

REFLECTIONS OF A FATHER

By Charles (Pop) Avery

I can give you life, but only you can live it.
I can teach you things, but only you can learn.
I can give you directions, but I can't be there to lead you.
I can allow you freedom, but I can't account for it.
I can take you to church, but only you can believe.
I can teach you right from wrong, but the choice will always
be yours.
I can buy you beautiful clothes, but I can't make you beautiful
inside.
I can offer you advice, but only you can accept it.
I can teach you to share, but only you can be unselfish.
I can teach you respect, but only you can show honor.
I can advise you about friends, but I can't choose them for you.
I can advise you about sex, but I can't keep you pure.
I can teach you the facts of life, but I can't build your reputation.
I can tell you about alcohol, but only you can choose to be sober.
I can warn you about drugs, but only you can say "no."
I can tell you about lofty goals, but I can't achieve them for you.
I can teach you about kindness, but I can't force you
to be gracious.
I can warn you about sins, but I can't make you moral.
I can pray for you, but only you can choose God.
I can teach you about Jesus, but only you can
choose Him as Lord.
I can tell you how to live, but I can't give you eternal life.
I can love you unconditionally all of my life.....and I will!

This was written by a loving earthly father. How much more do these things apply to our awesome Heavenly Father? Do you really know how very much He loves you? Think about it!

The Rainbow Connection
Kalamazoo Area Emmaus Newsletter
www.kalamazooemmaus.org

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<http://www.kalamazooemmaus.org/>

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**DO YOU TRULY WANT TO KNOW ALL THAT OUR SPECIAL
GOD IS TO EACH ONE OF US? Then try this exercise.**

GOD IS TO ME.....

A	Alive, Above everything, Abounding in love, Against evil, our Assurance, Almighty, Abiding, Attentive, Always present, All knowing, Avenger, Awesome, All powerful, Abundance, Alpha, Answers prayer, Advisor, Author of faith
B	Bread of life,
C	Compassionate
D	Divine,
E	Eternal,
F	Friend,
G	Glorious,
H	Holy,
I	Infinite,
J	Just,
K	King of Kings,
L	Lord of Lords,
M	Master,
N	Never failing,
O	Omnipotent,
P	Precious,
Q	our Quickening (life),
R	Righteous,
S	Savior,
T	Triumphant,
U	Unfailing,
V	Victorious,
W	Word of life,
X	
Y	Yahweh,
Z	Zealous,

I expounded on the letter A for you and gave you a starting place for all the other letters (except X because I haven't thought of one for that yet.) Now it's your turn. As you sit quietly reading your Bible, how many words can you find that describe our awesome God? Pass it on!

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 on the website. And stay tuned for the next parts to come.

This little prayer is AWESOME in its meaning!



On Palm Sunday, a five-year-old boy had to stay home with a sore throat and missed church.

When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm branches.

When the boy asked what the branches were for, his mother told him, “People held them over Jesus’ head as He walked by.”

“Wouldn’t you know it!” the boy fumed. “The one Sunday I don’t go to church, and He shows up!”

~Columnist Smiley Anders
Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate



MATTHEW 5:1-16 from THE MESSAGE

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to Him, the committed, climbed with Him. Arriving at a quiet place, He sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what He said:

“You’re blessed when you are at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and His rule.

“You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

“You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

“You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

“You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

“You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

“You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

“You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

“Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out and speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, I do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

“Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You’ve lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

“Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We’re going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don’t think I’m going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I’m putting you on a light stand. Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.”

PERFECT TIMING

Discover the Key to Answered Prayer

By Pat Robertson

There are times in the lives of all believers when prayers seem to go unanswered. We wonder why God hasn't responded to our pleas. Or has He, but we don't realize it? In Galatians 4:4-5 Paul says, "When the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." (NASB)

For centuries before the birth of Christ, people were crying out for their deliverance through God's Anointed One. For years, it seemed that God ignored their pleas. But He had a plan! During that time, the Roman Empire rose, law and civilization were established, the roads and language brought cultures together—all creating the perfect conditions for spreading the Gospel.

Remember, Paul says, "In the fullness of time, God sent forth His Son." The people's prayers were answered *in the fullness of time*. Prayers were answered when everything was ready. It was as though God said, "Okay, now it's time to answer your prayers." Now what does that mean for us today?

First, we need to understand that it has to be the right time—it has to be in God's timing. Oftentimes, we are praying and crying out to God for an answer *immediately*. But God says it's not time yet. He says, *in the fullness of time*, when the time is right, then you will receive your answer.

Second, we must realize that sometimes prayers are not answered because we are not ready yet. One day we will be ready, but God says *not yet*. There may be burdens that He wants us to carry so that our muscles will be strengthened. Our minds and spirits need to be strengthened to accommodate these things.

Furthermore, people may misconstrue God's signs. If the prayers of some people who are "in sin" are answered, they would take those answers as signals that God is putting a stamp of approval on what they're doing. However, God does not reward sinful behavior. He may not answer them while they remain in sin, because they could think the way to receive God's blessing is to continue on in that behavior. Those people are not ready to receive the blessing of God.

Third, we have to believe that God's way is the best way. Sometimes God says, "I've got something much better for you." God does not want to keep good things from us. Rather, He keeps us from settling for second best. We often become frustrated because God doesn't give us what we want when we want it! But waiting for God's perfect plan and His perfect timing is always best.

BOARD POSITIONS

Community Lay Director
Assistant Lay Director
Community Spiritual Directors

Secretary
Treasurer
Auxiliary
Chrysalis Representative
Gatherings
KAE T-shirts Etc.
Kitchen
Literature and Supplies
Music and Entertainment
Newsletter and Publicity
Assistant for Newsletter
Nominations
Outside Agape
Prayer Vigil
Registrar
Set-up and Clean-up
Site Selection
Sponsorship Hour, Candlelight, Close
Training
Database & Website
Document Keeper
Team Selection Committee

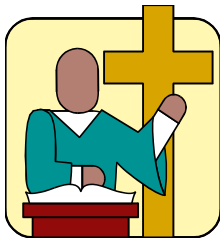
TBD

Mike Turner 269-207-6150
John "Mud" Pippin 616-534-4873
Mona Joslyn, 269-665-9291
Glenn Litchfield 269-746-4023
Donna Bauman 269-277-8686
John "Mud" Pippin 616-534-4873
Bill & Jan Spence 269-496-7664
Mandana Nordbrock 269-720-6152
Brian Casey 269-621-5106
Char Pippin 616-534-4873
Jan Fess 269-496-7148
Char Pippin 616-534-4873
Brian Casey 269-621-5106
Vicki Davis 269-623-3178
Donna Bauman 269-277-8686

Marj Haney 269-646-9582
Cynda Carson 269-674-3507
Rae Williams 269-357-4905
Bill & Jan Spence 269-496-7664
Wilma Seckel 269-324-0128
Mike Turner 269-207-6150
Duane Bair 517-238-4181
Rocky Starland 269-637-7719
Everett Harpole
Brian Casey, Vicki Davis,
Wilma Seckel, Mike Turner,
Ann Root, Ray Marshall,
Patti Jernagan
Dennis Williams 269-357-4905

“Love your neighbor as yourself—
The rest is commentary.”

Rabbi Stephen Weiss



(PERFECT TIMING continued)

What are you asking of the Lord? What is your heart's desire? If God isn't answering your prayers, could it mean that it's not the right time? Is it because you're not ready? Or is it because God has something much better planned for you?

His Word says that if you trust Him and open your mouth wide, He will fill it. He will take the burden from you. And He will bring you the desires of your heart.

In the fullness of time, when the time is right, then you will receive your answer.

But there is a critically important condition to this; He will give it to you in *His* time. And when that time comes for His blessing, it will be absolutely perfect timing.

His timing, His plan—they are beyond anything we could imagine on our own. Rely on Him and enjoy the rich blessings He has planned just for you!

Kalamazoo Area Gatherings

2010

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.



The Serenity Prayer

**God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change,
the courage to change the things I can,
and the wisdom to know the difference.**

**Living one day at a time,
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace,
Taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is,
not as I would have it,
Trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His will,
That I may be reasonably happy in this life,
and supremely happy with Him forever
in the next.**

Amen.

By Reinhold Neibuhr

FOURTH DAY COVENANT GROUPS

For the benefit of the ladies finishing Walk #79, it is suggested you tell your sponsor you want to be involved in a 4th Day group, and ask them to guide and help you get started.

You might recall during your Walk hearing a talk on PERSEVERANCE which introduced the concept of the Fourth Day Group Reunion as a way of maintaining contact with Christians who share the vision of life directed wholly to God through Christ. (Galatians 6:9) The covenant group is a very important means of persevering in the Life in Grace.

Throughout the Walk to Emmaus you learned that a life in grace means living a life wholly directed to Christ. You learned that piety, study, and action are the legs that support a life in grace. You cannot achieve the Life in Grace on your own and expect to be successful. You need support. After all, Christ chose twelve disciples to accompany Him and He sent them out two by two to witness and support each other along the way.

The New Testament calls this special fellowship Koinonia—fellowship among those who share a common knowledge of Christ and want to grow in that knowledge by sharing with others in a life of grace.

Luke states in Acts 2:42, “They devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers.” This is what you did during the Emmaus weekend and what you need to continue to do in order to live the life in grace that you want and need.

The whole Walk to Emmaus weekend is directed toward the hope that once you have experienced the Christian ideal, you will meet in special Christian communities and share how Christ is working in your life. This is the Fourth Day Group. The groups are the greatest treasure of the Emmaus movement in that they help you to persevere in the life of grace and hold onto those valuable aspects of the weekend as you return to your life world.

The Fourth Day Covenant Group is a group of two or more people who meet on a regular basis, and who wish to continue their journey of life in grace through a lifestyle of piety, study, and action. The group should meet at a time and place convenient to all members. It may be a home, office, church, or even a restaurant. Any convenient place with privacy and a comfortable atmosphere will work. The setting and meeting time do not matter as much as the regularity with which you meet. Regular attendance is the strength of any group.

In Christ I Remain,
Duane Bair

WELCOME NEW COMMUNITY MEMBERS (formerly known as pilgrims)

Angela Jones	Kelly Backus
Becky Hays	Laura Moore
Carole Sternaman	Luanne Reeves
Catherine Freeland	Marcia Brown
Cindy Closson	Michele Ryder
Cori Cypret	Nancy Oliver
Darlene Chambers	Patsy Hoekstra
Deanne Crane	Patty Bevins
Denise Sikora	Rachel Miller
Jacki Ford	Sally Harrington
Jayne Arver	Sue DeMond
Joan Melvin	Sue Kovats-Bell
Joyce Allen	Susan Kadwell
Judith Custer	Tara Pomeroy
Julie Hammond	Teresa Martin
Kelinda Scott	Wanda Yoder

If you took this Walk and your name does not appear on this list, it is because I did not have your name in time to publish with the rest. We wanted to have a complete list to welcome you all, but are always open to last minute registrations. **WELCOME, ALL!**

**THANKS TO 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

Please begin praying NOW for the fall Walks. Lay Directors Amber Herman and Jim Slater are already preparing to assemble their teams. Are you praying about the pilgrim(s) YOU will sponsor in October?

**Worry pulls tomorrow's clouds
over today's sunshine**

**A Note From
The Editor**



HALLELEUJAH!!!

Though we didn't have enough men signed up for a Walk this spring, the women came and the Walk proceeded—with unconditional agape love. So we were successful, right? Well, not exactly. Emmaus isn't just about having Walks. Are you surprised? While the Walks are wonderful and they fire us up, they are only the beginning of what Emmaus is really about. Emmaus is about drawing our focus from the world to the Lord and making disciples for Him. We are to sponsor and mentor our pilgrims into service for the King. We are training leaders who go back to their home churches and their home communities and pass on the message that God has given us. We are to follow the command of Christ—GO and make disciples. That means that each one of us who has become a disciple is to then make disciples of others. That is how the church grew in the time of Christ and that is how we are to serve Him here and now.

To the new community members we say a hearty WELCOME to the Emmaus community. We encourage you to participate to the fullest extent possible for you. Fellowship at Emmaus is as wonderful as your Walk has been. You will meet old friends from your Walk and make many new friends from the community—some of whom took their Walk many years ago. And please, feel free to take the sponsorship training to heart and start praying now about who to sponsor on a Walk come October.

I am in God's service,
Vicki Davis

“THE NEXT GENERATION”

As this copy of the Rainbow Connection goes to press, Walk #79 is in the throes of winding up. Gosh, it’s hard to believe I said that, because it isn’t true. The Walk is just beginning to lift off the ground! It is very evident that the many facets of quality sponsorship were influential in this Walk. I understand many of you want to go back to your church and community and tell everyone what a wonderful experience you had and what you want to do about it. Let’s think about this a minute.

Did you know that sponsorship is the first act of agape before a Walk even begins. Your sponsor began praying to the Holy Spirit about you and for you. You see, how sponsorship is handled really affects you and your experience.

Good sponsorship undergirds the entire weekend with sacrificial love on behalf of each pilgrim. Heaven is where the act of agape including prayer, agape letters, presence at Candlelight and closing, and follow-up, to mention a few, are so important to be fully committed to by the sponsor.

Good sponsorship is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus movement that is fulfilling to its true purpose—the development of Christian leaders and the renewal of the church ministry. The strength of any Emmaus community is a direct result of that community’s recruiting practices. For these reasons we need to spend a considerable amount of time in concentrated 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. We must put ourselves in the position of allowing God to work through us as Jesus did while praying in the garden. As we spend time in prayer, we need to empty ourselves of self and be filled with God’s instructions, God’s timing, and God’s person to sponsor.

Our openness to God enables us to become God’s instruments in furthering divine will through the Walk to Emmaus. Our openness to God allows us to receive God’s instructions. This means we must listen, even when the instructions are not what we want to hear. Our openness sensitizes us to how God wants to renew and revitalize the church, using all the aspects (sponsorship included) of the Emmaus experience.

When we pray we should call the people we are praying for by name. God called people by name (Noah, Abraham, Esther, and others.) Jesus also called the individual disciples by name. Sponsorship is the most vital task in supporting the Walk to Emmaus.

Shalom,
Duane Bair

YOU TOOK MY PLACE! **THIS SHOULD WAKE US UP!**

One day a man went to visit a church. He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near him and the driver got out and said, “I always park there. You took my place!”

The visitor went inside for Sunday School, found an empty seat, and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, “That’s my seat. You took my place!” The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member of the congregation walked up to him and said, “That’s where I always sit. You took my place!” The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still he said nothing.

Later, as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandaled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed the change in him and called out, “What happened to you?” The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns and a tear fell from his eye, “I took your place.....”

When you read this, say a prayer. That’s all you have to do. This is powerful. Share this and see what happens.

Maybe—just maybe—we can get the world to start thinking of who took our place.....

JOHN WESLEY’S RULE

Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.