

# New Covenant Emmaus

An Emmaus Community



## NEW COVENANT NOTES

Fall 2021

### Inside this Issue

#### Monthly Gatherings

##### **LOCATION:**

Friendship Church  
16479 Lucas Ferry Rd  
Athens, AL 35611

##### **WHEN:**

3rd Friday of Every Month

##### **TIME:**

7:29pm—Worship

NCEC Board of Directors	Page 2
Community Lay Director	Page 2-3
Community Spiritual Director	Page 4
News and Updates	Page 5-7
Mark Your Calendars	Page 8
Men's Walk Lay Director	Page 9
Women's Walk Lay Director	Page 10
About Face-to-Face	Page 11
Face-to-Face Lay Director	Page 12
Chrysalis Lay Director	Page 13
Kairos	Page 14
Sponsorship	Page 15
Volunteering	Page 16
Fourth Days	Page 17
72-Hour Prayer Tips	Page 18-19
Online Resources	Page 20-21
From the Archives	Page 22





## **NCEC Board of Directors**

Jeff Reynolds, Community Lay Director

Sharon Keffer, Community Spiritual Director

West Chiles

Bridget Fox

Connie Lovell

Scott Kowerduck

Conrad Bonner

Tina Cook

Robby Hunt

Jim Bennett

Daryl Randolph

Jesus Lopez

Mike Powers

Connie Watkins

Robbi Montgomery

Corey Jewell-Taylor



### **A Message from Our Community Lay Director**

I hope all of you are safe and well. The New Covenant Emmaus Community has been active for 27 years. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and dedication of our members, we are a thriving, healthy community and financially secure. What an incredible year it has been since the last State of the Community address. The year 2020 will be forever etched in our memories as the COVID-19 Pandemic year. COVID-19 wreaked havoc over the entire world and led to canceled and postponed walks, flights, and encounters in the Emmaus communities around the world. Our Board of Directors had to quickly move into the electronic age by conducting our monthly meetings via Zoom. Our Board also worked tirelessly and created a Task Force to monitor and address the COVID-19 Pandemic situation and to follow the directions from the CDC and Upper Room to determine best timing and health practices for our flights, walks, and encounters. We monitored the Crystal Springs Camp safety and kept in contact with them to see when they would be reopening for events. We held our first event in May of this year with the Girls Chrysalis Flight which added 17 new butterflies. With the addition of these butterflies, New Covenant now has 3,725 members. Unfortunately, with the rise in COVID-19 cases, the Fall Walks have been postponed to the Spring 2022.



In the past year we conducted six virtual gatherings via Zoom during our pandemic isolation. Between June 2020 and February 2021, more than eighty community members attended one or more virtual Fourth Day gatherings at various times. Wrestling with technology has not been easy, but our music and media teams have been adaptable and gracious in online settings. As a bonus, we have gained valuable technical experience that may strengthen our Fourth Day connections in the future. Despite limitations, brothers and sisters in Christ have gathered online for friendly banter, infectious laughter, singing, prayer, Fourth Day testimonies, devotionals, and love feasts or Holy Communion.

This past year the Upper Room announced that they were taking applications for Community Trainers who would take responsibility for the training within Emmaus Communities that in the past has been conducted by Upper Room trainers and regional staff members. The Board unanimously voted to ask Annette Strickland to submit an application to the Upper Room along with a letter of recommendation. The board felt that the many hours Annette has spent as document custodian for our community would contribute to her being qualified as a trainer. I am pleased to announce that Annette has passed all the exams and has been certified as our Community Trainer.

During the pandemic, it became apparent to the board leadership that there was a need to strengthen and develop new Fourth Day opportunities. In our fourth days it is crucial that we continue to grow in piety, study, and Christian service. We have a Fourth Day and Reunion Group Task Force that is working to make it easier to find or even start a new Reunion Group in your area if desired. A survey was conducted earlier in the year to establish how many people were involved in a Reunion Group and if they would be interested in starting a new Reunion Group. This year and going forward we have added a Fourth Day Testimony to our monthly gathering agenda to hear from different members of the community about their Fourth Day experiences and more information about their Reunion Groups.

Sharon Keffer was voted by the Board of Directors at the last Board meeting to continue to serve as our Community Spiritual Director beginning August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022. We are blessed that Sharon agreed to serve another year.

We have updated the NCEC website platform and added a *PayPal* button on the website to allow donations and Pilgrim's fees to be paid electronically. Just visit <https://newcovenantemmaus.com/> and click on the "Donate to NCEC by clicking here..." button. Please check out our new updated website to find information on Sponsorship, Reunion Groups, Gatherings, Prayer Vigil and the forms for Pilgrim sponsorship for Emmaus and Face-to-Face.

And last but not least, if you have not updated and checked your information in Ministry Manager, I encourage you to do so by clicking the NCEC Database link at the bottom of the New Covenant Emmaus website. Please verify your information and update it if it is out-of-date or incorrect.

**De Colores!**

**Jeff Reynolds**  
*Community Lay Director*





## Spiritual Director's Corner

### Standstills

As those who have experienced God's overflowing life-changing grace on Emmaus Walks, let's remember we are people of the Emmaus *movement*, and that grace is on the move even when nothing else seems to be. With the Fall walks being canceled *again*, perhaps we feel a bit like the pair on the road to Emmaus when Jesus joined them and asked, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" Luke 24: 17(NIV) says, "They stood still, their faces downcast." Can you relate?

The two discouraged disciples were likely dragging their feet as they sadly discussed how things seemed "dead in the water." When the Resurrected Christ joined them, He knew they believed their plans had been dashed by earthly agendas, angry mobs, and the Roman government. "Tuning in" to worldly agendas and perspectives can cause our feet to come to a standstill. Jesus listens to their sorrowful account and probes further with a second question, "What things?" When we find ourselves trudging along, Jesus joins us and listens to what makes our hearts and feet heavy. Just like with the two on the road to Emmaus, He hears the struggles, sees our sadness, and asks, "What things?" We can always tell Jesus what is bothering us. He wants to know!

Based on circumstances, these traveling companions had concluded their plans and Messianic hopes had died at a government-sponsored cross. Jesus responded, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." (Luke 24: 25-26, NIV) When we are at a standstill and our faces are downcast, **Jesus comes alongside and initiates a holy conversation that helps us see that His perspective is different than the daily news, and His plans are grounded in the greater story of God.**

God's grace is always on the move and shows up on the journey filled with disappointed hearts and dragging feet. As we assess current events, we might be tempted to trust in ourselves and "lean on our own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV). Rather than relying on our own understanding of present circumstances, let's open our hearts and recognize once again that the One who comes alongside right here and right now is the God of the impossible! May faith rise up in us as the people of the Emmaus movement! Be assured that as we acknowledge Him in ALL of our ways, our steps will be directed by the God whose very Word brought forth created order from nothing and the crucified Christ from the tomb. He can create new things in NCEC and call forth life-giving walks in the Spring or whenever His timing is best. Keep praying, "Come Holy Spirit . . . Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth."

Meanwhile, don't waste all that agape love and grace you have been looking forward to sharing this Fall. Fill a bucket up to overflowing with abundant grace and agape, show up on the journey today with somebody whose face is downcast or feet are dragging to a standstill, and shower them with God's love.

During this "pant" demic, people are thirsting for God's love, so don't wait until the next 72-hour event to pour it out all around! Join somebody in their journey, listen to their fears and disappointments, and gently nudge their steps from dragging through the narrative of hopelessness to dancing in the loving presence of the Resurrected Christ who joins us on the road right here and right now.

De Colores,

*Sharon Keffer*

*Community Spiritual Director*





Lots of good things are happening!



Now there is a safe and secure way to make donations and pay Pilgrim fees to the New Covenant Emmaus Community. The link is available on the NCEC website, by scanning our QR code on your mobile PayPal app, or simply go to PayPal and send money to

[ncectreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:ncectreasurer@gmail.com)



*Scan. Pay. Go.*



Our community wants to stay in contact with our members. Over the last few months, we have done some maintenance work on our Constant Contacts account. If you are a new member of our community or if you are a member who has NOT been receiving emails regarding gatherings and other NCEC news, please send your name and email address to:

[webservant@newcovenantemmaus.com](mailto:webservant@newcovenantemmaus.com)





## COVID-19 Restart Info

Last year, the Emmaus board chartered a small group to evaluate how Emmaus events might take place in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, the board determined that the risks were simply too great to safely proceed in April. We have also determined that Walks will not be happening in September. However, at this time, The New Covenant Chrysalis Community will be holding the Boy's Flight in September. The Encounter is currently still scheduled for October. This has been, and remains, a fluid situation and all of us need to be mindful of our own relative risk of contracting COVID-19. New variants and rapid spread among unvaccinated people remain real threats. On July 27, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided additional guidance that can be accessed at (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7030e2.htm>). In this update, the CDC also recommended that local decision-makers assess infection rates and consider reinstituting masking requirements for certain populations in some situations.

When you come to community gatherings, serve on a Chrysalis or Face-to-Face team, sponsor a pilgrim or caterpillar, or join us for send-off, candlelight, or closing, you will see some small changes designed to minimize crowds in contained spaces or otherwise reduce infection risk. Though some events are operating somewhat normally, it doesn't mean there is no risk nor does it relieve you of your responsibility to assess your own unique situation and take steps you deem necessary to protect yourself and others. *Masks will be required at all NCEC activities until further notice.*





## Other Emmaus Communities

*Please be in prayer for the following  
Emmaus Events happening soon:*

### **Great River Emmaus:**

- Men's Walk #27 (August 26-29)
- Women's Walk #28 (September 9-12)

### **North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage**

- Walk # 167 (September 9-12)

### **Wisconsin Sonrise Via de Cristo**

- Co-Ed #13 (October 7-10)





## 2021 Fall Events Schedule

### Boy's Chrysalis Flight # 53

September 3-6

Ralph Weaver, Lay Director

Support Coordinator: David Martin

Agape chair: Rita Edwards

### Face-to-Face Encounter #6

October 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, & 15

Jeff Rothermel, Lay Director

Support Coordinator: Betty Van Valkenburgh

Agape chair: Jeana Kowerduck

**ENCOUNTER LOCATION:**

***Isom's Chapel UMC***

### Men's Walk #102

April 21 – 24, 2022

Jim Bennett, Lay Director

Support Coordinator: Kay Dotson

Agape Lead: Pat Littrell

### Women's Walk #103

April 28 – May 1, 2022

Vickie McCurry, Lay Director

Support Coordinator: David Crouch

Agape Lead: Megan Montgomery Boles





## **Men's Walk #102 - Lay Director**

Greetings! I hope and pray this newsletter finds you well and healthy; that you and your family have been able to avoid the ill effects of the COVID-19 virus. Due to a number of unforeseen circumstances in the last few weeks, Men's Walk 102 has been cancelled for Fall 2021. The board has reevaluated the situation and is delaying Men's Walk 102 until Spring: April 21-24, 2022. As an alternative for Pilgrims age 60 and over, please consider the Face-to-Face Encounter #6 that will be held October 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, & 15, at Isom's Chapel UMC.

Please pray for God's wisdom and guidance as we prepare for the Walk due to the special challenges that we will be faced with in the coming months. Also, pray that the spread of the virus will continue to decline so NCEC Walks can resume to their normal schedules in the upcoming year.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace during these trying times.

De Colores!

**Jim Bennett**

Lay Director Walk #102





## **Women's Walk #103 - Lay Director**

***Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ!***

Though we were hopeful and **READY** for Walk 103, the escalation of COVID-19's Delta variant has delayed things. The new date for Walk 103 is scheduled for April 28-May 1, 2022. I remain thankful to all who have said YES to serve on this Walk and all those in our community who will support our team and Pilgrims through prayer, sponsorship, Agape, and attendance at 4<sup>th</sup> Day events.

Please begin praying **NOW** that *nothing* will stand in the way of New Covenant Emmaus Walks resuming in the New Year 2022!

**De Colores and Much Love,**

***Vicki McCurry***

Lay Director Walk 103





## **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.





## Thoughts from the Face-to-Face Lay Director

Do you remember your Walk to Emmaus? How excited you were by all the spirit-filled talks, gifts of agape, food, and friends you made? I remember my Walk like it was yesterday! I also remember walking a lot and even feeling sleep-deprived at times. If you know an older person who would enjoy and benefit from a Walk, but who is not up to the physical demands of an intensive 72-hour weekend, the Upper Room has the solution for them! It's called the **Face-to-Face Encounter**, and it is for people aged 60 and older. Face-to-Face has virtually all of the elements of a Walk: good food, lots of laughs, surprising personal encounters, uplifting and inspiring talks, spiritual experiences, worship, communion, and singing. And did I mention jokes?

The New Covenant Emmaus Community is facilitating Face-to-Face Encounter #6 at **Isom's Chapel UMC located at 16230 Mooresville Road Athens, AL 35611**. The dates are between Oct. 4-15, 9:30am – 12:30 pm. We will meet on Monday's, Wednesday's, Thursday's, and Friday's. The church facility is ideal, with no steps for Pilgrims to climb. If you want to know more about Face-to-Face, or if you would like application forms to share with others, please contact me at (256) 682-6232 or [rothejx@gmail.com](mailto:rothejx@gmail.com). Sponsorship of pilgrims is welcome but not required. Please begin lifting the team up in prayer. And please pray especially for those whom the Holy Spirit even now may be laying on your heart to invite to this exciting and transformative experience.

**De Colores!**

**Jeff Rothermel**

Lay Director Encounter #6





## News from the Butterfly Front

**Hi everyone,**

Greetings from Chrysalis flight 53 headquarters! God has put together a really great team spiritually and physically. I cannot wait to see what he has in store for the young men He has appointed to be at the camp for this weekend. But God needs our hands and feet to get them there. Has He been putting the name of a young man you are acquainted with or know about in your mind and heart? If so, extend the invitation and sponsor. This will be the first Boys Chrysalis Flight since 2018. So please sponsor if God is nudging you to. Above all pray for the caterpillars that God already knows will be on this flight even if we don't yet! Please pray for the team as well. The team is excited to kick off this fall season of flight/walks.

You don't have to be on the roster to help you can

1. PRAY
2. Make Agape 50-55 pieces. (Include your name if you would like unused leftovers)
3. Sign up for the Prayer Vigil
4. Make some goodies for refreshments. (Teenage boys love to eat...& men too! 😊)
5. Come to Candlelight... *REMEMBER CANDLELIGHT FOR CHRYSALIS IS ON SUNDAY NIGHT*, September 5th
6. **PRAY...PRAY...PRAY**

Through team formation and God's sifting, to quote Hunter Lindsey, we have the "*makings of an awesome flight!*"

***Fly with CHRIST and De Colores!!***

**Ralph Weaver**

**NCC LD Boy's Flight #53**





## Kairos Update

Since our last update the Kairos situation has changed significantly. **ADOC**: *Alabama Department of Corrections* is now tentatively willing to let Kairos members return inside the facilities starting in August 2021. Previously **ADOC** had no set for re-entry into any facility. Their view has changed due to the Covid-19 Vaccine availability. Any decisions they make are subject to change at any time.

**NACWC**: *North Alabama Community Work Center* (formerly known as Decatur Work Release) is allowing one Kairos member into the facility once every three weeks for Reunions only.

**LCF**: *Limestone Correctional Facility* is not allowing any volunteers in their facility because the inmates are on lock-down.

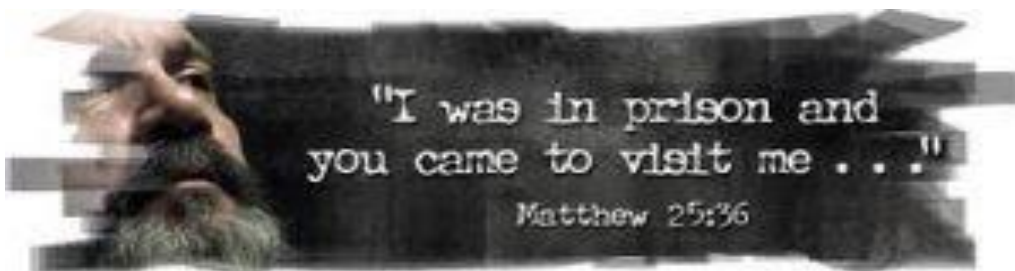
*Julia Tutwiler Women's Prison* has had no movement because they seem to be re-organizing their Kairos Community.

A *Kairos Outside* weekend event took place in July 2021. This event is relatively new for Kairos. It is designed for female relatives of anyone incarcerated. There will be another *Kairos Outside* weekend Sept 24-26, 2021. If anyone is interested in being a part of this *Kairos Outside* weekend, please contact me by text at 603-714-9664 or through email at [jesusmlopez22@yahoo.com](mailto:jesusmlopez22@yahoo.com)

*De Colores,*

**Jesus Lopez**

*Kairos Liaison*







## **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.

To sponsor someone for a walk, flight, or encounter, look under the

**SPONSORSHIP** tab on our community website.

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





## **WILLING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

If it has 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.

Visit our website to fill out a form.

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

*(Forms are located under the VOLUNTEER tab.)*

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.





## Fortifying Fourth Days

Reunion Group, Group Reunion, Fourth Day Group or Accountability Group, different names, but the same basic thing. This is a small group usually 2 to 6 people that meet on a regular basis to help the members persevere in grace and strengthen their daily walk with Christ. Most groups are made up of people who have participated in a Walk to Emmaus although some include members who have not. These groups are meant to help those who have been on a walk continue to grow and flourish in their relationship with Christ during their Fourth days. While the group is a social meeting the most important aspect of the group is the sharing of stories from everyone about their daily walk with Christ since the last meeting. Looking at both times that they felt close to God as well as times they felt distant from him. The Emmaus Reunion Card is given out the third day of the walk and provides a template for the group discussion. Members listen to one another, celebrate the grace of God in each person's life and reinforce each one's commitment to living in union with Christ in all facets of daily life.

The New Covenant Fourth Day Committee has been examining the importance of reunion groups in our community. We have polled members about their interest and participation in reunion groups.

From this we have developed a current list of reunion groups with points of contact that is available on our website.

We have set up an email account so that people who are interested in finding out more about reunion groups or finding a reunion group near them can get information as well as those interested in starting a group can give information as well. That email address is [ncecreuniongroup@gmail.com](mailto:ncecreuniongroup@gmail.com)

We have been getting Reunion Group leaders or participants to speak at the monthly gathering about the value of reunion and sharing their experiences.

We are going to have a table at monthly gatherings to help members find and establish reunion groups.

We are also looking at avenues to promote reunion groups to pilgrims, these include

- 1) Encouraging the sponsor to talk to their pilgrim about reunion groups and help them find/form a group
- 2) Make sure that where appropriate information about reunion groups is clearly given in the talks given during the walk
- 3) Educating table leaders and assistant table leaders to help their table for table groups either through text or email.

We continue to talk and brainstorm about other ways to promote, start and maintain reunion groups. As we all continue in our fourth days it is the fellowship of believers and our sharing of our daily walk with Christ that allows us to persevere in grace and the reunion group fortifies our steps.

De Colores,

*Bridget Fox*

4<sup>th</sup> Days Liaison





## 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, Conference Room, Agape, Worship, Events, 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 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 mealtimes 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





**All Worship - 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.***





# From the Archives

## Reunion Group Significance

The Group Reunions were a part of the original Cursillo movement from the beginning. Eduardo Bonin, Cursillo movement Founder, wrote lots on this topic. One quote found online stated:

**“We must bear in mind that reunion groups are not held so that there may be people attend weekends, but the weekend is held so that there may be people to make reunion groups.”**

Included below is an account from the 1<sup>st</sup> staff person tasked with developing *The Walk to Emmaus* within The Upper Room, Rev. Dr. Robert Wood.

### GROUP REUNION

*The following Monday, I joined an accountability group, or Group Reunion. For the next four years, our small group of five persons met faithfully every Monday at 5:00 P.M. to support, challenge, uplift in prayer, and hold each other accountable for our “God-calling.” Again, it seemed to me that Cursillo’s founders had borrowed a concept from John Wesley—the class meeting. I gave myself wholeheartedly to the task of the Group Reunion: reviewing my study, piety, and action.*

*Our group was composed of an insurance agent, a surgeon, a minister, a computer expert, and a salesperson. In the four years we met, we studied books, had fellowship, shared our deepest needs, and celebrated our highest moments. But probably one of our most meaningful ministries was to organize and support a hot meal program on the south side of Peoria in one of the poorest neighborhoods. We found a closed parish house, three retired nuns who were willing servants, and a community ready to share its surplus food. Our group went to grocery warehouses and asked for outdated canned goods. We located a produce supplier who did not want fresh produce to go to waste at the end of the day. We also were fortunate to obtain financial support from some local business owners whose hearts were moved with compassion for their neighbors.*

*Soon we found ourselves in the ministry of providing food for elderly residents in nearby low-cost housing units. The Group Reunion consisted of five men responding with their talents for the sake of ministry in Jesus’ name.*

(Excerpt from, *The Early History of The Walk to Emmaus*)

To learn more about Reunion Groups:

- The Emmaus Library series booklet “The Group Reunion” - [The Group Reunion \(Emmaus Library\): Stephen D. Bryant: 9780835808842: Amazon.com: Books](#)
- Accountability Groups section on page 89 of the Emmaus Ministries Community Manual

**May this historical insight motivate us toward joyful reunion and inspire us to love with extravagance! *De Colores***

