



*SONrise*

*Oct-Nov 2010*

**EMMAUS**

**NEWSLETTER**

**... Strengthening the Local Church**

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**"Happy Fall"**

*Don't you just love it? The temperatures are cooling down and the beautiful artwork from God with all the brilliant colors! DeColores - All the colors of God's Love!*

*It is time for the Fall Walks and the Teams are preparing! Pray about those who you would like to sponsor.*

*As I have been attending a Bible Study on Beatitudes, I started thinking about how they relate to an Emmaus Weekend. We have only gotten through the first three so far:*

*NIV - Matt 5:3-5*

- Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*
- Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted*
- Blessed are the meek for they will inherit the earth*

*First of all "Blessed" is translated as Happy! Blessed (Happy) are the poor in spirit? You would automatically think of sadness - not Happy. But this verse shows us that we are humble, convicted of sin in our lives with feeling of guilt and helplessness. That's when we declare our dependence on God! We recognize we need HIM, but He has been seeking us all along (Prevenient Grace). The kingdom is theirs - YES! We are forgiven and the kingdom is free to us because of Jesus and the Cross!*

*The second - Blessed (Happy) are those who mourn? How can that be? We think of mourning in connection with death. Here again we acknowledge the sin in our lives and the sin of others. We mourn our sinful nature. They will be comforted! That's when the Body of Christ offers comfort; reaching out to help. We are called to the side of God by the love of others. Pastor Ray suggested we pray each morning before rising "Lord, show me what you want me to do in your kingdom today!"*

*The third - Blessed (Happy) are the meek for they will inherit the earth? YES, these are the confident, quiet, humble living their life taking on the character of Jesus! It is not those lacking confidence or small. And, yes the kingdom is our inheritance - Freely Given - Through Jesus Christ.*

*So, why do I think of the 72 hour Emmaus Weekend? Sometimes, we come looking for God and find that HE is already here - just waiting on us! Our "poor spirit" is RENEWED! Sometimes we come "mourning" our sin or the sin of others. We have lack of faith. Here we are loved and "comforted" by many that make up The Body of Christ. Sometimes we come thinking "why am I here?" Perhaps feeling meek, hesitate to speak or act lacking confidence. You are here because God called you here at this time; to be renewed, loved, and comforted and to discover that you are indeed meek. For you are really confident in your faith, quiet but sure, humble and grateful for Jesus Christ and learning each day to take on HIS character.*

*May you be BLESSED "HAPPY" and know that God loves you so much - as I do!*

***DeColores!***

***Shirley***