

NEAR the Cross Emmaus

Open Letter from Our Community Lay Director

Walk Dates:

- Men's Walk #5
Sept 20–23, 2007
LD: Mark Cahoon
- Women's Walk #6
Oct 4–7, 2007
LD: Colleen Wise

Walks will be held at
Mt. Zion Baptist
Association
Campground, just
outside of Walcott.

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The fall walks will be here sooner than we realize. The lay directors, Mark Cahoon and Colleen Wise have worked hard in getting the walks together. The teams have worked hard in training and hopefully, everything is set to go!

The NEAR the Cross board is slowly becoming a working board. That means that each position is a working position. Each member is a chair person of a committee. This is not a new concept, but rather one that has been in place from the beginning of the Emmaus movement. We have worked really hard getting these into place for NEAR the Cross. Orientation is something that has been put into place that is not new. It has always been there, we just haven't seen it put in place. We have some kinks to work out in that area, but we are getting there.

One committee that is being implemented is the Team Selection Committee. The chairman is Charles Thompson. This committee works with the Lay Director and Walk Coordinator to get the teams selected. It is no longer the LD who selects the entire team. If you would like to work, be sure that you have completed a

work application, which is available on the website. If you still haven't been contacted, contact Charles Thompson and advise him of your interest. Overlooking people is never intentional, so speak up if you are interested in working.

One of our main concerns is the fact that people are not sponsoring new pilgrims! Even the new pilgrims that have just completed the walk are not sponsoring new pilgrims. Sponsorship is the fruit of Emmaus and prayer is what holds it together. We can not have walks without people being interested in sponsoring pilgrims. So be encouraged! Sponsorship is a big commitment, but one well worth the effort. Remember, someone loved you enough to sponsor you on the walk. Do that same thing for someone else!

We are doing better on the trainings, even though there is some confusion. The basic picture is that the conference room team goes to orientation plus three conference room team formation trainings. The prayer team, which has been selected for the walk, does not go to conference room

trainings. They do not pray over the speakers at training and they do not listen to the talks. They attend the servant team trainings. This is not new. It has always been in the manual, but somehow been misinterpreted. The servant team (kitchen, agape, and prayer) attend orientation plus one other training that will be set by the coordinator. The two teams can meet at the same place, but do not meet in the same room. So, if you are contacted to work, be sure to realize that if called to work conference room, you commit to orientation plus three trainings. If you are called to work servant team, you commit to orientation plus one other training selected by the coordinator of the walk. We also plan to implement Lay Director training before the next spring walks.

We have much to celebrate and have come a long way! Remember, that the original planning session for this community was in October of 2004. In looking back, it is almost unbelievable how we have been blessed by God through your commitment to serve, work, sponsor, and attend events! My prayer is that you will be richly blessed.

De Colores, Gundel Martin

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contributions are tax deductible.

Check us out on the web!!
www.nearthecrossemmaus.org
You can download forms, post
praises and prayers and check out
upcoming dates on the calendar.
Please take the time to register on
the website!

Important Dates and Information

** Please take time to fill out the enclosed ballot for our upcoming board elections. A husband and wife may fill out one ballot with separate votes. Please return those to the Secretary by November 2nd. Those persons elected will serve a three year term beginning January 1, 2008.

** The Board has selected the Walk Lay Directors for 2008. In order from Walks # 7-10, they are:

Dave Pierce, Julienne Penter, Allan Jones, and Susanne Belk.

** The website has been updated to allow the Community to view the sign up for the 72 hour prayer vigils for Walks # 5 and # 6. Email Colleen with the date and time that you would like to be in prayer. We have also added a sign up for Snacks during the walk weekends. This should help with making sure that there is a balance of the

food being supplied for snacks.

** Remember, there is no gathering on September 1st due to the Labor Day holiday. Please join us for the men's candlelight on September 22nd, and the women's candlelight on October 6th, both at Mt. Zion Baptist Church at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be November 3rd at FUMC Jonesboro with the potluck lunch beginning at noon.

Gundel Martin named to Int'l Advisory Committee

Our own Gundel Martin was named to the International Advisory Committee recently. She will be serving a term of 3 years beginning in April 2008. In a statement from Carleen Alderman, "The International Advisory

Committee is composed of one male, one female and one clergy from each of the five regions of the United States. The IAC meets in the spring of each year and is the advising counsel for the Walk to Emmaus

program."

We are proud of Gundel and honored that she will be representing our new community in this position.

Please pray for the Lord's leading in this for her!

We want to make sure this newsletter reaches you! Please send me any

address updates that I may not have, so that you will continue to receive

this newsletter. It will be published on a bi-monthly basis.