



Walk to Emmaus[®]

THE UPPER ROOM[®]

Vol. 15, Issue 32

Introducing Greg Engroff



*Greg Engroff, new Emmaus/Chrysalis
International Lay Director*

It is now official. Our prayers for someone to take up the mantle from Dick Gilmore and Wayne Ingle have been answered. Greg Engroff has accepted the invitation to become the first International Lay Director for Emmaus and Chrysalis. In this role, Greg will carry a similar portfolio to that of the International Spiritual Director, Rev. Víctor Pérez. Together they will give leadership to the movement.

Greg brings to this position significant experience as a Community Lay Director, Certified Trainer and Regional Representative for the North East. He has had extensive leadership involvement in his local United Methodist Church and is recognized as a gifted teacher. Most recently, Greg served as Facilities Administrator for the Lancaster Airport Pennsylvania Authority.

Greg has substantive foundation in Emmaus and will have a more significant learning curve for the Chrysalis movement. Wayne Ingle has agreed to continue in his current role through March of 2008 to allow sufficient time to mentor Greg in this important area of the Emmaus/Chrysalis Movement.

All of us have prayed diligently for God's will and direction for both Emmaus and Chrysalis--and I am confident that God has answered our prayers. We have the right people in the right places. Please continue to pray for Greg, his family, and everyone involved in this transition.

One additional prayer request, since the heart of all we do in Emmaus and Chrysalis is grounded in prayer. The very next position to be filled is that of Assistant to the Lay Director. As many of you know, Metral Smith was promoted to Coordinator for the Living Prayer Center effective March 1. We had an interim college student in this position and she left on August 18 to return to college. We need your prayers to support Greg and the interview team as they look for just the right person to join the team in this important administrative support role.

Along with this announcement comes my sincere prayer of thanksgiving for you and your partnership in this ministry!

Yours in the fellowship of servants -- Fly With Christ --- De Colores,

Rev. Tom Albin

Team Leader for The Upper Room Program Unit

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www.UpperRoom.org/Chrysalis

Ordering Emmaus Materials and Supplies

Place orders through our Customer Service Staff by calling 1-800-972-0433 or faxing 1-615-430-7590. Allow six to eight weeks in advance of your Walk for processing.

You must have your community account number, mail to and ship to addresses available when placing your order.

Fourth Day Testimony

In 1997, I was diagnosed with a lesion on my brain stem. My Mother and I traveled from hospital to hospital trying to find help for me but there wasn't anything the doctors could do to cure me, they could only medicate me. I knew God was my only hope.

My father had been in the hospital for several weeks and we knew his days were in the hands of the Lord. On September 2, 2001 family members gathered around his bed for prayer. Of course I was praying for my Father's healing but God reached down and took that horrible brain lesion right out of my head. My Mother said she saw angels surround me and I know I felt them. When I opened my eyes and saw my Father's baby blue eyes looking at me, tears of joy were streaming down his face. We praised the Lord and thanked him for this healing miracle that has forever changed my life.

That night I walked out of the hospital without my walker and my face was no

longer distorted; it was in perfect and proper alignment. PRAISE GOD!!

The next day I went to see my Father and we had a nice talk and visit. We talked about the miracle of God's healing and how much God has done for our family. Dad expressed his love for us as a family, told each of us words from his heart and later that day passed on to be with Jesus while I was holding his hand. I sure do miss him.

On Thanksgiving Day 2001, our family was finding it difficult to celebrate but we persevered to honor my Father. He would have wanted us to. Mom was up early cooking the turkey and had a fall. My sister took her to the emergency

room and she never came home from the hospital. She died December 22, 2001. Even though I know they are both in heaven my heart aches for them so much. The last five years of their lives, I was sick and can barely remember much of anything. I wish their last days were not taking care of me. That's where the guilt comes from. That's why I haven't been able to sleep since their deaths.

During dying moments at Emmaus I was able to lay down the guilt and pain I had been carrying around since the deaths of my parents. By God's grace and healing powers I am able to sleep just fine now and did so that very first night after dying moments on Saturday.

In May I sponsored my sister-in-law and she received such a blessing. She returned the next week to help with the men's walk. God is so good!

God Bless,
Janice Pierce
Fuquay Varina, NC

Community Board Members

Keep us informed!

Today you can access the Internet from almost anywhere.

That is a good thing. It means that you may be able to access the Emmaus site at anytime and log into the Boardroom with your community username and password:

www.upperroom.org/fourthday/boardroom/

It is free and it keeps us communicated!

Why it is so important?

Accurate Community contact information and Walk dates are crucial for us:

- to refer potential pilgrims in your Community's area;
- to provide phone numbers to callers asking for your Lay and/or Spiritual Directors and Walk dates; and
- to direct any e-mail from our office to your Community leaders.

We highly encourage each of you to keep your Community's contact information accurate and up to date in the Boardroom. You can find your Community's Username and Password in your Letter of Agreement (LOA).

We also provide a community account number for your purchase person to have handy when calling Customer Care Services (1-800-972-0433) to place an order for your Community. Also, you'll find the contact info for your Regional Reps in the LOA and in the Emmaus International Newsletter.

These are all free resources provided by the Int'l WTE Office to keep in touch with you. So, in return, please, keep us posted!

De Colores!

Laura Feliciano

*Assistant to International Spiritual Director
The Walk to Emmaus & Chrysalis*

**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 web page:

www.UpperRoom.org/prayer



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Expansion Continues

The Emmaus family continues to expand in parts of the globe. We now have brothers and sisters in Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China. Their first men's walk was held April 19-22, 2007, with the first women's walk on April 26-29, 2007.



Emmaus family members from Singapore served as the companion community with help from

the Hong Kong Emmaus community. The walks were exciting events for the pilgrims and the team members. There were many blessings provided by God and there

certainly was much joy on the faces of the pilgrims and the team members.

For candlelight, people flew to Taipei from Singapore and from Hong Kong. What a tremendous witness to the love of Jesus and for the pilgrims as expressed by these acts of agape!

One of the remarkable things was the way the team members were able to present the unifying love of Christ

through some unusual challenges. These challenges included the traditional Mandarin Chinese language, the modern Mandarin Chinese language, and the Cantonese Chinese language. In addition, there are cultural differences associated with each of these languages. God's language of agape love was clearly evident through these cultural and language differences.



Please keep this new community in your prayers as they excitedly move forward in the Emmaus adventure.

Richard A. Gilmore, Ph.D.

Former International Lay Director

Cesta de Emaús

For almost two years our International Office had been sharing emails and phone conversations with Rev. Rusty Hedges from the Dallas Emmaus Community and with Jana Krisova from the Methodist Church in the Czech Republic. Also, the presiding Bishop provided his support and encouragement. We wanted to make sure that everything was in place for the launching of the "Cesta Do Emaús" in the Czech Republic.

We had made the commitment to offer this experience in the language of the Czech people's soul. We knew that this would stretch the resources we had at hand but we were committed to the Czech's people dream.

Finally the weekend of May 24 - 27, 2007, God allowed us to see the results of our prayers and much planning. Czech leaders had prayed and worked hard to



put together a conference room team of brave and committed men who

would share the message of God's grace with their fellow brothers.

A group of fifteen pilgrims, many of them pastors of Methodists congregations,

listened carefully as their friends and colleagues shared their talks. We observed as these pilgrims took copious notes, paid close attention, shared patiently, sang joyfully, and prayed fervently for each other, just as the primitive church did. They experienced authentic Christian community.

The women's weekend is planned for this coming September. We believe that the fruits of this effort will soon be seen and by the grace of God we will have stronger and more faithful leaders in every Methodist church in the Czech Republic. Praise God!



Rev. Dr. Victor Pérez

Emmaus & Chrysalis International Spiritual Director



**Emmaus & Chrysalis
Celebration!**
November 09 & 10, 2007
Lexington United Methodist Church
309 E. Main Street, Lexington, SC (Columbia, SC)
Info: Laxon W. Hinson at (803) 926-3425



Passing the Baton

In the scriptures (Hebrews 12:1) we find an admonition to run with endurance the race that is set before us. This applies to the race of single-person events as well as a team relay event. For the relay race, each member carries the baton for that portion and must successfully pass the baton to the next team member.



There are many situations in life that are like the team relay race. Each person does her/his part and then must pass the baton to the next one. This is very appropriate for volunteers in

any position. They must successfully pass the baton to the next person. One of the peculiarities of volunteerism is that many of us think we are to volunteer in the same place for exceedingly long periods of time so we can get the work done. The reality is that the true role of the volunteer is to train someone to take his or her place, and then graciously hand over the baton (gavel, or the reins).

Volunteers can stifle, or even destroy, a ministry by being there too long. We assume it is "our" ministry and we don't want to give it up. We may even get to the point where we believe the ministry cannot survive without us.



The Walk to Emmaus is a ministry where thousands of volunteers are involved. At the board level, the design is to have regular replacement of members. The team selection committee is designed to operate on the replacement basis.

With all of this design to move through various aspects of progressive servanthood, we still encounter persons who become entrenched in a specific area, and are there "forever." Ultimately, when they do leave, there is no one coming behind them to take the baton.

In the Emmaus office, the passing of the

baton has occurred several times. The baton of the Spiritual Director has been passed from person to person, and in several years, that baton will be passed on to another

For the International Lay Director, the first portion of the relay has been completed. It has been a very interesting time, a very busy time, a very challenging time, and a very rewarding time. Several persons, at different times, have asked, "What is the best part of the job?" The answer has been the same each time – it is the people. The persons then ask, "What is the most difficult part of the job?" The answer is, the people.

It is not strange for this to occur, and it is not limited to Emmaus. Even the Lord Jesus had wonderful encounters with people and He had encounters with people that were not so wonderful, yes even disheartening. Throughout the history of the Israelite people, God had many delightful encounters and He had many discouraging encounters.

Through it all, God continued to love, to woo, and to encourage people to return to Him. Some people were faithful, some people ignored God, some people were misled by their leaders.

Baton passing is present in the Bible in many ways. Moses passed the baton to Joshua. Joshua accomplished his part of the race, but then dropped the baton. Eli did his job, but he was about to drop the baton. Samuel rescued the baton before it was dropped. David carried the baton well and successfully handed it off to Solomon.

In the Emmaus Office, it is time to pass on the baton of the International Lay Director.



Walk to Emmaus Brochures A Transforming Experience of Christian Community

The Walk to Emmaus promotional brochure contains information about the three-day spiritual renewal experience for laity (and clergy) and how it can transform your life and that of your congregation. The back includes a blank space for church and/or community personalization.

These brochures are free; you pay only the shipping and handling charges.



Sponsorship The Emmaus® Library

By Richard & Janine Gilmore
The 40-page booklet guides individuals through

the process of fellow guiding pilgrims on the Walk to Emmaus.

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God has provided wonderful blessings, strength, and support for these years. The journey has been a unique experience. God has allowed and enabled perseverance. Preparation has been made. The baton will be handed over July 31, 2007. The next chapter of life for Janine and me will be filled with expectation, excitement, and wonderment as to what God has in store for us. Keep us in your prayers.

Richard A. Gilmore, Ph.D.
International Lay Director
July 25, 2007

Emmaus Funding Plan Donations

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

Grand Total as of June 5, 2007: \$78,855.00

COMMUNITY AND STATE

Alabama Emmaus AL	Cedar Rapids IA	Wilmington Area OH
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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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