



Elizabethtown Emmaus Community Newsletter

February 2012

²⁸ "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. *Matthew 11:28-29 New International Version (NIV)*

Greetings!

Our theme for this year is "Discipleship", and one of our goals is to provide our community with options to serve, to learn and to grow as Christ's Disciples. That is the goal of Emmaus, right?

I have found a website that you might find interesting:
<http://www.discipleshiptools.org>

There are quite a few articles on discipleship, the "who, what, where, when and why's" of being a disciple, and I would like to share some of that with you here. The following is a summary of a couple of the articles written by Dr. Richard J. Krejcir, a main contributor to the site:

What is discipleship? Is this a command, or a suggestion; does it mean we are just to evangelize and let people find their faith on their own, or does this mean we are to lead others and teach the precepts of the Scriptures and the character of our Lord? Does it require obedience and action on our part, or are we disciples just by being a Christian and being in church on Sunday?

*Being a disciple encompasses more than just asking Christ in, and goes far beyond baptism. Our conversion, our acceptance of Christ as Savior, our election, is the beginning, the entrance, into the faith and Christian life. It is not the only act of being a Christian! It would be like joining a club, but never venturing into the club. Baptism is initiation and public dedication. It is to be the door through which we go in our walk of faith, as is also our profession and testimony of our faith publicly. It does not stop there! It **starts** there!*

"Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ. It remains an abstract idea, a myth which has a place for the Fatherhood of God, but omits Christ as the living Son. ... There is trust in God, but no following of Christ". Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What is a disciple? Jesus said, "Follow Me" (Matt. 4:19; 9:9). Jesus did not mean that we should just physically follow Him on the road, as we really can't do that now. Rather, this is a call to be set apart, challenged, and taught so we see and adhere to the call and mission Christ gives us. The word "disciple" means someone

who pledges to be a "learner." Moreover, it is someone who follows another's teaching, and adheres to it. It is a commitment and a process. It involves commitment, and time to undertake the learning, and, as a Christian, a yearning to imitate Jesus!

- We are to become His disciple!
- We are to be disciplined!
- We are to disciple others so they can in turn disciple others

This is all about living our lives for Christ, following, learning, listening, observing, and experiencing life directly with Jesus through His Word and council and instructions from godly mature Christians. Then we are to carry that leaning and experience to others.

- *Discipleship has a cost. Following Christ will cost us and require effort and consistency (Matt. 8:18-22; 10:38; Luke 9:57-58; 14:27). The original disciples left their family and good jobs (Matt. 10:37; 19:27; Luke 9:59-62; 14: 25-26; 33)! Jesus calls us to make sacrifices.*
- *Jesus expects us to know what we are getting into and embrace it with vigor and faith. Nothing can come before Him. (Matt. 3:8; 6:33; Luke 14:15-24; John 8:31; 14-15)*
- *We must embrace our call and responsibility to be disciplined and make disciples. If we are truly willing to learn and apply what Christ taught, we will truly be His disciples. The Church will be on fire by the Spirit and impacting the world! What we gain will far outweigh any suffering or loss on our part. (Mark 10:28-30; 1 Cor. 15:58)*
- *God does not force us nor plead with us; He merely presents us the option. (Isaiah 6:8) We must say, as Isaiah said, "Here I am, send me!" We must allow our spiritual eyes to be opened and our will to be relinquished to His for real discipleship to take place.*
- **"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."** *Let us allow the power of the Holy Spirit to open our eyes, and break our will, so we can be receptive to our Lord and Savior, and so we can do as He called.*
- *We are to be rooted in humility, as our Lord was. (Mark 10:45). This means mutual acceptance of others, even those whose culture and beliefs are different.*

Know this wonderful fact: God accepted you. You, in turn, must accept others. Christ bears our stupidities, and has patience with us when we are totally undeserving. We are to seek the good in others, as our Lord did, and be a blessing to others.

It all comes to the decision of whether we will make our faith real and impacting, relinquishing our pride to allow us to learn, grow, and teach others. As we learn together, pray together and grow together, we will ensure our impact comes from a life transformed and carried on to the people around us!

My heart fills up and over every month as I join with you all in fellowship and communion. Our Emmaus Community is a true gift; from God to us and from us to others. Not sharing with those we love and those who love Him would be a terrible misuse of this gift. Sharing the love of Christ is why we are here. Learning how to share it is where we start.

Sponsorship forms, Walk volunteer forms, Walk applications, and Chrysalis forms are all available every month at our Gatherings and online. Please make sure your Walk Volunteer forms are current; they expire every two years. If you want to sponsor a Pilgrim and have questions, please see your Sponsorship Team: Larry Holthouser and Sabrina Brock.

We had a busy Board meeting in January; here are some "highlights":

- Due to a resignation, there was another opening on the Board. The Board voted to fill the position with the next person in line from the Community's November Board Election. Please join me in welcoming Josh Smith to your E'town Emmaus Board of Directors.
- Peggy Salmon is continuing in her role as Secretary; Tracy Arflin volunteered to fill the role of Treasurer.
- Your Board also voted to add a new support role: Historian. The Historian compiles notebooks of all past Walk Photos and rosters, obtaining new photos and rosters from current Walks. He/she will also maintain all Emmaus records in electronic format with backup copy. Josh Smith has volunteered to fill that position.
- Representatives from Power Ministries were guests at the meeting and presented their organization to the Gathering. For more information, please click on the link on the etownemmaus.org website under "Other Ministry Opportunities".

Looking forward to seeing your smiling faces at the Gathering on Saturday, February 4th, when we will have the Chrysalis Walk #49 Team Dedication.

De Colores!

Sarah

Sarah Hart, Walk # 79, Table of Anna
Coffee and Toast with Jesus Reunion Group
2012 E'town Emmaus Community Lay Director

Prayer Time

COUNTRY—LEADERS—WORLD—CHURCHES

- 2012 Elizabethtown Emmaus Board and Leadership
- Sponsors and pilgrims for Walks 122 and 123
- Deployed Military Service Men and Women
- Those in your Reunion Group and those not in an Emmaus Reunion Group
- The Spiritually Lost
- Nicaraguan and Northpoint REC Community
- Colleen Bagley and Todd Brown for Chrysalis #49
- Tom Crittenden and Mitzi Lynch Spring Walks #122 and #123
- Leah Riggs and Mark Ott for YAC #3!

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday February 4th	Board Meeting Gathering	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	Memorial UMC Memorial UMC
Saturday February 18th	Chrysalis 49 Sendoff	9:00 AM	Camp Nikao
Sunday February 19th	Chrysalis 49 Candlelight	8:00 PM	Memorial UMC
Monday February 20th	Chrysalis 49 Closing	5:00 PM	Camp Nikao
Saturday March 3rd	Board Meeting Gathering	TBD 7:00 PM	Memorial UMC Memorial UMC
March 8th - 11th	Men's Walk 122		
March 15th - 18th	Women's Walk 123		
May 19th - 21st	Young Adult Chrysalis 3		

Have you had a change of Address, Email address, or Name?

Previous Information:

Change to:

Return to:

Elizabethtown Emmaus Community
PO Box 2070 · Elizabethtown KY 42702
Or Email: reconnect@etownemmaus.org