



www.midmichiganemmaus.com

Encouraging and inspiring the members of the Mid-Michigan Emmaus and Chrysalis Communities to "Go Fourth" on Their Fourth Day.

Friendship

Hello, I am Emerson Sitts. I took Walk #27 in 2003. After each walk we have been asked to explain what we got out of the walk and how Emmaus has made a difference in our life. I would like to tell you that through Emmaus I have gotten to know Kevin and Angie Wolfgang. I consider them two of my best friends and a brother and sister in Christ. Even though Kevin and Angie attend the same church as I do, we would just greet each other and I didn't get to know Kevin until after he had taken his walk. After he took his walk, he asked me if I would be interested in starting a 4th Day group. It was then that our friendship began to grow. Next Kevin asked if I would be interested in serving on the Emmaus Board. I thought it over, prayed about it and said yes.

As some of you may know, on the board, I am responsible for reunion groups and gatherings. Our next gathering as a community will be October 15th at Markey Baptist Church in Roscommon. It is the post walk after our fall women's walk. I want to take this time to invite all community members to join us as we welcome these new pilgrims into the community. It will be 4:00-6:00 p.m. Our Christmas Gathering will be on Dec. 2 at 6:00 p.m. at Countryside United Brethern Church. That is at 4762 S. Eleven Mile Rd. in Breckenridge. These are opportunities for us to rekindle old relationships and build new ones. We look forward to seeing you again and building our Christian friendship together.

Kevin, Angie and I go golfing together. We share a lot of things that are going on in our lives. We pray for each other and give each other support. Kevin and Angie are two of my very best friends and I thank God for them every day. Not only has Emmaus brought Kevin and Angie into my life, but it has also brought many other wonderful Christian people into my life, Dean and Nancy Royal, Jim and Margie Curtis, John and Gladys Dwyer and the list goes on and on. I just thank God for Emmaus. Let me encourage you to stay involved with Emmaus. It is an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Christ and experience the richness of Christian friendship as I have.

God loves you and so do I!! Your brother in Christ, Emer

Gatherings and Hoots

For more Gathering information, contact Emerson Sitts at 989-842-3496. Also, read the article to the left on Friendship.

For Hoot information, contact Alissa Hooper at godspinkdressgrl@yahoo.com.

Walks and Flights

Fall

MME Women's Walk #60
September 29 - October 2, 2011
Roscommon: Markey Baptist Church
4736 Flint Rd Roscommon
Lay Director: Lisa Kelley

This location for the women's walk is a recent change.

Spring

MME Men's Walk #61
March 15-18, 2012
Caro UMC
670 Gilford Rd.

MME Women's Walk #62
March 22-25
Caro UMC
670 Gilford Rd.



UNDER ATTACK

As I write this article for the Mid-Michigan Emmaus newsletter it is on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attack on the World Trade center. When I contemplate how much our world has changed since September 11, 2001, it causes me to reflect on my own personal faith journey over the past decade.

The following story may seem rather familiar to some and to others it may not have much impact at all. To set the tone, I must provide you some history. In 2001, I was a practicing Christian and I thought I was doing all the right things. I went to church on Sunday and filled my commitments and as soon as service was over, I would say good-bye to my parents, our pastor and our friends; then I was immediately headed for home. After all I had more important thing to do!

It is this attitude that I carried for the next few years until my eyes and heart were opened by the Emmaus experience. Until I took my walk in the spring of 2008, I was essentially going through the motions at church. I was on remote control! I could have “phoned in” my participation at church!

How many members of our respective churches are on “remote control”? How many of us would welcome help in our church activities? How many pastors do you think would welcome more help of laity? How many members of our congregation could use a helping hand? As we each completed our Emmaus walks we were told that “God was counting on us”. Do you remember the response? Of course you do, it was...“I am counting on God.”

It seems, based on recent participation and sponsorship of our walks that as a community of believers we may have lost focus. It seems that we either are unsure or too busy to share what I consider to be one of the best spiritual gifts we could ever share with another individual. That is the agape gift of sponsorship!

Brothers and Sisters of faith, it feels like we are under attack! Our enemy is not only Satan! Equally as formidable a foe, is our collective inability unwillingness or apathetic attitude toward sponsorship of pilgrims for the walks and caterpillars for the Chrysalis flights. Why? I wish I had *the* answer. I wish I had *an* answer. Unfortunately I do not.

My belief is that the lack of sponsorship is systemic, meaning that we are missing something as a community. Is it leadership at the Board of Director level? Is it proper training of Sponsors? Is it making personal contact with all the pilgrims at a walk and asking them how they would like to serve or whom they would like to share the experience with? Is it the lack of vibrant and dedicated fourth day groups or is it the lack of reunions and gatherings?

I suspect that if I were to poll each of the over 2200 members in our community and ask for their responses, I may well receive 2200 different inputs. I know what the Emmaus walk meant to me. I know how it changed my life! As Eliezer Weisel recognized in the talk “Changing Our World”, the change must begin within us. In order to have impact on our families, our villages, our churches, our communities or our world, we must first begin with ourselves.

I want to personally challenge each community member to find one person to discuss the Emmaus walk with. Share how the experience changed your life. Explain to this person, how the Emmaus walk/Chrysalis flight, resulted in you being the “hands and feet of Christ” in your community.

If each of us made one contact and just 5% (110 people) resulted in an individual who is willing to become a pilgrim/caterpillar, we would have a waiting list that would require more than two years for us to complete! What a difference we would make in our families, our churches, our communities, our nation and our world!

Remember God Loves You and So Do I!

FYI's

Agape Gifts – We want pilgrims to feel the love of Christ through the body of Christ reaching out with agape love. Putting names on agape, puts the focus on the giver. Because of this, we are asking that you not put individual names on agape gifts. Reunion group names are okay.

Copyright – Also, please watch what writing you use with agape. We must always have copyright permission if the written material is not our own.

Support around the World – Did you know that a small portion of every registration goes to help start Emmaus communities in the U.S.A. and around the world.

The Mid-Michigan Emmaus Board

Have you ever considered going on the Emmaus board? You hear about the board in emails, newsletters, walks, training, etc, but are not sure what they do? Attend a board meeting. You are welcome to sit in and see what we do.

Every year, five people go off and five new people go on. This allows for new and fresh ideas, and allows others to serve in a capacity that is both interesting and fulfilling.

My three year term will be ending soon and as I look back, I'm so glad I said yes. It has truly been a wonderful experience.

We meet at the Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Midland on the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm.

Dean Royal, MME Supplies

Do you play a musical instrument or do have the gift of music to share? We are looking for you...Please bring your love of music and your instrument to candlelight. We would love to have you share in the music that is played during the Candlelight Service. Any gift of music is encouraged. Use the gift God has given you as an Agape gift to bring the pilgrims closer to God.

See you at candlelight.



Have YOU checked out our new database!!

1. Website address – <http://mme.inetmember.com>
2. Sign in – your email address that is in the system. If you don't have an email in the system your sign in is
Firstname.Lastname - no space, eg. John.Doe
3. Password - mmemme

NEXT STEPS

Update your system information

- * Click – All about you
- * Click – Information
- * Click – Contact and Credentials
 - Make sure all information is correct, CHANGE IF NEEDED
- * Click – update my information or my information is correct
- * Click – Home tab (next to information)
 - This tab will give you instructions on the options available in the YOU section. Take a few minutes to explore

NOW YOU'RE READY TO SEE WHAT THE SITE HAS TO OFFER

1. Please Sign up for a Prayer Vigil? – It has never been easier

Our Pilgrims Need Your Support

- * Click – Community (top ribbon)
- * Click – Prayer Vigil
 - Confirm information and
- * Click – Select Walk
- * Click – Magnifying Glass for the walk you want
 - You can now select the day you want to pray from the drop down menu
 - Click – Green plus sign for times you want your name will apply

Prayerfully consider signing up for 2 half hr time slots = 1 hr. Thank You ☺

- * **BEST PART** – If you have an email in the system you will get a Reminder notice with a list of Pilgrims and Team Members along with Candle Light information sent to you the week of the walk/flight. WooHOOO

2. Calendar of Events – What's Happening in Emmaus/Chrysalis Communities? Wouldn't you like to know?

- * Click – Community (top ribbon)
- * Click – Calendar browse through the months to see what's coming
 - Want more information on that event
 - Click the event details will show on Right side of screen

More on the New Database!

3. Interested in Serving on future Team Walks/Flights

- * Click – You
- * Click – All about you
- * Click – Team Sign ups
- * Click – New
 - Click – Green plus on chosen walk
- * Please understand that this puts you on a list of people ***interested*** in serving this does not automatically put you on the team. The Lay Directors, along with the assistance of the board, prayerfully consider every applicant with the intent of putting together the team God has chosen. He may have a different walk already chosen for you.

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN OUT. If you don't sign out appropriately as a security feature the system will lock you out of this site for a 20-30min time period. If this happens you will only see a blank white screen for this web address.

Having difficulty logging into the system or navigating around please email me at

Banning489@yahoo.com

Many Blessings and Happy Days,

Dawn Banning

Mid-Michigan Emmaus, Vice Chair, Data Base Administrator

They say Africa has a tree that produces the "taste berry," a unique fruit that literally alters taste buds so that everything that's eaten after eating the berry tastes good and sweet. Praise is the "taste berry" for Christian life. When our hearts are filled with praise, when we choose to praise God, no matter what, stress fades into the background of a battle won before it begins, life is sweet, and all is good.



Psalm 34:3

³Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

Mess in Progress

In October of 2002 my life on the outside looked fine, family, job, friends, a good church, but in many ways I was living a lie. You see I always could say and sing the words, Jesus loves me this I know for the bible tells me so, but in actuality I was just singing, and was just saying. I wasn't knowing. Oh I knew Jesus loved everybody, I just wasn't counting myself in that everybody. I was going to church, I did a lot of church work, but I really didn't know. If you could have looked inside and seen the real me, the me that God knew you would have seen a mess, and who could really love a mess.

That's the way it was on a Thursday in October in 2002. Now 72 hours later, the mess was still there. My walk to Emmaus didn't clean up any of the mess, but it did let me understand that God loves me, mess and all.

Its now coming up on the Women's Fall walk of 2011 and for some reason I am the Lay Director. Other than me saying yes, I'm not sure why, in many ways I am still pretty much a mess on the inside, but by saying yes to God in 2002, saying yes when He offered His love, saying it's ok that you love me, I can be blessed by it, I am still a "mess in progress" and willing to be used by God.

Please be in prayer for this walk that begins very soon. For all of us who are a "mess in progress" and for all of those who are trying to look good on the outside and even for those who truly have it all together, God has a plan. And God's plan will be going forward on this fall Mid Michigan Walk. Please don't forget to pray, to attend candlelight and closing and to praise God for this movement called the Walk to Emmaus. God Loves You and So Do I, Lisa Kelley MME Walk #24



Whom shall I send?"

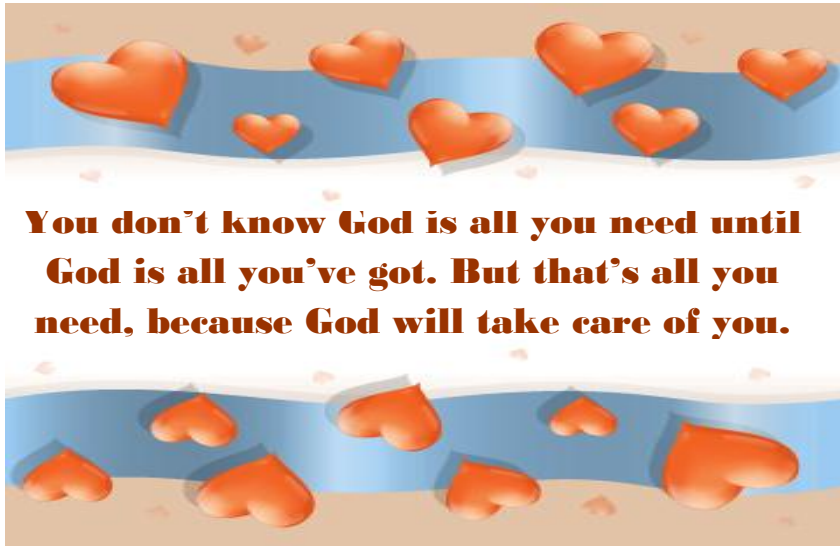
As we leave the church at the end of our Emmaus weekend, there is one question that is in the forefront of our minds. "Who can I sponsor to attend the next Emmaus walk?" The adrenalin is pumping through our veins and we are still feeling the love from the community as we are driven back to our homes. We look through our Agape letters and tears begin to pour down our cheeks once again. We remember the skits and the poster parties and begin to chuckle. We think back to the mouth watering food and the abundance of snacks that were prepared for us and realize all the hours that were spent to feed us. Many of us begin to make a mental list of our friends, co-workers and family members that need to go on the next Emmaus walk.

Where is that list of prospective pilgrims that you made at the conclusion of your walk? Have you actually contacted any of those people? As we settled back into the "real world", stressors from the outside began to take priority over our lives and our amazing Emmaus weekend became a memory. Sadly, some pilgrims don't even make it to the post-walk gathering and won't seek out a Fourth Day Group. In time, they only think of Emmaus when they see their Emmaus cross in their jewelry box or when they receive the Emmaus newsletter.

All of us can sponsor a pilgrim, but it should not to be taken lightly. Some tips to remember when you are thinking about sponsoring someone to attend an Emmaus weekend:

- If the person you would like to sponsor is married, talk to the spouse. It is ideal if the husband and wife both attend.
- Answer any questions that there might be open and honestly.
- It is recommended that sponsors pay for the registration, but don't let money be a factor. If you aren't able to financially sponsor someone, be up front and honest and tell him/her that.
- Emmaus weekends are not a substitute for professional counseling.
- If you are serving on the team in the conference room, make arrangements to have someone else co-sponsor with you. They can attend the sponsor's hour and help take care of needs.
- Make contacts to secure a minimum of at least six Agape letters and bring them to the church with your pilgrim on Thursday evening.
- Bring your pilgrim to the church on Thursday evening and attend sponsor's hour. Attend candlelight on Saturday night and make sure to be at the closing on Sunday so that you can take your pilgrim home.
- Be in prayer for your pilgrim the entire weekend.
- After you have delivered your pilgrim back to his/her home, check in and see how everything is going on a regular basis. Stress how important it is to become active in a Fourth Day Group and in the Emmaus community.
- We all share the responsibility and need to say "Father, the Emmaus walks are approaching, Whom Shall I Send?"

Going Fourth is published four 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, Mary Wheeler at mwheeler@gmail.com. Thank you to the following for their contribution to this newsletter: **Print Express, printing and distribution.**



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