



Crossroads Emmaus

December 2025

The Man and the Birds

Author Unknown As told by Paul Harvey

According to Paul Harvey, who retold this parable every Christmas for decades, "the story was originally published by United Press International by Louis Cassels, a longtime friend of mine and colleague. He and I tried for many years to trace the author of these words. We never could and it occurs to me that maybe some things are supposed to be written without credit to any particular individual ..."

The man I'm going to tell you about was not a scrooge, he was a kind decent, mostly good man. Generous to his family and upright in his dealings with other men. But he just didn't believe in all of that incarnation stuff that the churches proclaim at Christmas time. It just didn't make sense and he was too honest to pretend otherwise. He just couldn't swallow the Jesus story, about God coming to Earth as a man.

He told his wife I'm truly sorry to distress you, but I'm not going with you to church this Christmas Eve. He said he would feel like a hypocrite and that he would much rather just stay at home, but that he would wait up for them. So he stayed and they went to the midnight service.

Shortly after the family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window to watch the flurries getting heavier and heavier and then he went back to his fireside chair and began to read his newspaper.

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Dates of Interest:

Board Meeting

January 20., 2026

7:00 p.m. Zoom

Gatherings will now
be on Fridays.

FRIDAY

January 16, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Location to be confirmed after the first
of the year.

Up Coming Gatherings

Exciting Walk News!

Upcoming Walks

Crossroads Men's Walk

92-2026

January 22nd -25th

Cathedral Oaks Retreat Center

Weimer, Texas

Scholarships are AVAILABLE

Lay Director - **Wes Dukes**

Spiritual Director

Carl Westbrook

Reunion Groups

Agape Link Walk 92

2024-2025 Community Officers

Interim Community Lay Director & Board

Chairperson: Cindy Krause

Secretary: Belinda Waters

Treasurer: Retha Hahn

Immediate Past LD: Mike Alderson

Spiritual Director : Debbie Head

Walk 92 has added a Closing Team to the Agape List.

Please look on the Agape List and sign up for agape of prayer as you feel led.

We have received no new nominations for board membership. Retha and Karen have accepted an extension to their service. I hope each of you would prayerfully consider your role in the Crossroads Community Group and if God is calling you to take on a leadership role. The Board meets via Zoom on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Meetings are typically 30 to 45 minutes. Please let any current board member know if you would like to be considered.

Class of 28: Retha Hahn, Open. Open, Open

Class of '27: Jay Thigpen, Herb Decker, Drew Pattillo, BJ Drehr

Class of '26: Belinda Waters, Cindy Krause, Mike Kinsey, Karen Webb

Spiritual Director: Rev Debbie Head

De Colores, Cindy



**If you feel a calling to
sing or play an instrument with
our music team, please call our
Board Music Rep.
Jay Thigpen 361-648-2100.**



Crossroads Emmaus



The Man and the Birds continued...

Minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. Then another ... and then another. At first he thought someone must be throwing snowballs against the living room window. But when he went to the front door to investigate he found a flock of birds huddled outside miserably in the snow. They'd been caught in the storm and in a desperate search for shelter they had tried to fly through his large landscape window. That is what had been making the sound.

Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures just lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter. All he would have to do is to direct the birds into the shelter.

Quickly, he put on a coat and galoshes and he tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light so the birds would know the way in. But the birds did not come in.

Well, he couldn't let the poor creatures just lie there and freeze, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter. All he would have to do is to direct the birds into the shelter.

Quickly, he put on a coat and galoshes and he tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light so the birds would know the way in. But the birds did not come in. So, he figured that food would entice them. He hurried back to the house and fetched some bread crumbs. He sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail of bread crumbs to the yellow-lighted wide open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs.

The birds continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them but could not. He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around and waving his arms. Instead, they scattered in every direction ... every direction except into the warm lighted barn.

And that's when he realized they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me. That I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how? Any move he made tended to frighten them and confuse them. They just would not follow. They would not be led or shooed because they feared him.

He thought to himself, if only I could be a bird and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to the safe warm ... to the safe warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see ... and hear ... and understand.

At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind.

He stood there listening to the bells, *Adeste Fidelis*,
listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas.
And he sank to his knees in the snow ...

Merry Christmas Everyone

Audio link below

<https://youtu.be/gY2pTAAAn9pc>



Crossroads Emmaus



Crossroads Emmaus Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2025

Attendees:

Board Members: John Behrens, BJ Drehr, Wes Dukes, Retha Hahn, Rev. Debbie Head, Mike Kinsey, Cindy Krause, Jay Thigpen and Belinda Waters.

Call to Order: Cindy Krause called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and opened with prayer.

Community Lay Director Report: Cindy Krause expressed her appreciation to everyone for

Community Spiritual Director's Report: Debbie Head questioned the resignation of a board member and a discussion was held. A motion was made regarding wording in the Means of Grace talk for the upcoming men's walk which died for lack of a second. Debbie reworded the motion to include the men's walk and all walks going forward; Retha Hahn seconded; motion was denied.

Minutes: Minutes from the October 21, 2025 meeting were reviewed.

Retha Hahn motioned to accept; John Behrens seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Retha Hahn submitted report as information.

Gatherings Report: Cindy Krause reported the gathering at Seadrift was very nice and the November gathering is Friday at Salem Lutheran.

Committee Reports:

Agape Letters (Wall): Cheryl Worley – No report

Candlelight: Mike Kinsey – All ready!

Community Trainer: Kimberly Blezinger-No report

Ministry Manager/Website: Bill Rakowitz- No report

Prayer Vigils: Linda Alderson-no report.

Music: Jay Thigpen – All good!

Newsletter-Perseverance Press – Cindy Krause reported it should be out soon.

Reunion Groups: Cindy Krause reported no new reunion groups to add at this time.

Registrar Report: Retha Hahn reported 6 registered pilgrims and 3 pending for the upcoming Men's Walk.

Team Selection: Karen Webb- No report

Trailer-Sharing the Love of Christ Reunion Group, Salem Lutheran:

Lay Director's Report: Wes Dukes reported team is complete and there are three more talks to preview.

Spiritual Director's Report: No report

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Next Meeting: December 16, 2025 at 7:00 pm via Zoom unless some request in person.

Adjourn: Cindy Krause closed the meeting with prayer at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Belinda Waters 12.16.2025

Addendum to the November 18, 2025 Minutes

On December 2, 2025 Retha Hahn sent a motion via email to set 10 as the number of pilgrims needed to make the Men's Walk #91 and that we will accept applications through January 12, 2026 or until we have 25 pilgrims.

Any applicants over the 25 will be placed on our waiting list for the next men's walk.

The motion carried via email responses by John Kinsey, Wes Dukes, Bill Rakowitz, Karen Webb, John Behrens, Cindy Krause, Belinda Waters, BJ Drehr, Jay Thigpen, and Rev. Debbie Head