

# THE MESSENGER

April 2009 Lynchburg/Central Virginia Emmaus

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope that this letter finds you all well and finding God's blessings each day. I would like to share a piece of scripture with you that has been a blessing to me over the past couple of weeks. It is Ephesians 3: 14-19 (The Living Word translation)

“When I think of the wisdom and scope of His plan I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God — some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth — that out of His glorious, unlimited resources He will give you the mighty inner strengthening of His Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God's marvelous love; and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God's children should, how long, how wide, how deep and how high His love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, through it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God Himself.”

This scripture is part of a daily devotion I am doing during the Lenten season. It has really been a blessing to me. I pray this scripture for you brothers and sister and I pray that we are changed persons when we stand in front of the empty tomb on Easter morning. To God be all the glory. God's peace and grace be with you

Donna Martin, LCVA Walk #10  
Community Lay Director

## ALERT: Change to April Gathering

April 18, 2009 at Eagle Eyrie

Hello Community!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of April is the day before Easter Sunday... so, we will be combining the Candle Light and Emmaus Gathering. The date is April 18<sup>th</sup> and the time is 8:30 (candle light will begin at 9:30)

Parents of small children: as a community we have loved seeing your children at the gatherings and we will have childcare at the May gathering, but we will not have childcare available for Gathering/Candlelight in April. Sorry for the inconvenience this might cause. Still looking forward to seeing everyone.

And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

—Luke 24:32

Hello Community:

The Men's and Women's walks are just around the corner!  
(Men's Spring Walk #61, 17 to 19 April; Women's Spring Walk #62, 14 to 17 May)

I wanted to send out a few reminders about agape.

1. The most important agape that you can provide for either weekend is your prayers. Please be in prayer for the team members and pilgrims of Walks 61 and 62.

2. Sponsors, please remember: it is your responsibility to collect 12 personal agape letters for your pilgrim(s). These letters should be given to the Agape coordinator Thursday evening of the weekend (during send off). There will also be a box out front of the agape room that you can put these letters in. We ask that you do not put them anywhere else in the agape room; this can cause confusion for the agape coordinator. Please do not give any more than 12 personal agape letters to the Agape Coordinator. If you should receive more than 12

letters during your collection please deliver them to your pilgrim(s) as a 4<sup>th</sup> day surprise. If you receive a letter via us postal service, take the letter out of the envelope, put into a new clean envelope. In the center of the envelope write the pilgrim's full name and in the upper right hand corner (where a stamp would go) put a "P".

3. I know that each piece of general agape is made with love, and we want to make sure that each piece is used and placed at each pilgrim and team member spot with love, we don't want any piece not to be used, so please make sure that you count enough for pilgrims and team. FYI: a safe number to make is 60, which would be enough for 30 team members and 30 pilgrims. If we end up with just enough of one kind of agape for pilgrims only we will not be able to use that piece during the weekend. Please do not sign your general agape; these gifts should be gifts of love from God.

4. Please remember it is also Agape to be a *silent* servant. If you are going to go up to the

mountain anytime during the weekend to help, please remember to keep a low profile and avoid contact with the Walk participants. We need to allow those pilgrims and team members to remove themselves from the world. No matter what job we are doing during the weekend (making beds, washing towels, praying in prayer chapel, working the agape room, cleaning up trays from the cafeteria.....) we should remain unseen by the pilgrims. The pilgrims should not even know we are up there doing these "behind the scenes" acts of love.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Donna Martin (CLD) or John Mitchell and Jeff Davenport (Community Committee Chair and Co-Chair) Thank you for your spirit of cooperation and high idealism. I am sure we all look forward to serving together during these 2 coming up weekends.

God's peace be with you.

### Men's Weekend April 16 – 19, 2009

Four people named **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody** met to accomplish an important task. **Everybody** was asked to do it. **Everybody** was sure **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

(**Somebody** wrote that, but **Nobody** knows who. We don't either)

**Everybody**, are you listening? **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody** are busy the weekend of **April 16-19, 2009**. So please, please make sure that you show up at Eagle Eyrie to help the Men's inside team and the Lynchburg Emmaus Community with **Walk 61!**

Thanks and God Bless,  
LCVA Emmaus Community

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—Luke 24:32

## Good Sponsorship is Vital to Emmaus

While most church related functions take a “y’all come” approach to participation, Emmaus relies on a method that is more consistent with the message of the Walk: sponsorship. The personal character of sponsorship underlines God’s personal care and commitment to each pilgrim. The fact that the Emmaus experience passes from person to person reflects the relational nature of God and the manner in which God reach out to people through people. Sponsorship is integral to some of the unique features and strengths of the Emmaus experience — a discerning approach to recruitment, personal agape and prayer for the pilgrims, sponsors’ presence at Candlelight and Closing and follow up.

### Sponsorship:

- The first act of agape before a Walk even begins
- Undergirds the whole weekend with sacrificial love on behalf of the pilgrim
- The foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement

### Whom do you sponsor?

- Church leaders (pastors & laypersons) who will bring new vision, commitment & understanding back to their congregations
- Dependable church members, the quiet backbone of the church
- Less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled
- Christians who are hungry for “something more”
- Members & leaders who represent a cross section of the church
- Respected laypersons & clergypersons who participation, support & leadership will encourage other to take the Walk
- Members of diverse congregations, denominations & ethnic groups

Remember, Emmaus is right for many people, but not for everyone.

### How do we sponsor?

- Pray for the person’s openness to God’s call to discipleship
- Make an appointment with the person to discuss participation
- Extend an invitation
- Ask the person to make a commitment (by filling out the application)

- Continue to pray for the prospective pilgrim
- Prepare agape letters; (the Lynchburg Community asks for 12 so that all pilgrims receive the same number of letters)
- Support the Walk
  - Through prayers during the 72 hour prayer vigil
  - Your presence at Send Off, Sponsors’ Hour, Candlelight, and Closing
  - By supporting the pilgrim’s family during the weekend
- Encourage the pilgrim in his/her Fourth Day involvement; bring them to a Gathering
- Help the pilgrim find a reunion group
- Help the pilgrim reenter their church & consider ways to act out new commitment
- Inform the pilgrim of ways to serve the Emmaus Community & future walks
- Help the pilgrim sponsor others

### Who can sponsor?

- Any person who has participated in the Emmaus can sponsor another person to Emmaus so long as they understand the aim and responsibilities of sponsorship and can fulfill them for the person they would sponsor.
- The Lynchburg Community has a guideline; you must attend a Day of Deeper Understanding BEFORE you sponsor someone
- Sponsors should not serve as team members

*The above information is a summary of what is contained in The Upper Room, Handbook on Emmaus. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Emmaus Board.*

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