. It was God Who gave the Monarch a map and the urge to travel. God told the Viceroy his chances of survival are much better if he can be just a face in the crowd of Monarchs. He sent His only Son, Jesus, to take our punishment. He spoke with you on your Walk or Flight or Journey. His Holy Spirit lives within you. He saves your tears in a vial. Your name is written in the palm of His hand. You are always on His mind. From a distance? I don't think so. Completely involved and totally sovereign? You bet! That's Who I'm talking about – the Living God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.....and of you and me. From a distance? Hardly!!

De Colores!

Helen Lane
2006 Community Lay Director