



July/August/September 2007

www.midmichiganemmaus.com

Encouraging and Inspiring the Members of the Mid-Michigan Emmaus and Chrysalis Communities to "Go Forth" on Their Fourth Day

MME Website Has New Home, New Look

THE MID-MICHIGAN EMMAUS website has moved to a posh new location. Look for it at <http://www.midmichiganemmaus.com>, with a new look and new features. The new web servant is Ken Hayes, who is an accomplished professional web-site designer. The old location will have a page that will automatically redirect you to the new site.

Why would you want to visit the MME website? Here are just a few things you can do:

- Find out where and when monthly gatherings are. Information on other community events is also there.
- Check out the schedule of MME walks and MMC flights.

- Find out who is on the MME board of directors, what their responsibilities are, and how to contact them by phone or e-mail.
- Explore links to other movements based on the Cursillo method, both in Michigan and national, as well as links to other Christian resources.
- Download pilgrim and sponsor application forms, as well as volunteer information and other forms.

Why not visit the MME website the next time you're surfing the Internet? Then be sure to bookmark the new site or add it to the "Favorites" list in your browser.

—Jim Birch

Retiring MME Web servant

Summer's Almost Over

SOMEHOW EVERY YEAR AT THIS TIME it seems as if summer has only started, but the days begin to get shorter. In a couple of weeks our children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews will be back in school—summer will be over.

It is always about the first of August that I begin to think about all the things that I had planned on doing this summer but never got done. Maybe it was the vacation that there wasn't time for or our stopping by to visit with family or a special friend. What about that special afternoon that we always plan to spend with our spouse or someone else special that there was just never time for? During summer, time just seems to fly by, maybe faster than at any other time of the year. The fence I was going to paint, the roof I was going to put on, and the trees I was going to trim—none of them got done.

I also know that the speed of summer can also get in the way of my

spiritual life. It's still pretty easy to get to church on Sunday morning, but it's too easy for me to replace reading and studying the scriptures with mowing the lawn or going out for an ice cream cone after supper.

Some members of the Emmaus Community have already gotten themselves on a schedule! Team meetings for the fall walks have already begun. The whole Emmaus Community is certainly invited to get involved with every walk. If we are not on the "team" that is there putting on the weekends as a team member, we all must remember that are on the "Emmaus Community Team." You can check on the prayer vigil, there may be a spot open for you. Your prayers don't have to be limited to your slot on the prayer vigil list either, your prayers will be heard as preparations are made for the weekend. Pray for the pilgrims. You may not know their names yet, but God is listening, and through prayer He may give you

Gatherings and Hoots

For more gathering information contact Karen Emery (989-728-6087 or klemery@centurytel.net).

- **Friday, September 7**—Hale First UMC at 7:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, October 6, 2007**—Ames UMC, Saginaw at 4:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, November 3**—Gladwin First UMC at 4:00 p.m.
- **Friday, December 7**—Christmas potluck/celebration at Sanford UMC at 6:00 p.m.

For information about Chrysalis hoots, contact Bethany Juen (BBGal622@yahoo.com) or Janelle Brown (goingbananas0713@yahoo.com).

Fall Emmaus Walks

Caro UMC, Caro, Michigan Men's Walk #43

September 20–23, 2007
Jeff Loomis, Lay Director
Sendoff at 7:00 p.m., Sept. 20
Candlelight at 8:00 p.m. Sept. 22
Closing at 5:00 p.m., Sept. 23

Women's Walk #44

September 27–30, 2007
Sally Loveridge,
Lay Director
Sendoff at 7:00 p.m. Sept. 27
Candlelight at 8:00 p.m., Sept. 29
Closing at 5:00 p.m., Sept. 30



the name of someone He thinks should be on a walk. Pray for the lay leadership, clergy, and everyone who will give of themselves on those weekends.

It is also time to be putting together agape. Maybe dig out a special little agape gift that you received on your weekend. Think about how it made you feel when you received it. Now it's your turn to give that gift, or one like it, to someone else. One of the

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One of Us

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.” —John 1:14

IN 1996 THE DELIGHTFUL FILM “Fly Away Home” told the story of a young girl who was living with her eccentric father in a remote area of Canada. She innocently “adopted” a nestful of goose eggs that had been “orphaned” because of a nearby development project. The eggs hatched, but the crisis came months later when it was time for the fledglings to go south for the winter. The geese had been too young to fly when the others left, and now there was no one to guide and protect them on the arduous journey.

Unable to get the geese to trust her as a human, the girl (and her father) had to become like geese. They decorated their ultralight airplanes to resemble geese (albeit big ones!) and took off for North Carolina. The geese played “follow the leader.” Although they couldn’t understand the problem on human terms, the geese were able to relate to the leadership of what they thought was one of their own kind.

Sound familiar? God did the same thing! He knew that we have difficulty understanding divine ways of love and mercy. Even though we have been given His Word to read and study, God’s ideas, concepts, and personality are just too vast, too powerful, per-



Follow me!

haps even too intimidating. Like the geese, we cower in fear before a superior being. Like the geese, we prefer something that is more comfortable and more familiar—more tangible and touchable.

God knew that we needed to experience Him as flesh and blood, as one of our own kind. So God became “one of us” almost 2000 years ago, taking on our temptations and trials, joy and suffering, and most of all, taking all our sin onto His own shoulders.

Let Jesus Christ be the leader on the journeys of your life.

—Jim Birch
LVCCM #8

Want To Be a Leader?

The next issue of “Going Fourth” will include a ballot for the MME board of directors. Five 3-year terms are available. If you are interested in knowing more about these positions, please contact any member of the nominations committee: Jim Birch (989-835-2856), Kim Jacques (989-295-9206), Linda Lujan (989-893-5746), Ed Orzel (989-883-2185), or Dennis Warner (989-275-8889).

Got a Question?

EVER WONDER WHY we do things certain ways? The Walk to Emmaus is “governed” by a model established by The Upper Room and the International Emmaus organization. Several handbooks explain how to do Emmaus walks and the reasons why they are done the way they are.

If you have a question, contact a board member, and they can look it up. You can also E-mail your question to Lisa at palletsheep@hotmail.com. Use “Emmaus question” in the subject box, and we’ll see if we can answer them in future newsletters. GLYASDI

Lisa Kelley
Community Training Chair

There Is Nothing Secret about Emmaus

[Editor’s Note: Sometimes well-meaning sponsors or spouses are reluctant to share what happens on an Emmaus Walk because they fear they will spoil the surprises for potential pilgrims. However, I know of several situations in our community in which this “secrecy” has turned a potential pilgrim against Emmaus. Here is what The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus has to say about secrecy on page 137.]

EMMMAUS PILGRIMS CAN HARM the unity of the church by acting as though Emmaus involves secrecy, like a lodge or a mystery cult. The single greatest obstacle to a graceful relationship between Emmaus and the church over the years has been the image of secrecy. Secrets create barriers; they bind together those “in the know” and separate them from those who do not know. The only secret Christians share is a secret we are called to tell: “the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col. 1:26–27).

There is nothing secret about Emmaus. Even Candlelight, personal agape letters, and the community’s

presence at the closing can be mentioned when Emmaus is explained to a person being sponsored. Our hope is that these events will be experienced afresh as surprises and as gifts. But even when these events are known, little is lost when pilgrims actually encounter the love that these special events of the weekend communicate. When asked a specific question, pilgrims should give an honest and truthful answer.

Emmaus pilgrims hurt the movement by saying to persons, “Well, I can’t tell you what happens.” This is not true. We may have difficulty putting into words the experience of the weekend, and we can say more than our friends are interested in hearing. Nevertheless, the weekend contains objective ingredients that can and should be shared with persons who are being sponsored. These objective ingredients of the weekend are described openly in the brochure “The Upper Room Walk to Emmaus—For the Development of Christian Leaders,” the book *What Is Emmaus?*, talks, discussion groups, meaningful services of prayer and Holy Communion, and acts of love by a support community.

Reaching Out...

DO YOU KNOW OF A TEENAGER who is on fire for Christ, but could use a renewal to keep that fire burning? What about a teen who is an emerging leader in your church? I may have an answer. Chrysalis is a nondenominational movement that helps build teens into today's and tomorrow's leaders of the church. It is also an event in which teens are able to have fun and fellowship with their peers along with adult leaders of Christ's church. The Chrysalis movement has flights (or weekends) that help to empower today's youth and bring them into a closer relationship with Christ and with other believers.

In today's society, it is not always the cool thing to be a believer in Christ or to attend church. Teens receive a lot of pressure to always be in the "in crowd" and to avoid standing out. There is a stereotype that Christians do not have fun. They are boring and always stick to the straight and narrow. We as Christians know that is not true. We can and do have lots of fun. Teen Christians can have lots of fun without becoming "worldly." If that were not the case, we wouldn't have students meeting for Christian fellowship in the schools or athletes entering

'Going Fourth' Welcomes Your Contributions

GOING FOURTH is your newsletter. We welcome articles about experiences that have helped you grow in piety, study, or action. What you share could inspire someone else who is struggling with similar issues. Just be sure your article is related to Emmaus/Chrysalis principles. Unfortunately, we don't have space to advertise events that are unrelated to Emmaus or Chrysalis.

Articles can be submitted as an e-mail attachment (preferred) or by mail on diskette or CD in most common file formats. Short typed or handwritten articles can be sent to P.O. Box 1024, Midland, MI 48641-1024. All articles are subject to editing for grammar, length, or content.

into prayer before and after competitions. We also wouldn't have events like Ichthus, Big Dig, or youth Lay Speaking Ministry weekends.

It is the responsibility of youth and adults together to let teens know they are important. Their voices and opinions count in Christ's church. They have many great ideas and leadership skills to help build a church into a stronghold for Christ. But there is one problem: teens cannot do it alone. They need someone to stand alongside them to mentor them and support them. That person can be another youth like them or an adult. In reality, that person could be you. Christ can use *you* to be His hands and mouth in sharing His words and desires for that person's life. Will you step up to that challenge?

If you are interested in sharing Christ with a teen, what better way to do this than sponsor one to attend a Chrysalis flight? Teens interested need to be between the ages of tenth grade and freshmen in college. For information on upcoming flights, contact Cathy Kelley (989-585-3139 or cathleenbrewer@hotmail.com) or Bruce Pynnonen (989-631-1317 or pynnonen26@yahoo.com). Registration forms are available by clicking on the forms box found on the Mid-Michigan Emmaus website.

Keep Christ alive by guiding today's youth into fellowship and communication with Him. This fellowship will help youth become leaders in the church and eventually help them build up a stronger church for Christ's kingdom.

Fly with Christ,

Cathy Kelley
MME #28

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most important agape gifts that you can provide is snack agape. (Or maybe I am the only pilgrim that enjoyed that part of the walk.)

Take time to mark the weekends of the walks on your calendar so you will be able to pray and supply whatever type of agape gift God calls you to provide on these special weekends. Also, with the cost of travel, plan ahead. Make commitments with other Emmaus people and car pool. By doing so you will not only save money, but by planning with someone else you have made a commitment.

Also, I would like to remind you all of our monthly gatherings. Check the schedule on the front page. They are planned so that three or four during the year will be close to you. Gathering activities are designed to enhance your fourth day. Activities for children will also be planned for most gatherings, so don't let the expense of childcare hold you back.

Time is moving on, get your calendar marked for what is important to you, or the next few months will slip by like my summer, with a list of things that I was going to do, but never got around to doing.

GLYASDI!

Monte Montei
Mid-Michigan Board Chair

Don't Forget!

INFORMATION FOR "GOING FOURTH" should be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. For example, information and articles for the October/November/December 2007 issue will be due by September 15th.



Want to Help Change the Life of a Youth?

SOMETIMES WE FIND YOUTH who are very interested in attending a Chrysalis flight, but find the cost prohibitive. The Chrysalis board maintains a list of "financial angels." These are people who cover the cost for a youth to attend the flight when a

youth cannot afford the payment. If you wish to be added to this list, please contact Cathy Kelley (Community Lay Director) at cathleenbrewer@hotmail.com or Renae Clevenger (Treasurer) at Clevenger@chartermi.net.

Road from Emmaus Leads to the World

"... you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world ..."

—John 15:19

SINCE MY WEEKEND IN 1983, I have been blessed to serve on many teams in three different Cursillo traditions—Walk to Emmaus, Keryx (prison ministry), and Via de Cristo. On my own weekend and the weekends on which I have served, I have been treated to many "desserts" in the form of agape. But for me the real "meat and potatoes" comes during the talks and discussion in the conference room. Don't get me wrong; I enjoy the "desserts," often rereading my agape notes. ("Seconds" are always allowed on desserts!) But the meat and potatoes is what really sticks to my ribs and nourishes my soul. It stays with me as I reflect on the weekend.

I was blessed to serve on Mid-Michigan Men's Walk to Emmaus #1 in Oscoda in 1996, and two ideas from that walk have especially stuck with me. The first came in John Dwyer's Discipleship talk. John related the story of a person who was unable to speak even though doctors could find nothing physiologically wrong. This person was characterized as a "voluntary mute." John then reminded us that many Christians behave like that when it comes to sharing their faith, and he challenged us not to be "volun-

tary mutes" when it comes to sharing our faith in Christ. As I reflected on John's challenge, I remembered the times when I had shared the Good News, but I also recalled many opportunities when I had failed to speak boldly for Christ. I pray regularly that when opportunities to witness arise, I will recognize them and not be a voluntary mute.

The other idea that really touched me came from John Hawley's Fourth Day talk. John reminded us that throughout the weekend we had been told about all the things that were being done *for us* in Christian love—agape, prayer, letters, meals, Candlelight, trinkets, pins, etc. But he got my attention when he said that despite the presence of these presents, the weekend was not really for us. Instead, it was for those with whom we will come in contact throughout our fourth day. The weekend was for our families, co-workers, bosses, friends, acquaintances, neighbors, congregations, and even our enemies. If we are not transformed by our Emmaus experience into people who, with God's help, are ready and willing to change

our attitudes and actions, then the weekend did not meet its goal.

As I put those two ideas together, I realized how important it is to be "in the world," even though we are no longer "of the world." Although we may wish our Emmaus Walk would last forever or that we could serve on each and every team, we can't constantly relive our Emmaus Walk or become Emmaus "junkies," always needing another spiritual "fix."

The world does not revolve around Emmaus; instead, the road from Emmaus goes directly into the world. Although personal spiritual growth is vitally important, and fourth day activities can play a significant role in developing our spirituality, that's a secondary goal. The real goal of Emmaus is to train Christian leaders to be active evangelists in the environments in which they live, study, play, work, and worship. That's the *first* priority to which each one of us is called. Check the back of the cross each one of us received on our weekend. Christ is counting on us.

—Jim Birch
LVCCM #8

Going Fourth is published six times a year for the Mid-Michigan Emmaus and Chrysalis communities. It is intended to inform, encourage, and inspire members of those communities to live lives of true Christian piety, study, and action. Comments, articles, or story ideas can be directed to the editor, Jim Birch, at 989-835-2856 or james.birch@editech-mi.com. **Going Fourth** accepts articles by e-mail (preferred), diskette, CD, or regular mail at P.O. Box 1024, Midland MI 48641-1024.



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