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## Fall 2018

### A Message from Our Community Lay Director

We have had a very busy year in our community completing two Emmaus Walks and two Face to Face Encounters and watching God work in the lives of each pilgrim. The fall walks are coming up very rapidly. The teams have come together and training is underway. We look forward to again seeing what God has in store.

The Board of Directors has named the Lay Directors for 2019. Walk 98 Lay Director is Debbie Reese and Lay Director for Walk 99 is Chuck Polk. For the Fall Walks, Walk 100 Lay Director is Keith Lewis and Walk 101 is Belinda Kirk. Lay Director for Face to Face Encounter # 4 will be Kay Dotson.

Voting in the Board of Directors election for the Class of 2021 has just closed. I will be making notification to our newest board members very shortly so stay tuned to hear who will be serving in these positions.

I want to thank everyone who has helped in any of our Emmaus events. The love of Christ is so evident in each willing servant.

Tony Kirk  
Community Lay Director

### Monthly Gatherings

Where: Friendship Church  
16479 Lucas Ferry  
Road Athens, AL  
35611

When: 3rd Friday of Every Month  
Time: 6:30pm—Meal  
7:29pm—Worship



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## Spiritual Director's Corner

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### Come Holy Spirit!

As we move into the busy days of autumn, many of us leave the fruitful days of summer with hearts full of life-changing moments experienced through mission trips, vacations, camps and cook outs. Perhaps some have even enjoyed the gooey yumminess of s'mores around a campfire or two and the equally good sweetness of singing "Kum ba Yah". TIME OUT! It's true that in recent history this camp song has become a symbol of ineffective sentimentalism associated with holding hands and experiencing some feel good moments, but we may have shortsightedly assumed "Kum ba Yah" to be a lot like "Hakuna Matata". Though popular culture and even the church have relegated this song to naive sanguinity, its roots originated from the deep heart cries of enslaved African Americans, and its words still represent a prayer for deliverance and rescue for all who find themselves broken beneath the yoke of oppression. "Come by here, my Lord!" The song calls us to a deep faith in God and contains an invitation or plea for our powerful grave-robbing Savior to visit us once again with His life-giving presence and set us free! I don't know whether or not we need to include "Kum Ba yah" on our Emmaus song list (I will leave that up to the talented worship leaders among us), but as a people that collectively pray "Come, Holy Spirit" almost every time we gather, our hearts should resonate deeply with the sincere petition of this song.

"Someone's praying, Lord!" As we take part in many upcoming three-day events, may we join hands and hearts with fervent prayers of deep faith and ask the Holy Spirit of God to inhabit every meeting, talk preparation, table discussion and act of Agape. For that matter, what if we breathed these words :come by here, my Lord" before every conversation or event that we are part of in our 4th Days?

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." Psalm 145:18 (ESV)

Learning the rhythms of His grace,

Sharon Keffer  
Community Spiritual Director



## Men's Walk #96 - Lay Director

Wow. Praise God, Praise God, Praise His Holy Name...Walk #96 is fast approaching. I know everyone is as excited as I am to get started and witness God pulling together another Walk, furthering His mission by using us right where we are. The team had been formed and Pilgrim applications are coming in. Praise Him! Please, please, please get your Pilgrim applications in early for this walk. Fill the walk...wouldn't that be a real blessing to these men. We are in prayer for a memorable crowd and remember, there is a lot to accomplish while serving these Pilgrims. The community looks forward to watching another great group come together supporting these Walks. Please keep Walk 96, the pilgrims and myself in your prayers. We would love to see the entire community at candlelight, so remind everyone you know, often...to make this event especially memorable for the Pilgrims (just as was done for your walk).

In His service we ask for God's blessings,

Conrad Bonner  
Lay Director Men's Walk # 96



## Women's Walk #97 - Lay Director

“It’s not about me.” This has been one of the most important things that I have to tell myself as I prepare for Walk 97. I’m so humbled as I walk this walk with our Support Coordinator, Jan Morris and Our Spiritual Director, Carol Goforth. I was a pilgrim on Walk 47 and fifty walks later, here I am as Lay Director. I still don’t feel qualified to do this but I am counting on my Father to walk with me. This walk is showing me the body of Christ. One person can not do this without this community. The pilgrims are the main reason for all our work. Sponsoring a pilgrim is so important and walk 97 is filling up fast. Pray for someone you may want to sponsor and pray some more. I am excited, grateful, humbled and ready to serve with our New Covenant Emmaus Community.

DeColores!

Kelly Overton  
Lay Director Women’s Walk #97



## News from the Butterfly Front

Chrysalis Flight 48 is about to take flight! Kim Kendall and the Flight 48 team have begun training and are preparing for what is certain to be an amazing weekend for the young women who will be attending. Prayer vigil sign-up sheets are circulating so be on the lookout and please, please, please sign up for a time and help us to cover the weekend in prayer. Send-off is at 8:00am on Saturday, September 1st and Closing is at 5:00pm on Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Please plan to join us for Candlelight on Sunday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>.** As with Emmaus, the community gathers under the pavilion at 8:00pm for this very special moment. I know that each of you remember how important Candlelight was on your weekend. Come and be a part of making the Flight 48 Candlelight as special a memory for these young women as yours was for you!

**A Word on Sponsorship.** Sponsoring youth requires the same amount of prayer and consideration we invest in adult pilgrims but requires us to go a little farther as we work with parents and the challenging schedules that young people have. When you know of someone that you believe is ready for a Chrysalis Flight, pray early, pray often, and engage them long before the event.

Earlier this year, the Chrysalis Board of Directors launched an initiative to draw more youth leaders into the Emmaus ministry by offering to pay up to \$95 (all except for the \$30 deposit) for any youth director or youth staff member to attend a New Covenant Emmaus walk. We have allocated money to send up to 8 youth leaders on their own Walk to Emmaus each year. Two youth leaders will be taking advantage of this in the fall, one each on Walk 96 and Walk 97. We ask that you continue to pray about the youth leadership in your church and consider sponsoring them on an Emmaus weekend.

One of our biggest challenges is inviting people to attend a Chrysalis Flight early enough so that they and their families can plan around the weekend. We conduct our Boys Flights each spring over the Memorial Day weekend and our Girls Flights in the fall over Labor Day. It is a common issue that those who want to go on a Flight are invited too close to the event and have already made plans for the holiday weekend. As you identify those you wish to sponsor, go ahead and discuss Chrysalis with them as early as possible. We take applications any time!

In the spring, the Holy Spirit and Patrick Fulenwider will be leading New Covenant Chrysalis Flight #49. Please start praying now for the young men who will be with us over Memorial Day 2019.

In the Spring edition of our newsletter we told you that 3 of the last 4 flights were very close to cancellation due to a low number of caterpillars. Thanks to your prayers and early decisions to sponsor, Flights 47 and 48 both had at least the minimum required number of applicants prior to the first team meeting. Thank you very, very much for your continued support to Chrysalis.

**One More Thing.** If you have ever wondered what it is like to help out on a Chrysalis weekend, we have a special deal just for you. For an unlimited time, we are offering Chrysalis Volunteer Applications at no cost. Just ask a board member or download yours from our new website: [www.ncchrysalis.org](http://www.ncchrysalis.org), and we will introduce you to a high-speed version of Emmaus. It's a wonderful, exciting, and spirit-filled time that you will never forget. Team selection starts soon, so get yours today!

Fly With Christ!

**Mark Your  
Calendars!**

## **2018 Fall Walk Schedule**

**Chrysalis Girls' Flight #48  
September 1-3**

**Men's Walk #96  
September 6-9**

**Women's Walk #97  
September 13-16**

**Follow-up Gathering for Walks #96 & #97  
Friday Sep 21, 2018 - 6:30 pm**

**Friendship United Methodist Church**

**16749 Lucas Ferry Road  
Athens, AL 35611**



## An Experience in the Emmaus Tradition For 60 and Older

Face to Face is designed and developed by the Upper Room. It is designed to challenge and equip pilgrims for Christian Action. This short course in Christianity will help pilgrims to become more effective disciples of Jesus Christ and actively engage in God's mission in the world.

This program is for persons 60 and older who have never been on a Walk to Emmaus. It was developed for this age group because their health risks and energy levels require a longer schedule with shorter sessions. It is tailored to meet senior men and women on their terms. Men and women will be together in the conference room.

The eight sessions will offer 15 talks about God's love and grace. The sessions will offer exciting and hospitable opportunities for Christian learning. There will be tasty refreshments, lots of laughs, surprising personal encounters and spiritual experiences. There will be worship, communion, singing, joking with one another and simply experiencing an avalanche of God's grace and love.

Applications for the next Face to Face Encounter will be available in late Fall and can be printed from the New Covenant Emmaus website:

[www.newcovenantemmaus.com](http://www.newcovenantemmaus.com)



## Thoughts from the Lay Director of Encounter #3

Face to Face Encounter # 3 is complete. The Lord met with us many times during that two week period. Sometimes it was in the music, sometimes it was in the funny story time. We felt His presence in the talks, He was out in the hall around the refreshment table. He was in the prayer chapel. Pilgrims saw Him in the names of the people praying on the prayer vigil and the letters from around the world. Agape kept popping in with expressions of God's love. A hug from a new best friend seem to bring His presence close. If we tune "our radio" on to the right frequency we see Jesus everywhere. We give God all the glory as His kingdom continues to advance. God is always calling on us to serve just one more. We must never quit.

Karen Stenson  
Lay Director Face to Face Encounter #3



## **Sponsorship—The Most Important Job of All**

*Sponsorship is the foundation of a healthy, effective Emmaus movement that is fulfilling its true purpose - the development of Christian leaders to strengthen our local churches.*

A “sponsor” is one who takes responsibility for another. The suffix “ship” refers to the skill involved in the activity. Sponsorship is the skill of taking responsibility for another. First and foremost, it requires prayer. Sponsorship is a dynamic partnership between you and God. It will also require your time, energy and dedication.

The sponsorship process begins with prayer. Commit the process to God and rely upon Him to direct you to the individual or couple. You must be open and available to allow God to work through you.

It is important to remember that not everyone is an appropriate sponsor choice. A person with beliefs about God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit that differ from the traditional Christian belief of the Holy Trinity would not be a good sponsor choice. The walk is designed to bring together the body of Christ and controversy over doctrine can lead to divisiveness during the walk. Persons in the middle of an emotional crisis, such as a family breakup or severe grief, or that are psychologically unstable, also should not be considered. Pray for guidance when these circumstances appear to be present.

Those to consider for sponsorship include individuals and couples that are willing to grow and move forward in their journey of faith. They know that God can and has made a difference in their lives and they exhibit an excitement about being a Christian. Another example of those to consider for sponsorship are those that are already leaders in their church, including clergy - those that receive joy from serving God in the little ways and willingly do whatever is asked of them.

This is not a quick and easy process and should not be taken lightly. It may take a long time before you have a response from God about who you should sponsor. Don't be discouraged. God's timing is always perfect.

The aim of sponsorship is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who will bring new life and vision to the church, congregation, home, workplace, and community - to build up the body of Christ.

# We ♥ Volunteers

WILLING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

If it's been a while since you've been invited to serve on a Walk, or if you have yet to be invited to serve, please be sure you have filled out and submitted a volunteer form.

A link to this form is on the New Covenant  
Emmaus website:

<http://newcovenantemmaus.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Emmaus-Volunteer-Form-Jun-2010.pdf>

You may also fill out this form online: <http://newcovenantemmaus.com/volunteer-form.htm>

If you have already done so, and still have not been invited to serve, please let the Registrar or any Board member know of your interest. We would love to have you join us in serving on an upcoming Walk.



# 72-Hour Prayer Tips

Often when passing around the 72-Hour Prayer Vigil for an Emmaus Walk or Chrysalis Flight we hear, "I can't pray for a whole half-hour." You'd be surprised how fast that half-hour can go!

Following are some tips to help you focus your prayers during your commitment time. Use this as a guide but don't limit your prayer time to just these tips. Begin by scanning the list and marking those items that touch you the most. These are the prayer points that the Spirit has led you too. Don't feel pressured to pray the whole list; trust that God will lead others to pray and He will cover all the points on the list (and more). As you begin to pray for the items you marked, pause at each one and ask

God what He would have you specifically pray about that point. When you can think of no more then move to the next item. If you should finish your list before your time is up then go back and pray about the ones you did not mark. You may want to make these "bullet" prayers as you read down the list.

You'll be amazed at how long you can actually pray when you commit yourself to giving the time! At the end you'll find that you were a blessing to others and received a great blessing yourself as well.

## **Pray for the Pilgrims/Caterpillars:**

- Pray for them individually if you know their names or as a group.
- Pray that walls would come down and hearts would be opened to understand the depth, the height, the breadth, and width of God's love for them.
- Pray that each participant would receive a personal touch from God during his or her journey.
- Pray for the participants to be able to leave the world behind and give themselves to the weekend.
- Pray for the families of the participants.
- Pray protection for the participants as they leave the weekend behind and face the world again.
- Pray that they will carry the weekend with them into their world.

## **Pray for the Team Members:**

- Pray for them individually if you know their names or as a group (Meal Service, Logistics, Conf Room, etc).
- Pray that each team member would serve with humility and grace.
- Pray that each team member would receive a renewed touch from God as they see the weekend through the eyes of those experiencing it for the first time.
- Pray for the specific duties of teams that you may have participated in working with before. No one knows how hard it is or what could go wrong better than those who have experienced it!
- Pray for protection and strength.
- Pray that grace would abound when hiccups occur...and they always occur.
- Pray for grace to abound so that the Pilgrims/Caterpillars never know a hiccup occurred.



## 72-Hour Prayer Tips

### **Pray for Defining Moments:**

Think back to your walk/flight and those events that meant the most to you - your defining moment. Allow God to take you back to that time.

- Pray for each participant out of the heart of this memory.
- Pray for the little moments that no one thinks gets noticed but might mean the world to someone else.
- Pray for the weekend.
- Pray that God is glorified by His will and ways being done.
- Pray for protection over the weekend, the grounds, and the people.
- Pray for the community as they gather to support special events.
- Pray that God's Spirit and Truth would abound.

Pray the Lord's Prayer and think about how you could specifically apply moments of the weekend to it. Example: "...daily bread" Pray that the Bread of Life be broken and received with each talk.

Pray about the moments of Communion /Lord's Supper. Pray for meal times and snack times. Pray that when it is over everyone involved will be able to say, "I came looking for Jesus and found Him here."

# Online Resources

**Bible Gateway** - <https://biblegateway.com> - Many translations, plus daily reading plans and other resources

**Daily Hope with Rick Warren** - <http://pastorrick.com> - Daily devotional and other resources

**First 5** - <http://first5.org> - Apps and other resources for personal and group Bible study. Geared toward women, but all can benefit

**Turning Point with David Jeremiah** - <http://www.davidjeremiah.org> - Daily devotional and other resources

**Desiring God** - John Piper - <http://www.desiringgod.org> - Articles, sermons, free e-books and more

**Upper Room Devotional** - <http://devotional.upperroom.org> - Daily devotional from the organization that sponsors Walk to Emmaus

**Insight for Living Devotional** - Chuck Swindoll - <https://www.insight.org> - Daily devotional and many other resources

**Our Daily Bread** - <https://odb.org> - Daily devotional and other resources

**Christian Classics Ethereal Library** - <https://www.ccel.org> - "The mission of the Christian Classics Ethereal Library (CCEL) is to build up the church by making classic Christian literature widely available and promoting its use for edification and study by interested Christians, seekers and scholars."

**The Bible Project** - <http://thebibleproject.com> - An excellent source for short animated videos on every book of the Bible, themes and word studies

**Bible Broadcasting Network** - <http://www.bbnradio.org> - Many resources, including a free "Bible Institute" with many courses available. Somewhat antiquated website, but worth looking into for the content.

**A Word with You** - Ron Hutchcraft - <https://hutchcraft.com> - Daily inspirational messages and other resources

**AllWorship** - Free Christian Music - <http://www.allworship.com> - Christian music online and apps, devotions and other resources

**Walk in the Word with James MacDonald** - <http://jamesmacdonald.com> - Daily devotions, various resources

**Seedbed** - Daily Devotional - [www.seedbed.com](http://www.seedbed.com) - Daily devotional and many other resources

**Bible.com** - <https://www.bible.com> - Bible online, apps, reading plans and other resources

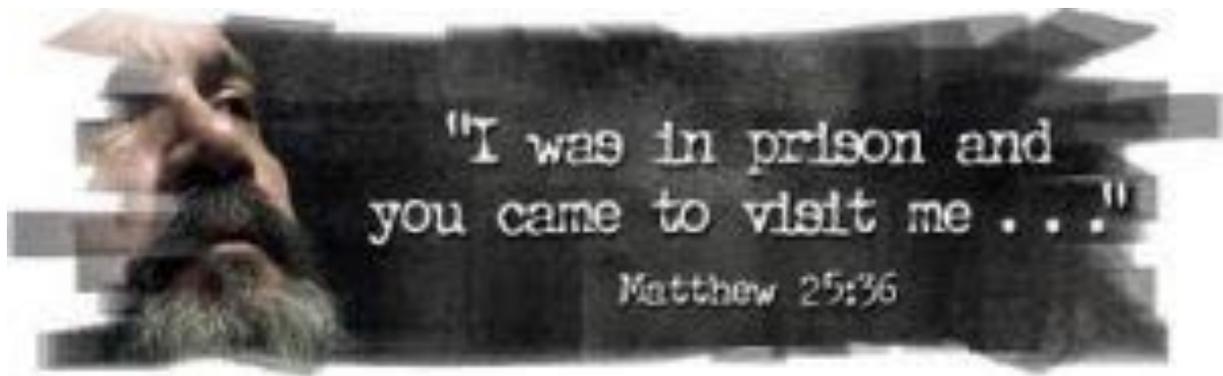
**Days of Praise** - <http://www.icr.org> - Daily devotional and many other resources

**Christian History Magazine** - <https://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org> - Excellent resource for learning about the history of Christianity, various denominations and important historical figures in the life of the Church. Back issues available online.

**Christianity Today** (monthly magazine) - <http://www.christianitytoday.org> - "Since 1956, Christianity Today has challenged the church with real-world content that is timely, compelling, insightful, balanced - and biblical."

**World** (biweekly news magazine) - <https://world.wng.org> - News presented from a conservative, evangelical perspective. Insightful commentary in each issue.

**\*\*Please note that while the websites listed above were suggested by members of the New Covenant community, their inclusion here does not imply endorsement by the New Covenant Emmaus Board of Directors or the Upper Room Ministries.**



***Have you ever given serious thought to prison ministry?***

**Kairos Prison Ministry, sometimes referred to as “Emmaus Gone To Prison”, is active in our community at both Limestone Correctional Facility and the Decatur Work Release Center; and also at Julia Tutwiler Prison, the only women’s prison in the state of Alabama. Several New Covenant Emmaus folks are regular volunteers in these programs. And you can become involved, too! Besides the “Inside Team” conference room, there is an all-important Support Team that includes kitchen staff, agape, prayer chapel, and logistics. There is a place here for you to serve!**

**Teams are presently being formed and already in training for:**

**Decatur Work Release Kairos #5 - September  
27-30**

**Julia Tutwiler Kairos #56 - September 27-30**

**Kairos Outside # 42 - October 12-14**

**Limestone Kairos #66 - October 18-21**

**You can help support these team by participating on the prayer vigils, writing letters to inmates, making placemat or poster agape, buying meal tickets (\$5), and baking home-made cookies.**



**God’s Special Time**

**For more information and for team applications, visit the Alabama Kairos website at [www.kairos-al.org](http://www.kairos-al.org), or contact Jack & Kerry at [jkpmlawrence@bellsouth.net](mailto:jkpmlawrence@bellsouth.net).**

## From the New Covenant Community Archives



In the spring of 1994, as the New Covenant Community was preparing for Walks #1 and #2, a friendly competition was held to choose an official logo. The winner was Carolyn Turner (Alabama Walk #25) who submitted a design very similar to the one shown here. But when her design appeared on the first order of over 100 shirts, we realized that the supplier had reversed the templates so that the colors of the rainbow were in the incorrect order! In an act of true agape to the embarrassed supplier, the Community decided that the jumbled rainbow was an excellent reflection of our personality. This design was then worn for over 20 years on our t-shirts and sweatshirts. If you still have one, pull it out once in awhile and wear it with love!