

December 2010

# The Fishnet



## Message from the Community Director

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* Matthew 11:28

I would like to extend a very Merry Christmas to you all as we enjoy this wonderful spirit-filled season of Christ’s birth. I trust that this year you will be able to possibly slow down your sometimes hectic pace of gathering gifts for loved ones at the last minute and trying to attend all those many holiday parties that we are blessed to be invited to.

As you know, focusing on the spirit of the season is really a healthy way to enjoy the internal peace that transcends all understanding as we look to God daily for a renewed heart and mind. Without Him at the center of our lives, we might easily lose focus on why we celebrate this wonderful experience called Christmas.

With all that said, I challenge each of you this season to intentionally put some time aside before Christmas Day to rest at home with your families and consider the many blessings that each one of us possess. Even in this slowed down economy there are areas in our lives that we can look to, and give thanks for.

And with the New Year just around the corner it is important to look forward to the many blessings within the Emmaus ministry 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.

And finally, if there is someone whom God has placed on your heart to sponsor this Christmas season, now is the time to invite them to attend. I cannot think of anything better to offer someone than the gift of time spent with Christ Jesus on a Walk to Emmaus experience. As you all know, it is an awesome way to strengthen a person’s walk of faith and equip them for a renewed life of Christian service.

As always, know that all of you are in my thoughts and prayers as we enter into a new season of spiritual growth for our Emmaus community. Be well, and may God bless you and your families richly.

*Strength & Honor,*

Kevin Ferguson, Community Director

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“Oh, Come all ye Faithful!”

## CI Emmaus Walk #44

All events to take place at  
First United Methodist  
Church  
1338 Santa Clara St.,  
Ventura, CA

**January 15, 2011**  
Emmaus Team Building #1

**January 29, 2011**  
Emmaus Team Building #2

**February 12, 2011**  
Emmaus Team Building #3

**February 24-27**  
Emmaus Men’s Walk #44

**March 3-6, 2010**  
Emmaus Women’s Walk #44

**March 19, 2011**  
Emmaus Reunion Walk #44

## Words from Our Walk #44 Lay Directors

DeColores my sisters in Christ!

The scripture that God has placed on my heart for our upcoming walk is 2 Corinthians 3:12 *"Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold."* This message inspires, excites and makes me ever so shaky as I think about the power of God in each of us. When we do indeed realize the strength that our Father has placed on our hearts and in our souls, we are a mighty, loving, fierce and BOLD group...wow!

It is my prayer that as you consider sponsoring, working and preparing for CIE Walk #44, you will be empowered with the boldness that God is living IN you, evidenced and realized every day as you hold his word, his promise and his HOPE in your life. Thank you for your commitment to this life of love and bold hope, on behalf of our future pilgrims and each

other as sisters together. I am genuinely humbled as I recognize the infinite gifts that are bestowed upon each of us on our shared journey.

I look forward to boldly serving with all of you.

Jan Newton  
Walk 44 Lay Director  
<noloveforpoptarts@yahoo.com>

I wanted to share with you my vision for Walk 44 and why I chose Romans 8:38-39.

My wife Cheryl and I lost our jobs at the same time. I lost my job about two years ago and Cheryl lost hers six months later. During that time we were truly blessed, because God was providing for all of our needs. Not only did we feel God, but we saw his hand in our lives. Not once did we worry how we would pay for all of our living expenses, because we knew that God would provide for us. Time and time again God did provide and our faith grew along with Gods sense of peace.

I hope all of you experience peace and faith in troubled times. But know this - **God will never leave you. God is always with us** and wants only the best for our lives. I want Walk 44 to reflect that. I want you to show the Pilgrims, not only the love you have always shown them on every Walk, but I want them to know that God is in all parts of

their lives and that He will never forsake them. I am confident that his presence will permeate everything that happens on this walk.

We all have felt lost in our lives and we all know how it feels when it seems impossible to get over that hurdle. We sometimes forget that Jesus is there waiting with tears in his eyes saying, "Turn to me, you weary children, let me carry your burdens, let me give you the peace that will open your heart and feel the love I have for you, let me show you how valued you are to me."

I invite you to come and serve on the Walk 44 Team so you can witness firsthand how God's amazing Love and Grace can change lives. I encourage you to visit our

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8: 38-39

website<[www.emmausci.org](http://www.emmausci.org)> today, fill out a team application, and then mark the dates on your calendar. Then come and be part of the Walk 44 team that will serve those men that God is preparing for this walk even now. The Walk to Emmaus is a gift to be shared with others, so prayerfully consider people you know who would benefit from this gift and speak to them soon. Sponsorship forms can be printed from our website as well.

I want all who work on Walk 44 to experience God's protective hand. We all need to leave our burdens at His feet so that we can be fully engaged in his presence. Every man working will be God's hands and feet, to do whatever God asks of us during the Walk. We are not working for each other; we are working for our Heavenly Father and each of us has an equal share in his blessings. NO MAN is greater or lesser than the other on this Walk. ALL of us have been called by divine

## The Meaning of 4<sup>th</sup> Day Groups

As I was thinking about what to write for this Newsletter, the thought occurred to me that finding a 4<sup>th</sup> Day group is truly vital to our lives in Christ. It's a special place to meet with brothers and sisters in Christ who have all experienced the depth of God's love through the Walk to Emmaus. It's a bond that is rare in this world and age. For me, meeting each week with my 4<sup>th</sup> Day Group is an opportunity to learn about and soak in God's word. We gather in fellowship, and then proceed to our study focus, which is usually a book we have chosen together, and take turns leading discussions. At the end we share our joys and concerns and pray for one another. No matter what has gone on in my day, or how tired I am, once I get there, it's wonderful how the Holy Spirit takes over and brings a sense of peace to my heart. This, in turn, allows me to go back to my world and continue to share God's love with those around me.

I encourage each of you, if you haven't already done so, to look over the list of Groupings in your 4<sup>th</sup> Day packet, find one that fits your

schedule, and call or email the contact person. If you are having difficulty finding one that works for you, or you would like to start a new group, please feel free to contact me by email <[mom4jnw@aol.com](mailto:mom4jnw@aol.com)> or phone (805-341-1057). Celebrate the birth of our Lord throughout the year by sharing yourself with others and receiving love in return!!

Peggy Donavon  
Groupings

*"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love."* Romans 12:10



## Registrar Opportunity



Are you looking to make a positive impact and for a way to get plugged into the Channel Islands Emmaus Board?

Have I got an opportunity for you – an opportunity to fill the Registrar's position. As the Registrar you accept pilgrim and sponsor applications to prayerfully share with Board members. (Spend less than two hours a month for three months leading up to a walk, plus monthly Board meetings.)

Please call Janel Suliga @ (805) 581-1211 for more details.



## Men's Walk cont'd

purpose. God will provide us with the gifts and talents to do our part for this weekend. Please believe that. I am so very blessed to be in service to all of you during the Walk.

To make this weekend work, we need to answer God's call by sponsoring God's children. Find a

quiet place where you won't be disturbed and pray that God will lead you to that one person who needs to be with us on Walk 44.

God Bless you in all that you do, in all that you say and in all that you are. May the Holy Spirit give you the wisdom, the understanding and the peace to be His disciples and may you enrich everyone's lives with God's spirit of love.

Your ever grateful servant,

**Paul Giddings**  
Walk 44 Lay Director  
(805) 501-5955

Email: [pgiddings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pgiddings@sbcglobal.net)

## Channel Islands Emmaus Community

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## Sponsorship

Remember what a blessing it was to be sponsored and to attend your three day walk? The next set of walks are rapidly approaching. NOW is the time to PRAY about who you might want to sponsor. The Lord knows who the next pilgrims will be. We are called to be His hands and feet in sponsoring. The 2011 date of the Men's Walk is February 24–27, and the Women's Walk is March 3–6. The deadline for sponsoring is 1/29/11. There is room for 25 pilgrims on each weekend. Let's fill the talk room for

Jesus. Applications should be sent to:

Janel Suliga  
2843 Zapata Ct  
Simi Valley CA 93063

**NOW is the time to PRAY about who you might want to sponsor.**

Remember, the purpose of the Walk to Emmaus is to build church leaders. Pilgrims need to be people who are active in their church. If you have any questions about sponsoring, please check your Sponsorship booklet that was in your

packet from your walk, or call me at (805)658-3938. I am happy to help you.

Don't forget, the second blessing of your walk is to serve on a team. Now is the time to send your applications in for that. The team building dates are 1/15/11, 1/29/11 and 2/12/11. Come join us as we joyfully serve the Lord by serving the pilgrims. Let us praise the Lord.....He is worthy of our praise.

DeColores,  
Carolyn DeVore