

## COMPELLED BY LOVE

### The energizing power that transforms lives

By Gordon Robertson

When I look around the world today and see so many desperate needs, I think of God's command to Joshua: *Be strong and of good courage.....for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.....Go in to possess the land.* (Joshua 1:9, 11)

With such great physical and spiritual needs around us, how do we even begin? Paul gives the answer in II Corinthians 5:14: *The love of Christ compels us.* And in Galatians 5:6, he talks about the supreme importance of *faith working through love.*

Love energizes our faith and transforms any situation so that the impossible becomes possible. *Faith working through love* gives us the courage to say, "We care so deeply about lost and suffering people that nothing will stop us from helping them and bringing them the Gospel. We have come to share the Good News, and we are here to stay."

A good example is found in Matthew 15, when a Canaanite woman repeatedly begs Jesus to heal her demon-possessed daughter. What was motivating this mother? An unrelenting love for her daughter. And in reply, Jesus tells her, *O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.* (vs. 28) Jesus is telling us that love and faith go hand-in-hand. Our love ignites our faith, and, in turn, the faith that perseveres can overcome the world.

So let us not grow weary in well-doing (Galatians 6:9). God, who is the source of love and faith, will not forget our labors of love. He will strengthen us and provide all that we need, so that we can continue to reach out with hearts of faith and hands of love to "possess the land," proclaiming His Gospel to every language, every tribe, and every nation.

## The Rainbow Connection

Kalamazoo Area Emmaus Newsletter  
[www.kalamazooemmaus.org](http://www.kalamazooemmaus.org)

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## SPOTLIGHT ON.....

### SUPPLIES, LITERATURE, AND CLOTHING

All the comforts of home! That's what you experience on a Walk to Emmaus weekend. But who makes all those details of comfort and need possible in a church building? Welcome to the world of Supplies, Literature, and Clothing as defined by the Kalamazoo Area Emmaus Board. This committee welcomes any who feel they have the time and gifts to participate. Here's a sampling of what we do.

Before the Lay Directors first meet to prepare for a Walk, all their binders full of manuals, books, and other information must be checked over, updated and prepared for use. There are 27 binders for each team of men and women which all need to be ready to hand out at the first meeting of the selection team. Many of the sheets in the manuals are copies that are used up in the process of team building and must be replaced for the next teams. For example, a critique sheet is used by each team member for each of the 15 talks as they are previewed. That means 810 of those sheets must be copied (2-sided) and inserted in the back of every binder for each set of Walks.

As a Walk begins our KAE trailer is unloaded and the mailroom is set up. Everything in the mailroom is the supply person's responsibility. This includes all office supplies for the conference room. In addition we provide health and beauty aids, restroom paper and cleaning supplies, dining room table decorations, snack area implements, and anything else a pilgrim might need for their weekend. Just last fall facing the flu threat we laid in supplies of hand gel and vitamin C lozenges to help keep everyone healthy. Auxiliary team members are extremely helpful in taking inventory of all these supplies and making suggestions to prepare for the next Walk. The only area not covered by this position is Kitchen and food.

During the Walks on Saturday morning we provide book and clothing tables for the pilgrims and clothing for the community before Candlelight. The literature job begins by asking the speakers doing the Grow Through Study talk what books they would like to recommend to the pilgrims. Sometimes other speakers have requests and all are passed on to the book seller. Between those requests and the book seller's knowledgeable suggestions we come up with a table full of great reading material to offer at each Walk. The clothing table has a nice variety of shirts, hats, and sweatshirts in various colors and sizes from which to order. Once the prepaid orders are filled out, we must

I hope this finds people praying and thinking about "Who does God want me to ask on the next Walk?" START NOW FOR FALL! It's never too early to begin. We talked about sponsorship at the Gatherings, so we all know what our part is in sponsoring a pilgrim. (If not, contact Duane Bair and he'll fill you right in!) We play a very large part.

#### **Who is a good candidate for a Walk to Emmaus?**

- ◆ Church leaders (clergy and lay) who still bring vision
- ◆ Church members who are the quiet backbone of the congregation
- ◆ Less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled
- ◆ Christians who are hungering to grow spiritually
- ◆ Persons of all denominations

#### **Who is not a good candidate?**

- ◆ Non-Christians
- ◆ People undergoing emotional crisis
- ◆ People whom you may think need their life "fixed"
- ◆ Persons who are always in search of another "spiritual high"

#### **What are my responsibilities as a Sponsor?**

- ◆ Sponsorship is a one year commitment.
- ◆ To become a Spiritual Companion
- ◆ To encourage and foster continued spiritual growth

#### **Before the Walk**

- ◆ Pray over who to invite.
- ◆ Invite—but don't beg or pester.
- ◆ Fill out the Pilgrim and Sponsor forms.
- ◆ Pray for your pilgrim's openness to God's call to discipleship.
- ◆ Offer to help with whatever may be in the way of your pilgrim.
- ◆ Arrange for 10-12 personal agape letters from significant people.
- ◆ Pick up your pilgrim on Thursday and chauffeur them to the church.

#### **During the Walk**

- ◆ Attend Sponsor's Hour Thursday evening.
- ◆ Ensure that the Pilgrim's agape letters get to the mailroom
- ◆ Support your Pilgrim with personal prayer and by being a part of the 72 hour prayer vigil.
- ◆ Attend Candlelight on Saturday evening.
- ◆ Attend Closing on Sunday afternoon.
- ◆ Carry your Pilgrim's things to the car and chauffeur them home after closing.

#### **After the Walk**

- ◆ Bring your Pilgrim to their first Gathering.
- ◆ Be sure they get involved with a Fourth Day Group.
- ◆ Keep your Pilgrim informed of opportunities to serve on future Walks.
- ◆ Encourage attendance at monthly Gatherings with you.

## LITTLE PRAYER, GIANT PRIZE

(From "The Prayer of Jabez" by Bruce Wilkinson)

(Part 3)

To come in a future issue. Stay tuned!

**There is much more to this little prayer than just the words we read in the Bible. If you haven't been following so far, check out the back issues of The Rainbow Connection. And stay tuned for the next parts to come.**

**This little prayer is AWESOME in its meaning!**

### It Feels Like Spring!

As I write this, March has come in like a lamb and we have no doubt turned our attention to thinking about warm weather ahead. The Spring Women's Walk is coming up really soon (April 15-18) and I see smiles on faces all around. The coldness of winter is subsiding. My hope is that you, too, have new hope for the spring. Easter is upon us and we serve a resurrected Savior with great joy in our hearts. Let us be glad!

With preparations almost complete with the conference room team and auxiliary team, I wish to remind you of our responsibility when it comes to the Walks. We have been charged by the Upper Room with some important guidelines that they have developed as best practices over the last thirty years. One of those is that we should have a minimum of twenty pilgrims signed up two weeks before the Walk for it to be a go. It is important that we follow this guideline. We can accommodate thirty-six pilgrims max for a Walk, of course, but twenty is the minimum. With regrets, we have had to cancel the Men's Walk for lack of the twenty minimum pilgrims signed up.

There will be a special presentation during Candlelight on March 17th at 7:30 PM. Please plan on attending and make sure that all the new fourth day members of our community are there as well. This is one of the important traditions that helps keep us connected as a community. Please come on April 17th to the First Baptist Church, South Haven, MI. The KAE website has directions and a map for your convenience. I look forward to seeing you there. GLYASDI!  
Mike Turner, Community Lay Director KAE

tally them, communicate with our supplier, and pass out the orders at the next Gathering or mail them to those who paid for shipping.

All of these are ways of serving the Emmaus Community in this board position. Being the board servant devoted to supplies, literature, and clothing is a rewarding job. It involves attitudes of hospitality, creativity, organization, and patience. Having a large van in which to transport cases of paper goods has been helpful too! Some on-the-job training would make this an easier position to assume when this term is over in 2012. If this sound like a good match for your gifts and talents, please join us for work on this committee and consider the board position for your future. I would be happy to talk with anyone about it and help train for the future.

Char Pippin

Supplies, Literature, and Clothing

## EMMAUS NEEDS YOU!!!

The new Auxiliary Team still has spots open for the upcoming Walk. Saturday is a loooooong day for the regular auxiliary team members, so it has been decided that we need 2 additional people to assist in getting all the candles put away after the prayer service and to dish out ice cream following the pilgrims' reflection time. This way the regular team members can get a good night's sleep to arise early Sunday morning to get the church ready for "regular" Sunday School and Worship Services for the church congregation. Remember, we are guests in our host church and don't want to interfere with their regular activities.

These new worker responsibilities are a great way to serve, especially if you live close by the church where the Walk is taking place. God will add to your blessing for your service.

Please contact Rocky Starland at [resjr50@i2k.com](mailto:resjr50@i2k.com) or call 269-637-7719 to sign up now. Thanks!

# **FIRE!**

## **What to do?**

During a recent ecumenical gathering, a secretary rushed in shouting, “The building is on fire!”

The United Methodists gathered in a corner and prayed.

The Baptists cried, “We’re in the water?”

The Quakers quietly praised God for the blessings that fire brings.

The Lutherans posted a notice on the door, declaring that fire was evil.

The Roman Catholics passed the plate to cover the damage.

The Jews posted symbols on the doors, hoping the fire would pass.

The Congregationalists shouted, “Every man for himself!”

The Fundamentalists proclaimed, “It’s the vengeance of God.”

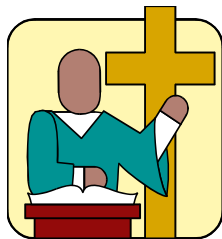
The Presbyterians appointed a chairperson who was to appoint a committee to look into the matter and submit a written report.

The secretary grabbed a fire extinguisher and put the fire out!

## **BOARD POSITIONS**

Community Lay Director	Mike Turner 269-207-6150
Assistant Lay Director	John “Mud” Pippin 616-534-4873
Community Spiritual Directors	Mona Joslyn, 269-665-9291
	Glenn Litchfield 269-746-4023
Secretary	Donna Bauman 269-277-8686
Treasurer	John “Mud” Pippin 616-534-4873
Auxiliary	Bill & Jan Spence 269-496-7664
Chrysalis Representative	Mandana Nordbrock 269-720-6152
Gatherings	Brian Casey 269-621-5106
KAE T-shirts Etc.	Char Pippin 616-534-4873
Kitchen	Jan Fess 269-496-7148
Literature and Supplies	Char Pippin 616-534-4873
Music and Entertainment	Brian Casey 269-621-5106
Newsletter and Publicity	Vicki Davis 269-623-3178
Assistant for Newsletter	Donna Bauman 269-277-8686
Nominations	
Outside Agape	Marj Haney 269-646-9582
Prayer Vigil	Cynda Carson 269-674-3507
Registrar	Rae Williams 269-357-4905
Set-up and Clean-up	Bill & Jan Spence 269-496-7664
Site Selection	Wilma Seckel 269-324-0128
Sponsorship Hour, Candlelight, Close	Mike Turner 269-207-6150
Training	Duane Bair 517-238-4181
Database & Website	Rocky Starland 269-637-7719
Document Keeper	Everett Harpole
Team Selection Committee	Brian Casey, Vicki Davis, Wilma Seckel, Mike Turner, Ann Root, Ray Marshall, Patti Jernagan
TBD	Dennis Williams 269-357-4905

Remember, laughter is good medicine!!! 😊



## OUR EMMAUS WALKS

The question has been raised, and justly so, as to what is the conduction of business in our Emmaus Community. We have seen communities around us close as the members could not sustain them. We need to look closely at our own community to see what changes we might need to make to survive.

The first question we need to ask is: Who are we serving? Are we serving God—or our own ego? We each need to search our hearts for the answer to that question.

We serve God in and through our community. What does that mean? Are we faithful servants in the purpose of Emmaus? What are we doing about Sponsorship? *Are we sponsoring so our community will grow?* Take a look at the form for registration. Are you reading it before you check off your answers? Do you understand your responsibilities as a sponsor? Are you praying for that pilgrim before, during, and after the Walk? For at least a year you are a mentor to that pilgrim! You need to get them involved in a Fourth Day Group. That means also are YOU in a Fourth Day Group?

You are responsible for seeing to it that your pilgrim gets to that first Gathering to get them started in being a part of the community. You are an example to them as Christ is to us. If you don't go to Gatherings, why should they feel compelled to go?

All these things are ways that we build and sustain our Emmaus Community. We need to model what we say and walk the walk we talk. In short, we need to get ourselves out of the way and allow God to use each one of us to grow His kingdom in love!

### Kalamazoo Area Gatherings

2010

**April 15th-18th—Women's Walk—South Haven FBC**

**April 17th—7:30 PM—Presentation and Candlelight**

April 24th—South Haven First Baptist—South Haven

May 22nd—Westwood UMC—Kalamazoo

June 19th Westwood UMC—Kalamazoo

July 17th—Westwood UMC—Kalamazoo

August 21st—Hartford UMC—Hartford

September 18th—Hartford UMC—Hartford

**October 14th-17th—Men's Walk—Coldwater**

**October 21st-24th—Women's Walk—Coldwater**

October 30th—Coldwater UMC—Coldwater

November 20th—Hartford UMC—Hartford

December—No Gathering (as always)

**Board meetings at 3:30 PM and Gatherings at 5:00PM**

**Chrysalis Flight—Girls—April 23rd thru 25th**

Please bring: your heart open to God,  
a dish to pass, and your potluck plate and silverware.



## SPONSORSHIP & TRAINING

According to the struggles we, as the Kalamazoo Emmaus Community, have been going through the last few years, it has been concluded that our sponsorship activities require reinforcement on everyone's part.

Prior to Candlelight on **April 17th** at **7:30 PM** at the First Baptist Church in South Haven a presentation on the "Keys to Good Sponsorship" will be presented in the sanctuary.

If you, as a supporting member of the Kalamazoo Emmaus Community, want to help keep our community more viable, please join us. The program will serve you well whether you are a new member or a member of long standing.

Remember what your Emmaus cross says? In case you have forgotten, it says **CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU**. Your Emmaus community is also counting on you.

Please don't be complacent! Help our community grow through good sponsorship.

**CAN WE COUNT ON YOUR GOOD SPONSORSHIP?** Start praying now for who God would have you sponsor in the fall. It's never too early to begin!

GLYASDI,  
Duane Bair

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE PILGRIMS

As of March 27th these women are signed up for the Spring Women's Walk to Emmaus:

Joan Melvin  
KeLinda Scott  
Judith Custer  
Julie Hammond  
Becky Hays  
Cori Cypret  
Sue Kovats-Bell  
Michele Ryder  
Rachel Miller  
Angela Jones  
Carole Sternaman  
Patsy Hoekstra  
Wanda Yoder  
Laura Moore  
Susan Kadwell  
Luanne Reeves  
Teresa Martin  
Deanne Crane  
Jayne Arver  
Tara Pomeroy  
Joyceann Allen

Let's all support them by surrounding them with love and prayers as they prepare to take their Walk. And please don't forget to sign up for a slot on the prayer vigil as well to pray for them while they are on their Walk.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE CONFERENCE ROOM TEAM

LAY DIRECTOR—Sheryl Crosby

ALDs—Jill Chaffee, Sue Tyler,  
Judy Issette, Sharon Irons

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS—Shelly Wisdom-Long,  
Jean Smith, Mary Beth Rhyne

MUSIC DIRECTORS—Marj Haney, Miranda Haney

TABLE LEADERS— Sharen Dinkens, Annette Sutka,  
Kathy Jennings, Jeri Baker,  
Karen Thompson, Lynn Swart

ASSISTANT TABLE LEADERS—Kathy Spence,  
Kristen Hossink, Darcy Osborn,  
Pam Rhodes, Ashlee Williams,  
Jennifer Smith

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE—Vicki Davis

PRAYER ROOM—Barb Miller, Linda Potter

Also, please pray for the Men's team that worked so hard to get ready for this Walk that God would strengthen them and sustain them and prepare them for the Fall Men's Walk.

What are your priorities?  
Read Haggai 1-2 and then.....  
“Give careful thought to your ways.”

### **A Note From The Editor**



Dear Beloved Community Members,

I love you all very much and it hurts me to have to chastise you but, with Christ as my example, I must. God chastises those He loves and now I must say words to you that may hurt you. However, please consider them carefully.

The Men's Walk has had to be cancelled—again. Why? With over 1200 Emmaus community members why can we not bring 36 pilgrims—or even the minimum of 20 pilgrims—to a Walk? Are we even TRYING to sponsor pilgrims? Or are we living our lives to suit ourselves because we are just so into our own activities and our own pursuits that we have no time for others? Do we even CARE about what God commanded us to do? He told us to make disciples for Him. He didn't SUGGEST it, he COMMANDED it!!!

Consider that Christ, knowing what agony He was facing, walked in love to the cross and all the suffering that lay ahead for Him—including total separation from His Father for three days. He gave EVERYTHING for us!!! Can we not give Him our time and our devotion by serving for one entire weekend? Can we not love our brothers and sisters enough to give of ourselves to bring them the glorious gift of time spent apart with Christ at an Emmaus weekend? Can we not take on the responsibility of guiding and nurturing a pilgrim for ONE year of the many God has given us to make them a faithful disciple of Christ? Think prayerfully about it.

I am in God's service,  
**Vicki Davis**

## **Agape: brotherly love (verb)**

I've heard Emmaus described as three days of Christmas. The continuous flowing of gifts of agape bring home the message GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO I! The entire weekend is filled with anonymous agape love, from the meals which are lovingly prepared, to the beds that are made, the bathrooms cleaned and filled with necessities left behind, the continuous prayers at the church, within the community, and around the world, to the loving thoughts and gifts found on our pillows and tables. There has been some confusion as to who can give agape. **Agape gifts can be donated by individuals, small groups, churches, Sunday School classes, and communities. What is most important is that these gifts are given anonymously—please do not put individual names on them.** The name and/or location of your small group, your church, your city, or just Kalamazoo Emmaus Community would be fine to put as the giver. You may also simply put "God Loves You And So Do I." Please bag or box your items of agape and mark the number contained on the outside. You may specify what talk you would like items used for or leave that up to the weekend servers. Deliver your agape gifts as soon as possible to the mailroom for distribution during the Walk.

TALK ONE: Priority

TALK TWO: Prevenient Grace

TALK THREE: Priesthood of all Believers

TALK FOUR: Justifying Grace

TALK FIVE: Life of Piety

TALK SIX: Grow Through Study

TALK SEVEN: Means of Grace

TALK EIGHT: Christian Action

TALK NINE: Obstacles to Grace

TALK TEN: Discipleship

TALK ELEVEN: Changing Our World

TALK TWELVE: Sanctifying Grace

TALK THIRTEEN: Body of Christ

TALK FOURTEEN: Perseverance

TALK FIFTEEN: Fourth Day

Quantities: **Pilgrims:** 36 pieces (take home bags only)

**Conference Room:** 60 pieces

**Meal Time:** 80 pieces

**Pillow Agape:** 80 pieces

## **GREETINGS, BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST!**

My name is Rocky Starland. I took my Walk to Emmaus in April of 1993 in Battle Creek and sat at the table of Thomas.

It gives me great pleasure and blessings to let you know that I will be working with Wilma Seckel and Don Jenks as Auxiliary Directors for the Spring Women's Walk to be held at my church, First Baptist Church (FBC) of South Haven. Many of you have worked on the auxiliary team in the past and know of the blessings and fellowship that comes with your servanthood. For those who haven't yet, I encourage you to step up and partake. You won't regret it!

The auxiliary team is made up of approximately 45 people, each with a specific job to do for part or all of the weekend. Some of it is great fun, some is very meaningful, and I won't lie to you, some is very exhausting. And the auxiliary team isn't counted in with the Kitchen Crew! But we have a wonderful, spirit-filled weekend, sacrificing of our time and talents for the sake of others, so that they may experience God's grace for the 72 hours while they are there.

Join me, with the other auxiliary team members, to share God's grace. Come—laugh, pray, and comfort each other April 15-18 for the Women's Walk. For the whole weekend—or even for a few hours—your service is valued. Call me, Rocky Starland, at 269-637-7719 or e-mail me at [rcsjr50@i2k.com](mailto:rcsjr50@i2k.com) to volunteer.

God Loves You And So Do I ~ Roc

### **Alright, let's talk money...**

Talk about pushing comfort zones! Why is it that money is often what stops us from approaching a potential pilgrim? The board has discussed this issue and found that there are many different thoughts on this. Some folks offer to pay the deposit and have the pilgrim pay the rest when they come for the Walk. Other folks do the reverse, asking the pilgrims to make the initial commitment and pay the deposit then the sponsor pays the remainder. Some churches view this as training and have a fund set up to send one pilgrim to each Walk as a way of strengthening their church. In some churches, a portion of this is funded by the missions committee. I know of some churches that have so many who want to go and can't afford it, that members of the congregation came forward and contributed. Don't let money stop you from furthering the kingdom of God. Where there is a will, God will provide a way!