

December 2007

The Fishnet



From the Community Director

Merry Christmas and De Colores!

Christmas is a wonderful time of year for my family. And I'm sure that we're not much different from most of you – getting decorations out of storage; putting lights up around the house; figuring out whose family we'll be visiting and when; whether we're having ham, turkey, or tamales this year; shopping and spending more than we'd plan on. Yeah, it's easy to get caught up in all the craziness.

But for the Body of Christ the challenge is to keep our and our families' focus centered on the true reason for the season - the birth of Christ. The one and only Son of God whose life and ministry was to reveal truth, give hope, and show us the depth, width, and breadth of His love for us.

Whenever I think of the "world" we live in and the concessions that we are asked to make so we can all just get along, I am reminded that "Christ is counting on me." And my response has always been, "And I am counting on Christ." At various points in my life I have had to figure out how I was going to respond to the call of Christ.

Each of us answers that call in our own way, using the God-given gifts we possess to do His will and offering up our lives to further His kingdom here on earth. Whatever the form of our response, I believe that it needs to be heartfelt, relevant, and sacrificial. A heartfelt response is one that you know at your very core is right, honest, and comes from a generous and obedient heart. Your response must be relevant and meaningful. It must fill a necessary role or need in someone's life. And lastly, your response must involve a measure of sacrifice - be it time, effort, gifts, or talents. Most likely it'll take you out of your comfort zone.

Scripture tells us that "It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for." Ephesians 1:11 (MSG)

So when it comes to answering the call and living your life, you've got to ask yourself these questions: Are you being faithful and consistent in the manner and attitude in which you are living your life? How's that matching up with your faith and calling? Are you serving others in ministry with love and a generous heart, sharing your unique gifts and giving of yourself?

For all of us there are three ways to find out who you are and share what you're living for. If you are passionate about the Emmaus movement, you can support the next Walk by working it, sponsoring and/or by being a servant-leader, and by saying "yes" to becoming a Board member.

Being a member of the CIE Board of Directors is immensely rewarding. Serving in this capacity is definitely a response to God's calling if you truly love and appreciate this life-changing ministry. We all know the relevance to those who attend and participate. It is sacrificial as it will require your time, your gifts, and your efforts. But if you truly love Emmaus, serving is its own reward. Half the Board will be completing their terms this spring and we have three vacancies already. If you have a desire to serve your Brothers and Sisters in a truly unique and satisfying way, prayerfully consider it when asked.

I pray that you all hunger for righteousness, seek the truth, be content with who you are, and share what you live for. May God bless you and keep you always in the palm of His hand.

In His love,
Dan Bojorquez
Community Director

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EMMAUS MAILINGS

As a current or past participant in a CIE Walk to Emmaus, you are on our mailing list. Our mailing list has grown along with our community; we currently have over 400 email and 345 postal addresses. While most of you are getting paper issues because of your preference, some are getting them because of a returned email address or because your email account would not accept a large mailing. Some of you would like to cut down on what arrives in the mailbox. If you would like to change the way you are getting your Emmaus news, please let me know.

Grace and Peace,

Renata Hundley
Editor
cie_fishnet@sbcglobal.net

From the Women's Walk #38 Lay Director

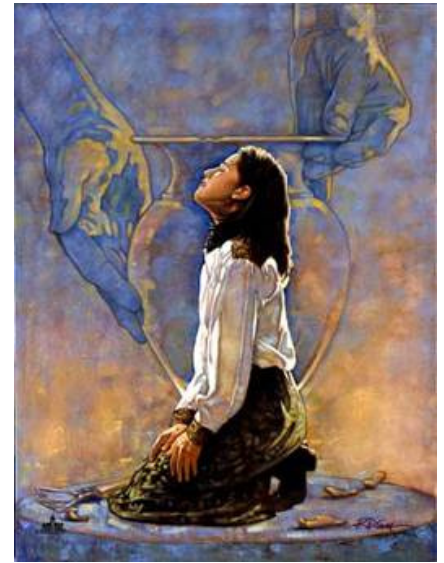
De Colores!

We have an amazing God, and we have an Emmaus & Chrysalis Community that love Him & his people!! It's a joy to honor God in all we do, & the Community has been very busy! The pilgrim applications continue to come in (thank you, God!), & are being reviewed by the board. I'll take more!

I'm aware of six potential pilgrims that haven't yet committed to filling out their pilgrim applications. The potential sponsors are being prayerful and acknowledge that if it is God's will, then they will go. God reminded me that He has given us free-will, & He

won't force people to come. I urge you, brothers & sisters, to pray that the pilgrims will not be terrified or discouraged, but will be strong to step out in faith & be courageous to go on their Walk to Emmaus.

Ladies, a few more additional hands would be very appreciated on the Support Team. Your leaders include: Alice Duckett (Head Cook), Jan Newton (Kitchen), Janet Chu-Hooker (Facilities), Tanya Ferguson (Logistics), Joanna Ulmer (Agape), Dee Finley (Prayer), & Diane White (Kitchen Musician). Your Cook Team Leaders are: Diana Rainer, Linda McCabe, Sandi Wilson & Jean



*Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged,
For the Lord your God will be with you
wherever you go.*

Joshua 1:9

From the Men's Walk #38 Lay Director

De Colores my Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Plans are well under way for Walk 38 and we have had a great response to the call for a team of Godly men to come and serve. I would like to invite all the men in our community to come and work on Walk 38 and see how God will bless the pilgrims during three spirit filled days. The scripture for the weekend is from **Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me"**. With God's help, we will all be strengthened through this effort and we can all rediscover God's holy presence in our own lives as well. You can also be an important part of this walk by sponsoring a pilgrim. We have a few applications already, but we will need many more to fill up the talk room so we can blow out those doors with songs of praise and worship. The walk will be upon us very soon, so don't wait to send in your worker application and hopefully, a pilgrim application too! Come, serve, and see how God will shape all those who boldly take up the cross for His glory.

I look forward to working alongside all of you, as we seek God's will for this walk together.

In his service,

Richard Lolley
Lay Director, Men's Walk #38
(805) 499-3716
sunset@earthlink.net

**I can do all things through
Christ, who strengthens me .**

Philippians 4: 13

McMullen. We'd love a Trash & Recycle Angel or two!

Talk Room leaders include Assistant Lay Directors: Linda Graul, Jackie Holsclaw & Lynne Hartley, Marlyn Nicolas (Musician), & our Board Representative is Diane Kunz. Thank you to my lovely Table Leaders, & for all the ladies on the team & angels that said "yes" to serve God.

Besides previewing the talks (ALDs & I go first!), we have special plans for each of the three Team Buildings; you won't want to miss out!! Please call me with questions or concerns.

Joyful flexibility!

Janel Suliga
Walk 38's Lay Director
suliga@sbcglobal.net

From the Community Spiritual Director

The Time is Always Right to Grow in Your Faith

It was hard to leave the Board retreat up around Frazier Park, but I needed to get back to attend to a severely ill parishioner and his family. Today I did his funeral. Death came quickly and peacefully, though none of us were really ready to say final good-byes.

Life is like that. As much as we feel confident in our health or in control of our circumstances, we are not, and unbeknownst to us illness or accident may be right around the corner. This is one reason and a good one for attending to our spiritual needs and living a faithful life. We want to be ready.

Our United Methodist funeral liturgy has a prayer that reads in part: "Help us to live as those who are prepared to die. And when our days here are accomplished, enable us to die as those who go forth to live, so that living or dying, our life may be in you, and that nothing in life or in death be able to separate us from your great love in Christ Jesus our Lord." These are powerful and insightful words that I found rang true in the life and death of my parishioner. May they be true about us.

Emmaus helps us learn to live and die as people of faith. We grow in our faith as pilgrims and we deepen in our faith as workers. I hope you value the Emmaus Walk enough to encourage others to participate. A new walk is coming up and Christmas might be a great time to interest a church friend in this spiritual renewal experience. It might be the best gift you could give them. Who knows what tomorrow might bring?

Rev. Walt Dilg

A Message From a Board Member

When I was asked to be treasurer on the CIE board, my thoughts vacillated between how I thought I could probably add numbers, track records, and handle a checking account to thinking about how I had shied away from this kind of work when I was in office management because I didn't like it. My mother had recently passed away and I had just begun to handle her trust accounts and my sister's Special Needs Trust in addition to my business account. Taking on the CIE checkbook would mean that I would be balancing seven checking accounts each month—YIKES!

After much prayer I realized that my decision to answer the call to serve on the board was not just dependent on the task at hand, it was centered around my being passionate about The Walk to Emmaus.

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Sponsorship - You Can Do It!

I have sometimes felt like I'm the leper of sponsorship. After 9 years in this Community, my wife and I have sponsored and helped others sponsor about 8 people. Cathy and I have talked to a lot of people about Emmaus, what it's meant to us, our marriage, and our spiritual life. So why has it been so hard? I can't blame my wife because unlike me she's personable and pleasant – not scary like me. The only thing that I can think of is that it's not yet God's timing for them to go. Whatever the reason, I know that God alone will prepare their hearts and tell them in His own way when they should go. But I will continue to do my part – pray on who to sponsor, ask, and look for other opportunities to sponsor.

So how are you doing on sponsorship? What is your attitude on sponsoring? Are you prayerfully and intentionally approaching your Brothers and Sisters in Christ about this wondrous gift?

Our Community has been making efforts to educate, promote and even provide special opportunities for you to bring potential Pilgrims so that they may hear from recent participants and sign up. Have you read through the new Sponsorship Booklets, attended any of the Sponsorship Meetings or Dessert Nights? If not, please, make the time to do that. Thanks to the efforts of some in our Community we can all become better and more successful sponsors.

The gift of a Walk To Emmaus this Christmas season can be the one that a fellow church member and friend will remember and treasure for a lifetime. Offer someone the gift of life this year, they'll appreciate it more than you'll ever know.

Dan Bojorquez

Message From a Board Member *continued*

Even though my life was busy (way busy), I knew God was calling me because He had placed a desire deep within my heart - a desire to extend the invitation for the Walk to members of my faith family, to help build and fill the need of spiritual and practical leadership within my church. I realized that by serving in this capacity I could help make these walks keep happening and I sensed that this path was an opportunity for me to grow spiritually along the way.

God has been faithful! What a blessing it has been to serve on this board with other committed Christians all banding together to be the feet and hands of Christ. Just as the primary purpose of the walk is to build leaders in the Christian community, and serving on a walk helps make that happen, the call for future board members is to bring Christians who are passionate about the Walk to Emmaus so they can refine their leadership skills and help channel their passion for the integrity and purpose of the Walk to Emmaus ministry and its benefits to many church communities.

It is amazing to me to see how God provides for the expenses of each Walk, remembering that nobody supports us, we support ourselves. I've had the pleasure of seeing people give from thankful hearts, in obedience,

and sacrificially—from monies that are not always present at the time. You often hear a call for *help* when we are in need of financial support. I would like to give you a call of *thanks because* at the present time we stand on good financial ground. We don't build up a large surplus but it seems we have just enough for God's purpose to be accomplished, Walk by Walk. This is because of people like you, who have given continuously and generously to support the Channel Islands Emmaus community.

As we prepare for Walk 38, we hear the words of God through Joshua commanding us to be strong and courageous, not to be terrified or discouraged, because God is with us wherever we go. And, Paul tells us in Philipians, that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. When we walk side-by-side with Him in obedience, He not only fulfills His will by using us, but He stretches us beyond what we can accomplish alone, and blesses our socks off along the way! I look forward to seeing you on the next walk, or perhaps at a future board meeting.

Joyfully in His Service,
Linda French
Board Treasurer

Channel Islands Emmaus Prayer Chain

The Walk to Emmaus experience is one that has been consistently related as a living example of God's love and presence in our world. And while that is true, it is the prayers of this Community that bathe each Walk beginning a year out, through the many preparations, and during the Walk itself, that are heard and blessed by our Lord and Savior that lead to changed hearts and lives.

Prayer is essential for each of us to grow in faith, to grow closer to God, to share the burdens of our lives and lift them up before the Lord. Each and every one of us needs prayer for our selves, our families, our loved ones, and friends.

Many of you know of the special need for prayer on behalf of Laura Ortega and the rest of the family with her medical history and recent surgery. I know that prayer intensions were offered on behalf of all at many churches, religious and social communities – Little League, Boy Scouts, Kairos and CIE. I can't begin to tell you what your constant prayers of support and love mean to them. But I can tell you what

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Channel Islands Emmaus Prayer Chain

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they have meant to me.

Outside of my nervousness the morning of surgery, I was completely at peace. I knew God's presence and yours. I knew that all of us, our families, the doctors, and medical staff were covered in prayer, and would continue to be during the long recovery. I've been and continue to be humbled, blessed, and overcome by the depth of love that you and others have shared with me. I give praise and thanksgiving to God for all of you and your prayers, for the revelation and joy that I experienced, and for His presence in my life.

A Community in prayer gives that kind of support and love to those in need of it. I'm sure that if you talk to Grace Bradley, Rita Pisani, the Fergusons, Whittimores, and others, you'll get similar comments. Which is why our Channel Islands Prayer Chain is so important to our Community.

Barry Cunningham has been the face of the CIE Prayer Chain for over 8-years. And I would like to recognize and thank him for his commitment and the many years of service to our Community. Barry has recently shared with the Board of Directors that it is now time to let someone else head up this important ministry. If you share the same passion for prayer and ministry that Barry has, please prayerfully consider sharing your gifts with the Community. You can contact me – Dan Bojorquez (dcbojorquez@sbcglobal.net or 805.794.2853) or Barry Cunningham (bcunning@westmont.edu) for additional information.

Thank you again, Barry, for all that you've done to keep this Community actively in prayer for one another. God has blessed us through this ministry, and you with a generous and tender heart.

Dan Bojorquez

Walk 38 Dates to Remember

Team Building: Jan. 12th, Jan. 26th, Feb. 9th from 8:00am to 4:00 pm

Thursday, February 21
 Saturday, February 23
 Sunday, February 24
 Thursday, February 28
 Saturday, March 1
 Sunday, March 2
 Saturday, March 15

Walk 38, Men's Weekend
 Walk 38 Candlelight, Men's Weekend
 Walk 38 Closing, Men's Weekend
 Walk 38, Women's Weekend
 Walk 38 Candlelight, Women's Weekend
 Walk 38 Closing, Women's Weekend
 Walk 38 Reunion (3pm - 6pm)