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# THE MIDLANDS MESSENGER

*Emmaus of The Midlands* *September 2005*

## IN GOD'S TIME

*By: Laxton Hinson*

As I sit here trying to find just the right words that will somehow convince all who read the "Messenger" to continue to be involved in Emmaus, several things are immediately obvious to me:

1. My life, Ruth's life, and the lives of those we have come to know through Emmaus, would never be the same without having had the opportunity to go on "the Walk" and become involved. We would never have had the opportunity to know most of the people we have met, gotten to know, care about, and love through our Emmaus experience.
  2. Our Emmaus family at Windsor UMC may never realize what they did for us spiritually by asking us to go on the Walk to Emmaus. Ruth and I continue to grow closer to God and to each other through our experience. We had always been involved in the churches we joined in Rock Hill, Florence, and then Columbia; however, our relationship with our Lord took on new meaning through Emmaus. "Our eyes were opened", when we understood and experienced God's love.
  3. One of the best things about Emmaus is our weekly Reunion group meeting at Windsor. This year has been hard on us. We have had folks who could not join us every week because of sickness, hospitalization, and overlapping schedules; but those of us who can still meet get together and share our weekly activities, both good and bad. This past week, because Ruth is still recovering from her 2<sup>nd</sup> knee surgery, our Group met at our home and brought us food, too.
  4. We are constantly "blown away" by the concern and the prayers of our Emmaus family. Ruth has had more than her share of physical setbacks. But, without your prayers, concern and caring, she would not be able to keep coming back time after time. And, that's not just for Ruth and me, it is for those we know about who have been through so much and have lost loved ones. It also includes people outside of Emmaus with whom we come in contact.
- (See Page 2—In God's Time)



## Prayers

Sterne & Sherry Bolte, Betty Booth, Rochelle James, Vickie Samuels & Family, Emily Killens, Barry Anderson, Shadenna Anderson, Mary Jane, Justin & Jason Shope, the Michael Family, Roy Mertz, Bill Hynson, Miriam Koon, Leo Dryer, Wheneey Stockman, Sarah Bond, Len Harris, Carroll & Kelsey Jones Family, Lindsey Jones, Christine Johnson, Pete Amick, Gladys Crews Don Jett Family, Gary Hartman Family, Ed & Kevin Hoffman, Becky Stowe, Phyllis Plemons, Kay Scott, Maggie Coiner, Jessica Gadsden, Curtis Gadsden, Beth & Susan, Linda Abbott, Pauline Palmer, Steve Dozier, Mary Rabon, Victims in London bombing, Troops in Iraq & around the world, Columbia Salkehatchie

## Praises

Erin Chandler has just returned safely from Peru, the Robinson Family is back in their home after a fire, Ezra Jonathan Crocker Born by C-Section. 9 lbs 21 1/2 inches

**Visit our web site at**  
**[www.midlandsemmaus.com](http://www.midlandsemmaus.com)**



## Emmaus Education Corner

### Good Sponsorship is Vital to Emmaus

by Jan Smith

Sponsorship is an integral part of the Emmaus experience. The aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ.

Wise sponsorship needs to be imbedded with prayer and discernment. Reflect upon and share with one another the names of persons whom God is prompting you to sponsor. We all know that the Emmaus experience is more than the usual retreat or religious workshop. It is an act of sacrificial love from beginning to end.

Single persons are welcome to participate in Emmaus as are married couples. Emmaus can indirectly strengthen the spiritual bond in a marriage or family. Therefore, it is recommended when sponsoring a married couple to approach both a husband and wife together so that they will make an equal commitment to participate. This allows them to grow together as a Christian family while actively supporting Emmaus and the church. It is recognized, however, that circumstances may arise when husbands or wives must take their walks at different times. It is important that the Emmaus experience not become a divisive influence in a marriage.

Emmaus of the Midlands is committed to encouraging strong church leaders for the purpose of strengthening the local church.

Please become familiar with the sponsorship responsibilities and become a model sponsor for each of the pilgrims to be sponsored in the future.

1. Help educate your pilgrim about the weekend experience. Brochures are available at Methodist Christian bookstores; on the Emmaus web site; or in some of your local churches. It is recommended to let the Pilgrims know there will be 15 talks and communion. There are appropriate ways to share the Emmaus experience with others without being secretive and without giving the details of things that will take place throughout

the weekend. The details will be a special part of their personal Emmaus experience.

2. Provide a list of any dietary or special medical needs for your Pilgrim to the Registrar.
3. Secure Agape letters early. Be sure first and last names are clearly written on each envelope. Mark the envelope as 'family' or 'friend'.
4. Advise the Pilgrim of camp rules (i.e., no shorts for men or women)
5. Make transportation arrangements for Send-Off. Help your pilgrim check in their luggage.
6. Provide for any special family needs while the Pilgrim is attending the walk.
7. Help provide snack agape during the weekend.
8. Attend all associated walk activities:  
Send-Off  
(Arrive early between 6:45  
7:00 pm for registration)  
Sponsor's Hour  
Candlelight  
Closing
9. Call or visit your Pilgrim on Monday following the walk.
10. Encourage your Pilgrim in his or her Fourth Day involvement.
11. Mark your calendar early for the gathering following the walk and help ensure both sponsor and pilgrim, are able to participate.
12. Help the Pilgrim sponsor others.

DeColores

### The Reason

by: Unknown Author

American radio broadcaster Paul Harvey told a modern parable about a religious skeptic who worked as a farmer.

One raw winter night the man heard an irregular thumping sound against the kitchen storm door. He went to a window and watched as tiny shivering sparrows, attracted to the evident warmth inside, beat in vain against the glass.

Touched, the farmer bundled up and trudged through fresh snow to open the barn door for the struggling birds. He turned on the lights and tossed some hay in a corner. But the sparrows, which had scattered in all directions when he emerged from the house, hid in the darkness, afraid.

The man tried various tactics to get them into the barn. He laid down a trail

of Saltine cracker crumbs to direct them. He tried circling behind the birds to drive them toward the barn. Nothing worked. He, a huge, alien creature, had terrified them; the birds couldn't comprehend that he actually desired to help.

The farmer withdrew to his house and watched the doomed sparrows through a window. As he stared, a thought hit him like lightning from a clear blue sky: If only I could become a bird, one of them, just for a moment. Then I wouldn't frighten them so. I could show them the way to warmth and safety.

At that moment, another thought dawned on him. He grasped the reason Jesus was born.

### (In God's Time—from page 1)

If Emmaus does what it is supposed to do, you should always serve your Church. You should welcome the opportunity to serve in other ways through activities such as Missions, Epiphany and other prison ministries. I know dedicated people who are living examples of what happens through the lessons we have learned in Emmaus. But the question still persists in me: Why not remain involved in Emmaus and give others the fantastic opportunity you had to grow in God through the Emmaus experience? You may come up with several reasons for your recent absence from Emmaus functions. God loves you and it was in His time that you became involved in Emmaus. Has He told you that you should no longer be involved? Has He told you that He doesn't want someone you know to experience the Walk to Emmaus? We can't do this thing called Emmaus without you. I pray we see you soon.

## DOLLAR\$&CENTS

### Financial Record

June 2005

Beginning Balance: 6/1/05	\$6,721
Income: Gathering - May	488
Gathering - June	400
Total Income	\$888
Expenses: Newsletter	173
Total Expenses	\$173
Ending Balance: 6/30/05	\$7,436

## The Can Man

by: Dan Dobson

I work in a major US factory. We make refrigerators. Four thousand five hundred new refrigerators every day. It is a union shop and it's gradually shrinking as many union blue collar factories seem to be but that is not what this story is about.

This story is about one man who works in this huge factory. I've seen him around for years but never paid much attention. He always seemed just a little odd. A little short. A little ...scruffy. Always the same old red ball cap. And always a garbage bag in one hand. He walks around this big old factory on his breaks and his lunch time collecting aluminum cans. Day after day, month after month on hot days and cold days. Over the years I've followed him as he walked to his old pickup truck on the coldest day with snow blowing and everyone with their collars turned up and their hands in their pockets. He would be there with a 40 gallon garbage bag full of aluminum cans. He'd toss it into the back of his truck and jump in and I'd reach my car and jump in and we'd all race to the exit of this big half empty parking lot.

Today I was working on a broken machine in this factory and the can man came by with his bag picking up cans. Our manager was standing there because the machine I was working on had been "down" for a couple of hours and he was getting worried that we might run one of the assembly lines out of the parts. I was finishing and I stood up just as the manager asked the can man what he did with all those cans. I'd never thought to ask him that question because I always just assumed he cashed them in at the recycle center.

The can man said "I give them to my neighbor, he's epileptic and can't hold a job". I blurted out, "You mean you've been collecting all those cans for all these years to give to your neighbor??" "It ain't much" he said "but I give them to him. He can't hold a job, he has too many seizures".

Right then and there in that factory I found myself looking smack at the face of Jesus. He was wearing a T-shirt and an old red ball cap and he had a garbage bag full of aluminum cans in his hand and it WAS Jesus!

It was one of the most humbling moments of my entire life.

"Dear Lord, I offer my prayer for the can man. I don't even know his name but You do. Lord, I lift him up to You. Bless him and watch over him for his surely one of your best foot soldiers. He is a man whose feet I am unworthy to wash!! Thank you God for sending the can man to help his neighbor and for the lesson he taught me. May I remember it long after today!

Amen!"

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## A Short History of Emmaus

By: Tom Furse

The Walk to Emmaus is an adaptation of the Roman Catholic Cursillo de Christianidad, which means little course in Christianity. Prayers and discernment for Cursillo began in 1939 by Spanish Catholic laymen who wanted to be more intentional about Christian discipleship. They designed a seventy-two-hour cloistered retreat to give people an opportunity to hear the basic doctrines of the faith, to worship, and to find a deeper sense of Christian community. During the 1960s, Protestant denominations began to offer Cursillo as a short course in Christianity. In 1978, The Upper Room began to present the Cursillo program. In 1981, The Upper Room adapted the retreat to speak more effectively to an ecumenical Protestant audience. At this time, the name of the program was changed to Walk to Emmaus. In 1984, The Upper Room developed Chrysalis, a Walk to Emmaus for youth.

God has blessed the Emmaus program. The statistics for Cursillo de Christianidad, the Walk to Emmaus, and its offspring indicate that we are not presumptuous in calling it a movement. The Walk to Emmaus alone has been a means of grace for more than half a million people in more than three hundred places, including countries such as Brazil, Australia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Germany, Zimbabwe, and Hong Kong, as well as the United States.

God has raised up people to help renew the church through Cursillo and the Walk to Emmaus. By the grace of God, the church is constantly renewing itself. The format, content, and style of the Walk to Emmaus are meeting people's deep needs for faith. The Walk has become an effective means of renewing disciples and, through them, their local congregations.

## Walk 27 Send-off

Men's Walk 27 Send-off will be at Camp Agape on September 22, 2005 and the Women's Walk 27 Send-off will be at Camp Agape on October 6, 2005.

Please be there at 6:30 pm and plan to stay for Sponsor's Hour immediately following Send-off.

**From Columbia:** Take I-20 towards Augusta. Exit at mile marker 39 (US178) towards Leesville. Go 5 miles and Camp Agape will be on your right. If you come to the fork with highway 245 you have gone too far. Camp Agape is approximately 300 yard prior to the road fork.

**From Aiken:** Take I-20 towards Columbia. Exit at mile marker 39, cross over the bridge and proceed as above.

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## Walk 27 Candlelight

Men's Walk 27 Candlelight will be at Trinity UMC in West Columbia on September 24, 2005 and the Women's Walk 27 Candlelight will be at Trinity UMC in West Columbia on October 8, 2005.

Please be at the church by 8:00 pm and park in the lot away from the Sanctuary. There will be a service prior to the Pilgrims coming to the church.

**Directions from Columbia:** Cross over the Gervais Street Bridge towards West Columbia (US 378). Take an immediate right and stay on US 378 for about 1.6 miles. Turn right onto Central Drive (across from the "tent" looking building at Northside Baptist Church). Continue on Central Drive until you see Trinity UMC.

**Directions from Sumter:** Take US 378 (Sumter Highway) towards Columbia. Take I-77 South towards Charleston. Take I-26 towards Spartanburg. Exit onto US 378 towards West Columbia and go 1.5 miles. Turn left onto Central Drive (across from the "tent" looking building at Northside Baptist Church). Continue on Central Drive until you see Trinity UMC.

**Directions from Aiken:** Take I-20 towards Columbia. Exit onto US 378 towards West Columbia and go 3.8 miles. Turn left onto Central Drive (across from the "tent" looking building at Northside Baptist Church). Continue on Central Drive until you see Trinity

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## Future Events

September 22-25, 2005	Men's Walk # 27
September 24, 2005	Men's Walk # 27 Candlelight
October 6-9, 2005	Women's Walk # 27
October 8, 2005	Women's Walk # 27 Candlelight
October 28, 2005	Gathering—Rehoboth UMC
November	Gathering—Dalzell UMC
December 10, 2005	Xmas Party—Camp Agape
January 27, 2006	Gathering—Green Hill Baptist
February 23-26, 2006	Men's Walk # 28
February 25, 2006	Men's Walk # 28 Candlelight
March 9-12, 2006	Women's Walk # 28
March 11, 2006	Women's Walk # 28 Candlelight
March 24, 2006	Gathering—TBA

## Next Gathering

October 28, 2005

at

### Rehoboth UMC

6911 Two Notch Road  
Columbia, SC 29223

**Directions:** Take I-20 to Columbia, take exit 74 onto US 1 south . This is Two Notch Road. Rehoboth is located at 6911 Two Notch Road, two blocks from exit 74.