

EMMAUS

LEXINGTON COMMUNITY



Lexington, KY

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

September 2006

GATHERINGS

Toni Roberts shared her testimony with us at the August Gathering. This is the edited Reader's Digest version.

I'm really excited to be here tonight. Many of you were praying for me during my Emmaus Walk and over the past year. Thank you! Secondly, I'm excited to be here today because last year odds were that I would not be here today.

It started in early June of 2005 when I was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma, a malignant cancer of the pancreas. My husband, Bill, and I are both health professional and we knew pancreatic cancer carries a very poor prognosis.

On the drive home from the diagnosis, we were both stunned. Neither of us was saying a word. Finally I said, "This is the part where we cry". Both of us sobbed, all the way around New Circle Road. I was crying and praying, "God tell me what is going to happen in my life. Live or Die? I need to know, and I need to know now". I was just emphatic because if cancer was going to consume my life, I needed to know now, so I could go home and prepare my kids.

We reached the 87 Avon exit on the interstate when I looked up, against a bright blue sky there was the most magnificent rainbow I'd ever seen. It went from the earth on one side of the interstate to the earth on the other side. Every color was brilliant and it stayed in the sky the whole way home. At the 103 exit, there was a double rainbow. I stopped crying and sat mesmerized by this rainbow when Bill said, "Well there's your answer". I felt like it was – God was talking to me, He was telling me, "Hang in there – its going to be okay". I felt the warmth and peace of God – not the peace of this world, but I was truly at peace with my situation and I knew I was going to be okay – whatever okay was. That rainbow was a gift from God and I'm so thankful for it. I clung to it all year long.

My Oncologist said, "The way you treat pancreatic cancer is you have the tumor taken out so in two weeks I was on the operating table. It was during the surgery they discovered that the tumor on my pancreas was wrapped around the main blood vessels that supplied blood to the intestines and they couldn't interrupt that blood flow. So they sewed me back up and said I was inoperable. Every year 31,680 people are diagnosed with Pancreatic cancer and the death rate each year is 31, 260. Of the 1% that survive, it's because they were surgically treated because that's the only treatment. It was a scary time for my family. We all have verses that we look to for guidance – mine was Romans 8:28 where it says, "For in all things God is working for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose". I just felt like something good would come out of this – I didn't know what.

We left needing a new plan. Chemotherapy and radiation came next in an effort to shrink the tumor. It worked. In October I had my second surgery with a world-renowned physician at John Hopkins Hospital. I knew if anyone were going to take this tumor out – it would be him. It was the same thing. I was inoperable. This time I knew I wouldn't be having another surgery.

Toni Roberts story continued

The day after that surgery was the worst day of my life. The Oncologists told me, "I couldn't have any more surgery. Radiation and chemo were not going to kill this tumor they could only prevent new cell growth. They were going to look for some trial studies for me.

That day I just lay there. I didn't want to talk to anybody, I didn't want to see anybody, and worst of all, I couldn't even pray for myself. I couldn't muster up the words.

I read that when you are unable to pray, the Holy Spirit will intercede for you. I felt that. I felt many people praying for me - your prayers and the prayers of others. By the next day I was praying again. This time, it was a prayer of surrender. It was - "God, if you have work for me to do on this earth, then you'll find a way to get this tumor out, and if not... and you want me in heaven, then, well... it's heaven and that will be okay, too". Again I was at peace. Thank You!

Next I took Cyberknife, a pinpoint radiation treatment that was in trial phase. Only four hospitals in the United States did the procedure for the pancreas. Sinai in Baltimore agreed to take me in November. I was told to expect the tumor would start shrinking over time. It would scar and die. It would always be seen on my CT Scan, but it would just be dead cells. I could do that!

Late January, I went for my first follow-up for the Cyberknife. The CT Scan showed, "No Change". It hadn't shrunk a bit. But we were thankful - I was alive and there was no metastasis.

Two weeks before the Emmaus Walk in November, my Oncologist said I couldn't have any more chemotherapy. I'd been on it for nine months now and it was becoming too toxic to my body. I was a metabolic mess. It was a scary/happy time for me.

I went on my Emmaus Walk that was the begging of my healing. On Friday night, I was taking 15 pills a day to control abdominal cramping. By Sunday, I only required 7 - 8 pills a day. Our theme song that weekend was "In Christ Alone" and the third verse said: "No guilt in Life, No fear in death - This is the power of Christ in me". Every time I'd sing that song it reinforced my prayer for that weekend. Many of you here were praying for my TOTAL healing. Thank you!

Praying is all my family and I could do. Funny how you run the gamut and end up doing in the end what you were doing in the beginning - praying.

I know you've heard unanswered prayer is sometimes an answer in itself. Well it is. God knows that you need to have time to try and fix your problem yourself. We had done that. We'd called on everybody we knew, we'd tried everything we knew. We had exhausted all our own resources. In the end... you realize that all you have is God.

We went for a full month with no treatment. Taking the second set of follow-up tests was a little unnerving. I didn't realize when we scheduled the tests they were on Easter week. The Monday before Easter I had the tests. Wednesday was the first performance of the "Last Living Supper" at our church. I was in the play, so I went to the church. Bill went to the office to get my CT Scan results from his fax machine and to bring them to the church. He arrived just before the performance started.

The doctor's told me at Cyberknife that I would probably have a false positive on my PET Scan, an "iffy" this and that, and the tumor would always show on my CT SCAN but would at some point just be dead cells. I thought WHO in the world would ever be able to interpret all these "iffy" results!

Every test came back negative. There were no questions! The radiologist read that CT Scan saying in every way he knew how, "no tumor, no evidence of tumor, tumor gone..." There was no doubt about it. My cancer was gone. God didn't want there to be any question. I felt like I had just had my third surgery, and this time it was by the Great Physician Himself.

Toni Roberts story continued

I don't know if you believe in miracles, but they happen. Not every time and not to everyone... They happen for a reason. God wants us to see Him at work on this earth. He wants us to see Him. He wants us to see our prayers answered because that brings glory to Him. What timing. It was Easter – when our eyes are already open to miracles – the miracle of the resurrection.

God's timing is so good. Physically, if my surgeries had been successful, they would have removed my pancreas and I would have had residual problems for the rest of my life. Spiritually, if my surgery had been successful, we would have been thankful and we would have felt blessed, but we would not have had time to grow spiritually. Spiritual growth takes time. God was working on my family and me all along. We were growing in Christ.

My physical condition is not the only answer to prayer I've had this year. A few months before I was diagnosed, I was sitting in church one Sunday during our prayer time, praying for my family – that's what we Moms do... But this time, I was specifically praying for one of my daughters. She was going through a difficult time. She was questioning God. She was not sure she needed to go to church with us. I was praying that God would squelch her doubt and show Himself to her. I was also praying for my husband, Bill. Bill was a baptized Christian. He went to church. But I didn't think Bill knew God. I wanted Bill to have a daily relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. I wanted that for him. I remember praying, "God use me as a vessel to bring my family to you". Have you ever heard, "be careful what you pray for"? You see I was thinking, God you tell me and I'll tell them. But that was my plan. God's plan is beyond our understanding. He sees the big picture and knows what works in our lives. My whole family has grown closer to each other and closer to God through this experience.

Let me end with this. At Christmas time I was taking chemo and feeling like decorating and putting up all the lights and fluff and stuff. So I put up a big sign on the hill beside my house that said, "Believe". A lot of people called and asked me what I believed. Well, this is it:

I believe that God is in control. He is in control of everything that comes into your life. Every situation, every relationship, every circumstances is either allowed or decreed by God. He will use it for your good. He will take that situation, and in the quickest manner possible, He will use it to do the most good for the most people to bring them to his glory. Don't take that to mean that every story has a happy ending – because it doesn't. It is not God's goal to make us happy. His goal is to make us more Christ-like. Sometimes that process takes you through trails and through periods of brokenness. We were there. I was there. I mean down on your knees broken where I was crying out, "Abba, Father. Take this; I want your will in my life. I want your will to be my will because I know I can't do it without you". When you surrender your life to God, He will work in your life in such a way that is so much bigger and better and deeper and more wonderful than you ever imagined possible. That's how God has worked in our lives. We have been so blessed!

I realized that cancer doesn't just happen to a person, it happens to the family, the church, the community.

Someone told me when I was first diagnosed that with this disease I would find out who my friends were – and I did! I had friends that I didn't know I had! They came out of the woodwork, People of this community poured out their hearts to me. I'm so thankful for this community.

I feel like I've had a physical healing this year and I think Bill has had a spiritual healing. I will let him tell you his story.

PRAY FOR THESE WALKS AROUND THE WORLD

Please remember to continue to pray for our own upcoming walks this fall.

Blessings, Donna

September 7 - 10, 2006

Men's Walk, Channel Island Emmaus, 35, CA
Men's Walk, Southern Sierra Emmaus, 09, CA
Men's Walk, Western Montana Emmaus, 3, MT
Men's Walk, DaySpring Emmaus Community of So. IN, 84, IN
Women's Walk, North Indiana Emmaus, 192A, IN
Men's Walk, Northern Lights Emmaus, 22, OH
Men's Walk, Borderlands Emmaus Community, 11, NM
Men's Walk, Green Country Emmaus, 131, OK
Women's Walk, Central Texas Conference Emmaus, 297, TX
Women's Walk, Cross Country Emmaus, 144, TX
Men's Walk, Diakonia Emmaus, 86, TX
Women's Walk, Golden Spread Emmaus, 191, TX
Women's Walk, Alabama Emmaus, 307, AL
Women's Walk, Blue Lake Emmaus, 177, AL
Men's Walk, Georgia Foothills Walk to Emmaus, INC, 10, GA
Men's Walk, Campbellsville Emmaus, #43, KY
Men's Walk, Lake Cumberland Area Emmaus, 73, KY
Men's Walk, Limestone Ohio Valley Emmaus (LOVE), 13, KY
Women's Walk, Mountain Top Walk to Emmaus®, 129, NC
Men's Walk, Emmaus of the Cumberlands,
Men's Walk #56, TN
Men's Walk, United Emmaus, 92, TN

September 14 - 17, 2006

Women's Walk, Channel Island Emmaus, 35, CA
Women's Walk, Southern Sierra Emmaus, 09, CA
Women's Walk, Western Montana Emmaus, 4, MT
Women's Walk, Four Corners Emmaus Community, # 8, CO
Men's Walk, Elohim Emmaus Community, #9, IL
Women's Walk, DaySpring Emmaus Community of So. IN, 85, IN
Men's Walk, El Shaddai Emmaus of Indiana, 124, IN
Men's Walk, Greater Indianapolis Area Emmaus, #145, IN
Men's Walk, Hoosier Hills Emmaus, 65, IN
Men's Walk, Southwest Indiana Emmaus, 33, IN
Women's Walk, Cedar Rapids Emmaus, 127, IO
Men's Walk, Noahs of Ark Emmaus, 122, AR

September 14 - 17, 2006 (continued)

Women's Walk, Big Country Emmaus, 134, TX
Women's Walk, Dallas Emmaus, 200, TX
Women's Walk, Hi-Sky Emmaus, 169, TX
Women's Walk, SWTC - Plum Creek, 1320, TX
Men's Walk, Maryland Emmaus, MD 140, MD
Men's Walk, Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia Emmaus, 92, WV
Men's Walk, Gulf Coast Emmaus, 69, FL
Men's Walk, Atlanta South Emmaus, #33, GA
Men's Walk, Dayspring Emmaus, #56, GA
Women's Walk, Georgia Foothills Walk to Emmaus, INC, 10, GA
Women's Walk, Campbellsville Emmaus, #44, KY
Women's Walk, Lake Cumberland Area Emmaus, 84, KY
Men's Walk, Northern Kentucky Emmaus, #24, KY
Women's Walk, Blue Ridge Emmaus, BRE Walk 51, NC
Men's Walk, Emmanuel Emmaus, 87, NC
Men's Walk, Piedmont Emmaus, 53, NC
Men's Walk, New Covenant Emmaus, 48, TN

September 21 - 24, 2006

Women's Walk, Central Illinois Emmaus, 197Q, IL
Women's Walk, Elohim Emmaus Community, 10, IL
Men's Walk, Quad-Cities Emmaus, 69, IL
Women's Walk, El Shaddai Emmaus of Indiana, 125, IN
Men's Walk, Michiana Emmaus Community, 19, IN
Men's Walk, Lansing Area Emmaus, 65, MI
Men's Walk, Mid-Michigan Emmaus Community, 39, MI
Men's Walk, Northeast Emmanuel Emmaus, 28, MI
Men's Walk, NEAR The Cross Emmaus Community, #1, AR
Men's Walk, Lagniappe Country Emmaus, 42, LA
Women's Walk, Green Country Emmaus, 132, OK
Men's Walk, Northwest Oklahoma Emmaus, 67, OK
Men's Walk, Central Texas Conference Emmaus, 298, TX
Women's Walk, Diakonia Emmaus, 87, TX

September 21 - 24, 2006 (continued)

Men's Walk, Houston North Emmaus Community, Inc., 37, TX
Men's Walk, Llano Estacado Emmaus Community, 63, TX
Women's Walk, SWTC - Koinonia Emmaus, 1323, TX
Women's Walk, Maryland Emmaus, MD 141, MD
Men's Walk, Richmond Emmaus, Richmond 85, VA
Men's Walk, Living Waters Emmaus of Alabama, # 77, AL
Women's Walk, Gulf Coast Emmaus, 69, FL
Men's Walk, Southeast Florida Emmaus, 58, FL
Women's Walk, Atlanta South Emmaus, #42, GA
Women's Walk, Dayspring Emmaus, #57, GA
Men's Walk, Louisville Area Emmaus, 109, KY
Men's Walk, Purchase Area Walk To Emmaus, 88, KY
Men's Walk, South Mississippi Emmaus Community, 1, MS
Men's Walk, Heart of Carolina Emmaus, 89, NC
Women's Walk, Piedmont Emmaus, 54, NC
Men's Walk, Sandhills Emmaus, 49, NC
Men's Walk, Emmaus of the Midlands, 29, SC
Men's Walk, Seaside Emmaus, 97, SC
Women's Walk, Emmaus of the Cumberland, Women's Walk #57, TN
Women's Walk, New Covenant Emmaus, 49, TN
Women's Walk, United Emmaus, 93, TN

September 28 – October 1, 2006

Men's Walk, Columbine Emmaus Community, 5, CO
Men's Walk, Mountain Trails Emmaus, #26, OR
Men's Walk, Puget Sound Emmaus, 169, WA
Men's Walk, Illinois Heartland Emmaus, 45, IL

September 28 – October 1, 2006 (continued)

Men's Walk, Northern Illinois Emmaus, 106, IL
Women's Walk, El Shaddai Emmaus of Indiana, 126, IN
Women's Walk, Greater Indianapolis Area Emmaus, #146, IN
Women's Walk, Hoosier Hills Emmaus, 66-B, IN
Women's Walk, Michiana Emmaus Community, 20, IN
Men's Walk, Jackson Area Emmaus, 44, MI
Women's Walk, Mid-Michigan Emmaus Community, 40, MI
Women's Walk, Northeast Emmanuel Emmaus, 29, MI
Men's Walk, Heart of Ohio Emmaus, Men's Walk #34, OH
Women's Walk, Mid-Ohio Valley Emmaus Community, 30, OH
Men's Walk, Cross Bayou Emmaus, 50, LA
Women's Walk, Borderlands Emmaus Community, 12, NM
Women's Walk, Northwest Oklahoma Emmaus, 68, OK
Men's Walk, Mesquite Country Emmaus, 67, TX
Men's Walk, Maryland Emmaus, MDST 142, MD
Men's Walk, Lynchburg-Central Virginia Emmaus, 54, VA
Women's Walk, National Capital Area Emmaus, E-132, VA
Men's Walk, Kanawha Valley Emmaus, Mens 59, WV
Men's Walk, North Central West Virginia Emmaus, #61, WV
Women's Walk, Gulf Coast Emmaus, 69B, FL
Women's Walk, Purchase Area Walk To Emmaus, 89, FL
Women's Walk, Emmanuel Emmaus, 88, NC
Men's Walk, Grace Emmaus Community of the Carolinas, 17, NC

PLEASE PRAY FOR THIS FALL'S TEAM MEMBERS

The team training for the November Walks (men and women) will start at 9 AM on September 9th at St. Andrews UMC.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

Join me in welcoming our newest board member, Pam Werkmeister, who joins us in the kitchen position to fulfill the spot left vacant by Susan Woods' resignation. I'm so thankful for Pam's commitment to our community. Welcome Pam! Judy Seitz

CELEBRATION EVENT

November 3 - 4, 2006

Hosted by **the Houston West Emmaus/Chrysalis Communities**
Memorial Drive United Methodist Church, 12955 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77079

Contact Information: Dick and Fran Adams Phone: 713-464-4957 E-mail: rhadams7@yahoo.com

Inspiring Presentations By:

Rev. Stephen D. Bryant, World Editor and Publisher, Upper Room Ministries
Rev. Victor Perez, International Spiritual Director, Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis
Dr. Dick Gilmore, International Lay Director, Walk to Emmaus
Jean Johnson Green, Assistant Director, Walk to Emmaus

Typical Workshops to Give You Some Tools:

The First Act of Agape: Sponsorship
Overview of Weekend (Separate Emmaus and Chrysalis)
The Spirit of Servanthood: Lay Director Training
Sustaining the Spirit: Spiritual Director Training
Companion Community
In a Spirit of Cooperation and Charity: Team Selection Committee Training
The Sings My Soul: Music Workshop
Coming Down from the Mountain: 4th Day Gatherings/Hoots (Separate Emmaus and Chrysalis)
The Academy for Spiritual Formation
Team Formation (Separate Emmaus and Chrysalis)
Spiritual Formation and Scripture: Companions in Christ

Forms are available at:

www.upperroom.org/emmaus/gatherings/

Registration Information:

Early Bird registration is \$50.00 per person and is due two weeks before the event. Late registration and walk-ins are welcome at the cost of \$75.00 per person. Make checks payable to Upper Room Emmaus,

Mail or fax forms to:

Emmaus/Chrysalis Celebration
1908 Grand Avenue
P.O. Box 340004
Nashville, TN 37203-0004
Fax: (615) 340-7257

Additional Information about the Celebration:

For more information, please contact Metral Smith at (877) 899-2780 ext. 7227 or at msmith@upperroom.org.

You may also find more information online at www.upperroom.org/emmaus.

Expect This Schedule:

FRIDAY

4:30 Arrive, register, fellowship
5:00 Light Dinner
6:30 Beginnings
7:00 Celebration
9:30 Dismissal

SATURDAY

8:00 Morning Prayers
8:45 Elective Workshops
8:45 – 10:00 Session 1
10:00 – 11:45 Session 2
Noon Lunch
1:15 Elective Workshops
1:15 – 2:30 Session 3
3:00 – 4:15 Session 4
4:30 – 5:30 Session 5
6:00 Dinner
7:00 Singing
7:30 Worship and Holy Communion
9:00 Dismissal

GOD IS COUNTING ON YOU

Then he said to His disciples, "The harvest is truly plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest".

Matthew 9:37 – 38.

Stop! Think about the men and women you know. Do any of them need a fresh experience with God? Can they benefit from the experience you had on your Walk? Have you thought about sponsoring them on the next Walk?

Please, take time to pray. Jesus asked his disciples to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send laborers into His harvest. As in those days, the harvest is plentiful.

Ask God to lead you to the men and women that need to be on either the men's or women's Walk this fall. Remember, just as you are counting on God. God is counting on you.

FALL WALK INFORMATION

MEN'S WALK #93

APPLICATION DEADLINE

October 12, 2006

WALK #93

November 2 - 5, 2006

CANDLELIGHT/GATHERING

November 4, 2006

Estes Chapel, Asbury Theological Seminary

WOMEN'S WALK #94

APPLICATION DEADLINE

October 26, 2006

WALK #94

November 16 - 19, 2006

CANDLELIGHT

November 18, 2006

Estes Chapel, Asbury Theological Seminary

Applications and scholarship forms are available on the Lexington Emmaus Community web site. (www.lexingtonemmaus.org)

The Walk Application must be in three weeks in advance of the Walk. If a Scholarship is being requested, that application must be sent in with the Walk Application

CHILD CARE

Free childcare is available during Gathering in a room just off the Fellowship Hall with two professional caregivers provided by the community. We are unable, because of a lack of facilities, to offer any childcare for Walk events at the seminary—Send Off, Candlelight, and Closing. Because of the length of these worship services and the serious nature of them, we ask that sponsors assist their pilgrims in finding childcare elsewhere during these events.

TOY BOX

We have somehow misplaced our "toy box" that is used by our children during our gatherings. We need to fill a new box with donations from the community. The box will be at the next few gatherings for you to fill. We are looking for toys, games, puzzles, books, cards, coloring books, crayons, VHS or DVD's (rated G), etc for children from two to ten years of age. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Thank you for your help with the project.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September

- 1 Gathering, St. Luke UMC, 2351 Alumni Drive, Lexington, 7:00 PM
- 11 Board Meeting, St. Luke UMC, 2351 Alumni Drive, Lexington

October

- 6 Gathering, St. Luke UMC, 2351 Alumni Drive, Lexington, 7:00 PM
- 9 Board Meeting, St. Luke UMC, 2351 Alumni Drive, Lexington

LEXINGTON EMMAUS COMMUNITY FALL WALK SCHEDULE

Men's Walk #93 – November 2 - 5, 2006

Women's Walk #94 – November 16 - 19, 2006

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 address on the left
or our website at:
www.lexingtonemmaus.org

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