

December 2009

The Fishnet

De Colores! Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to take just a short moment to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and remind you that during this *"trying to do too much with not enough time in our days"* holiday season, it is important to slow down and count the blessings that reside right there with us in our homes.

Unfortunately, for many of us the pressures and demands from our jobs, party preparations, family gatherings, and school and ministry events can take its toll on our already frazzled patience. With this in mind, I ask that you consider taking time each and every day to slow down your internal stopwatches and listen to the rhythms of God's Spirit as you spend your quiet-time with Him and His Word.

In this season of business, it is important to look forward to the many blessings that await us with our upcoming team buildings in January and of course, the next set of Walks in February and March. Please keep in your prayers the entire team that will be serving and all the pilgrims who will be attending.

If there is someone that God has placed on your heart to sponsor, this Christmas season might be the time to ask them to attend. I cannot think of any better gift to offer someone than the gift of time spent with Christ Jesus in a Walk to Emmaus experience. As you all know, it is truly the gift that keeps on giving for a lifetime, and beyond into eternity.

Know that all of you are in my thoughts and prayers as we enter into a New Year and season of spiritual growth for our community at large. Be well, and may God bless you and your families richly.

Strength & Honor,

Kevin Ferguson, Community Director

Sponsorship

The purpose of Emmaus is the renewal of the church through the renewal of the Christian, developing leadership, and changing our worlds for Christ. Sponsoring the right pilgrims is the key to fulfilling that purpose. Good sponsorship insures the health of your community. Those sponsored will come back to work and will be sponsors themselves. Sponsorship should be a life time commitment, not just for the weekend.

Those sponsored should be:

- Strong Christians
- Active in their local congregation
- Involved or willing to be involved in leadership
- Not someone needing to be "fixed"
- Not someone in a crisis – personal, emotional, medical, etc.
- If married, spouse also is required to attend the weekend.

The next set of walks is rapidly approaching. Pray about who you want to sponsor and get the application in now.

Carolyn DeVore
(805)658-3938

Men's Walk 42:

- **Thursday, February 25 – Sunday, February 28**

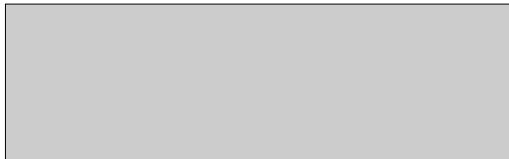
Women's Walk 42:

- **Thursday, March 4 – Sunday, March 7, 2010**

874 Lemon Grove Avenue
Ventura, CA 93003

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Team Building Dates **January 16th, January 30th, and February 13th, 2010**
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
All Events at Ventura First UMC

But now O Lord, thou art our father, we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand. Isaiah 64:8 KJV

De Colores and Feliz Navidad:

Advent has begun—the waiting season! Christmas decorations put a smile on my face, special music makes my heart soar, card writing assists me to reconnect with those close but far away, and gift giving stimulates the creativeness God gave me. As I pause in the purple of advent . . . I focus on the Christ child and the meaning of His coming—here to earth and into my life. As we all walk in worship and dance into the season of light during Advent, let us lift our gaze starward and join together in lavishing praise on our Father, the Potter, maker of heaven and earth—for all that He has done, for all that He is doing day-by-day, and for all that He is about to do on Walk 42—in the lives of the Pilgrims and in each team member. That’s what keeps me coming back, God always shows up and I have the privilege to serve my King and see Him work during each Walk to Emmaus!

The *waiting season* started for me last February. God’s timing is perfect and He has blessed me as I’ve “been still, and known that He is God.” He has provided members of the Core Team, one-by-one, each called to share their gifts and to serve Him on the Glory Walk.

The rest of the team is now forming and I’d like to invite *you* to join us in serving God and the Pilgrims. Please pray about this commitment and respond to Him as He speaks silently in your heart, then give me a call.

As He molds and shapes each of us more into His image, He also takes us through the refiners fire so that our clay pots are firm and strong, ready to resist temptation and weather the storms of life. When we come out at the other end, we’ll be as good as gold and as bright as the Bethlehem star! Come join us and allow Him to mold you and shape you into a vessel of honor overflowing with His grace and love so He can fill you and use you on Walk 42.

In His Love, Your Sister-Servant,

Linda French — Women’s Walk #42 Lay Director
(805) 658-8201
Frenchmedical@aol.com

