

May 2011

# The Fishnet

## A Message from the Community Director

De Colores! Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*Be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.*

1 Peter 4:7-10

The Walk #45 team buildings are right around the corner and as always they promise to be a time of community growth, spiritual strengthening, and place for new friendships to be forged for life. The lay directors have done an outstanding job of putting together a group of men and women for the upcoming weekend that will bring glory and honor to God.

Being a team member for a weekend Walk is far different from participating as a pilgrim. People who are team members for the first time may feel overwhelmed when they realize the full scope of preparation necessary for a Walk. Even those who have served on several teams gain spiritual insight from each experience; they come to understand and appreciate the dynamics of team membership and the meaning of service.

The team does not strive to have a Walk that is better than any other. Rather its intent is to form and deepen the spirituality of each team member. Weekends are structured so that the participants have experiences that help them become better disciples and opportunities that encourage them to express their faith. They learn to witness to the love of Christ, not only in the Emmaus community, but in their homes, workplaces, churches, and world. Being a member of a team prepares people to make discipleship - proclaiming the gospel - a vocation. The attitude of team members is this: We do our best, through Christ who strengthens us, in the places where we have been called; and we trust the rest to God, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Remember that the purpose of the Emmaus community is to raise up and equip leaders in the church. And it is my personal belief that there is no better way to do this than to sponsor an individual or married couple for a Walk to Emmaus weekend experience. So please prayerfully consider asking someone to come and receive this awesome gift.

Thank you once again for your support of this Emmaus ministry. Your servant's heart is an encouragement to so many. May God bless you richly.

Strength & Honor,

Kevin Ferguson, Community Director

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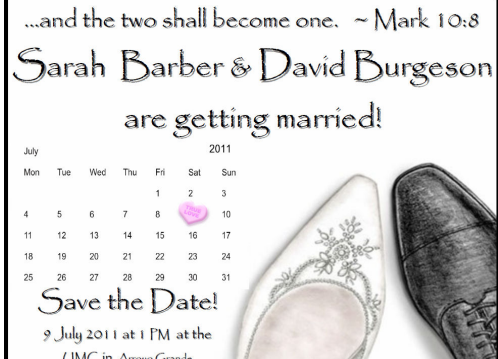
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For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

...and the two shall become one. ~ Mark 10:8

Sarah Barber & David Burgeson are getting married!



Save the Date!

9 July 2011 at 1 PM at the UMC in Arroyo Grande

## Words from Our Walk #45 Lay Directors

### De Colores my Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

It is an honor and blessing to be asked to serve as the men's Lay Director for Walk 45. I am excited about this opportunity and I look forward to working with all of you in the coming months to pull together a powerful team of humble and Godly men. While there certainly have been and will be challenges along the way, I have faith that God will provide whatever is needed, and that he will richly bless all those pilgrims whom He has already chosen for this walk. The scripture for the weekend is **Jeremiah 29:11 - *For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*** This verse is especially meaningful for me because it reassures me that the Lord really has a plan for all of us and He wants to do whatever is needed for us to succeed. Because of His love for us, we are called to have complete trust and faith.

I invite all the men in our community to come and work on Walk 45 and experience God's blessing for the pilgrims and you for your humble spirit and servant's heart. You can also be an important part of this walk by sponsoring a pilgrim. Take a good look at your circle of friends and ask God to show you who might be ready to experience this incredible gift called the Walk to Emmaus. Then come, serve, and see how God will shape all those who boldly take up the cross for His glory.

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

In his service,

Charles Laing  
Lay Director, Men's Walk #45

DeColores Emmaus Community –

In Matthew, Chapter 11, Verse 28, Jesus says, "Come to me, **ALL** you who are weary and burdened, and I **WILL** give you **REST**."

God has placed this verse on my heart as the scripture for the Women's Walk #45.

*This verse* seems to strike a chord and resonate in just about everyone I know. I sense we have all at one time or another felt "weary" or "burdened". Life sometimes throws us curves and we get overwhelmed. Our lives continuously have the possibility of weariness and woe. I am assuming the Pilgrims who will be attending Walk #45 have experienced the same.

My prayer is that by Sunday afternoon of the Walk all of the ladies will feel the HOPE and PEACE in their souls that only comes from having an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. It is only through HIM that we can receive that solid REST that we are longing for.

Jesus said over 2000 years ago, and it still holds true today as he continues to tell us, "Come to me, ALL you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 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. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

I encourage you to take a moment right now to listen if God is putting someone on your heart to reach out to in sponsorship. Is God pulling you towards someone who could have the heaviness of their burdens lifted off their souls? Is He prompting you to be instrumental in leading another to The Walk to Emmaus?

The first Core Team meeting will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> to begin preparations. If your schedule allows I would encourage you to complete your application to serve alongside your fellow sisters in showing Jesus to the Pilgrims of Walk #45.

DeColores,

Cheryl Giddings – CIE#16

Lost—Handknitted green shawl at Womens Walk #44 (Sunday, 5AM)  
If you have seen it, please call Connie at [805-532-1789](tel:805-532-1789), or [310-283-4005](tel:310-283-4005). Thank you.

## For Our Fourth Days

De Colores, Brothers and Sisters!

This last Saturday was spent at the Western Regional Leadership Conference with some representatives from the Nashville office and a large showing from our Channel Islands Emmaus Community. The discussions were lively and informative. There were a few "nuggets" that I gleaned from this conference.

One discussion that hit me in particular was in talking about how our Emmaus experience is not *just* about the 72 hour weekend. It's also about our 4<sup>th</sup> Days and how we live our lives *after* the Walk, how we let God work in us on a daily basis and in every situation we find ourselves. One of the key tools for continuing our "Walk" is to find (or create), and participate in, a 4<sup>th</sup> Day Reunion Group. These groups help keep our eyes focused on Christ, to learn His Word and His heart, to share with others how Christ is working through us, to offer support to our brothers and sisters in Christ, and to hold us accountable to those who join us on this journey of love. If you haven't

## From Our Community Spiritual Director . . .

### Thoughts about Lowering Stress

Although the clergy talks on the walks are focused on God's Grace in specific ways, I want to confess to you that we clergy DO occasionally have thoughts on other subjects, and I will share now a couple of those observations that I believe might be timely:

According to *American Demographics* magazine, between 20 and 30 percent of all Americans will live through this day with significant stress. Thirteen million will worry intensely for at least 90 minutes. It may be about our marriages, children, jobs, mortgages, health, grades, friends or a host of other issues. Whatever the source, worry is an emotion with which all of us are familiar, and which 27 percent of us experience virtually on a daily basis. Is it possible to become entirely "worry free"? Not likely. But it IS entirely possible to become increasingly less worried, particularly about peripheral issues. It's possible to become less dominated by our fears and more motivated by our faith.

Jesus had a lot to say about worry and how to deal with the

sort of anxiety that takes the joy out of life. Perhaps better known than any other word on the subject is his famous passage from the Sermon on the Mount, a passage that speaks directly to the 13 million of us who will waste 90 minutes today worrying (usually about things that will never happen to begin with). I commend the Sermon on the Mount to your devotional review soon.

It would be hard to read the gospel accounts of Jesus' public ministry and miss the fact that our Lord lived a very busy and challenging life. Everywhere he went, the crowds followed him. Many people sought his help both day and night.

Like many people in our time, Jesus lived with a grueling schedule and lots of pressure. But a careful reading of the gospels reveals that Jesus knew the wisdom of taking "time out" in his busy life for rest, relaxation, and renewal.

Jesus found the time to be alone and to rest. Everyone needs a place to escape from the noise of the traffic, the blaring of the radio, and the insistent ring of the telephone. Even military personnel in the midst of wartime manage to make time for "R & R," an opportunity for rest and relaxation.

I pray each of you can find some time to take a breather from your regular schedule and renew your bodies, minds and spirits. I also hope you will spend some of that time praying for others who need spiritual renewal, and discerning which of those folks might benefit from being sponsored (by **you**) on a Walk. And then I invite you carve out some time to include the Emmaus Walk #45 as an opportunity for **you** to participate in making a time of spiritual renewal a reality for those pilgrims whom you and others will be sponsoring.

De Colores!

Lewis Fry  
Community Spiritual Director

### Fourth Days cont'd

found a 4<sup>th</sup> Day Reunion Group that works with your schedule and would like to start a new group, or need more information about existing groups, please feel free to contact me by email, [mom4jnw@aol.com](mailto:mom4jnw@aol.com) or call my cell, 805-341-1057

***Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.***  
Philemon 1:7 (NIV)

Peggy Donovan

### Save the Date: Walk 45 Reunion

De Colores my sisters and brothers in Christ!

As each of our walks were ending we were introduced to the concept of the Fourth Day – all of the days following our Walk in which we have the chance to ponder where we are on our faith journey and more deeply commit our lives to Jesus Christ. Our Fourth Day enables us to expand upon our own personal experiences on our Walk and bring those experiences to touch and bolster our day-to-day lives. Those speakers who shared their Fourth Day talks with us encouraged us to further grow in our relationship to Christ and to be loyal and devoted disciples in all of our varied life experiences.

We can maintain a dynamic and strong Christian life through our connections to our local churches, small accountability groups, study of Scripture, and community reunions to mention but a few. Reunions give us the opportunity to make new friends, strengthen existing friendships and enjoy one another's company through acts of worship, song and communion, not to mention the fact that it's fun! We will welcome the new pilgrims into our community, we'll have time to hear from the Community Lay Director and the Sponsorship coordinator and of course, there will be food to share and enjoy. (cont'd on p.4)

## Channel Islands Emmaus Community

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## Sponsorship

Preparations are underway for Walk #45 in August. It is time for us to start praying about serving on the team for Walk #45 and sponsoring someone. Sponsorship is at the very heart of what the Emmaus movement is about and it is essential for us to share the gift with our brothers and sisters in Christ. But we need to enter into it deliberately and prayerfully. Our responsibility in sponsorship does not begin and end with the Pilgrim's Walk, but continues on in a long-term relationship in the Body of Christ. The Walk to Emmaus is intended to build church leaders who will further the Kingdom of God in their Fourth Day. It is not for people who are looking for or in need of a spiritual "high", people in crisis, church "jumpers", or people without a trinitarian theology. We must never sponsor without carefully praying and listening to the Lord. He will direct our action. The Fourth Day packet contains very good information about sponsorship and I encourage you to read over it again.

Walk #45 will be quickly upon us and now is the time for us pray and answer God's call to invite others to receive the blessing of the Walk. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact your sponsor or feel free to contact me and I'll be happy to help.

Steve Blasingame  
Sponsorship Chair  
[bsteve@zontar.com](mailto:bsteve@zontar.com)  
(805) 504-1378

Find us on the web:  
[www.emmausci.org](http://www.emmausci.org)

## Reunion

(continued from page 3)

The Reunion for Walk #45 will be on August 27, 2011, in Trotter Hall at the Ventura First United Methodist Church. The Reunion begins at 1:00 p.m. and will be over by 4:00 p.m. If you are feeling especially energetic, come at 12:45 and stay until 4:15 and help with the set-up or break-down of the facility. Please bring a heart full of joy and your voice to raise in song and praise to our mighty, loving Father as well as a snack to share and your baloney (nametag.) If you have any questions about the reunion, please call me or your sponsor. I can be reached by phone at the numbers listed below, or by email at [bwade@hancockcollege.edu](mailto:bwade@hancockcollege.edu).

I look forward to seeing you there!

Bruce Wade  
Gathering Coordinator  
Home # (805)937-5190  
Cell # (805)345-6673