



SONrise

Sept./Oct. 2007

**EMMAUS
NEWSLETTER**

... Strengthening the Local Church

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Mary Lynne Peterson 864/580-5563
(864)582-4040(w)

Women's Registrar
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Boy's Chrysalis Flight/Journey
Larry Arms 239-5475

Girl's Chrysalis Flight/Journey
Phil Clemons 367-6917

What Is Emmaus?

This question has been asked by many who have never experienced "The Walk". After you have been on your initial Walk, you find that this question and others loom on this side of the Walk:

"Is the most important element of the Walk spiritual or service?"

"Does my involvement with the Emmaus Community really strengthen my church?"

"Am I learning enough about the Scriptures to grow in my walk with Jesus?"

The express purpose of the Emmaus movement is to strengthen the local church by igniting the flame of the Holy Spirit in each Christian. How do we keep the fire burning? That, of course, is why there are Gatherings, Reunion Groups and teams.

One of the biggest questions that has come our way is, "How can the Emmaus Community continue to meet the needs of the church community? Where will the momentum come from?"

You may have already guessed where we are going with this, and if you have, you know the importance of sponsorship. Being a sponsor is the most important function in the Emmaus Community. Without sponsors, there are no pilgrims/caterpillars, hence there are no Walks.

We have just completed two Chrysalis Flights, in which several young people found or renewed their relationship to Jesus Christ. Several admitted that they had been going through the motions of church, but now they had the close relationship that is needed to keep them on God's path as they continue their studies and careers. Also, some of the team members expressed that they had received as much, if not more, from serving on the team as they did from their initial Walk. From this you can see that not only do the pilgrims/caterpillars benefit from sponsorship, but the team members do as well.

Many people have begun their life in Christ on an Emmaus weekend, but the Emmaus Walk is really designed to strengthen professing Christians in their daily life with God. As you ponder who you can sponsor, keep in mind that the weekend is not a cure-all for problems stemming from divorce, rebellion, crime, etc. The weekend will give a person a chance to draw closer to God.

Sponsorship is a huge responsibility. You are committing yourself to not only collect letters, but to see that this special someone has the chance to keep the promises they made to God over the weekend.

There are still openings on the Men's Walk scheduled for October 4 - 7. A waiting list now exists for the Women's Walk (October 18 - 21), but there are normally last minute cancellations, so go ahead and apply. The Young Adult Journey is now scheduled for January 3 - 6, 2008, and it is not too early to apply.

May the Lord bless you as you sponsor one or more of God's Kingdom Kids!

De Colores,
SONrise Emmaus Board