

Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

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Community Humble Servants

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Lay Director

D. Jonathan Watts
Spiritual Director

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Asst. Lay Director

Paula Calhoun
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Literature

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Community Agape

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Keep Christ as priority one

By **BILL SMITH**
Lay Director

If I could only hear one Emmaus Talk, it might be the first one, Priority. I need to be reminded time and time again to get my Priorities in order. It is easy to put God first, especially on an Emmaus Walk, but it is hard to keep him there.

Life gets in the way. Issues arise; obligations to family, work, community and church begin to crowd out our spiritual life. (Yes, it is possible for church work to overtake spiritual growth.) We let current activities become the center of our lives. Thus, our center is consistently fluctuating.

Then we wonder why our life is in such a state. For most of us a priority check helps get our life back on track.

Keeping our spiritual entity in order brings direction to all other aspects of our life. Prayer and meditation are excellent conduits to a solid spiritual foundation. When we take seriously the discipline of prayer, God will hear us. When we earnestly seek direction from God, he will give it. We have to keep our hearts and minds open.

His answer does not come as a voice from the sky. His answer may come from a book we are reading, from a child's question, from a comment of an acquaintance or from a million and one other sources. The challenge is two-fold: perceiving the

message of God and being willing to accept his guidance. God sees the whole picture whereas we see only a small portion. When He nudges us in a new direction we sometimes take that as a "no" to our prayer.

Then we get so hung up on not getting a positive answer that we shut ourselves off from being led by the Holy Spirit. It is not uncommon for doors to be closed in order for the correct door to be made available. We must have patience and trust in God.

For many of us, the concept of meditation is to find a quiet place and a quiet time to be still and let the mind rest, to close our eyes and proffer a concern. We ask God to broaden your horizon, grant wisdom and understanding, override selfish desires and give clarity of thought. Then we must wait. Sometimes discernment begins to emerge. Other times no revelation occurs, but we come away with a renewed spirit, an enhanced self-awareness, and a feeling of peace.

Keeping Christ as priority one in our lives is not that difficult. It only takes practicing the disciplines of prayer and meditation followed by a willingness to yield to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

De Colores
Bill Smith

A forty day walk.

By **D. Jonathan Watts**
Spiritual Director

Matthew 4:1-11

I love James Taylor and his music. First because of the way he plays the guitar - I can play like that in my dreams. The second reason is we now share the same haircut!

On one of his albums he joins his backup singers for an acapella song: *Walk down that lonesome road all by yourself. Don't turn your head back over your shoulder. And only stop to rest yourself when the silver moon is shining high*

above the trees. If I had stopped to listen once or twice. If I had closed my mouth and opened my eyes. If I had cooled my head and warmed my heart, I'd not be on this road tonight. ... Walk down that lonesome road all by yourself.

Sometimes, maybe most the time, we bring our troubles upon ourselves - we just do not want to admit it

There are two specific times we seem to put pressure upon ourselves: One is New Years with its resolutions of being better, slimmer, and more

holy. The other is the season of Lent when we attempt to burden ourselves with a discipline we often know we cannot keep (or spend the entire 40 days complaining about it!).

Experts say when we set unrealistic goals for ourselves, and then realize that we cannot or do not keep them, it leads to frustration and even a sense of self-defeat. But if we set realistic goals, and then keep them, it leads to greater self-

(Please See Watts Page 3)

Another year begins

By **CAROLYN PHILLIPS**
Community Coordinator

As 2013 begins, I have already attended the overnight Board meeting with the new Board members attending and with the 2013 Cluster leadership. I was very impressed. From these meetings I will say that the Clusters and Community are in good hands. These leaders want to concentrate on building stronger clusters and developing better sponsorship. They can use your help in many ways to help achieve these aims. Please make yourself available to them.

I would like to ask you to help me with inactive applications. For whatever reason they have become inactive, if it be health reasons, a family situation or just not the right time, you can help as their sponsor. We have 138 inactive applications. If you have a pilgrim and their application has been placed inactive, please contact the office and let me know if they would like to be scheduled for a Walk, removed from future walks or continued inactive for whatever reason. This would help me very much. Mailing letters for this, as I have done in the past, can be quite costly.

Please remember pilgrims are scheduled when I receive their applications. Men are being scheduled for Walk 413 in April and women for Walk 414 in May. If you have any questions, please contact the office and I will be glad to help in any way I can. In spite of everything we must remember that God is in total control. May He continue to bless you and our Community!

De Colores!
Carolyn Phillips
Talladega 1st UMC
Walk 63, Table of Ruth

The Grapevine

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Address changes should be sent to: David Hall, 1016 Sedgefield Dr., Sylacauga, AL 35150, or emailed to DHall92727@aol.com.

Fourth Days offer opportunity to serve

By **BETTY FOWLER**

Do you remember the Fourth Day talk on your walk? It was the last of 15 talks given about 2:30 on Sunday afternoon. Oh, that's right, we didn't have our watches, did we? We had spent three days together, and we were going home to the Fourth day, which is the rest of our lives. We had eaten too much, cried until there were no more tears, laughed and sung until our throats were sore.

Jesus told His followers to seek God first. Then, everything else in their lives would fall into place. It is we who have changed, not the world around us.

Where would the Israelite people be if a renegade shepherd had done something other than listen to God? Moses did God's bidding, and his Fourth day was filled with travels and adventure (and he did not even have a motor home).

Jonah's experience in the belly of that big fish turned his life upside down. That probably would have made the front page of the Blount Countian (our local paper). But, it was his Fourth day that was important to the 120,000 people of Ninevah.

We are called to live lives of grace, to be leaven in the loaf, salt in food, light in darkness. Our lives should center on Jesus through acts of piety, study and action. A life of piety is a life lived in relationship with God. A life of piety suggests a whole life of genuine openness to God. We need to choose God as our priority by giving our hearts to Him. Constant contact with Christ is a life of grace. Grace is a journey, not a destination. It is a pilgrimage of love which never ends.

On my walk, the priority talk was centered on roses. The speaker's life was growing and maintaining her roses and entering them in contests. She and her family would travel miles to enter a contest. They would load the roses on Friday night and leave before dawn on Saturday morning. After the contest, they would load the roses again and arrive home sometime around midnight on Sunday.

For eight years, my priority was my husband and his health problems. I thought we would grow old together on that hillside with his cat and my dog. And many of you know, we were old by a lot of people's standards. If he had lived six more days, he would have been 75 years old, and we would have been married 54 years.

Rather than sit back and wait for a miracle, let us use our God-given ability to make things happen. The four most life-changing events are birth, death, marriage and divorce. We have all faced at least one of these, if not all four. When things change our lives, we must remember "Christ and I are a majority." If we center our Fourth days on Him with a renewed commitment to offer Christ to the world, we will encounter Him in a unique way. Our experience in those three days may change history or may fade into obscurity. It all depends not on what happened those three days, but what we do with them during our fourth day.

The purpose of Emmaus is to inspire and equip us to be disciples who will bring new vision to our church. We need to seek ways to serve Christ through our church. If we experienced a spiritual renewal of God's grace in a new way on our walk, we need to remember that we have only discovered what thousands have already discovered.

Watts

(Continued from Page 1)

esteem and self-confidence. Lent represents for us the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tested. He came out successful - can we?

Jesus had come from Nazareth to Jordan and was baptized by John where he heard the voice of God affirm that Jesus was His son. Immediately Jesus is "led" by the Spirit into the wilderness (other Gospel writers say "driven").

The Wilderness is thought to be a place not far from Jerusalem which covers a space 35 miles by 15 miles. It is yellow sand, crumbling limestone, and twisted ridges. In this dust and the dryness Jesus begins to fast and pray as he prepared for his future ministry. For 40 days and nights he fasted and was tested by the devil.

Forty days! That is a long time. In fact number 40 represents, in the ancient Jewish tradition, a long time. That "long time" number is very significant. In Genesis we read about the 40 days and night in the Noah story. When Joseph became a ruler in Egypt he saved his family by bringing them to a Goshen. From that small number they became a mighty nation. When Joseph died it took 40 days to embalm him. In the Moses story there were 40 years between his exile and the burning bush ex-

perience. After the exodus from Egypt he spent 40 days on the Mountain receiving the Covenant followed by 40 years in wandering in the wilderness. When Israel did evil the Lord gave them over to the Philistines for 40 years. Goliath tormented Israel's army for 40 days before David arrived. Elijah fled to the wilderness after defeating the prophets of Baal and was given a meal by angel which nourished him for 40 days. Even for us, we declare that on our 40th birthday we are over the hill

Jesus having been in the wilderness for 40 days was challenged by the "Tester/Tempter" - the devil. The Greek word is peirazein - to test. Jesus was not "tempted" but put to the test.

First the devil tests Jesus by asking him to do a miracle - "Turn these stones to bread." Next the test is directed towards God - "Jump down. Don't worry. God will save you." Finally, offering Jesus earthly power - "Bow down and I will give you everything to satisfy the human need and desire." And to each test Jesus makes a scriptural response which leads to a powerful overcoming of the test.

We are no different in that we too will be tested by the devil - I would say that is a given in life. I have heard some say there is

no "Satan" as a being or entity but try to sell that to one who is facing the struggles of life eye to eye. Or maybe I should say, tell that to one who is about to begin a 3-day walk!

What is your greatest weakness? That is where your temptation will be - not with flashing lights or lightning bolts but in a silent, comforting voice-"It's OK, you are in need, in pain, let yourself go - what does it matter?" It matters. It mattered to Jesus to stand the test and set the example for us all.

Forty days is a long time. It was for Noah, Moses, Elijah, Jesus and you and me. For the 40 Days in Lent we place our hope, our desires and our disciplines right in the middle of a long road which leads to a cross. Can you keep your promise? You know 40 days is a long time.

We can if we do not try to do it alone. I know we may feel like we are alone but we are not. *And he walks with me and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own. And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever know.*

It's a 40 day walk, but you do not have to walk alone because each step we take we take will be in the Footsteps of Jesus who has gone before

**DeColores,
Jonathan**

Upcoming Walks

| Walk | Date | Lay Director | Spiritual Director | Cluster | Board Rep |
|------|-----------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 411 | Mar 7-10 | Don Shelton | Eric Brown | Shoals/Moulton/Athens/ Decatur | Bill Jordan |
| 412 | Apr 4-7 | Betty Sibley | Dallas Culver | Franklin/Hamilton/ Haleyville | Sheilah Wiginton |
| 413 | Apr 25-28 | Rocky Harnen | Tony Campbell | Gadsden/Marshall/ Cherokee-Dekalb | Missy Bissonnette/ Sam Chuckery |
| 414 | May 2-5 | Anne Parris | Dorthy Ann Webster | Huntsville/Madison | Ken Albrecht |
| 415 | June 6-9 | Judy Trull | Vicki Cater | Tuscaloosa/West Alabama | Linda Godwin |

***Men's Walk**

Reminder: Candlelight service begins at 7:45; Closing begins at 4:45.
Please remember that children are *not* to be present in Hutto or at meals during a walk!

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 412
April 4-7, 2013**

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Lay Director | Betty Sibley (Perseverance) |
| Asst. Lay Director | Barbara Ellis Jan Page Gloria McKee Carla Roberts Carlin Burrow Kitty Frederick |
| Spiritual Director | Dallas Culver (Means of Grace) |
| Asst. Spiritual Directors | Sam Hardie (Prevenient Grace) George Farris (Justifying Grace) Buster Timmons(Sanctifying Grace) Jeff Fleming (Obstacles to Grace) |
| Music | Pat Seal |
| Asst. Table Leaders | Kathy Hall (Priesthood) Susan Ledbetter (Study) Jonell Wilson (Discipleship) Pam Putman (Changing Our World) Debbie Timmons (Christian Action) Alicia Ward (Body of Christ) Ginger Gaddis (Life In Piety) |
| Table Leaders | Peggy Vick Brenda Massey Joan Cleveland Patty Gann Tressa Wilson Pat Hardin Sara Nix |
| Board Rep. | Patricia Farr |

Committees

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Agape: | Stewart Ozbirn | 256-668-0309 |
| Meal Service: | Ronald Crumpton | 205-486-3261 |
| Refreshments: | Denise Wilson | 256-627-1561 |
| 72-Hour Prayer Vigil: | Elliott Gordon | 256-727-3627 |
| Housing: | Jackie Mize | 205-486-2787 |
| Candlelight: | June Davidson | 256-332-5236 |
| Clean-up: | Ken Farr | 256-332-3864 |
| Closing: | Ken Farr | |
| Entertainment: | George Childress | 205-495-2012 |
| Follow-up: | Delores Sparks | 256-668-2141 |
| Speakers' Prayer Chapel: | Lee Page | 256-356-9942 |
| Sponsors' Hour: | Paul Huffman | 256-668-0451 |
| Worship: | Kim Purdue | 256-331-0140 |
| Photographer: | Alan Wilson | 256-324-7664 |
| Humble Servant: | Ken Farr | |

| Name | City | Sponsor |
|-------------------|------------------|--|
| Jennifer Ivey | Albertville | Trista DeBacker |
| Missy Lindley | Albertville | Sammi Kirkland/Natasha Tidmore |
| Brandy Bagwell | Albertville | Barbara Harris/Nancy Walden |
| Charlotte Pankey | Albertville | Lanett Bryant |
| Shelba Pierce | Albertville | Dana Williams |
| Dulce Rogue | Albertville | Freedom Christian Fellowship RG (Tabitha Bissonnette) |
| Susie Gutierrez | Albertville | Nelson McClure |
| Kelli Holland | Athens | Kerri Stanley |
| Jennifer Maloney | Athens | Jan Hargrove & Amanda Hargrove |
| Anna Gann | Beaverton | Barbara & Gerald Gann |
| Amanda Darby | Birmingham | Holli Jackson |
| Kameron Carden | Birmingham | John Jones |
| Dana Smith | Boaz | Suzanne Decker |
| Kelsien Falcomeni | Boaz | Kristy Falcomeni |
| Mandy Dawson | Boaz | Tony Jones |
| Lori Knepper | Cropwell | Scott Knepper |
| Karen Ory | Cullman | Anita Boozer |
| Cynthia White | Cullman | Natalie Drake |
| Sandy Shattuck | Florence | Bonnie Aultman |
| Ashleigh Reade | Florence | Becky Fisher & Jennie Corley |
| Jan Hannah | Florence | Sheila Pierce & Sheila Jackson |
| Judy Naugher | Gadsden | Carolyn Hodges |
| Michelle Rush | Gadsden | Cathy Williams & Kat Maddox |
| Bobbie Tribble | Guntersville | Paul & Barbara Meigs |
| Penny Osmer | Gurley | Dale Capron |
| Ann Ritch | Hamilton | Kitty & Bobby Frederick |
| Stephanie Clark | Hamilton | Jaime Rickert |
| Charlene Horner | Hampton Cove | Dale Capron |
| Rozi Hartley | Hartselle | Sherrie Hiatt |
| Charlotte Currier | Hayden | Nella & Ed McGraw |
| Theresa Phillips | Horton | Tommy Satterfield & Eddie Brown |
| Sherry Mayfield | Huntsville | Michael Seavers |
| Donna Brown | Huntsville | Leone Purser |
| Elizabeth Renfroe | Jacksonville | Matt & Stacie Johnson |
| Lilly King | Leighton | Brenda Quesenberry |
| Bows Koncewicz | Lincoln | Carrie Ollard |
| Margaret Darnell | Madison | Michael Darnell |
| Becky Hobson | Northport | Kacie Davis |
| Suellen Tobler | Oneonta | Carol Roberts |
| Courtney Vincent | Oneonta | Julia Rudd |
| Betty Donahoo | Owens Cross Rds. | Benny Sisk |
| Andala Jones | Pell City | John Jones |
| Becky LeMaster | Pinson | Janice LeMaster & Joan Quick |
| Penney Wright | Reform | Jeremy & Erin Burns |
| Kathryn Jones | Springville | Terry & Rhonda Walker |
| Lauren Murray | Spruce Pine | Carly Hellums & Sue Hellums |
| Carolyn Etrass | Sylacauga | Chris & Amy Carden |
| Libby Gray | Trussville | Patty Crauswell |
| Laurie Copeland | Tuscaloosa | Melissa Tuten |
| Elaine Gray | Tuscaloosa | Connie Spiller |
| Tracy Barton | Tuscaloosa | Connie Spiller |
| Sarah Haun | Tuscaloosa | Charlotte Balentine & Sara Page |
| Cheryl Shook | Tuscumbia | Steven D. White |
| Cindy Garrison | Vincent | Betsy King |
| Kristi Smith | Wedowee | Rachel Hewitt |
| Jan Barnes | Wilsonville | Samuel Harton |

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 413
April 25-28, 2013**

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Lay Director | Rocky Harnen (Perseverance) |
| Asst. Lay Directors | Joey Croft (Priority) Terrell England (Fourth Day) Lane Berry Butch Elrod Brent Maddox Tim Jolley |
| Spiritual Director | Tony Campbell (Means of Grace) |
| Asst. Spiritual Directors | Kenneth Sanders (Prevenient Grace) Deborah Moon (Justifying Grace) Mark Bissonnette (Sanctifying Grace) Robin Scott (Obstacles to Grace) |
| Music | Jim Holcomb |
| Asst. Table Leaders | Stan Witherow (Priesthood) George Hartline (Study) Phil Isom (Discipleship) Tim Culpepper (Changing Our World) Don Johnson (Christian Action) Rod Eddleman (Body of Christ) John Chastain (Life In Piety) |
| Table Leaders | Kelly Saylor Mark Wright Shane Johnson Jay Myrick Dwain Elder Charlie Baker Ben Hulgan |
| Board Rep. | Missy Bissonnette Sam Chuckery |

Committees

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Agape: | Roslyn England 205-8921-0034 |
| Meal Service: | Paul Meigs 256-582-6471 |
| Refreshments: | Kay Bissonnette 256-878-7809 |
| 72-Hour Prayer Vigil: | Deborah Carmack 256-435-8799 |
| Housing: | Jim Bissonnette 256-878-7809 |
| Candlelight: | Janice Hulgan 256-582-8865 |
| Clean-up: | TBD |
| Closing: | Jeannette Chastain 256-878-3557 |
| Entertainment: | Wendy Self 256-728-8347 |
| Follow-up: | Judie Beggs 256-492-5888 |
| Speakers' Prayer Chapel: | Gail Hiatt 256-659-6161 |
| Sponsors' Hour: | TBD |
| Worship: | Penny Maddox 256-558-3557 |
| Photographer: | Tabitha Bissonnette 256-506-5208 |
| Humble Servant: | Trish Harnen 256-728-8035 |

| Name | City | Sponsor |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| Bill Steed | Birmingham | Mark Lacey |
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| Rob Cox | Centre | Mr. "G" Scroggin |
| Gene Rozelle | Goodwater | Byron White |
| Justin Kilpatrick | Haleyville | Tim Kilpatrick |
| James McCrary | Hoover | Michael Byrne |
| Preston Augustus | Huntsville | Apprentice Angels RG (Dee Ann Creel) |
| Philip Mann | Langston | Paul Claborn |
| Keith Cromartie | Madison | Gregg Hutton & Richard Blocker |
| Ben Workman | Northport | Charles Bush |
| Justin Riley | Tuscaloosa | Charles Bush |
| Ken Albinson | Union Grove | Larry & Regina Gregory |

**Alabama Emmaus Walk 414
May 2-5, 2013**

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Lay Director | Anne Parris (Perseverance) |
| Asst. Lay Directors | Dottie Nelson Jackie Albrecht Karen Cotton Rica McRoy Jane Bauer Joyce Smith |
| Spiritual Director | Dorothy Ann Webster (Means of Grace) |
| Asst. Spiritual Directors | Tracie Loveman Calvin Havens Belinda Freeman |
| Music | Mark Gero |
| Asst. Table Leaders | Leslie Comer Layne Salvador Chris Bragg Marty Bryan Escoe Beatty Linda Holt Sherry Johnson |
| Table Leaders | Pam Congo Kathy Lawter Susan Lewis Monica Bell Lynda Baker Debbie Collins Norma Colbath |
| Board Rep. | Ken Albrecht |

Committees

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Agape: | Tom Panucci | 256-536-9191 |
| Meal Service: | Doris Wilson | 256-656-5817 |
| Refreshments: | Judy Panucci | 256-536-9191 |
| 72-Hour Prayer Vigil: | Dee Ann Creel | 256-881-7563 |
| Housing: | Fred Anderson | 256-852-2515 |
| Candlelight: | Richard Blocker | 256-830-5484 |
| Clean-up: | Team 414 | |
| Closing: | Cheri Crawford | 256-508-2437 |
| Entertainment: | Gary Crawford | 256-508-2437 |
| Follow-up: | Jim/Helen Underwood | 256-534-6016 |
| Speakers' Prayer Chapel: | Joan Manning | 256-536-7881 |
| Sponsors' Hour: | Roger Crowson | 256-539-2388 |
| Worship: | Stacy Hedden | 256-536-7469 |
| Photographer: | Lee Tatum | 256-464-0038 |
| Humble Servant: | Bruce Parris | 256-325-6082 |

| Name | City | Sponsor |
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| Lori Vaughn | Boaz | Patricia Corbin & Dana Hill |
| Brandi Baucom | Columbus | Michelle Gibson |
| Wendy Sullivan | Fayette | Dana Gilliam & Jaime Howard |
| Beth Sexton | Fayette | Pattie Gann |
| Jennifer Selock | Fayetteville | Andrea Womble |
| Sue Irons | Florence | Jennie Corley |
| Michelle Helms | Hamilton | Kitty Frederick |
| Emily Stidham | Hamilton | Sheilah Wiginton & Andy Stidham |
| Kay Carr | Holly Pond | Tina Holcombe |
| Christine Sisk | Hollytree | Penny Sumners |
| Jackie Jones | Huntsville | Kim Posey |
| Sarah Edwards | Huntsville | Leone Purser |
| Leah Brambach | Huntsville | Stacy Hedden & Missy Frazier |
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| Angela Davis | Madison | David Wilson |
| Jewell Smith | Nauvoo | Carole Newman & Roger Watkins |
| Valleri Zeanah | Oneonta | Rhonda Teal |
| Kim Prater | Piedmont | Rhonda De Haven |
| Nancy Bowling | Russellville | Jeff Bowling & Kathy Hall |
| Laura Sisson | Trussville | Will King & Freda Crumpton |
| Lisa Bush | Tuscaloosa | Charles Bush |
| Heidi Griffin | Tuscumbia | Buddy & Kim Perdue |

Sequestering has purpose, significant role

By **RICHARD TITUS**

The sequestered feature of the Walk to Emmaus is one of the significant aspects of the Walk. Unfortunately, many members of our Community don't understand why it is important. The dictionary defines *sequester* as: to isolate or hide away (someone or something). Example: isolate (a jury) from outside influences during a trial: the jurors had been sequestered since Monday.

The pilgrims are to be isolated from their familiar surrounding so that they can focus completely on the spiritual growth opportunities available to them through the Walk to Emmaus. That is why they are not allowed to have watches, phone, or electronic devices that allow them to communicate with the "outside" world.

It starts when they move downstairs to the conference room during Sponsors Hour and continues until Sunday afternoon when they receive their letters and then return to family and friends at Closing. This is why back hall committee members or Emmaus visitors are not to be seen or heard during the Walk.

Because of the large number of pilgrims on our walks and the Camp Sumatanga limitations we have allowed two exceptions. The first is Meal Service. In order to quickly serve the pilgrims the team serves the food, but contact with the pilgrims is minimized. Because there is no separate dining room for the team, the team takes their

meals in the same dining room as the pilgrims, but again any after-meal contact is highly discouraged. While there is no compelling reason to allow the team to sing with the pilgrims into the dining room, this long standing tradition continues to be followed.

The second exception is Refreshments. To quickly serve the pilgrims during breaks, one or two team members are allowed to serve the drinks. Again, contact is only about the drinks. Recent walks have had back hall members attending and even participating in the Saturday night party, and this is strictly out of line with the sequestered concept.

This participation has not been a purposeful disregard for the rules, but a lack of understanding and appreciation of sequestering.

The focus of the team is always on the pilgrims, and all actions should be guided by the Holy Spirit. It is very easy for the back hall team to want to be involved with the pilgrims. The underlying reason is we want to have fun ourselves. This is not the role of servants. Remember, back hall team members are never to be seen except for the above described exceptions.

Have a great time on the next Walk you work, and remember: it's about the pilgrims, not about us.

(Editor's Note: Richard Titus is a former Board representative.)

Congratulations and Welcome to our new Board representatives!

Marsha Blocker

Judy Bonds

Sam Chuckery

Patricia Farr

Noah Funderburg

Neal Goza

Lori Mills

Angel Rait

These new Board members join:

Dolores Bunn

Missy Bissonnette

Butch Fennell

Betty Fowler

Philip Reich

Bill Jordan

Sheilah Wiginton

Ken Albrecht

Linda Godwin

The Grapevine

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

Faith with the impossible

Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?" (Judges 6:14)

In Gideon's mind, victory over the Midianites was an impossibility, and he was absolutely right! The Midianites, along with their allies, overwhelmed the feeble Hebrews. Yet the moment God told Gideon to fight them, victory was no longer an impossibility!

When Jesus commanded His small group of followers to make disciples of all nations, was that possible (Matt. 28:19)? Certainly, if Jesus said it was! When Jesus told His disciples to love their enemies, was He being realistic? Of course, because He was the One who would achieve reconciliation through them (2 Cor. 5:19-20).

Do you treat commands like these as implausible? Do you modify God's word to find an interpretation that seems reasonable to you? Don't discount what is possible with God (Phil. 4:13).

When God gives an assignment, it is no longer an impossibility, but rather it is an absolute certainty. When God gives you a seemingly impossible task, the only thing preventing it from coming to pass is your disobedience.

When God speaks, it can scare you to death! He will lead you to do things that are absolutely impossible in your own strength. But God will grant you victory, step by step, as you obey Him. How do you respond to assignments that seem impossible? Do you write them off as unattainable? Or do you immediately adjust your life to God's revelation, watching with anticipation to see how He will accomplish His purposes through your obedience? God wants to do the impossible through your life. All He requires is your obedience.

Praying for You

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

Kade Hass (408), for the loss of her father

Elinor Roberts (246), for the loss of her son, Edwin "Ed" Hebson Roberts

Mary Lee Williams (256) and Brucile Peoples (Central Alabama Emmaus) for the loss of their brother, Malcolm Gilchrist

Louise Tapley (168), for the loss of her mother, Mary Westbrook

The family of Charles **McLeod (341)**

Anna McCain (211), for the loss of her mother, Lucille Logan and **Vern Ogle (407)**, for the loss of his grandmother

Roy L. Smith (57), for the loss of his wife, **Willette "Butch" Smith (64)**

Sandra Norris (54), for the loss of her husband **Curtis Norris (44)**

Neil Odom (94), for the loss of his wife, Helen Connor Odom and **Mycha Odom (86)** and **Christine Yergert (106)**, for the loss of their mother

Tom Webster (127), for the loss of his wife, **Donna Webster (116)**

Ella Mae Pemberton (246) and **Betty Buckner (262)**, for the loss of their sister, Sarah Faye Funderburk

Gayle Sewell (401), for the loss of her sister, Betty Jo Bahannon