

LEXINGTON Emmaus COMMUNITY



Lexington, KY

"Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked with us by the way ... ?"

May 2004

The Equal Commitment Rule

Each year, the Lexington Emmaus Community Board of Directors signs an agreement with the Upper Room Walk to Emmaus which includes, among other covenants, an agreement to abide by the "**Equal Commitment Rule**." This rule states that "husbands and wives should make an equal commitment to participate." How is this to be interpreted? In the first place, the rule does not imply that Emmaus is primarily intended for married persons. Single persons are just as welcome to participate in Emmaus. The rule does reflect upon a concern and a hope about the effect of Emmaus on marriages and families.

First, the equal commitment rule was designed to guard against the possibility that the Emmaus experience might become a separating influence in a marriage. The rule is from our Cursillo heritage and based on years of experience. Emmaus can be an opportunity for new or renewed commitments to new life directions which one's spouse may not understand or appreciate if they have not shared the Emmaus experience. Failure to follow this rule does not always result in marital tensions; however, the Emmaus movement must guard against this possibility while doing everything it can to strengthen marriages.

Second, when properly applied, Emmaus can often help to strengthen the spiritual bond of a marriage and the family. Therefore, sponsoring a married couple requires approaching **both** husband and wife together and encouraging them, through discussion and prayer, to make an equal commitment to participate. This also insures that the Emmaus movement and, more importantly, their church benefits from the family's commitment to Christ.

Third, obedient observation of the rule results in the increased participation of many grateful husbands and wives. In many cases, these spouses did not initially desire to attend an Emmaus Walk but eventually did so in order to make it possible for their spouse to participate. While their initial motivation for going on a Walk may not have been ideal, more often than not, they came to the realization during the weekend that the Walk was meant for them and spoke directly to their hearts.

The equal commitment rule does not mean that one spouse cannot attend a Walk if their spouse steadfastly refuses. The rule is wisdom, not law. It represents a practical ideal to which the Lexington Emmaus Community is committed and a goal to which sponsors can strive to achieve. The Board is empowered to make reasonable exceptions and often does. In some cases, spouses have never shared their religious lives and have learned to deal with this in the reality of their marriage. One of the purposes of the Walk to Emmaus is to expand participants' spiritual lives, deepen their discipleship, and rekindle their gifts as Christian leaders in their church and communities. One cannot expect the non-Christian spouse of a potential Emmaus pilgrim to benefit from the Walk and neither does the Board; however, in other cases, the persevering efforts of a sponsor through personal commitment and prayer, **often over a year or more**, have allowed an initially reluctant spouse to change his or her mind and attend a Walk... sometimes with unexpected and exciting results.

Are you ready to be a persevering sponsor?

(Adapted from the Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus.)

A CALL TO ALL CLERGY!

I would like to involve as many as possible of our ordained clergy and seminary students with our Lexington Emmaus Community teams. If you are reading this, I know you have been on an Emmaus Walk or a Chrysalis Flight and I urgently need you! I know many of you, but there are still many I have not met. I'm sure many of you would love to be part of our teams; Spiritual Directors and Assistant Spiritual Directors are desperately needed! Now is the time for you to respond. Please call me as soon as possible at (859) 585-3646.

Fred Wiles, Spiritual Director
Lexington Emmaus Community

P.S. Our next Men's Walk is October 14-17 and our next Women's Walk is October 21-24.

Prayers for Other Communities

Please pray for these other communities having Walks in the month of May:

April 30 - May 3

Brisbane West , Queensland Australia,
Women's #31

May 6-8

Mountain Top, PA, Boys' Chrysalis #8

May 6-9

Kwazulu Natal, S. Africa, Women's #57

May 13-16

North Indiana Emmaus Men's #175
SE Georgia Dayspring Boys' Chrysalis #7
Central Illinois Emmaus Women's #173
Lynchburg/Central VA Women's #44
San Diego Emmaus Men's #77

May 20-23

Reynoldsburg Ohio Emmaus Women's #59
SE Georgia Dayspring Girls' Chrysalis #8
North Mississippi Crossroads Girls' Chrysalis
San Diego Emmaus Women's #78

May 27-30

North Mississippi Crossroads Boys' Chrysalis

Men's Walk #83 ... Two Rooms

It has always amazed me how on a Walk To Emmaus, the 'leaving' of one room greatly affects the 'entering' of another. On Saturday morning, when Pilgrims and Team Members crowd into that small candle lit chapel, they are more or less strangers, acquaintances. Inside that Holy Place, they have stood 'naked' sharing and bearing sinful burdens carried for years, and then releasing those heavy loads. As they exit, no longer strangers, they are now true Christian friends... brothers and sisters. For a Christian friend is someone who knows you, supports you, shares with you, hurts with you, rejoices with you, stands in the same shoes as you and knowing all these things... loves you. When people on a Walk to Emmaus enter THAT room, they emerge a different person.

Later in the evening, when entering a different candle lit chapel, filled with voices in song, one cannot help remembering the 'leaving' of the OTHER chapel for all of these friends have entered and emerged, all have stood at the foot of the cross and unshackled guilt and shame. The 'entering' of this room could not be as sweet, the candles would not burn as bright, the voices not as resonating, the faces of the crowd would not seem as loving and rejoicing if it were not for the 'leaving' of the other room.

As always, God was truly present during Walk 83, especially in those two rooms.

DeColores,
Tim Hamilton

Women's Walk #84

"Let Your Light Shine" was the theme of the spring Walk held April 1-4. While cold weather prevailed over the Asbury Seminary campus, the awesome power of the Holy Spirit warmed, changed and renewed hearts in a mighty way. There simply are no coincidences! Only "God-incidences". Twenty-six pilgrims discovered and rediscovered "Jesus Loves Me". Miracles truly happened. When illness and family deaths prevented some from serving, others stepped forward to fill the gap. A twenty year estranged relationship was restored, marriages healed and made stronger and servanthood modeled through a foot washing. When the electricity of the church went out in the place we ate, only the kitchen retained its power! The entire weekend saw faithful servants unselfishly fulfilling duties in humility, dedication and being the body of Christ. Thank you community for your prayers, attendance, agape and the team members for being true servants! Welcome, pilgrims, as new community members!

De Colores,
Nancy Clayton

MEN'S WALK #83



WOMEN'S WALK #84





LEXINGTON EMMAUS WALK SCHEDULE

2004

Men's Walk #85, Oct. 14 - 17
Women's Walk #86, Oct. 21 - 24.

Registration forms should be sent to: Lexington Emmaus Community, ATTN: Registrar, P.O. Box 23554, Lexington KY 40523-3554

Registration forms may be obtained from the above address or from our web site at: <http://www.lexingtonemmaus.org>. Information about Walks being held by other communities this month is located inside this newsletter.

Newsletter address changes and phone number changes should be emailed to don@wrightsrealm.com or call (859)224-3736. Returned mail is an extra expense for the community.



LEXINGTON EMMAUS GATHERING

Friday, May 7, 2004 at 7:00 PM

**Andover Campus, 1st UMC
4131 Todds Rd
Lexington, KY**

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ for a special time of worship, communion and fellowship. Remember, we will have a pre-gathering time for fellowship at 7 PM and begin worship promptly at 7:30 PM.

Please remember to bring a snack to share during the fellowship time. Child care is provided. We want to provide the children with appropriate snacks, so if you bring a child please also bring along an appropriate snack for them to share. A children's snack table will be set up just outside the child care room.

Have you responded to God's gifts to you with a special gift to the Community?

Non-Profit
US Postage Paid
Lexington KY
Permit No. 722

LEXINGTON EMMAUS COMMUNITY
2441 LaCross Ct.
Lexington KY 40514
Return Service Requested