



Perseverance Press

Crossroad Emmaus Community

June/July 2023

Board Meeting News

Special points of interest:

- The July Gathering will be held on the 20th at El Campo Methodist Church. See you at 6:30 p.m.
- The next board meeting will be held July 11 at the JEC, 8925 Hwy 111 South. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm.

The Crossroads Emmaus Board of Directors met June 13th for a regular board meeting. The meeting was called to order by Community Lay Director Mike Alderson, with an opening prayer by Karen Webb. Previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

The treasurer's report was presented.

There will be a Ministry Manager training for the upcoming Women's Walk team presented by Bill Rakowitz. This will be the beginning of electronic service tracking within Crossroads Emmaus. The balance of service provided previously will be loaded as time allows.

Linda Alderson provided the music committee report. The CCLI fees will be paid within the week.

Mike Myers reported that weekly reunion group information is limited to information currently on the website. Much of the information listed is out of date, some by decades. Reunion groups can self-list their information within Ministry Manager.

The Board raised the stipend paid to Walk Lay Directors from \$300 to \$500. The previous fee has been in place since 2004. The fee is used by the Walk Lay Director to pay for incidentals pertaining to the walk. Additionally, the CR Emmaus new non-profit status will extend purchasing effectiveness. The Board also approved the use of Community funds to pay for food and food service supplies for the upcoming Walk, so that the cost will not be passed through to

the Pilgrims within the registration fee.

The team list was provided to the board and was approved. There are some Walk team member manuals that will have to be replaced that were non-recoverable from a previous walk.

The trailer will be inventoried in preparation for the upcoming walk.

A new Prayer Vigil delivery platform has been set up. The new system, approved by the Board for \$60 annually, will allow reminders and texts to those that sign up to pray the vigil. Framework for the Walk team and Walk team email list has been set up. The Pilgrim application will be updated to reflect the location and fees. The Upper Room® will be contacted to ascertain the current required pilgrim fee for each pilgrim.

Inside this issue:

Sponsoring A Pilgrim, Part One	2
Four Words	2
Lost Vigilance	3
Cuyler Black	3
At The Cross	3
Walk 89-2023 Infographic	4

We Have A Walk!

The upcoming Women's Walk 89-2023 will be held at Cathedral Oaks on November 30 through December 03, 2023. The CRE Team Selection committee and Walk Lay Director Karen Webb, proffered a very diversified conference team to the CRE Board, where it was unanimously approved.

The laity portion of the team, which includes the conference team, service team, and cook team is fully in place. Some adjustments are still being worked out for the spiritual team under the direction of Spiritual Director Rev. Chip Reynolds.

You will find a descriptive flyer on page 4 that you can forward to someone special or display at your home church. Be certain to add your Name and Contact information to the bottom of the form. As you know, the Walk is developed through person to person contact with potential pilgrims that you know well enough to 'sponsor'.

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Sponsoring A Pilgrim

Editor's Note- This is the first installment of a three-part series on sponsorship. This series to help prepare those who have never sponsored a pilgrim. It will also help those who have sponsored before, given how long I has been since we had a walk.

The Crossroads Emmaus Community is always looking for pilgrims when a walk is at hand. But are we not actually looking for sponsors? We have always had those giving community members that prayerfully seek and sponsor pilgrims. To continue 'standing in the gap' with Jesus, and to sustain a program that has meant so much to so many we need fresh sponsors. It seems that we often get so caught up in 'making the numbers' that we forget how we should be accomplishing this. (Yea, I know...sometimes it's more like "they are breathing and have a pulse, make sure you clean all of the duct tape off of them before you drop them off at the Walk" but we all know that

should not be the way we spread our love all over these people.)

Whether this is your first sponsorship, or you have done a dozen, let's look at this with a fresh heart. A heart that is open to the Holy Spirit.

Pray for guidance. Is our heart in the right place? Sponsorship is one of the most important jobs in Emmaus. The quality of sponsorship influences the pilgrim, the health of the Emmaus movement, and the Church in which the Pilgrim will serve.

Your dedication and effort promote the Emmaus vision of developing Christian leaders who will strengthen the local church. It is important for the success of this Pilgrim's Walk for you to be a fully participating Sponsor.

Pray for the potential pilgrim's openness to God's call to discipleship, *not for how to get him or her to go on a walk.*

Extend an invitation. Invite them to attend for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ, not just a weekend to go on. Share your faith. Explain the basic elements and purpose of the walk. Explain that you will follow up, answering any questions about how the walk helps us live in grace for the rest of our lives. Do not explain or promote the walk as something they "need to do." Instead, have the attitude that you are offering an opportunity for them to receive a wonderful life-changing gift.

Make an appointment with the potential pilgrim for the purpose of discussing their participation in Emmaus. Ask them to make a commitment by filling out the registration form. If the person is married, encourage an equal commitment by both spouses.

Next month we will review the proper application process; the letter gathering campaign, and support during the walk.

"Pray for the potential pilgrim's openness to God's call to discipleship, not for how to get him or her to go on a walk."

Four Words

On the first Easter Sunday morning, when the women approached the tomb of Jesus they were confronted by an empty grave and an angel of the Lord, who told them not to be afraid. The angel told them he knew they were looking for the crucified Jesus, who had risen as He said He would. The angel gave them two tasks: "**Come** and **see** where He lay. Then **go** quickly and **tell** His disciples: He has risen from the dead..." (Matt 28:6-7)

These four words, 'come and see,' and 'go and tell,' have changed millions of lives. There is much to come and see. The love of the resurrected Jesus. Come and see the resurrected grace, love, and power. Before others can come and see, we must go and tell.

Are you ready to go and tell? Here are a few tips to help you.

Know your message. The key points of the Gospel, or maybe a key Bible story.

Sacrifice your own comfort.

Start small. Boldness will come. Ask people if you can pray for them. Follow up when you see them next.

Ask people to come and see.

Share your own testimony, or invite them to a Christian oriented event, such as a concert, Bible study, or church.

Build relationships.

Demonstrate the love of God through your own actions and your life. Actions speak louder than words.

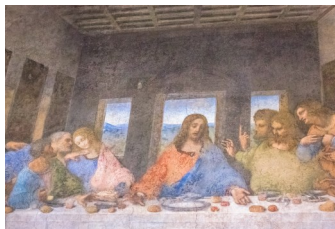
June/July 2023

Lost Vigilance

It seems as though with every passing generation more people want to compromise or modify the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many want to disregard the true message of the Bible, especially the salvation message, to fit changing cultural norms. It is almost like society wants to repaint some imaginary portrait of Jesus to make him more appealing to a sinful world.

This makes me think of a story about the great artistic master, Michelangelo, when he painted the Last Supper. The artist wanted to make every effort to capture the scene effectively with a conveyance of accuracy but also feeling. The faces of each image in the painting were done very carefully using live models. Michelangelo

spent one entire year painting the face of Christ. He looked diligently through the community to find a person that modeled a serene, spiritual, peaceful nature. He also used live models to paint the apostles. The faces of the apostles took him six years to complete. The last apostle painted was Judas Iscariot. For this he found a man in prison. As he finished Judas Iscariot's face in the painting, the man sitting for the portrait asked if Michelangelo recognized him. Michelangelo told him he did not, as he knew few in prison. The prisoner told Michelangelo this was the second time he had served as a model for him. Seven years prior he had served as the model for the face of Christ Jesus.



The moral here is that even the trained eye can sometimes lose its vigilance. We need to live our lives in a way that meets God's truth, not our truth. God calls every practicing Christian to faithfully proclaim the truth in such a way that people will make the right choice within their freewill.

This happens when we lead by example in accordance with all of God's word. "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." -Acts 4:12



Have a friend who no longer sees well at night? Offer a ride to the monthly Gathering. They get to enjoy the fellowship...you get to enjoy them. **HANDS & FEET!**



Ladies,

Would you enjoy a fun, spiritual weekend in the company of like-minded women? You will experience fellowship, make new friends, and develop a better understanding of God's grace in your life.

The Walk to Emmaus® Program is based on the story in Luke 24:13-35, which provides the central image for the three-day experience. You will enjoy three days of singing, learning, laughing, worshipping, reflecting, praying and participating in small groups. Discussions center around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and how it expresses itself in this world. Emmaus is open to any Christian denomination.

You will discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace, and bring grace to others. You will have the opportunity to participate in the daily celebration of Holy Communion and to understand more fully the body of Christ.

You will experience God's grace through the prayers and acts of anonymous service offered by the Emmaus community. You will leave with an experience of Christian love in action that will equip you for new levels of grace-filled service and leadership!

Join Us at

Crossroads Emmaus Women's Walk #89-2023

November 30 - December 03, 2023

For More Information,
please contact:

