

The Grapevine

Vol. 1 No. 2

March 2007

Community Humble Servants

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We are the Body of Christ

By **RICHARD BLOCKER**
Lay Director

When we become Christians we become one with Christ. We lay down our life to live for Him. 2 Corinthians 5:15 says, "And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again." It speaks of a selfless life. Self is what caused Satan to fall and self is the seed Satan planted in creation that separated us from God.

Jesus led a selfless life. "For even Christ did not please himself..." (Romans 15:3). In the book of John, Jesus made numerous statements about living for the Father and not for himself. (John 5:19, 5:20, 8:28, 8:42, 8:54, 12:49, and 14:10). Those verses

were more than statements of selflessness. They were also statements that the power for his life came not of himself but from the Father. The things he said and the things he did were not of himself. It was the Father working through him.

When we become Christians and lay down our life to live for Jesus, it is to allow Jesus to live through us. That is where the power of the Holy Spirit comes in. Our life becomes Jesus' life. Our body becomes Jesus' body. We become the body of Christ. It is what he wants to do through us, not what we want to do for him.

I had a friend who had multiple sclerosis. She could only move her head and one thumb. Before she died, I had

the privilege of helping care for her. You could go to her house and do things for her and she very much appreciated it. However, there was another way to do things for her. It was to simply be available and let her tell you how to do something.

The first time I went to her house, she asked me to pick up the Sony remote control. She then asked me to punch certain buttons. Next, she asked me to pick up another remote control and asked me to push certain buttons.

At first I did not know what she was doing. Before we had finished, I realized she was programming the VCR and changing the television to another channel. She did not tell (Please See Blocker Page 3)

Making difficult decisions

By **DAVID LEE**
Spiritual Director

Have you made any recently? I mean really difficult decisions, where you thought and prayed and wrestled and struggled.

All of us have to do that sometimes in our lives. And sometimes it causes us much anguish, stress, and just a feeling of wishing we didn't have to do it.

As a Pastor, we even have to make tough decisions along the way. I've found as many of you have, that trusting God through the whole process is the best way to go.

In fact, that's always the best thing to do in any and every situation. Just Trust Him!

Oh yes, and pray, pray, pray!

If you take the word FAITH as an acro-

nym, each letter can represent the following:

F-Forsaking

A-All

I-I

T-Trust

H-Him

I like that!

When I have to face my next big and difficult decision, I will remember that God is willing and able to see me through.

A little song says, "He's Able, He's able, I know He's able, I know my Lord is able to carry me through".

He will carry you too!

David Lee, Emmaus Walk 31, Table of Paul

Life is precious

By CAROLYN PHILLIPS
Community Coordinator

This week, as I write this article, we have experienced tragedy. Tornadoes have taken lives at a high school and a hospital.

Snow, ice, and heavy floods have wreaked havoc. A bus carrying a college baseball team crashes taking the lives of several young men.

The frustration and pain are unbearable. Henri Nouwen writes the following in his book, *Bread for the Journey*.

Life is precious.

Not because it is unchangeable, like a diamond, but because it is vulnerable, like a little bird.

To love life means to love its vulnerability, asking for care, attention, guidance, and support. Life and death are connected by vulnerability.

The newborn baby and the dying elder both remind us of the preciousness of our lives.

Let's not forget the preciousness and vulnerability of life during the times we are powerful, successful, and popular.

None of us can imagine what awaits us in our Fourth Days, good or bad.

All we know for sure is that God is already there.

God bless all who have lost loved ones and experienced loss in their lives.

Amen.

Love in Christ,

**Carolyn Phillips, AL Emmaus Walk 63, Table of Ruth,
Talladega 1st UMC**

The Grapevine

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Are you planning to sponsor someone?

By RICHARD BLOCKER
Lay Director

With all the effort and people involved with an Emmaus Walk, what is the most important job? It is not the Lay Director, the Spiritual Director, the table leaders, the speakers, or any of the 'back-hall' people.

The most important job of an Emmaus Walk, other than the work of the Holy Spirit, is sponsorship. The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus states, "Sponsorship is taken for granted in most [Emmaus] communities; it is assumed everyone knows the how and why of sponsorship."

Unfortunately, sponsorship is usually not even discussed except in reference to the number of candidates signed up for a Walk ... And yet, sponsorship is the most important job in Emmaus."

Good sponsorship is the first act of agape. How a sponsor deals with a pilgrim sets the stage for the unconditional love the pilgrim will experience on the Walk. Good sponsorship also affects the health of the Emmaus movement. The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus identifies several good and bad features of sponsorship. Only a few will be presented here.

EMMAUS IS NOT FOR EVERYONE!

The purpose of the Emmaus movement is to develop leaders in the church. As stated in the Emmaus Handbook, "The aim of a sponsor should not be 'to get all my friends to go,' to fill up the weekend, to fix people's problems, or to reproduce one's own religious experience in others."

Rather, the aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who will, in turn, 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."

A pilgrim should already be a Christian and an active member of a church. A pilgrim should be someone who desires spiritual growth or may need to renew their spiritual commitment. A sponsor should not ask persons who are non-Christians, are undergoing an emotional crisis, or "whose theology and/or practice is notably different or incompatible with the traditional theology and practice represented by the Walk to Emmaus." (Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus)

A good sponsor will prepare a pilgrim for the Walk by telling them what to expect. There are no secrets! You may, for instance, tell them that they will hear 15 talks by laypersons and clergy followed by discussion and that there will be several special worship services. If someone wants to know everything – tell them.

Give them reassurance not uncertainty and worry. After all, a sponsor should be the first demonstration of agape! The pilgrim will get more out of a Walk if the sponsor properly prepares them.

While a sponsor should put priority on attending Sponsor's Hour, Candlelight, and Closing, the rest of the weekend should be spent caring for the pilgrim's family. The pilgrim needs to be assured of this before the Walk so they can concentrate on the Walk and not on the needs of their family.

After the Walk a sponsor should get their pilgrim to a Community Gathering or Cluster Meeting and get them into a reunion group.

(Please See Sponsorship Page 3)

Blocker

(Continued from Page 1)

me what we were going to do. She just told me the steps. By doing things that way, my friend was able to live through me. I became her hands.

That is how we function as the body of Christ. We set self aside and become his hands and feet. We speak and do as he tells us to speak and do.

He resides in us and uses our body. It is like this, I can go to your house and do things you like. I can clean it, cut the grass,

wash clothes, etc. Those are things you would like and appreciate. But it is all together different if I go to you and say, "What do you want of me?"

Jesus lived not for himself, but for the Father. It allowed the Father to work through him.

In order for Jesus to live through us, we must set self aside. That is not done through sheer determination for that is still an effort of self. It is done by devel-

oping a love relationship with Jesus to the point where we want to live only for him and not for ourself. Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

We are good at doing this on an Emmaus Walk. We should do this on our daily walk.

De Colores!
Richard Blocker, Alabama Walk 180, Table of Luke, Asbury UMC, Madison, AL

Sponsorship

(Continued from Page 2)

A pilgrim should not be left to flounder on their own or they may quickly lose the spiritual momentum from the Walk.

These are only a few highlights of sponsorship.

A book published by the Upper Room is available for purchase at Candlelight and Closing at Camp Sumatanga that will go into more detail on sponsorship.

I am sure there are other resources as well. If you have questions, ask! There are plenty of people that will be more than happy to help you.

If you are going to sponsor someone, take it seriously.

Your job as a sponsor will impact – positively or negatively – the pilgrim's experience, the Emmaus movement, and the church.

Save the date

Famed Alabama Storyteller Katherine Tucker Windham will be the entertainment for this years Annual Holiday Fundraiser at Camp Sumatanga. The date has been set for 5 p.m., Dec. 1, in Hutto Auditorium.

Please help us spread the word throughout the North Alabama Conference by including this information in your local church bulletins.

The evening will also include a sumptuous buffet, beautiful decorations, and a Silent Auction, for \$ 50.00 per person.

You can contact Camp Sumatanga at (256) 538-9860 for more information or to make a reservation.

Upcoming Walks

Walk	Date	Lay Director	Spiritual Director	Cluster	Board Rep
318	Apr 12-15	Shelia Saccucci	Ken Casey	Oneonta/Gadsden/Cheaha	Jeanette Duke/Bill Prestridge
319	Apr 26-29	Chuck Beard	Bob Murray	Athens/Shoals/Moulton/Decatur	Tim Culpepper/Mary Cashion
320	May 10-13	Sandra Brasher	Amy Parsons Vaughn	Tuscaloosa/W. Ala/B'ham South	Ken Hanby
321	May 17-20	Butch Elrod	Terry Bentley	Marshall/Scottsboro/Cherokee-Dekalb	Jim Bissonnette
322	June 7-10	Kelley Largin	Bill Brunson	S. Shelby/E. Ala/B'ham East	Bud Vann
<p>Men's Walk Reminder: Candlelight service begins at 7:45; Closing begins at 4:45. *Mid-Week Walk Please remember that children are <i>not</i> to be present in Hutto or at meals during a walk!</p>					

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 319
April 26-29, 2007**

Lay Director	Chuck Beard (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Chad Botcher (Priority) Tim Littrell (Fourth Day) Thomas Martin Mitchell Stevens Tom Watson Milton Powell
Spiritual Director	Bob Murray (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Rod Morgan (Prevenient Grace) Chuck Worley (Justifying Grace) Zeke Haselden (Sanctifying Grace) Mark Woodruff (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	John Schuessler
Asst. Table Leaders	Frederick Martin (Priesthood) Ben Gardner (Study) Clyde Brisendine (Discipleship) Don Shelton (Changing Our World) Brad Bernard (Body of Christ) Marshall Lewey (Life In Piety) Bill Watson (Christian Action)
Table Leaders	Leo Burnett Rod Alexander Phillip Reich Tom Thompson Tommy Whitlow Vic Watford Bill Henson
Board Rep.	Tim Culpepper

Committees

Agape	Dianne Norwood	256-974-7395
Meal Service	Gloria Watson	256-446-8883
Refreshments	Lynn Littrell	256-974-9513
72-hour Prayer Vigil	Johnny Yates	256-905-9673
Housing	Carla Crosslin	256-974-0039
Candlelight	Howard Jagers	256-381-4277
Clean-Up	Bobby Whitlock	256-355-9107
Closing	Mary Young	256-381-6043
Entertainment	Jamey Cosby	256-247-1793
Follow-Up	Elaine Beard	256-383-4452
Speakers' Prayer Chapel	Betsy Murray	256-247-5130
Sponsors' Hour	Ed Kirby	256-355-1117
Worship	Lynda Bottcher	256-381-6433
Photographer	Mitchell Stevens	256-766-3675
Humble Servant	Bud Bottcher	256-381-6433

Name	City	Sponsor
Richard Hamilton	Alexander City	Susan Vickers
Alan Robinson	Anniston	Melissa Craven
Randy Dunaway	Birmingham	Bob Kristofco
Ted Kirby	Birmingham	Jeff Schneider
Mike Morgan	Birmingham	Bill Arnold
Chad Williamson	Birmingham	Tyler Davis
Tyrone Price	Boaz	Randall Pankey
Jason Booker	Boaz	Doris Booker /Trey Inman
Brandon Register	Boaz	John & Kary Roberts
Sloan Walker	Calera	Jamie Wiley
Scott Armstrong	Columbiana	Rux Bentley
Corley Ellis	Columbiana	Rux Bentley
Clark Branch	Cullman	Thomas Caudle
Dale Glover	Duncanville	Freddie/Cecilia Hammond
Dale Landers	Five Points	Phillip Springer
Jim Bevis	Florence	Howard Jagers
Ben Padgett	Fort Payne	Tim Culpepper
Daniel Robinson	Grant	Brent Maddox
Shane Vandergriff	Guntersville	Robin Scott
Frank Lawrence	Guntersville	Robin Scott
John Golightley	Haleyville	Ben & Mary Cashion
Bryan Serena	Hamilton	Kevin Posey
Sal Rodas	Hoover	Chrystal Henderson
Greg Meggs	Hueytown	Diane Snead
Michael Gordon	Hueytown	Jimmy Maxwell
Jay Wilson	Huntsville	Heather Green
Andrew Bevel	Huntsville	Tamara Bevel
Mark Chambliss	Madison	Clark Owen
Roger Bolton	Madison	Scott Thackerson/Jeff Williams
Dave Skridulis	Madison	Scott Thackerson/Jeff Williams
Tim Malueg	Madison	Tim Kavanagh
Chris Hodges	Madison	Mark McBrayer
Tim Holtcamp	Madison	Scott Bigelow
Joey Harbarger	McCalla	Susie Simmons
Tim Nelson	Northport	Mike Nix
Lee Oswalt	Northport	Daniel Hewett
Hal Wycoff	Pinson	Stephen Parkes
Mark Goldstein	Pinson	Chris Price
David Bryan	Pinson	Roger & Mary Hughs
Allen Hines	Pinson	John Tracy
Jeff Brown	Pinson	Chris Price & Bill Dunn
Rodney Cox	Russellville	Pat Seal
Marty Corbell	Russellville	Scott & Susan Godsey
Brian Lindsey	Sheffield	Lisa Lindsey
Ralph Cantrell	Springville	Tom Weaver
Shane Fennell	Sterrett	Rodger & Debra Fennell
Cory Lawson	Trussville	Cathy Manuel
Kenneth Pair	Trussville	Jeffrey Bramer
Claude Massey	Trussville	SidClements,Richard Coggins
Pete King	Tuscaloosa	Marilyn King
William Guerard	Tuscaloosa	Anita Guerard
Jesse Robertson	Tuscaloosa	Hiram Johnson
Danny Harrell	Tuscaloosa	Jeff Harrell/Dennis Gregory
Will Sherrill	Tuscaloosa	Beth Chandler
Travis Parker	Tuscaloosa	Kim Parker
Rob Coleman	Vestavia Hills	Mark Heflin
Tony Carr	Wellington	Johnnie Carr
Joe Beddingfield	Woodville	Janet Hartline

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 320
May10-13, 2007**

Lay Director	Sandra Brasher (Perseverance)
Asst. Lay Directors	Dianne McQueen (Priority) Cecilia Hammond (Fourth Day) Donna Thackerson (Study) Barbara Hanby Mary Nell Saunders Carol Weaver
Spiritual Director	Amy Parsons Vaughn (Means of Grace)
Asst. Spiritual Directors	Peter Hawker (Prevenient Grace) Sandy Felkins (Justifying Grace) Scott Thackerson (Sanctifying Grace) Mark Adams (Obstacles to Grace)
Music	John Coleman
Asst. Table Leaders	Linda Godwin (Changing Our World) Peggy Harrison (Christian Action) Dot Brewer (Discipleship) Erin Burns (Priesthood) Barbara Sims (Life In Piety) Melissa Barnes (Body of Christ) Barbara McManus
Table Leaders	Polly Bailey Sarah Bryant Pat Faile Aurelia Hawker Nancy Holmes Carolyn Lindsay Kathy Mason
Board Rep.	Ken Hanby, Sr.

Committees

Agape	John McQueen	205-988-3051
Meal Service	Terry Wingo	205-774-1940
Refreshments	Judy White	256-837-1666
72-hour Prayer Vigil	Debbie Watson	205-758-5565
Housing	Barney Cargile	205-339-8636
Candlelight	Ted/Jane Hagler	205-985-9608
Clean-Up	TBD	
Closing	Emily Imsand	205-823-2226
Entertainment	Emily Imsand	
Follow-Up	Martin/Andra VonHermann	205-426-8030
Speakers' Prayer Chapel	Freddie Hammond	205-752-0084
Sponsors' Hour	Ann Mullenix	205-556-1283
Worship	Debbie Morris	205-560-0553
Photographer	Jerry Moss	205-333-1750
Humble Servant	Sidney White	256-837-1666

Name	City	Sponsor
Shelly Richardson	Albertville	Jerry Hastings
Patricia Gilbreath	Albertville	Paul Claborn
Donna O'Kelley	Albertville	Susan Jones
Tanya Knight	Alexander City	Barbi Hamilton
Amy Gannon	Alexandria	Belinda Blackburn
Janna York	Arab	Ginger Huffstutler
Beth Ogles	Ashland	Phil & Mary Cornelison
Shea Chastain	Athens	Jim Maynard
Danielle Self	Birmingham	Paulette Clements
Susan Stack	Birmingham	Frances Seay
Brenae Dunaway	Birmingham	Debby Kristofco
Kathy Bowman	Birmingham	Barry & Rosemary Brown
Marie Gospodareck	Birmingham	Jim & Phyllis Riddle
Helen Smith	Birmingham	Paula Pate
Teresa Hasen	Boaz	Fran Elmore
Heather Venable	Cedartown	Kathy Talley
Sherry Abernathy	Centre	Sonya Hale & Angie Tillery
Mae Pearce	Coker	David Thompson
Becky Hancock	Cottondale	Sheryl West
Cheryl Mason	Cullman	Jill Strickland
Vickie Parker	Cullman	Debbie McGill
Kelly Doak	Denver	Elizabeth Martin
Kathy Austin	Florence	Mark Hatcher
Sylvia Maltbie	Gadsden	Paula Calhoun
Stephanie Frew	Gardendale	Rhonda Stack
Cretia Bearden	Grant	Amy Edmonds
Ann Lawrence	Guntersville	Luann Scott
Sherry Gilliland	Hamilton	Carlin Burrow
Marla Serena	Hamilton	Kevin Posey
Denise DeRamus	Hobson City	Linda Walden
Jess Martin	Holly Pond	Karen Martin
Paula Foster	Hoover	Whitley Shelnut, Rhonda Stack & Sandi Tracy
Leslie Comer	Huntsville	Melissa Rogers
Carolyn Bakke	Huntsville	Stacy Hedden
Jess Barker	Huntsville	Diane Brennan
Katie Wilson	Huntsville	Heather Green
Teresa Parker	Huntsville	Wanda & Rick Wilson
Laurel Bailey	Huntsville	Dawn Speegle
Pat Ross	Huntsville	Matthew Smith
Kristian Crowe	Jacksonville	Kevin & Melissa Thomas
Jackie Bevis	Killen	Cindy Harvey
Alice Prescott	Killen	Escoe Beatty
Cathy Skinner	Northport	Susan Clements
Kim Kitchen	Northport	Ken Hanby, Jr.
Camilla Musgrove	Northport	Virginia Hardie
Cindy Plummer	Oneonta	Barb Heisey
Laurel Darnall	Pell City	David Gray
Donna Young	Piedmont	Sonya Hale & Lisa Colvert
Dana Barden	Pinson	Cindy Colvin
Addie Hutson	Pinson	Cindy Colvin
Brenda Aldridge	Pinson	Barbara Marbut
Karen Jones	Pinson	Julia Rudd & Susan Hitt
Denise Wilson	Russellville	Shelia Woods
Judy Jenkins	Sheffield	Mary Lee & Duncan Powers
Peggy Darwin	Sylvania	Beverly Culbreth

(Please see Pilgrims 320 Page 8)

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The Grapevine

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Newsletter of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Walk to Emmaus

Next *Chrysalis* Journey

□
Journey 54, April 20-22

LD □ Martha □ Trailkill
young □ women's □

Pilgrims 320

(Continued from Page 5)

Ann Perry	Trussville	Judy Coggins
Barbara Roegner	Trussville	Susan Logan
Lisa Pair	Trussville	Lisa Bramer
Elizabeth Smith	Trussville	Carolyn George
Andrea Limehouse	Trussville	Jean Herman
Dianne Estes	Trussville	Cynthia Lesley
Bethany Greene	Trussville	Jeanie Dotson
Kathy Zeanah	Tuscaloosa	Janice Stewart
Edna Hannah	Tuscaloosa	Caroline Darden
Preston Adair	Tuscaloosa	Liz Spiller
Melissa Mardis	Tuscaloosa	Amelia Powell
Keri Desselle	Warrior	Kelly Morton
Kathy Oakes	Wilsonville	Marian Reese

Praying for You

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to members of the Emmaus Community and their families in the loss of loved ones.

The family of **Kellie Camp (305)**.

Bain Brown (213), for the loss of his grandfather, Leland Ledbetter.

Carl Long (108:FE), for the loss of his mother, Orbie Long.

Sandra Bowles Lair (187), for the loss of her father, Dee Bowles.

Stella McDuff (23), for the loss of her parents, Alvin & Estelle Lovelace.

Clyde Brisendine (282), for the loss of his mother, Merlie Brisendine.

J.D. Bennight (73), for the loss of his wife, **Mary Bennight (84)**.

Fred Pate (65), for the loss of his father, Herman Pate.

The family of **Joe Moore (165:RM)**.

Donna Doyle (LW 24), for the loss of her husband, **Bob Doyle (BL 24)**.

Bettye Peeples (288), for the loss of her husband, **Robert Peeples (219)**.