

THE ROOSTER'S CROW

Psalm 13 is one of my favorite passages in the Bible. It isn't one of the most popular, isn't necessarily one of the most memorable passages, nor does it roll off the tongue like so many other verses we so often love to quote. But, if you look close enough, and read it thoroughly, you will find in it a profoundness we can apply to our daily lives. I invite you to read it before you continue.

It is only six verses, and the first four are basically a "woe is me" type of sonnet. Life has left the psalmist downtrodden, discouraged, heartbroken and lost. He feels as if God has forgotten him. He feels as if the enemy has overcome him, and he feels as if life is no longer worth the living. He cries out to God, yet receives no answer. He cries out to God, but we do not see any resolution for his condition in this passage, nor do we see any help sent to him in his situation. Then, it happens.

With no explanation, and without any crescendo within this psalm, all of a sudden, the psalmist finds peace...finds hope. In verse five, he recalls his trust in the Lord in days past, and rejoices in the memory of God's salvation in previous, similar situations. Then, he reaffirms his own faith in the present, to the point of singing praise to the Lord because the Lord has ALWAYS been good to him. In the midst of this prayer of agony, the psalmist remembers how wonderfully God has dealt with him throughout his life, and it brings him to a place of peace and hope, and even rejoicing, know that God will be faithful, yet again.

We don't know what happened next. We don't know the outcome of his situation, nor if the psalmist ever found relief from whatever it was bringing him such anguish. What we do know, is that in the midst of it all, the psalmist's attitude was transformed. In remembering how mercifully and gracefully God had dealt with him before, the psalmist was able to tap into his faith that God would act no differently in this present situation.

In a devotional by one of my favorite writer, Oswald Chambers, he states, "Let your actual circumstances be what they may, but keep recognizing Jesus, maintaining complete reliance upon Him". As Christians, emboldened by the power of Christ, we should not let our surroundings mold our attitude. Rather, we should remember the faithfulness of our Lord, and allow our faith in God's goodness and mercy to transform our attitude toward those circumstances in our lives. And, whether they change immediately, or never change the rest of our days, we can have peace, knowing that God is performing a good work in us, and we can let ourselves be living examples of God's love and grace to those around us!



Spencer Chaney

Words from Mary Jane Berry

We had a wonderful gathering in July and are largest crowd ever with 43 attending and “6” new faces! De-Colores!!!! We are growing and meeting more of our family in Christ!!!!

We also had a great 4th Day Speaker, Craig Sowell...I wish you all could have heard him because it is always exciting and enriching for our souls to hear testimony on how God touches someone's life! Thank you Craig for sharing!

We covered a lot of Emmaus Community business and we want you all to know that:

- * **Women's Walk #393 October 10 - 13, 2013** ...Our Georgetown Emmaus Community will be helping with Walk #393 by serving on the team, making agape, conducting sponsor's hour and even contributing to the need for golf carts. The community will pay \$150 for rental of one golf cart and Jeff Jones has offered to help with rental of one golf cart. Thank you Jeff and the community!!!
- * **Kairos Women's Prison Walk #16 at Lane Murray on October 3 - 6, 2013** ...Georgetown Emmaus Community offered to sponsor the meal for the August 31st Kairos team meeting to serve 30 to 40 team members. We have volunteers to help, however if you would like to help too, please contact Mary Jane at dberry3@suddenlink.net
- * **Sponsorship** ... Barb Hunsberger talked to us about sponsorship for Emmaus Walks. We need “20” pilgrims to “make” a walk and currently, we are in need of more for both the upcoming women's and men's walk. Barb encouraged us all to pray about it and if we knew someone, that is was good timing for them and someone that is truly interested...then, consider sponsoring them.
- * **AGAPE Sunday before our August Gathering** ... Ann Castle reminded everyone that we are making Agape for the upcoming walks. She has plenty for us to work on!!!! If you have some agape that you want to help on, bring it too! And, we will have an ice cream social while we work! YEAH!!!! This will be FUN!!! We will meet before our August gathering, so join us on Sunday, August 18 at 3:30 in the fellowship hall at First UMC

We are enjoying so much serving the wonderful Georgetown Emmaus Community as co-lay directors and look forward to seeing more of you at our gatherings. Truly, Jesus is very much alive and it is so awesome to feel His presence! We want to welcome **YOU** to join us every month on the 3rd Sunday at 5:30 pm. We will meet alternating First UMC Georgetown and St John's UMC. Check out the Emmaus Community at <http://www.georgetownemmaus.org> and we also have Facebook presence at <http://www.facebook.com/GeorgetownEmmaus>

De Colores!

SPONSORSHIP

WHAT IS SPONSORSHIP?

Sponsorship is the act of revisiting the Walk to Emmaus experience with the person whom God has laid on your heart. Sponsorship is one of the most important aspects of the Walk to Emmaus. Do not take its responsibilities lightly or carry them out casually or haphazardly. Sponsorship requires extensive prayer, diligent thought, and careful planning and follow-through.

The authors of *Day Four: The Pilgrim's Continued Journey* wrote, "The strength on any Emmaus community is a direct result of that community's recruiting practices". A sponsor should commit to recruiting strong church leaders in order to strengthen the local church.

For the Walk to Emmaus to be effective, individual congregations must know how to use the program. Emmaus is not a place where local church sends its **problem members to get "straightened out," nor is it an evangelistic tool to "make new Christians."** Emmaus is meant to strengthen church leaders...the Walk to Emmaus cannot do everything; instead it has narrowed its focus to the spiritual renewal of church leaders...Our sole purpose in recruiting new Pilgrims should be the strengthening of our own congregations.

We urge you to remember this focus as you consider sponsorship. Viewing the Walk to Emmaus as a hospital cure all the ills will weaken the community. Pray and work to strengthen and renew the church.

As sponsors, we need to follow the scriptural principles of praying, being open to God, and then calling people by name to attend the Walk to Emmaus. Remember, the Walk to Emmaus is not for everyone. Be certain that in individual you invite is right for Emmaus and that Emmaus is right for that individual.

CONSIDER THESE THREE PRINCIPLES:

1. Prayer - Praying is the first step in sponsorship. At this time we commit the process to God. We release to God our control, our desires, and our expectations. As we spend this time in prayer, we need to empty ourselves of self to be filled with **God's instruction, God's timing, and God's person for us to sponsor.**
2. Openness to God - **Our openness to God enables us to become God's instruments** in furthering divine will through the Walk to Emmaus. Being open to God includes having our eyes open to see God at work. Being open to God means we **listen. Time and time again, the scriptures admonish us to listen to God and God's instructions. Our openness to God allows us to receive God's instruction** - even when the instruction does not confirm to our expectations. Our openness to God sensitizes us as to how God wants to renew and revitalize the church using all the aspect (sponsorship included) of Emmaus experience.
3. Calling by Name - Another aspect of sponsorship is calling individuals by name. God called people by name - Noah, Abram (Abraham), Samuel, Esther, and others. Jesus also called individuals, and he called each person by name. In the Gospels **we read of Jesus' calling the twelve disciples by name. Nowhere in the Gospels do we read Jesus issuing a general call for volunteers.**

THREE ASPECTS OF GOOD SPONSORSHIP:

The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus lists three aspects of good sponsorship.

1. **It is "the first act of agape" before a Walk ever begins.**
2. **It undergirds the whole weekend "with sacrificial love on behalf of each Pilgrim."**
3. It is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement, which results in the renewal of the church.

Thus, sponsorship offers an opportunity for spiritual revitalization to individual Christians who then serve as vessels of renewal in the church, congregation, home, workplace and community. Wise sponsorship builds up the body of Christ.

To learn more about sponsorship join us at our Emmaus Community Gatherings held the 3rd Sunday at 5:30 pm...See you there, DeColores!

Mary Jane Berry

Treasure's Report



Offerings

Balance on MAY 31, 2013

\$1270.05

Deposits:

6/16/13 Gathering

\$ 49.00

7/21/13 Gathering

157.00

206.00

Expenses:

7/08/13 Newsletter postage

\$ 9.20

7/08/13 CCLI Song select

152.00

161.20

Balance as of July 31, 2013:

\$1,314.85

Jackie Hammar

Treasurer



Prayer Requests

Pastor Amy F. Alexander

Mike Leese - mom passed away

Men's Walk # 392

Women's Walk # 393

Men's Walk # 394

Kairos #16

All of those unspoken prayers

Everybody going back to school

If you have any prayer needs please let me know and I will add it to the list so we can be praying for you.

You can email it to mercygirl20032004@yahoo.com

Upcoming Walks

Women's Walk:

393 - 10/10/13 - Greene Family Camp

Men's Walk:

392 - 9/5/13 - Latham Springs

394 - 10/24/13 - Glen Lake

Kairos Walk:

Lane Murrary #16 - 10/3/13 - Gatesville, TX



Upcoming Events

8/18/2013 - AGAPE Gathering at 3:30 pm @ FUMC Georgetown

8/18/2013 - Emmaus Gathering at 5:30 pm @ FUMC Georgetown

Emmaus Links

Check these Emmaus links out:

Georgetown Emmaus: www.georgetownemmaus.org

Georgetown Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/GeorgetownEmmaus

Round Rock Emmaus: www.roundrockemmaus.org

Central Texas Emmaus: www.ctcemmaus.org

Kairos: www.kairostexas.org

Epiphany: www.epiphanyministry.com

Chrysalis: www.chrysalis.upperroom.org

Upper Room: www.upperroom.org



Gathering Dates

August 18, 2013	First UMC
September 15, 2013	St. John's UMC
October 20, 2013	First UMC
November 17, 2013	St. John's UMC
December 15, 2013	First UMC

Our Leadership for 2013

Spiritual Director:	Ann Hagmann - revdrann@hotmail.com	512-930-2050
Lay Directors:	Mary Jane Berry - dberry3@suddenlink.net	512-240-4167
	Polly Nelon - pollylovespaws@gmail.com	512-422-7229
Lay Director Elect:	Ronan Shackelford - shacklynn@yahoo.com	281-650-7410
Music Coordinator	Janet Pyle - janetlynn29@hotmail.com	512-868-2525
Hospitality Coordinators:	FUMC: Terry France - francetl.france@gmail.com	512-309-1934
	Rainbow Connection	512-863-5962
	St. John: Nelda McCain - neldamccain@yahoo.com	
Team Selection:	Peggy Blair - wayne_bl@suddenlink.net	512-863-7778
CTC Emmaus Board Rep:	Debra Friddle & Barb Hunsberger	
Treasurer:	Jackie Hammar - jackie@fumcgt.org	512-925-5028
Webmaster:	Ken Sommerville - ksommerville@yahoo.com	512-240-5602
Newsletter Editor:	Crystal Jackson - mercygirl20032004@yahoo.com	512-639-2352
Agape Coordinator:	Anne Castle - acastle880@aol.com	512-863-4843
Communion Steward:	Elaine Jackson - erbjac@yahoo.com	512-868-8063
Church Liaisons:	Celebration Church: Mary Jane Berry - dberry3@suddenlink.net	
	First Presbyterian: Polly Nelon - pollylovespaws@gmail.com	
	First UMC: Terry France - francetl.france@gmail.com	
	St. John's UMC: Bennie Davis - dgoatranch@gmail.com	
	Wellspring UMC: Mark McCartney - mac431@gmail.com	