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Volume 26 Number 11

November 2011

"Count  
Your  
Blessings!"

**QUICK  
MESSAGES**

**Christmas  
Gathering is  
coming!  
Have you  
signed up to  
sing, play or  
share some  
other  
talent?**

## Blossoms from Bloom

**B**eloved, Can you thankful! I am thankful that believe it! Already He was there when we were it is time for formed. He, and the Father, Thanksgiving. and the Holy Spirit lit the most beautiful candles inside each of Where in the world has the us when we were in our year gone? As I sit here us when we were in our contemplating what God mother's womb! *Father, we are would have me say...I start to so thankful!*

*"Count your blessings name them one by one. Count your blessings see what God has done. Count your blessings...name them one by one. Count your many blessings see what God has done."*

We have so many things for which to be thankful... family, friends, our freedom of speech, our freedom of religion, our freedom of choice, home, employment, Emmaus, The Church, The Holy Bible, language, music, the ability to read, see, hear, smell, walk, talk, touch, listen, comprehend, discern. *Thank you, Father, for all of these things.*

While meditating on His goodness to us, knowing the importance of each and every blessing listed...there is one more blessing that stands out...it **stands alone** ... it captivates the heart, the mind, the soul...it is JESUS!

It is the love of our Savior for which I am most

He knows us! He knows our name! ;o) He knows how many hairs are on our head! He knows our heart! He understands our feelings, our longings, our hurts, our disappointments, our desires! And He doesn't stop at just understanding...he guides our lives, weaving the happenings of every moment until we can find the peace that passes all understanding. In every situation, at every angle of our existence, with every breath...He is with us. *Oh, Father, we're so thankful.*

In the quiet of this moment, embracing the love of my precious Lord, there is one more gift of thanks. It stands out... it **stands alone**...it captivates the heart, the mind, the soul...it is *His sacrificed life...for all of us.*

In silence my mind starts to wander back to the garden of Gethsemane and Jesus' prayer to the Father...*"My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet, not as I*

*will, but as you will."* Three times Jesus earnestly prayed this prayer so much so that great sweat drops of blood fell to the ground. *Thank you, Father, that Jesus was obedient to you beyond His own human nature and desires. We can not comprehend this love...but Father we are thankful.*

Then, something inside my head says don't go any farther...don't go where I think you're going...it's much too gruesome. And then *immediately* another thought engulfs the first saying...**YOU MUST GO ON**...you must remember His sacrifice!

Beloved...Do you remember the cheers, the glad welcoming of Jesus into the holy city? So many people knew of Jesus' miraculous ministry and went out to greet him upon His entry of Jerusalem. They were so excited! So joyful!

But, we know...not everyone was happy. The religious leaders were plotting His death. They despised his popularity, his knowledge, his understanding of the Law. And they were going to do something about it. So they accused Jesus. They put him on trial and begged that he be executed. Pilate found no fault in Him and of-  
*(continued on page 2)*

## Blossoms from Bloom (continued)

ferred the Jews the release of one prisoner, because of the Passover. But, the Jews chose Barabbas, a murderer, to be freed.

Then Pilate ordered that Jesus be flogged. The soldiers put a purple robe on Him twisted together a crown of thorns and thrust it into His head snidely chanting, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they struck Him in the face. Again and again they hit Him on the head with a staff and they spit on him. And, falling on their knees, they paid homage to Him and mocked him. Then they led Him out to be crucified.

When the beloved saw their Jesus they were mortified. He was beaten so severely that He was barely recognizable. His flesh torn and hanging...bleeding profusely Jesus was forced to

carry His own cross on which He would be crucified. So weak, though, from the beating He could not bear the weight so a bystander named Simon was forced to carry it to Golgotha. It was there that nails were pounded into his wrists and feet and Jesus was fastened to the cross. The cross was raised and released into a deep hole in the ground. With a great, forceful thud the cross became upright and Jesus body was sacrificed. He died a death of agony...so alone was He that he cried out these words...*"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*

Beloved, He did this *so we could be forgiven...so we could have life eternal.* There was no other way for redemption to be given...for freedom from our human nature to be released. Jesus paid it all...for you and me.

It is a blessing...*written in red.*

*Father, we thank you so desperately for Jesus. Thank you for the Joy of His resurrection! For the hope of glory that is ours because of our beloved Savior.*

*"Oh, Jesus... Jesus... Jesus... there's just something about that name! Master, Savior, Jesus, like the fragrance after the rain. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, let all heaven and earth proclaim. Kings and kingdoms may all pass away, but there's just something about that name."*

May our lives reflect His character and presence as we thankfully remember Him and live out our lives for His glory,

*Cindy*

Community Chair

### Joy from Joy

How did it get to be November again? Didn't we just carve the turkey and stuff ourselves with stuffing? This year is flying by. Each year seems to go by faster than the year before. Now I know as well as you do, it has nothing to do with our age! However, this year has gone by exceptionally fast for me. Every November we set aside a time of Thanksgiving. There are a lot of traditions that go with it. At our house, it is turkey, dressing, noodles, mashed potatoes, broccoli casserole, corn bowl, green beans, sweet potatoes and lots of desserts. The more carbs the merrier. Thanksgiving in the United States, I believe, dates back to 1621, as a celebration of the harvest that was brought in. Each year we still celebrate by seeing how much of the harvest we can gobble down in one day!

This is also a good time to think about the spiritual harvest.

Are we seeing a harvest of new Christians in each of our churches? How did we contribute to that harvest or the lack there of? I have been thinking again about the purpose of Emmaus. Emmaus is never to take the place of our local church, but rather, it is a place to train, grow and focus on what ways God wants to use us as individuals in our local churches to help bring forth "harvest." Once the harvest is in, we must disciple the new Christians. Most of us love gathering at Emmaus, being a pilgrim, returning as team members, logistics, gatherings, etc., but what are we taking back to our local churches? If we aren't taking back anything, we've missed the boat. Have we taken in to selfishly holding on to all that wonderful agape, or did we learn the value and importance of spreading agape? Are we getting stronger in our leadership

abilities and allowing God to use them in our local churches? Too often we sit back and think the harvest should be greater, and it should. Whose responsibility is it to reach the lost? I think if we look at Matthew 28:16-20, we have to face the reality that the responsibility of the Great Commission is ours. What does the Spiritual Harvest look like in your life? Have you done your part this year? Let's make sure that as 2012 flies by that we can say next November, "Lord, I have done my best." After all He gave his best! Remember not just to count on Him, but He is also counting on you!

De Colores!

*Joy Stanforth*

A Community SD

FEAST ON  
GOD'S WORD!

*Women of Walk #87**(add this to your roster!)*

| NAME              | ADDRESS                    | CITY          | ZIP   | PHONE        |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------|--------------|
| Annetta Baker     | 926 John St                | Washington CH | 43160 | 740-463-1428 |
| Joy Barton        | 4009 Westboro              | Blanchester   | 45107 | 937-725-7991 |
| Barb Bates        | 9944 Grabill Rd            | New Vienna    | 45159 | 937-393-1141 |
| Pam Blaser        | 11277 Petersburg Rd        | Hillsboro     | 45133 | 513-560-9119 |
| Kim Bolden        | 1104 Solid Rock Blvd Apt 6 | Washington CH | 43160 | 740-505-7541 |
| Louise Butts      | 18399 Thompson Ridge Rd    | Laurelville   | 43135 | 740-332-7602 |
| Victoria Cardenas | 211 Wagner Way             | Washington CH | 43160 | 614-271-7095 |
| Holli Ertel       | 13494 Hillcrest Dr         | Greenfield    | 45123 | 937-218-0122 |
| Amanda Foster     | 178 W Locust St            | Wilmington    | 45177 | 937-838-5664 |
| Emma Griffitt     | 3656 Cabin Creek Rd        | Vanceburg, KY | 41179 | 606-541-4116 |
| Laura Hannah      | 6996 Mountainview Dr       | Hillsboro     | 45133 | 937-365-1870 |
| Robyn Hapner      | 7340 Cayman Way Apt 2      | Maineville    | 45039 | 937-723-3577 |
| Tracey Harper     | 504 Gibbs Ave              | Washington CH | 43160 | 740-463-6154 |
| Judy Henry        | 873 Williams Dr            | Wilmington    | 45177 | 937-382-8327 |
| Darlene Hill      | PO Box 403                 | Laurelville   | 43135 | 740-332-6604 |
| Kendra Kerns      | 5804 SR 133                | Clarksville   | 45113 | 937-289-2068 |
| Barb McBeth       | 2420 Capaldi Dr            | Marion        | 43302 | 740-382-5930 |
| Nancy Moore       | 1256 Spinnaker Pl          | Wilmington    | 45177 | 937-725-7737 |
| Marlene Morris    | 3326 SR 3 West             | Wilmington    | 45177 | 937-382-8889 |
| Pat Palmer        | 6574 Redemption Dr         | Goshen        | 45122 | 513-625-0915 |
| Delilah Pritchett | 786 N Lincoln St           | Wilmington    | 45177 | 937-655-7066 |
| Bonnie Reynolds   | 333 Short Rd               | Lynchburg     | 45142 | 937-364-6043 |
| Patty Smith       | 1 N Limestone St #B        | Jamestown     | 45335 | 937-675-3445 |
| Amy Thirey        | 10500 Carey Rd             | New Vienna    | 45159 | 937-725-1480 |
| Marsha Tomlin     | 4200 SR 73 W               | Wilmington    | 45177 | 937-725-7858 |
| Ginny Whiting     | 4220 Buck Run Dr           | Hillsboro     | 45133 | 937-840-0565 |
| Kristy Williams   | 3276 Pleasant Rd           | Hillsboro     | 45133 | 937-402-8415 |
| Rhonda Woodgeard  | 257 W Washington St        | Sabina        | 45169 | 937-728-2328 |

WELCOME to the Women of Walk #87!



Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus—WUMC  
 PO Box 191  
 Wilmington, OH 45177

**SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING!**  
 November 8  
 Singing starts at 6:45pm  
 Women's Walk #87 Reunion at 6:00 PM  
 Bring a snack to share after the Gathering



*Thanks be to God  
 for all His blessings!*

**MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS**

**MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS**

| <u>MONTH</u> | <u>SPECIAL MUSIC</u> | <u>PIANO</u>  | <u>SONG LEADER</u> |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| NOVEMBER     | Justin Tong          | Carl Guenther | Peggy Larkin       |

Planning ahead! Do you have musical talent you would be willing to share with the Emmaus Community? 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](mailto:harnersewing@yahoo.com).



*Christmas Gathering is coming!*