



Walk to Emmaus®

THE UPPER ROOM

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Guatemala 2006 Emmaus Walks

The long awaited Emmaus Walk experience for Guatemala Christians, rescheduled last fall because of the deadly impact of Hurricane Stan, were finally celebrated on the weekends of February 23-26 and March 2-5, 2006, in San Cristobal de Totonicapán, province of Quetzaltenango.



Women's Walk's #2

The Mexican Emmaus communities of Mexico City and Puebla were invited to provide team leadership for the first walks in this Central American country with the inclusion of Guatemalan pilgrims who had previously made their walk in Mexico.

Forty pilgrims from Comitancillo, Guatemala City, Quetzaltenango, San Marcos, San Pedro and Chimaltenango attended the walks.*

Due to illness and family situations, last minute substitutions had to be made for the positions of the lay leaders for the men and the women walks as well as the need to find a pastoral substitute.

While the intended walks last fall had

to be postponed due to the hurricane devastation and tragedy which affected the country, the rescheduling of these recent walks by the adversity encountered was never considered this time by the team members. God's confirmation of their faithfulness became obvious as personnel substitutes, travel and logistical challenges seemed to find swift solutions. God's generous gifts of love and grace were evident throughout all aspects of the walks.

Even though the Guatemalan team members were not able to attend the team training sessions in México, they were well prepared to serve and participate. Their

continued

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**Ordering Emmaus Materials
and Supplies**

Place orders through our Customer Service Staff at phone number 1-800-972-0433 or fax number 1-615-430-7590. Allow six to eight weeks in advance of your Walks for processing. You must have your community account number, mail to and ship to addresses available when placing your order.

The Walk to Emmaus Newsletter is FREE!!

We are pleased to be offering the Walk to Emmaus International Newsletter in two ways:

- 1) You may subscribe to receive the newsletter by e-mail by directing your browser on the internet to:
www.upperroom.org/Emmaus/online/lists.asp.
- 2) You can receive a hard copy at no cost by sending us your name and address and we will put you on the mailing list.

You can tell all of your Emmaus friends and community members about this free service.

Guatemala 2006
Emmaus Walks
continued

talks and responsibilities were reviewed and critiqued on site by other team members.

Perhaps the most significant highlight of these first walks in Guatemala was to celebrate the ease of integration and involvement of the "Mam" Mayan-speaking folk. Their limited academic training and literacy skills were well compensated for by their innate ability to logically assimilate and verbalize the message of each talk. When their turn came, they openly offered to give their table summary by inviting bilingual table members to translate their statements into Spanish for them.

A team member from Guatemala City stated that the persons who were able to attend these walks seemed better prepared to become involved, than those previously recruited for the Fall. Confirming that those who attended were indeed those whom God meant to be present. The men's



Guatemala Emmaus Walk's Team

Walk was slow in "taking off", but once they relinquished their hesitancy to God's Spirit the natural flow of the three days got hold of them, and for the Sunday closing everyone responded well to the two traditional questions.

In spite of the distances and transportation challenges, a number of them were able to return the following weekend for the women's Candlelight service and for the Sunday closing. They were truly blessed by the witness of their wives.

The variety of Agape greetings from the international communities (New Zealand, South Africa, Hong Kong, USA, Germany,

etc.) had a profound impact on many of the pilgrims who were deeply moved by the thought that Christians of far-away lands were thinking of them and praying for their walk with Christ.

This experience has offered firm grounding for the future of the Emmaus Walks in Guatemala even as the first Guatemala pilgrims pondered on their way home "Were not

our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

The regional cultural, linguistic and socio-economic differences as well as the distances and transportation challenges must be considered in the follow up planning of the necessary leadership development workshops for the future Walks in this harvest ready country.

Rev. Horacio Ríos
Spiritual Director

** The pilgrims received scholarships from the Aldersgate Emmaus Community in Florida.*

Cape of Good Hope

The following is the sermon delivered to the Cape of Good Hope Community on the occasion of their 10-Year Celebration.
Matthew 25:14-30

In 1995 the Cape of Good Hope was given a gift: the Walk to Emmaus. The next year the recipients were able to duplicate that gift and pass it on others. Now after 10 years we have celebrated a many-fold multiplication. There has been amazing growth in individuals, and waves of grace have spread throughout the churches of the area.

The parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) is often misunderstood. On the surface it is all about commending achievements, entrepreneurship and creativity, in other words, our efforts. This interpretation arises partly because English has adopted the word "talent" to mean "ability".

Originally it was a weight of precious

metal or amount of money. In the parable, the talents refer to shares in the Kingdom of God. Our abilities, money and time are all tools for growing the Kingdom. Jesus leaves us with shares in His Kingdom and he will return to see how these have grown. What is the underlying difference that makes some fruitful for the Kingdom and others not? For simplicity we will compare just the 5-talent man with the 1-talent man.

I How they each viewed the money

I used to think all 3 servants clearly understood the money as a loan or investment that the master wanted back later with profit. The word translated "entrusted" simply means "delivered". It could mean he wanted it back or not. Actually only the 1-talent man saw it as a loan. He "hid his master's money in the ground" (v18). At the report-back he says (v25) "I hid your talent in the ground. Here is what belongs to you. But the 5-talent man "put his money to work" (v16). At the debriefing (v20) he says "You entrusted me with 5 talents, see I have the 10 (v28). Then, having passed this test, the master promises him even more authority. The master is only too delighted that he has taken the money and done so well with it. He welcomes him to "enter into my happiness".

This is the vital difference: That which is mine I will work hard to multiply. Com-

pare the difference between a rented and an owned house. I will work hard to develop a house I own, not one that I just rent. THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS OURS. We often see the difference in attitudes towards the church. People say to the minister "Your church". If that is the case, the minister is the one who has to do all the work and the maintenance. We can't be fruitful until we believe that the Kingdom is ours and that the growth in the Kingdom is our own growth. We have been given shares in God's company! If you believe it is someone else's, you will always just get by doing them or God a favour. The Kingdom of God is always given as a free gift of Grace, not because of our performance. This is clearly seen in Emmaus. Some have taken the gift and been fully committed to it. This is particularly true of those from the first walks in any community. The community is theirs. If they didn't get involved there was no one else. Sadly pilgrims of later walks tend to see Emmaus as "belonging" to the board or the "old guard".

2 How He saw the Master

The 1-Talent man saw him as a "hard man, harvesting where you hadn't sown ..." and was paralyzed by fear. We can only assume the 5-talent man thought the master very generous for giving him roughly \$5,000. If that was his starting attitude he went on to prove it by the master's happiness and further generosity to him. Similarly, the 1-talent man also proved that he had been "right" about the master. After all, he had "only" received \$1,000 and then it was taken away and he was thrown out.

How could they both be right in their estimation of the master when their respective pictures of him were so different? Some people are convinced that God is out to get them at every turn, and, because of that expectation, it is confirmed every time something goes wrong. But others believe God is good and generous, and they prove it time and again. When things go wrong they still praise God because they know that He is in control and will show the good eventually. You get the master you believe in! Do you have a generous

You get the master you believe in!

master or a hard taskmaster? It depends on your attitude!

Emmaus, as a wonderful agent for the Kingdom, can be a very generous master or a hard taskmaster. It takes a lot of time, effort and money. For some that wears them down. For others, they can never do enough to match the generosity and agape love that has been shared with them.

3 How they were willing to risk and to work

The 1-talent man was afraid of the master's condemnation should he lose a cent of the money, so he wasn't free to risk at all. This thinking also justified his laziness. I'm sure the master would have been happier if he had taken risks and failed rather than not having exercised faith at all. While we are under law we will only do what we are told, no more.

The 5-talent man took the risk of investment and worked hard because he was so inspired by his master's generosity. He knew that even if he lost it all, the master would be pleased that he had at least tried. Lloyd Ogilvie has said: "We are not ambitious to earn God's approval, but daring because we already have it!"¹ The Kingdom of God is worth so much more than mere money. However, the reward is so

much more certain, because if we take the risk to which God is calling us, we cannot lose in Kingdom terms. Yes, we might lose in human terms: money, comforts and leisure time, but that risk is nothing compared to what we stand to gain in terms of the Kingdom.

What is God calling you to risk? Where does he want you to step out beyond your comfort zone? Many have taken that risk in starting to serve in new ways. Emmaus stretches people to speak out in public, pray, serve invisibly, or lead small groups.

The main difference between the 1-talent man and the 5-talent man is that the former operates under law and the later under grace! We have a God of grace, not primarily of law. We all want to hear "Well done, good and faithful servant ... Enter into your master's happiness" when he returns. For that to happen, we have to realize who the Master is and what he has given us as our own. Then we will be willing to risk for him and be fruitful for the Kingdom. Be ambitious for Him! The Kingdom is yours.

Andrew Siebörger

Former Community Spiritual Director and author of "Grace Rediscovered"

1) *Struick Christians Books, 2002*



Are you in need of prayer?

Call the Upper Room Prayer Center at 1-800-251-2468. A volunteer will pray with you.

After they pray, your prayer request will be sent to covenant groups around the world for an extended time of prayer.

You may also contact us through our webpage at www.upperrom.org/prayer.

Welcome to Our New Staff



Wayne Ingle is the International Lay Director of Chrysalis. He has over six years experience working with the Chrysalis office, and has been the Upper Room

Representative on Walk to Emmaus start-ups both in the U.S. and in Jamaica. Wayne has a BBA Degree in Management from the University of Georgia and managed his own private businesses for the past 30 years. He is currently a licensed Real Estate Agent in the State of Georgia.



Greg Engroff is the Emmaus Northeast Regional Representative. After his walk in 1988 he has been a team member and a Board member, serving the roles of registrar and Community Lay

Director. He is Facilities Administrator and Airport Security Coordinator at the Lancaster PA Airport. His church involvement includes Lay Reader, bell choir, and teaching Spiritual Gift classes and a course on Christian Principles on Money Management.

Attention All Board Members!

The Board Room Website is up and running for you!

Remember to go to the Board Room Website regularly to make changes for your community and also to enter your Walk Dates. If you are not sure how to do this, please contact the International Emmaus Office and we will be happy to instruct you. To enter this site you will need your user name and password, which you will find on your Letter of Agreement.

The Board Room Website is:

[www.upperroom.org/
fourthday/boardroom](http://www.upperroom.org/fourthday/boardroom)



Celebration 2006

November 3-4, 2006

Hosted by the **Houston West** Emmaus/Chrysalis Communities

Memorial Drive United Methodist Church

12955 Memorial Drive
Houston, TX 77079

More info online at www.UpperRoom.org/emmaus/gatherings

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Testimonial from a Lay Pilgrim

My dearest brothers and sisters in the Lord, I can not begin to explain all of the prayers and hands of love felt on my walk last weekend.

It was truly the best weekend of my life. I fully support the vision of Emmaus. I can see Jesus through the actions and motivations of this selfless and giving organization. You know the story of the silver smith, where the little boy asks "Sir, how do you know when the silver is ready?" and the silversmith answered with . . . the silver is ready when you can see your reflection in it . . . Wow, we the men on walk #90 were the silver and I truly saw the reflection of Christ not only in my life but the lives of my brothers in Christ. Thanks to you for applying the fire in my life to melt me down from my prideful arena and the coldness of love in my heart. Healing has drenched me and overtaken me. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you, and again to each and every one of you that had a part in this transformation in our lives. I love you all. A true seeker of the light and your brother in Christ,

Douglas McGowan

from the table of Paul.



Emmaus Funding Plan Donations

Thank you to each of the following Emmaus Communities
for donations sent to the International Walk to Emmaus office.

COMMUNITY AND STATE

Alabama	.AL	Elizabethtown	.KY	Cross Point	.OK
Blue Lake	.AL	Lexington	.KY	Great Plains	.OK
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Four Corner	.CO	Lansing Area	.MI	Chattanooga-Lafayette	.TN
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Pathways East Georgia	.GA	Western New York	.NY	Living Water	.TX
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Midwest Crossroads	.IN	New-Ark Area	.OH	North Central West Virginia	.WV
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		Wilmington Area	.OH		

Grand Total as
of March 31, 2006:
\$26,070.00

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For simple language to include Emmaus International in your estate plans, call 1-877-899-2781, ext. 7212.

Regional Representatives

All of our Regional Representatives are working hard to serve your community. When they make contact with your leaders, please make them feel welcome. Please contact them. Regional Representatives are available to serve. Here are the Regional Representatives and their contact information.

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