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"No  
more  
cover-  
ups!"

**QUICK  
MESSAGE**

**Women's  
Walk  
in  
June!**

**Get that  
application  
in TODAY!**

## Blossoms from Bloom

**T**oday I declare,  
**"No more  
cover-ups!"**

Beloved,

I have been enjoying a study through World Changers Church entitled, "Was I Born This Way?" The study is taken from Exodus 20:5 that reads: "*You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those that hate me.*"

The Israelites had just come from Egypt where it was common practice to worship many gods. The people had become actively engaged in the practice of the Egyptian culture because they, too, wanted to maximize the number of blessings they could receive. But God wanted them to worship the **one** true God...**Him**. Thus, the number one commandment given to us, "**You shall have no other gods before me.**" Exodus 20:3

In the study it talks about the iniquities (sins) of families that are passed down from one generation to another. They gave examples of hand-me-down sins: alcoholism, drugs, cursing, gambling, pornography, sexual and verbal abuse, pre-marital sex, laziness, overeating, gossiping, explosive temperament to name a few. These don't look like gods, but any sin that we willingly allow to live within us and grow becomes a god that stands be-

tween us and our Father. We like to think that these sins are in our DNA...things that cannot be altered because they are "in" us. We like to push fault off onto other people to try to justify **why we are the way we are** and **why we do the things we do**. But, in reality, the opportunity to choose freedom from these sins lies within us and to shift blame toward other people becomes nothing more than a charade of cover-ups.

*Let me give you an example.* Adam and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that God **warned** them not to eat. We know the story...after eating the fruit they realized they were naked, they clothed themselves the best they could, then hid from God. When God questioned them, Adam blamed it on Eve. And Eve blamed it on the serpent. "**Cover Up!**" Bottom line, *they both* knew the right thing to do... and *they both* chose not to do it.

God gives us the freedom to make the right choice for every decision we face in our lives. He has given to us the bible so we can know the boundaries where goodness and peace abide. All we have to do is **read** The Word of God, and be **doers** of the Word. In doing so, our minds are renewed and our actions are kept in check. We say, "I don't like to read and I don't have time." **Cover up!** There are CD's/tapes of the bible for your car. Get the Word of God in your wheels. You will drive the Adversary right out of your life!

As Exodus 20 :5 permeated my thoughts I questioned myself. *Do I have other God's before me? Has*

*God been talking to me trying to warn me of certain situations that could be harmful to me? Am I tangled in the weight of iniquity that could become a pattern for the lives of my children or grandchildren?*

For all of my life I have battled with weight issues. I weighed in at thirty pounds at age one. My Grandma Mac lovingly nicknamed me "*her little fatty*" when I was in elementary school. I always liked to think that she truly knew my real name! :o~

I can't tell you how many times in my life I've tipped the scales to "red alert zone" and then worked like a mad dog to get that weight back off. When I reached "**over the hill status**" I decided to give up on being my ideal weight. I chose to think that being over weight was just in my DNA. My mother is round, her mother was round, and her mother's mother was round. It was just the way I was going to be. But, to be truthful, **that's just a cover-up!** I am over weight because **that** is what I choose.

You know, God is a very good communicator if we will listen to Him. And, He makes himself known when we are sensitive to His ways.

I have a precious little granddaughter whose name is Magarah. She is a little angel, so very honest and transparent in her conversation with me. One day she asked me, "*Ma, when are you going to get flat?*" I asked her, "*What*

*(continued on page 3)*

## TABOR TALK

Don't anticipate.....  
but expect the unexpected!

There is a phrase that has been repeated on every Emmaus walk or Chrysalis flight with which I have ever been involved. That phrase is simple: "Don't anticipate!" That phrase is used on those occasions to encourage the participants to not be caught unaware when they find themselves in situations which expand their boundaries of comfort, where they find themselves not sure exactly how to respond to the idiosyncrasies and details of the weekend. But the same encouragement could be given to us in every arena of life, not just Emmaus.

A young preacher was invited to a small country church for services. It was summer and the church had no air conditioning so all of the doors and windows were open. Everything was going fine and the young preacher was doing well until in walked a skunk. The skunk paraded right down the aisle towards the pulpit. The young preacher noticed the skunk. He cautiously looked around the church for reactions from the congregation.

To his surprise no one else seemed to even notice the skunk. Uneasily the preacher decided to ignore the skunk and keep preaching. The skunk kept on moving toward the front of the church. The preacher managed to continue focused on preaching until the skunk reached the platform and headed for the pulpit. The young preacher scanned the audience for some sort of reaction. Surely, he thought, someone in the congregation had noticed the skunk.

The audience appeared attentive but yet oblivious to the dilemma of the young preacher. The skunk moved closer to the preacher. Finally, the time for action had arrived and the preacher decided he had to do something. He vaulted over the pulpit and ran out the back door!

Once outside he took a few moments to catch his breath as he waited for others to follow. Several minutes passed and no one else came out of the church. He decided to check out the situation. Cautiously he approached the door and peaked inside. What he saw amazed him, the congregation was still seated as if nothing had happened.

Finally, one of the deacons walked out of the church holding the skunk. By this time the young preacher was extremely nervous and very confused. The deacon looked at the preacher, held up the skunk and said, "I guess we should have told you about the neighbor's pet skunk. He occasionally comes to visit."

That young preacher was never the same after that!

Every preacher has some story that could compare with that one in some way or another. But awkward situations are not the express territory of preachers. As well, pushing people out of their comfort zones is not confined to current living environments. In fact, one cannot read the Gospels without realizing that stretching exercises were regular activities for Jesus with His disciples. He seemed to constantly be pushing out the walls of comfort for those would-be followers in the first century. His challenges to them included feeding a lot of hungry people with little to no resources, calming their anxious hearts on the Sea of Galilee when they were "in over their heads." He also challenged those who were not in his corner with things like healing on the Sabbath. (Is anyone else besides me amazed that the Jewish leaders were more upset about his "working" on the Sabbath than they were in awe that he actually healed someone?) In short, for the disciples, the one thing they could be absolutely sure of when they were with Jesus is that the walls of their traditional "boxes" would be consistently pushed outward through unusual and unique experiences. The one question that they asked with a great regularity was, "What sort of man is this?" The disciples time and again had to re-think and modify their conception of who He was and what He could do.

Our concept of God is too small. We think He is someone who is to be confined to Sunday morning or to only the obviously "spiritual" situations in life - like weddings and funerals and births and baptisms and the like, even Emmaus weekends! But God is in the business of disintegrating that vision that we have of Him. He attempts to drive us to see Him as a God who is in the business of working in our lives on a daily basis, of not just being a "Sunday School God."

Now that may sound good, but how do we accomplish that? How do we expand our vision of a God who is good for Sunday only? I cannot get over the fact that we do that by "fixing our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:1-2). These verses show us that we should expect the unexpected when it comes to God. Because it is unexpected, we should then keep our eyes on Him! God desires our focused attention every day of our lives. In His own creative way, He promises that our concentration will never fail to be rewarded. We should never try to put God in a box, to make Him predictable. When we do, He will do something very unusual, like sending a pet de-odorized skunk down the center aisles of our lives. When that happens, He calls us not to panic, but to continue to trust and depend and focus on Him. And the aroma will be sweet! (Hebrews 13:15-16). Start focusing on Him.... today!

God bless...

*Chuck*

# Welcome to the Men of Walk #52

Darrick Abney	462 Bunchberry Dr	Mainville	OH	45039
Glenn Bowles	145 Hermay Dr	Hamilton	OH	45013
James Bowman	839 Knollwood Cir	Washington CH	OH	43160
James Bullis	13706 US Rt 68	Mt Orab	OH	45154
Marcus Cathcart	204 E David Rd	Kettering	OH	45429
J R Collins	1911 Washington Mill Rd	Xenia	OH	45385
Jim Combs	145 Dakins Chapel Rd	Sabina	OH	45169
Kelly Craft	3740 Cheyenne Tr	Jamestown	OH	45335
Jody W Edwards	112 Hudson Ave	Sabina	OH	45169
Matt Estep	667 Bernard Rd	New Vienna	OH	45159
Jerry M Fyffe	4421 SR 72 N	Sabina	OH	45169
Robert A Goldsmith	1064 Amherst Blvd	London	OH	43140
Van Hewitt	356 Clarksville Rd	Wilmington	OH	45177
Al Hill	PO Box 403	Laurelville	OH	43135
Robin King	804 Hook Rd	Xenia	OH	45385
Bradley Kiphart	8736 SR 28	Pleasant Plain	OH	45162
Tim Miller	124 Meadowbrooke	Wilmington	OH	45177
Dave Moore	4005 Clarksville Rd	Clarksville	OH	45113
Danny New	145 E Lewis Ave	Sabina	OH	45159
Brian Passarge	590 Westwynd Cir	Wilmington	OH	45177
Dan Slocum	311 N Mill St	Blanchester	OH	45107
James Smalley	1863 Shawnee Trace	Blanchester	OH	45107
William A Smith	34505 Melton St	Westland	MI	48186
James Spragg	2518 Mitchell Rd	Wilmington	OH	45177
Justin Tong	174 Dakins-Chapel Rd	Sabina	OH	45169
Jeffrey J Willett Jr	281 E Main St Apr 5C	Clarksville	OH	45113

WELCOME TO THE MEN OF WALK #52!  
(Cut this list out and add to your community directory)

## BLOSSOMS FROM BLOOM *(continued from page 1)*

do you mean, precious?" Her response... "You know, she said, rubbing her belly in an up and downward motion, when are going to get flat like me and Papa?" I looked around to see where I could find John Bloom. I knew he had to be behind this somehow! But there was no one around on whom I could push blame. Standing before me was only my little angel, who with eyes of concern, was waiting for my response.

Several months later, I was doing the dishes and looked out of the kitchen window to find Miss Magarah and her Papa sitting on the tailgate of Papa's pick up truck. As they enjoyed each other's company their dangling legs swayed back and forth in happy motion. Tired of doing the dishes anyway, I decided to take a break and made my way out the back door to join them! I was just about ready to jump up on the tailgate when Magarah stopped me. After she had measured up the situation she said, "I don't know, Ma...*maybe* this tailgate will hold you, too!" My mouth immediately dropped open to "catch flies" and Papa instantly crossed his arms to contain a giggle and suddenly became very interested in the birds flying over head! "*Do you think God could be trying to tell me something?*" Out of the mouths of babes...

Beloved, if we are blessed with a new day...let's choose to live it for God. Today, I confess to you that I am going to do something about my weight. I confess that I am afraid of failure. I'm afraid that this is bigger than what I can do. But I'm going to start by choosing what is right *second by second, then minute by minute, then hour by hour, then day by day...*until I am free. I don't want to be a part of a cover up any more. And I don't want to hand down to my granddaughter the weight of my iniquity.

The bible tells us when we choose God above all things He will "*show love to a thousand generations, of those who love me and keep my commandments.*" (Exodus 20:5)

Choosing to die to self...because I hunger more...for Him, De Colores, *Cindy*



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!**  
**March 8**

**Singing starts at 6:45pm**

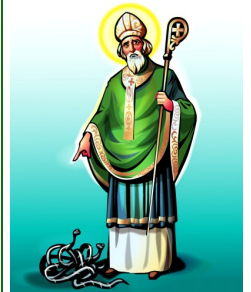
Bring a snack to share afterwards—  
when Emmaus meets, EMMAUS EATS!

Don't forget to wear your NAME TAG!  
This helps everyone to learn your  
name much more quickly!

**MEN'S WALK #52 REUNION! 6:00PM**

Happy   
St. Patrick's Day

*St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, his religious feast day and the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over a thousand years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast—on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.*



**MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS**

**MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS**

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>SPECIAL MUSIC</b>	<b>PIANO</b>	<b>SONG LEADER</b>
MARCH	Kyle & Sydney Parker	Amy Sexton	Sandie Wingo
APRIL	Sandie Wingo	John Glaze	Kathy Holbrook
MAY	Dulcimer Trio	Jennie Harner	OPEN
JUNE	Kathy Holbrook	OPEN	OPEN
JULY	Rick Geddes		

Planning ahead! Do you have musical talent you would be willing to share with the Emmaus Community? As you can see, the months are filling up. We typically have two music specials at a Gathering and need a song leader and an accompanist. Although "piano" is listed, we can have guitar accompaniment...or any other instrument able to lead group singing.

To volunteer for a monthly Gathering contact JENNIE HARNER at 937-987-2518 or harnersewing@yahoo.com.