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*"All things  
work  
together for  
good to them  
that love  
God, to them  
who are  
called*

## QUICK MESSAGE

**WE NEED  
PILGRIMS FOR  
THE FEBRUARY  
MEN'S WALK  
and JUNE  
WOMEN'S WALK**

**FIND OUT THE  
JOY OF  
SPONSORSHIP!**

## Jazz from Jim

It's hard to believe but it will be thirteen years this February since that fateful Thursday evening I removed my wrist watch, kissed my wife and three small children goodbye for the weekend, grabbed my suitcase, sleeping bag, pillow and headed out the door to *destinations unknown*. To be honest, the destination was known, (Wilmington UMC), it was the encounters that were the real *unknown*. *Who* was going to be there? *What* would we do, once there? And, *what* was really going to be expected of me? There were so many unknowns, I prayed for Sunday to come quickly.

I don't like "*unknowns*". They make me anxious. Things like; the grades on my child's next report card, the number of miles left in my van before it croaks and how many years do I have before there's *no* hair on top of my head. These are the things that keep me up at night!

Seriously though, as Christians, *unknowns* are often good for us. They cause our faith to grow and crowd us out of our comfort zone. For some, *unknowns* often come wrapped in more dubious packages. How long will the finances last while I'm unemployed, what will be the results of the MRI or is our marriage going to make it through this? Whatever our circumstance, however over-

whelming the situation might seem, and whatever the future might hold, as Christians we have the reassurance that everything will be alright. God assures us in Romans 8:28, "*... all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.*" The unknowns of the future will not defeat you.

One year ago this month, the leadership of the Wilmington Emmaus Community made the difficult decision to cancel the



February Men's Walk. Men's registration numbers were very low and it did not make sense to go forward with the Walk. The Emmaus Board makes every effort to use the resources God has provided, wisely. Whether or not we agree with that decision, I'm sure we all agree the lack of registrations was a call to prayer and a renewed commitment to Sponsorship. To some degree, our Community seems to be in a cycle of waiting until a Walk is only weeks away before applications begin to

trickle in. Please make every effort to extend an invitation to Emmaus, year-round. Even though it may be several months before the next walk, we can still offer the opportunity. Some folks may not feel as threatened if they know it will be several months before they have to face the "unknown". Take a moment to reflect on the wonderful times you experienced on your Walk, then think of someone you want to have that same experience and sponsor them.

I may have had some anxiety about the unknowns when I arrived at the Walk to Emmaus but make no mistake, that weekend had a tremendous spiritual impact on my life and on my faith. The Holy Spirit has continued make an impact in my life throughout the last thirteen years as sacred moments continue to occur at Gatherings and while serving on team.

Please continue to pray for the February Men's Walk. Registrations are still being processed. God has great things in store for each man who attends in February. We just need to be faithful and trust in Him!

De Colores,

Jim

# Joy from Joy

"I AM LOVED"

*You can read the Newsletter on line at our web site, [www.wilmingtonemmaus.org](http://www.wilmingtonemmaus.org). Then click on the link for "Current Newsletter." You'll also find instructions for getting Adobe Acrobat Reader which you will need to read the newsletter, which is posted just as you see it on paper, except in color!*

LOVE? HEAR NO EVIL, SPEAK NO EVIL, SEE NO EVIL

February seems to be the Month of Love! More couples get engaged in February than any other month. We buy candy, send flowers, balloons, valentines and spend all kinds of money that can be afforded or not. Children make Valentine Boxes to share their valentine cards at school. Well, I think they still do. I saw premade ones in the store the other day, how boring is that???

We hear all kinds of messages on Love. I Corinthians 13 - The Love Chapter that describes what love is; John 3:16 that describes how much Christ loves us; John 14 relates that He has gone to prepare a place for us where we can join Him. Wow, that is some kind of love. God cares for us that much!!!!

We hear messages on marital relationships. All of those scriptures on wives being submissive and husbands treating wives as Christ treats the church.

Oh, but then we come to I Peter 3:8-17. It describes what relationships are to be like and what they are not to be like. These are cross the board relationships. Family, Friends, Co-workers, neighbors.....

We are to live in harmony, be responsive to one another's needs, love each other as brothers and sisters in Christ, have tender hearts, and a willingness to encourage each other. Okay, we do that pretty well.

But then verse 9 has to come along. "Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing". Oh how quickly we can fall into spearing with those we love the most. We don't mean to, we don't want to, but once it starts Jesus has to deliver us from it. A hurtful word for a hurtful word, constant competition, and insisting on getting in the last word. How did it start? Where did it start? Where will it end? Probably with a wrestle at Jabbo! Somewhere we have to let God take over the tongue and the attitudes. If we don't, it ruins our relationships with our families we love, our friends, our co-workers and neighbors, our church family, and most importantly, it hurts our relationship with, and our witness for God. We should be praying instead of reacting with anger.

Love is often a word that is used to freely. It is work. It is painful, It is sacrificial. Can we do better?

Me, too!

I don't know who wrote this song,

but the words are searching:

## I AM LOVED

I said, "If you knew you wouldn't love me. My scars are hidden by the face I wear." He said, "My child, my scars go deeper. It was love for you that put them there."

I am loved. I am loved. I can risk loving you. For the one who knows me best loves me most. I am loved. You are loved. We are free to love each other. We are loved.

Forgiven, I repeat I am forgiven, And clear before the Lord I freely stand. Forgiven, I can dare forgive my brother. Forgiven, I reach out to take your hand.

Verse 16 talks about a clear conscience. You can't put a price tag on that. Let's put Psalm 139:23 to work. "Search me, O God, and know my heart".

May You Be Richly Blessed, Joy

## NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

Does your address label have \*EXP\* on it? If so, your newsletter subscription will soon be expiring. You can keep the newsletter coming to your mailbox by renewing now! Fill out the form below and send it, along with \$5.00 to Pat Meranda, 99 Marys Ln, Hillsboro, OH 45133. Don't miss an issue! Renew TODAY!

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This will pay your subscription until 12/31/10.

# Wilmington Area Men's Walk to Emmaus #50

<b>PILGRIMS</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
	Kevin Ellis	Wilmington	Pete & Barb Little
	Morris McKinney	Lebanon	Cliff Klutts
	Edward Ramey	Wilmington	Dennis Brose
	Lucas Rayburn	Blanchester	Johnnie Wass
	Colin Root	Wilmington	Penny Rucker
	George Strausbaugh	Fairfield	Larry Roberts
	Dwayne Woodward	Washington Court House	Victor Tissandier
	John Curless	Blanchester	Victor Tissandier
	Mike Ewing	Wilmington	Mike Wallace
	Steve Harvey	Belbrook	Mike Wallace
<b>TEAM</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Talk</b>
	Phil Brewer	LD	Perseverance
	Jerry Allison	ALD	Priority
	Dean Hall	ALD	Fourth Day
	Bill Snowball	ALD	Grow Through Study
	Chuck Tabor	SD	Means of Grace
	Ken Woleab	ASD	Sanctifying Grace
	Dick Bracht	Board Rep	
	Ron Dowler	AV Coordinator	
	Dave Thomas	MD	
	Andy Avery	TL	Christian Action
	Matt Bennie	TL	Body of Christ
	Vance Hummelgard	TL	Life of Piety
	Ernie Slone	TL	Changing Our World
	Vic Tissandier	TL	Priesthood of all Believers
	Mike Wallace	TL	Discipleship
	James "Peach" Combs	ATL	
	Michael Cook	ATL	
	Darren Parker	ATL	
	Rick Priest	ATL	
	Andy Tabor	ATL	
	John Welling	ATL	

## BEDTIME & TABLE AGAPE

The pilgrim list can grow! If you are providing BEDTIME and/or TABLE AGAPE, please plan for 24 pilgrims. You can always pick up the "leftovers" to save for the next walk.

## PILGRIM LIST UPDATES

For the latest information on additions or deletions, check our web site:  
[www.wilmingtonemmaus.org](http://www.wilmingtonemmaus.org)

Are you on FACEBOOK?  
 Be sure to search for "Wilmington Area Emmaus" and become a fan!

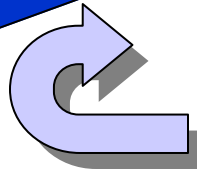




Walk to  
**Emmaus**  
THE UPPER ROOM

**Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus**  
Wilmington United Methodist Church  
PO Box 191  
Wilmington, OH 45177

**SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING! February 9**  
Bring a snack to share afterwards—  
when Emmaus meets, EMMAUS EATS!  
Mark your calendar for Men's Walk #50  
February 25-28



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### 2010 Emmaus Board Members

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Men's Good Shepherd	Vacant		
Women's Good Shepherd	Vacant		