

Wilmington Area Emmaus Community Newsletter

Drawing the Arc

Doing the research for last month's article about our Christian symbols was really fun and interesting. It also made me think about the courage of our early Christian leaders and the incredible bravery that early Christians displayed every time they praised Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

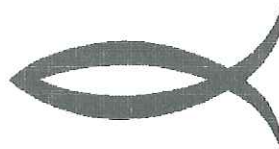
In case you missed the August Wilmington Emmaus Newsletter, the following paragraph explained one of the practical uses for the Ichthus (fish) symbol:

"For the first three centuries following Christ's resurrection, being identified as a Christian could easily cost you your life. Christians were very wary with whom they discussed their faith. It is said that when two strangers met and were talking, if one wanted to find out if the other was a Christian, he would draw an arc in the dirt with the toe of his shoe. If the other person was also a Christian, he or she would draw a corresponding arc in the opposite direction, crossing the end of the arcs to form a fish and tail. The two, now knowing their bond of faith, could celebrate Christ together in safety."

I had the opportunity to share

that little story last month on our youth mission trip. While standing in the Arkansas dust and heat, talking to one of our young people, I told her about drawing the Ichthus symbol in the dust. While telling the story, I traced an arc in the dust. Valerie, using the toe of her tennis shoe, drew an arc in the opposite direction making the Ichthus symbol. She said, "Cool, that's easy."

Later, I thought about how easy it should be for us in this country, a country founded in religious freedom, to express our love of God. We can openly and comfortably express our Christianity while on youth mission trips, at Emmaus Gatherings and in our churches, but how often do we express our faith in God and our love for Jesus Christ when we are away from the comfort, protection and safety of the
(cont. on page 2, "Drawing")



Tabor Talk

MAKING THE MOST OUT OF THE REST STOPS IN LIFE

Recently I was driving back from a week's stay in Tennessee, doing 75 at 65 (I-75 at 65 mph!), when all of a sudden, I heard a strange noise coming from the back end of my car - Whomp! Whomp! Whomp! Whomp!...sort of like the sound a tire would make when it goes flat at a high speed! I pulled over to the side of the highway, got out of the car, and walked completely around it, but none of the tires were flat!

The very next thing I did was to get down on my knees. I would love to be able to tell you at this point that I bent down in order to pray - that would sound so spiritual - but, no... I bent down in order to check out the right
(cont. on page 2, "Making the Most")

"Making the Most"

(cont. from page 1)

rear tire, since that was where the noise seemed to be coming from.

What I saw next brought me to the point of prayer - for the entire steel belt on the inside of the tire was frayed and twisted and exposed - no tread on it whatsoever! The tire had not yet lost pressure and was not flat, but the tire was useless. No wonder it sounded like the whole rear end was coming apart! I did pray a prayer of praise for God's protection and preservation, for I am confident that the results could have been much worse.

After changing the tire, I then decided to go to the next exit and look for someone who could sell me another tire. I found just such a place in a Super-WalMart. They could get me back on the road in about 45 minutes. So, while they installed the new tire, I went into the store and "window-shopped" - not buying anything, but just looking around. Eventually, I went back to the auto service waiting room and sat down, waiting for them to complete the task. A lady with two small children came into the waiting area and sat down. The mom looked rather frayed around the edges, and I suspect she had suffered somewhat of a similar fate as I, an unexpected auto difficulty. She asked me what time it was and when I told her, she "invited" the two children to play with the toys provided in the room. Right then, I heard my name called, for they had completed the tire change. Just as I left the room, I turned to the woman with her children and said, "God bless you!" She looked up at me with gratitude in her eyes and, in a sigh of relief, said, "Thank you!"

I didn't get the chance to talk with that lady about her situation or about her relationship with the Savior. Someone else might have done or made more out of that simple little encounter, but I believe that such times serve as a call to us to make the most out of the "rest stops" in our lives.

I am also reminded of another

rest stop - one encountered by a man named Philip in the Bible (Acts 8:26-40), where he was used by God to lead an Ethiopian official to the Lord. One cannot read those verses without seeing that every step, every word, every movement in that encounter had "GOD" written all over it. Philip made the most out of that "rest stop" on the highway from Jerusalem to Gaza, because he was not proud or stubborn enough to resist God or force his own wishes or desires into the situation. Instead, he was sensitive enough to the Spirit of God working in his life to be led where the Spirit wanted him to go, to say what the Spirit wanted him to say and to leave the results and the responses up to the Spirit of God.

How about you? Are you making the most out of the "rest stops" in your life? Are you allowing the Spirit of God to move you and send you and speak through you and use you in the ways HE wants to? Or are you stubbornly insisting upon going your own way, at your own pace and in your own time?

Whether it be in your own home, your own church or you own Emmaus community, God is looking for servants. He desires to use those (hopefully, not-too-) rare individuals who are sensitive to His Spirit, and willing to serve where He wants them to serve. And you know, the choice is yours--either be a willing servant available to be used by the Lord, or expect lots of flat tires along the way!

Make the most of the rest stops in your life!

God bless...

Chuck Tabor

"Drawing" (cont. from page 1)

the Body of Christ? Do we search out opportunities to tell others about Jesus, or do we avoid topics that involve religion because of the awkwardness that develops during these situations?

I don't know about others in our Christian community, but I am not nearly the brave, outspoken witness for Jesus that I wish I could be. I, like

many other Christians, don't feel that I am strong enough in the scripture to properly witness to others. I don't want to put other people "on the spot," or make them feel "uncomfortable" by bringing up religion. I don't want to appear to be holier-than-thou or "preachy."

Are those weak excuses for not being a witness? You bet they are. But, there are ways for us to get around these weak excuses. There are ways for all of us to be effective witnesses for Christ. There are ways for us to express our Christianity without making people uncomfortable, without putting people off, or without appearing to be "preachy." Simply look for opportunities to draw the arc.

A phrase that is used on almost every Emmaus Walk is, "The only Christ that many people will ever see is the Christ that is in you." Every time you show someone that Christ is in you, you are drawing an arc. You are giving them the opportunity to discuss Christ. You are giving yourself the opportunity to be a witness, to allow others to see Christ in you. How do these opportunities present themselves?

When someone tells you that a family member is sick, say that you'll pray for him or her. When asked to play in a golf scramble on Sunday morning, say, "I'd love to, but I'd much rather go to church on Sunday." When discussing the hot news topics of the day at work, interject into the conversation how something you heard in the Sunday sermon or your Bible study class relates to the topic.

When eating in a public place, pray silently before eating. A law enforcement friend once said that he was approached in a restaurant after praying over lunch. The person was sincerely touched by his simple act of public prayer. The arc was drawn.

It's so simple to let people know that you are a Christian - to draw the arc. We should strive every day and in every way to allow others to see Christ in us.

DeColores, Randy Riley

Men's Walk to Emmaus #30

September 23 - 26, 1999

Live - In Team

Rick Alvey	Sabina	Steve Preston
Tim Amburgey	Lynchburg	Betty Starkey
Dick Bracht	Wilmington	Judy Bracht
Greg Brookover	Lebanon	Seth Marsh
Gary Buchanan	Hillsboro	John Burton
Jay Cooper	Hillsboro	Maurice Mitchell
Bill Davis	Wilmington	Andrea Davis
Doug Donohoo	Englewood	Larry & Ruth Ann Crowell
Mike Dugan	Washington CH	Barry & Claudia Hidy
Steven Eckstein	Washington CH	Penne Halliday
Paul Eichelberger	Wilmington	Phil Brewer
Al Hamann	Seaman	Sue Hamann
Jim Haninger	Dublin	Rod Bryant
Jon Hansford	Leesburg	Jim & Val Stuckey
Mike Harris	Lebanon	Gary Hughes
Rusty Hidy	Hillsboro	Gary Carter
Keith Holten	Wilmington	Randy Riley
Thomas Hudnell	Greenfield	Faitha Shelton
Ken Huffenberger	Wilmington	Ron & Sandy Wilt
Brian Koch	Bellbrook	Becky Hoak
Jim Lehn	Hillsboro	Mary & Jennie Lehn
Roger Leslie	New Vienna	Dick & Shirley Leslie
Kerry Lewis	Wilmington	Paul Winters
Art Link	Leesburg	Bill & Karen Newland
Jim McIntosh	Sabina	Joy McIntosh
Ron Moffett	Russellville	Maurice Mitchell
Doug Moore	Mason	Linda Piercy
Matt Moore	New Vienna	Paul & Lori Winters
George Nash	Leesburg	Roy & Barb Collins
Doug Prichard	Washington CH	Steve Preston
John Puckett	Beavercreek	Kathy Puckett
Vernon Puckett	Sardinia	Roger & Barbara Puckett
James Quigley	Martinsville	George & Linda Cordy
Mark Rogers	Washington CH	Rod Bryant
Tom Rotello	Lebanon	Jim VanDeGrift
Steve Rupp	New Vienna	Pam Rupp
David Shipley	Washington CH	John Nestor
Clem Simmons	Martinsville	Betty Starkey
Bob Snellman	Hillsboro	Chuck Tabor
Vernon Stanforth	Washington CH	Bob & Lisa Peterson
Jack Tamplin	Wilmington	Pete & Barb Little
Wayne Wiedenbein	Hillsboro	Glenn Armstrong

John Zeller - LD - Perseverance
 Mike Halley - ALD - Priesthood
 Randy Scott - ALD - Changing Our World
 Jim Runnels - ALD - Christian Action
 Phil Morrow - TL - Priority
 Virgil Workman - TL - Life In Piety
 Jon Silveous - TL - Fourth Days
 Cliff Klutts - TL - Body of Christ
 Jon Tussey - TL - Discipleship
 Ernie Slone - TL - Growth Thru Study
 Dick Leslie - TL
 W D Campbell - ATL
 David Damron - ATL
 Mike Smith - ATL
 Warren Travis - ATL
 Steve Windsor - ATL
 David Hutton - ATL
 Jim Wingo - ATL
 Mike Jenks - MD
 Darrell Holmes - SD
 Joe Duvall - ASD
 Brett Foster - LOG
 John Glaze - Emmaus Board Rep/AMD

CHRYSALIS NEWS

Twenty-eight girls were on Faith In Flight #1 and had an awesome experience. According to the Upper Room folks, the attendance at Candlelight was **RECORD BREAKING!!!** The community was overwhelmed with agape and, of course, prayer. At closing, there was no doubt! They understood that they have a Daddy that loves them with a love that can never be exhausted!

▶ A Special Message from the Board of Directors: "We are overwhelmed by the support that our sponsoring Wilmington Emmaus Community and our sister community, Greater Scioto Valley, have given to the start up of this new Chrysalis Community."

For the latest update:

www.wilmingtonemmaus.org

Wilmington United Methodist Church
61 E. Main St, Suite 4
Wilmington, OH 45177

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Calendar - September 1999

Emmaus - Wilmington UMC

- 9 Emmaus Board Retreat
6:00pm Fellowship Hall
- 14 *Reunions! 6:00pm*
Men's #28
Women's #49
Gathering - 7:00pm
(Singing starts at 6:45pm)
Special Sponsorship Training!
Copy deadline for October Newsletter
- 23-26 Men's Walk #30

When attending a gathering or closing, you may wish to bring food to share during the fellowship time following these two events.

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This 'n' That

We received notice from Al Rhonemus that the LOVE community has delayed their first walk until Spring of 2000. Surround this new community with prayer as they continue to work toward their start up.

There are approximately 125 men and 169 women on our waiting lists for their Walks to Emmaus. See related article about sponsorship!

Our new web site is: www.wilmingtonemmaus.org and as always, you can see the most up-to-date list of pilgrims at this site. If you are interested in volunteering to help our **Faith In Flight Chrysalis** community, you can find an electronic sign up form on the web page. If you're not on that super highway, you can always contact Molly Lotz or Darrell Holmes with your offer of service. The next flight is November 26-28; Boys #1.

Looking for a way to serve and use your talent for the Lord? Mary Clausing reports that Bainbridge Presbyterian Church is in need of a pianist for their services. If you could help out, contact Mary at (937) 365-1442 for details.

It's time to nominate those you feel would make good Emmaus Board Members! Send the name of your nominee(s) and the reason for the nomination to: Nominating Committee, c/o Wilmington Emmaus Community, PO Box 191, Wilmington, OH 45177. The committee will review the nominations and select potential board members for the election to be held later in the year.

Sponsorship Training

Have you enjoyed the recent skits written, produced and starring Diana Preston (aka Glory Swanton). If you were privileged to see these, I'm sure you'll agree that Diana and her merry band of thespians have a real gift....for something....I'm not sure that it's acting though. All the fun is to attract your attention to the fact that we need to spend more time thinking about those we sponsor. There have been a few articles in the newsletter about the awesome task of sponsoring a pilgrim. There really is a lot more than photocopying applications and handing them out to everyone you meet.

*"The strength of any Emmaus community is a direct result of that community's recruiting practices. If the community is committed to recruiting strong church leaders for the purpose of strengthening the local church, then the community will be a strong, vital force in the renewal movement. If, on the other hand, the Walk to Emmaus is looked upon as a hospital where every human ill can be cured, it will have a weakening effect on the entire community."*¹

To this end, we will be enjoying more of Diana at the September Gathering as we experience **SPONSORSHIP TRAINING!** This is an important event! Even if you have previously sponsored pilgrims, you will benefit from this session. We can always learn something new to make us better sponsors. Please don't miss this important Gathering!

¹Day Four The Pilgrim's Continued Journey, ©1986 by The Upper Room