



Perseverance Press

Crossroads Emmaus

August 2023

Special points of interest:

- CRE Board Meeting
September 12, 7:00 pm JEC, 8925 Hwy 111, Ganado
- September Gathering, Edna FUMC, 216 W. Main, Edna, September 21, 6:30 pm
- October Gathering, Salem Lutheran, Port Lavaca, October 19, 6:30 pm

July Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Community Lay Director Mike Alderson at 7:11 p.m. and opened with prayer.

Minutes were reviewed, corrected, and approved for the June 13th meeting. The Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Retha Hahn.

ACL D John Behrens presented the Gatherings report, including potential gathering sites through the end of the year.

Standing committees provided reports. Of note was the report by Women's Walk Team Leader Karen Webb, covered elsewhere in this issue.

Bill Rakowitz has updated the website to meet the needs of the Walk Team regarding communications, agape, etc.

The next CRE Board meeting date was set for September 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the JEC offices. The meeting was adjourned by motion and second at 7:59 p.m.

We Have Pilgrims!

Crossroads Women's Walk had its first team meeting on August 5 and I wish I had the words to convey how excited everyone was! They are looking so forward to serving these precious pilgrims that God is sending. We already have TWO confirmed with several others getting applications signed and sent in. Due to using Cathedral Oaks we will have a limited number of pilgrims, so it is important to get those applications in as early as possible. There are 25 spots UNLESS a pilgrim can sleep on a top bunk. If a pilgrim can sleep on a top bunk, we can have up to 30. We have added that question to the application to make sure that everyone is correctly accommodated. God has done mighty things to put things in place for this walk and I can promise you that the team is doing their part to be prepared and ready to serve. I encourage each of you to become involved by praying for the team and pilgrims, by going to our website at www.cremmaus.org and signing up for the prayer vigil and agape needs. We still need someone to sign up to provide lunch for our next team meeting in Point Comfort on September 16. We want to thank everyone who has stepped up to support this team through prayers, knowledge, and support. We cannot do this without all of YOU!! I encourage you to reach out to me or any team member (the list is on the website) if you would like to help in any way.

The Outside Support and Cook Team are extra prepared already and are looking forward to being those precious, silent servants who are putting their hearts and souls into this service opportunity. I find myself giving thanks all day, every day for those men and women who willingly give of themselves and I'm still learning that it's okay to ask for help. God knows that is my weakness and He reminds me often that He's got me (and you), all I (we) have to do is ask.

Karen Webb

Lay Director Walk #89

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Perseverance Press

Are You Stunting the Growth of Your Love for Christ?



We might be doing all the right things. Bible studies, small groups, teaching Sunday school...while missing the most important thing, our love for Christ. What habits might you have developed that has prevented your love for Jesus from growing?

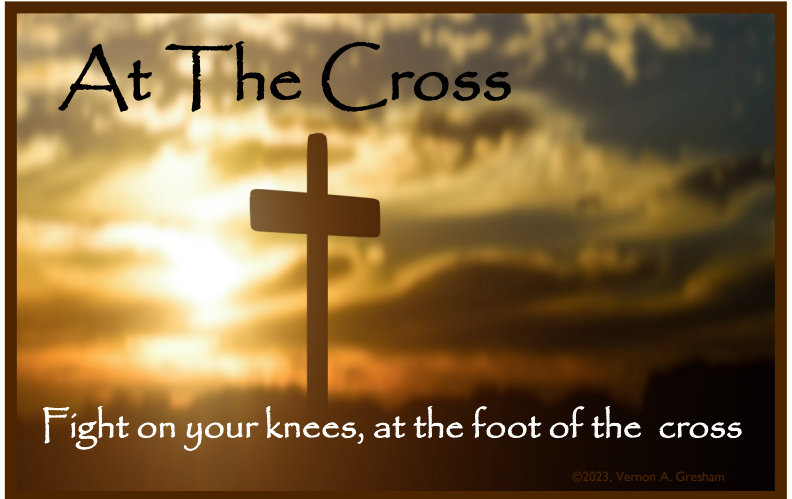
Refusing to accept correction. To continue to grow in our love for Jesus, we must be willing to accept correction from God and our brothers and sisters in Christ. We also cannot grow without looking closely at ourselves.

Being unwilling to change. No matter where we are in our attained faith, there is always more when considering Christ. We cannot be satisfied leaving it at that. There is always more with Christ. We can study God's Word more and we can reflect Jesus' love to more people.

Forgetting heaven is our true home. Instead of being drawn into the negatively and failures of this world, Christ calls us to be agents for change. When things get you down, remember it is not

just about the journey, but our destination.

Try to identify anything that hinders your faith in, and love for, Jesus; and renew your mind through the power of the Gospel. There are no shortcuts. You cannot know anyone, especially Jesus Christ, with all your heart without spending time in their presence. For true intimacy, go beyond just prayer... listen also. Set aside time for Jesus to answer you.



**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God. He was in
the beginning with God.**

John 1:1-2

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August 2023

Pilgrim Sponsorship

Editor's Note- This is the second installment in a series of three. The first installment can be found in the June/July 2023 Perseverance Press newsletter.

This month we examine the process of supporting your pilgrim on the walk. Continue to pray for your sponsored pilgrim as well as praying for yourself, that Almighty God, through the Holy Spirit support and inspire you to do the best job possible.

Make certain that the application is COMPLETE prior to forwarding it to the Registrar. It must contain the signatures of the pilgrim, their pastor, and yourself as sponsor. The application will be returned if it is not complete. This slows the registration process.

Remember also that any need for financial assistance follows a specific path and requires partial financial support from involved parties, such as the pilgrim, sponsor, home church, etc. This helps to develop a level of commitment by the pilgrim. The Fee Assistance form can be found on the CR Emmaus website (cremmaus.org), under forms/documents. *Do not give the Fee Assistance Form to the pilgrim for completion.* Submit the form with the walk application to the CRE Registrar. Include the fee or the fee assistance form and partial fee with the application.

Send invitations to write support letters to friends and family of the pilgrim. The Crossroads Emmaus Registrar will assist by sending you a 'boilerplate' letter that you may customize if you wish or develop your own letter with the appropriate information included. Once you have the request letter prepared, enlist the support of the pilgrim's pastor and close family to request individuals in the pilgrim's life to write letters, explaining to them that the letters should be sent to you. Collect eight to twelve or more personal agape letters. Please do not ask the team to deliver personal gifts during the weekend. Those are best shared between sponsor and pilgrim after the walk.

Pray for your pilgrim and the Walk team. Remind the pilgrim that you are there for them and offer to support the Pilgrim's family during the Walk, by house sitting, babysitting, watering plants, picking up the mail, feeding pets or just checking in with the spouse to see if any help is needed.

Provide transportation for your pilgrim to the Walk site. Allow time for an unhurried meal. This gives you a chance to reinforce your support and answer any last questions. Arrive at the site on time. If you arrive early, stay with your pilgrim, the team may still be 'dotting i's and crossing t's. If you arrive late the pilgrim may start their journey feeling hurried or as though they have missed something. Make certain that your pilgrim has left their phone and watch at home.

Support the Walk through your prayers during the 72-hour prayer vigil. Tips on praying the vigil are on the CRE website and listed below. Be present at the send-off, sponsors hour, candlelight, and closing ceremony. After the closing ceremony, deliver your pilgrim back home.

You can email the CRE Registrar at registrar@cremmaus.org if you have any questions about the application process.

Helpful forms and assistance:

[Crossroads Emmaus Pilgrim Application Form](#)

[Registration Fee Assistance Form](#)

[Praying the Prayer Vigil](#)



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Galilean Weddings and the Second Coming of Christ

Galileans were considered the most religious Jews in the world during the time around Jesus' life. They were known for revering and knowing the scriptures well. They were also known for being compassionately committed to living out their faith and passing that faith, knowledge, and lifestyle on to their children.

So, is it any wonder that Christ would be born a Galilean, or that eleven of the twelve original disciples would be from Galilee also. After all, our amazing omnipotent Lord God and creator of all things is the 'smartest guy in the room'.

Were it not for his divine nature, Jesus, for the most part, did not specifically know the disciples prior to calling them to follow him. But he did know they were from Galilee. This means their beliefs and customs were slightly different from Jews living in the balance of Israel and Judah. It specifically meant their marriage customs were different, but that the disciples would clearly understand those customs.

Whether you studied it in Sunday school, or a Bible study, or just read it and the Holy Spirit caused that little light to come on in your mind, most Christians understand the beautiful, mystical relationship between a Galilean wedding, and the 'second coming of Christ'. For those that might be a little fuzzy on this, let's briefly review the wedding process.

The wedding was a year-long sequence of events. The father of the groom would select the bride to be. The dowry for the bride would be agreed upon by the father of the groom and the father of the bride. The bride had to accept the marriage. She was not forced, just as Jesus does not force us to follow him, but to exercise our freewill.

The bride and groom then went through a spiritual cleansing process, called the 'mikvah'. The mikvah usually occurred in a stone pool that was fed only by rainwater. The area was protected by coverings that allowed the bride and groom to be naked for the cleansing. The bride and groom would announce that they wanted God to see them as they were in their mother's womb, having a sinful nature, but not having committed a sin. As they stepped from the pool, they would declare that they were "born again". This was a sacred ceremony that ensured they were 'clean' before entering into a spiritual covenant.

Gifts would be exchanged, and the bridegroom gave the bride a ring. He also drank from a cup and offered it to the bride. If she also drank from the cup, the marriage covenant was sealed. This betrothal was a legal, binding contract. The couple was officially married but unable to consummate the marriage until the actual marriage ceremony which would happen after one year. The one year waiting period would ensure that the bride was a virgin, not pregnant but pure.

The bridegroom would tell the bride "I shall not drink the fruit of the vine, until I drink it with you, in my father's house". (Sound familiar?)

The bridegroom would return to his father's house to build a room that the couple would live in. The bride and bridesmaids would source the materials and make dresses for the bride and bridesmaids. As time approached the end of the 'year' the bride and bridesmaids would often sleep in those dresses to be ready for the return of the bridegroom.

The bridegroom nor the bride knew the day of the wedding. The bridegroom's father would announce when the wedding was to begin. This usually happened at night or in the early morning hours. A shofar was blown in the streets to awaken friends, family and the bride and her family. The group would go to the bride's home, where she would be placed in a special chair, then lifted up, and 'flown' in a procession back to the groom's house. The bride and groom would then be allowed privacy to consummate the wedding.

The entire wedding party would be 'locked in' for a week-long celebration. Those that did not arrive on time were turned away.

Jesus used many aspects of this wedding process to illustrate His return so the disciples could understand because he knew as Galileans, they would be familiar with His explanations.



Refer to pages five and six for a specific comparison.

The Galilean Wedding Connection

The Galilean Groom, Bride and Father	Jesus, the Church and God the Father
The Galilean Bride and Groom	Jesus is the Groom and the church is the Bride
Galilean wedding is a year-long sequence of events.	Jesus, the church, the rapture and the second coming are a sequence of events that occur over a long period of time.
The Groom begins the marriage tradition by leaving his father's house and going to the home of his prospective Bride.	Jesus left his father's home in heaven came down to the earth, the home of his Bride, the church.
The father of the Groom officiated the betrothal and set the terms and paid the price for the Bride.	God the Father officiates salvation, sets the terms and gave his only Son to pay the price to purchase his Bride.
Terms of the marriage covenant were read publicly and agreed upon by the Bride's father.	Terms of the covenant between Jesus and the church recorded in scripture.
Gifts were exchanged with the most extravagant given to the Bride.	God has given many gifts to the church as found throughout the new testament.
The Groom's dowry is a down payment securing the betrothal and caring for the Bride.	Jesus gave his life as a down payment and a security for his Bride, and assurance of her future protection and care.
The Groom is handed a pitcher of wine which he pours into a ceremonial cup. This is known as 'the cup of joy'.	Lord's supper or communion also partakes of the 'cup of joy', the fruit of the vine representing the Groom's life given for the Bride.
The Groom presents the cup to the Bride and she now has a choice to accept or reject it.	This is a picture of the gospel given to each person who can accept or reject it.
Once the wine is drank by the Bride the covenant becomes irrevocable.	Once a person becomes a believer and is truly saved and is part of the church, Jesus' Bride, the promise and covenant are irrevocable, a clear picture of the assurance of salvation.
The Groom says publicly "you are now consecrated to me by the law of Moses and I will not drink this cup again with you until we drink it together in my father's house".	In Matthew 26:29 at the last supper Jesus repeats almost these exact same words to his Bride.
A year-long journey begins. The Bride and Groom return to their lives. The work of preparing for the wedding now begins.	Jesus ascended to heaven. The church now goes about the work of preparing itself as the Bride as Jesus prepares for the wedding.
The Groom acquires everything needed to build the new home for him and his Bride, in his father's house.	Jesus has gone away to heaven for an unspecified period of time to build us a home in the Father's house.
The Galileans would have instantly understood that the Groom had to go away to build a home.	This is exactly what Jesus did for his Bride, the church.

The Galilean Wedding Connection, *continued.*

In the meantime, the Bride goes about preparing herself for the Groom, keeping herself pure and thinking only of the Groom's return while not knowing the exact day or hour.	The church goes about preparing itself as a holy and pure Bride for Christ knowing that his return is assured, not knowing exactly when he will return.
The general sequence of events, the general timing, and observation of the preparations would tell the Bride the time was getting near.	The Bride of Christ can watch the convergence of prophetic signs as God's plan is being fulfilled, signaling the soon return of Jesus for his Bride.
Only the father knew the exact day and hour and only the father could say "go get your Bride".	Only God the Father knows the exact day He will tell Jesus "go get your Bride".
The Galilean wedding, it was expected that the Groom would come in the middle of the night at an unknown time. The Bride traditionally slept in her wedding dress!	In the parable of the virgins in Matthew 25 we are told to always be prepared because the Groom will show up when least expected. The church must always be ready for Jesus' return.
When the father of the Groom says "go", the Groom gets a shofar (trumpet) and sets off for the Bride with a wedding procession.	When God the Father tells Jesus the Son to go get his Bride he returns to earth with a wedding procession and the sound of a trumpet.
Men would carry the Bride away lifting her up in the air on a seat with a pole on either side for the men to carry her. Galileans referred to this as "flying the Bride to the father's house"!	This is obviously symbolic of the rapture where the Bride of Christ is caught up in the air not by her own power by the power of the wedding procession and flown away to the father's house.
From the moment the Bride is carried away she is forever with the Groom.	From the moment the Bride of Christ is caught up in the air she (the church) is forever with the Groom.
Upon arrival, the wedding party would find the wedding guests had assembled.	Upon arrival, the Bride of Christ will find the old testament saints assembled in heaven.
Shortly after the arrival, the veiled Bride and the Groom would be escorted into the bridal chamber alone where the marriage should be consummated.	The church will experience spiritual union with Jesus consummating their covenanted relationship.
The wedding feast would continue for seven days.	The marriage supper of the Lamb continues in heaven during the seven-year tribulation on earth.
During the seven days the Bride remains hidden in the bridal chamber.	During the seven years the Bride remains hidden in heaven.
During this time, the Galilean father closes the door to the house and keeps out all those who had rejected the invitation or who were not prepared.	All those who had rejected the Groom's promise while the Bride was on earth are kept out of the wedding feast in heaven. The father shuts the door and no one else can join the Bride.
At the conclusion of the seven days the Groom would bring the Bride out, her veil removed so that all would see who the Bride was.	When Jesus returns to the earth, he brings the church and all who remain on the earth will know who his Bride is.