



Volume 16, Number 1
April 2007

DeColores!



Brazos Valley

Emmaus Community

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We're On The Web
Newsletter on the Web

www.bvemmaus.org

BVEC Community Calendar and Information

Remaining 2007 Gatherings/Hoots

April 14—Crossbridge Christian Church—Houston

May 5—Cy Fair Christian Church—Houston

June 2—1st United Methodist—Caldwell

July 7—Brethren Church—College Station

August 4—HULLABALOO!

3:30 PM @ St. John's UCC—Burton

September 1—Grace Community—Brenham

October 6—1st United Methodist—Franklin

November 3—1st United Methodist—Brenham

Upcoming Walks

Chrysalis

Girls Flight #10—
July 11—14

Boy's Flight #11—
July 25-28

Walks

Women's #69—
September 13-16

Men's #70—
September 27-30

All Flights and Walks held at Cross Roads Retreat Center- Chriesman

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BRAZOS VALLEY EMMAUS COMMUNITY APRIL 2007 NEWSLETTER



Walk #67 Lay Leader Jean Smith

As I reflect on Women's Walk #67, I find myself becoming teary eyed from emotion. The blessings that I have experienced from being God's vessel are an eternal source of joy. From the Walk's inception, I have been awed by God's sovereignty in every single detail. God called us all together and we became one body joyfully serving to bring Him glory. God chose a group of 21 precious women who were spiritually ready to experience his abundant grace at this time and place. God lovingly provided us with the gift of a peaceful, serene location at Cross Roads Retreat Center where the staff humbly and joyfully catered to our every need. The presence of God's love was evident through out the entire walk as the Community prayed, assembled at Candlelight and Closing, provided endless Agape and united to ensure the success of Walk #67. My heart overflows with gratitude for the selfless service and sacrifices that were made on our behalf. Our Community is truly blessed and our God is rejoicing as these lovely ladies are up and soaring (HONK, HONK) on their grace-filled Fourth Days.

DeColores! Jean Smith
Walk #26, Table of Naomi and
Lay Director, Women's Walk #67

Walk #68 Lay Leader Marvin Morris

How foolish we are. God must have a real laugh at how we fret and worry about the smallest of details while trying to implement a plan that he has had in motion since the universe was created. Right up until the Wednesday before Walk 68 began I worried and fretted about the smallest of things just knowing that if I didn't do it the Walk would fail. Then as I sat praying about the Walk, God gave me a peace that defies description, but I knew without a doubt that He was in control and I should just sit back and enjoy his handiwork. That is what I did and man!! His work is so magnificent. I saw a young man grow from an unsure high school musician to an accomplished Music Team leader. I saw 20 pilgrims from different walks of life bond together, share with each other, cry with each other, laugh with each other, encourage one another and worship together. It was so apparent that God had placed each one here to fill others and to be filled. God's hand was also evident in the team as the talks given flowed together and enhanced one another touching the hearts of the pilgrims and the team as well. I am sure of two things. One is that everyone who was on Walk 68 will be on fire for God as they enter their Fourth Day. Secondly I don't know how any one who witnessed God at work on The Walk could ever doubt that He is in control.

DeColores! Marvin Morris
Lay Director, Men's Walk #68

SPONSOR'S CORNER

Here are some major points to remember about sponsorship. First, it is the sponsor's responsibility to spend concentrated time in prayer to discern whom God wants you to sponsor. Second, ask the candidate to prayerfully consider attending a Walk. Third, fill out the application thoroughly and begin collecting personal agape letters. After the applicant has attended a walk the sponsor's responsibility does not end. Your activities should include staying in contact with the pilgrim, support them during their Fourth Day, take them to their first Gathering and Candlelight, help them find a Reunion group and help them become good sponsors. Good sponsorship is the key to a GREAT Emmaus community.

Team Selection Committee Introduces New Form

The BVEC Team Selection Committee has introduced a new form to be utilized in the selection of team members for all future Emmaus Walks. The form condenses all the information needed to ensure appropriate team make-up and individual progression. Forms need to be completed and returned to the address listed on the form at least four months prior to the Walk you want to be considered for. Copies of the form may be obtained on the web, at Gatherings and at Candlelight.

For additional information, email Patrice Summerour at psummerour@bvemmaus.org.

From Jeff Gage, BVEC Spiritual Director

Judges 6:11-12 (NIV) - "The angel of the Lord came and sat down under the oak in Ophrah that belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, where his son Gideon was threshing wheat in a winepress to keep it from the Midianites. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon, he said, "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior."

If you've read the story of Gideon before, you may be familiar with this passage. The angel of the Lord comes to Gideon and calls him into service; yet Gideon protests basically saying, "What are you talking about? I can't do what you're telling me to do. I am the smallest of the small."

But the angel persists and assures Gideon that he is to go and lead the people of Israel into battle against the Midianites, thus freeing God's people. If you will read the rest of the story, you will see that God is true to his word. He did call Gideon for such a time as this, and God did deliver his people through Gideon's leadership.

In some ways I have felt like Gideon. I am not small by any means, but I have wondered about God's calling me into certain ministries. Take this ministry of being the Community Spiritual Director for BVEC. I was asked and I balked. I discussed with God (It's hard to have a discussion with another when you are backing up, wagging your finger in the other's face, and screaming "NO, NO, NO!") all the reasons I couldn't do it, yet He said none of them was good enough. He was calling me to this ministry, and He was with me. So here I am; and now that I am here, I am hopeful and excited about the ways we can make this community even better. I know that God has called me.

How about you? To what ministry is God calling you, yet you still balk "discussing" with him how you are the smallest of the small and that there is no way you could ever do the job? Why are you still delaying? You shouldn't delay and you shouldn't balk. You – as Gideon and I were both told – should know "the Lord is with you, mighty warrior." Go and serve the people of the Lord, for he is calling you and he is with you.

In Christ, Jeff Gage
BVECS

Welcome New Pilgrims!

WOMEN'S Walk #67

Tammy Barnett, Franklin
Jean Conley, Cypress
Candace Cross, Caldwell
Rosa Dean, Brenham
Rose Findley, Houston
Teri Fry, Brenham
Paula Garza Brenham
Becky Goetsch, Caldwell
Lorraine Guerrero, Houston
Wilhelmina Hobbs, Caldwell
Keri Jasper, Houston
Lacy Kelso, Madisonville
Jean McKee, Bossier City, LA
Rita Niebuhr, Dahinda, IL
Kyley Ochoa, Madisonville
Tanya Sellers, Missouri City
Dee Ann Smith, Franklin
Lisa Stewart, Brenham
Linda Watson, Bryan
Sandra Jean Woofruff, Bedias

MEN'S Walk #68

Brett Beauregard, Edmond, OK
Carl Cummins, Somerville
Ted Currie, Cameron
Gabbo Goetsch, Caldwell
Matthew Henderson, College Station
Kristhopher Kelso, Madisonville
Stephen Lehr, College Station
Jeremy Leonard, Brenham
Bill Martin, Rockdale
Dean McCorkle, College
Reginald McCoy, Brenham
Sergio Ochoa, Madisonville
Keith Owen, College Station
Ray Pereira, Cypress
Michael Perkins, College Station
Truman Pratt, Cameron
John Santellano, Rockdale
Kenny Sefcik, Caldwell
Gordon Sorenson, Tomball
Stephen Woodring, Houston

From the Community Lay Director—Hilda Baker

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As your new Community Lay Director I am honored and humbled by the responsibility entrusted me by the BVEC Board of Directors. I am also very excited about the upcoming year and the opportunities available to all of us to be the hands and feet of Christ to a hurting world.

Last November I attended several workshops at the Regional Emmaus Celebration held by Emmaus International. It was truly inspirational and I learned quite a bit, but I think the most important thing I learned was that there are two types of communities- three day communities that focus on the three day EVENT of Emmaus or Chrysalis and then there are the Fourth Day Communities where the main focus is on follow-up support of the pilgrims and caterpillars through Gatherings, Hoots, Reunion Groups, NextSteps, Training and Communication. We are called to be a Fourth Day Community. We are called to not only persevere in our Fourth Day, but to be there for others by staying in touch, attending these events whenever possible, joining a Reunion Group, participating in the life of the community at least at some level. If there is one thing we've learned in Emmaus/Chrysalis it's that it's not all about us!

My focus during the upcoming year will be to strengthen our community in these areas and let me tell you, God has provided our community with board members who have the talent, drive, inspiration and commitment needed to move our Community to the next level of Christian service through the Emmaus goal of developing Christian leadership.

It is my hope that each of you will prayerfully consider your future role in the BVEC. There are many levels of involvement, and many opportunities for service. It may be making Agape for walks, serving on a team, signing up on the Prayer Vigil, checking out the new things going on at the Gatherings, grabbing a couple of Christian friends and starting a Reunion Group, or sponsoring a potential Christian leader in your church or community. I promise you that in so doing.... you will be blessed --- and be a blessing!

DeColores!

Hilda Baker



**Our Agape Trailer is in need
of the following items:**

**Poster board, construction paper, paper clips,
hats, scarves, magazines (teen and adult)
votive candles, markers, craft items,
tape, glue sticks, etc.**

**There will be an ingathering of these
Items at our May Gathering.**

**For additional information, please contact
Carolyn Bush @979-826-3464 or
email at cbush@bvemmas.org**

Your New Chrysalis Board

Lay Director - Keith Kamas
Asst. Lay Director- Kathy Kothman
Spiritual Director - no confirmation yet
Treasurer - Keith Kamas
Also Emmaus Board Rep.
Secretary - Shirley Perry

Other team members:

Laurinda Kwiatkowski
Candace Cross
Matthew Kamas
Monty Michaels
Erin Dickson
Lacy Vanadore
Kendra Kenya
Mitchell Edwards
Diane Broadhurst
Leroy Solomon
Andrew Perry
Emmaus Board liaison to Chrysalis