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TALES FROM THE OLE WEST

It's a New Year, a new beginning and just a wish that you thought to myself about all and our commu- of those talks. Who were tions that I had. In addition have a happy and pro- those men who could get up tion, I was introduced to a ductive New Year. May and give talks so well and prayer partner who was God's Amazing Grace con- share their personal witness able to show me the power- tinue shine upon us, "The with total strangers? I said of prayer, not only on that Emmaus Community," in to myself that I would never walk, but for years to fol- this year to come! be able to do that, but the low. What a difference

Remember the closing Lord had another plan. I was that made! I was able to during your walk—the two to listen to the His call, be get to know team members questions you were ask to obedient and remember that and spiritual directors and answer? "What has this it's not about me. how they supported one weekend meant to me and My plan was to stay low another. I found that they what am I going to do key, be sociable, sit in the weren't people standing on about it?" back, show up for the Gath- a pedestal like someone

When that time came erings, eat and treat it the special; these were ordi- for me I was relieved that way I treated my church nary people, just like me, I had finally answered my activities. Well, that worked answering God's call and wife's persistent sugges- for about a year, and then I being willing to say "yes" to tions that I go on the got a call to be an assistant his call. Now I see how God "Walk to Emmaus." She table leader. Pressure! But I was using the Emmaus com- said I would like it, it could still sit back and all I munity to reach out to would be good for me and had to do was to act like a Christians and show them that I would get a lot out pilgrim, stay low key and not how they can be used no of it. I hate to say it, but have to do much. So I said matter what talents they she was right! yes, but this would be as far might have. Remember, God

So what did I get out as I will go. This would be doesn't call the qualified; of The Walk? Well, it did- my last walk; I would never he qualifies the called.

day. I was actually driving So, once again I was on and again I get another on the interstate and the another walk and this time I call, this time to be a table Lord spoke to me and was able to concentrate on leader. Wow, how can I get tears began to flow. Yes, the talks, listen to what was out of this? I would have another thing I got out of being said and focus on what to give a talk, not only on the walk is that it is okay the Lord was saying to me. the walk but also to the to cry. That was some kind At the same time, I was team to preview and *cri-*

(continued on page 2)

Saying
"YES" to
God's call

QUICK MESSAGES

Welcome
JIM WEST
as new
community
chair!

Tales (continued)

facebook

Join us on

Musings from Maurice

tique my presentation. Pressure again! But the Lord was working on me and one of the things I got out of the previous walks was that when you say "no" to the Lord's calling there will be no rest. If you say "no," he will put the pressure on you.

At that point I came to realize that each of us has talents. Each of our talents is different, and sometimes we don't even know what those talents are. I realized that I may not be a strong speaker; I might not be a strong person when it comes to praying in public and I know I can't sing, but the Lord doesn't judge you on talent but on your willingness to answer his call. Use what talents you have to reach out to someone with what God

has placed on your heart to say or do.

I got past that first talk presentation and realized that we are all God's children and we need to answer what the Lord has called us to do. We must listen to the Lord's calling and as it says in Luke 11:28, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it." (NIV)

That's what I am going to do about it. Listen to the Lord's calling; spread God's word in my church, my daily life and the Emmaus community. Never say "never" until the Lord has spoken to you.

Remember the feeling you had at the closing? Pass that feeling forward. Reach out to others through sponsorship on an Emmaus Walk. We need

sponsors and pilgrims. We can make it happen with prayer and sponsorship. Say "Yes" when God calls.

Jim

Thank You!
A big THANK YOU to all of those who shared their musical talents at the December ALL-MUSIC Gathering. What a wonderful evening!

Musings from Maurice

I recently read a devotion by D. L. Moody that spoke to me; as I, as we, begin a new year. Let me share part of it:

"I was standing with a friend at this garden gate one evening when two little boys came by. As they approached us, my friend said to me, 'Watch the difference in these two boys.'

"Taking one of them into his arms, he stood him on the gatepost, and stepping back a couple feet, he folded his arms and called to the little fellow to jump. In an instant the boy sprang toward him and was caught in his arms. Then, turning to the second boy, he tried the same experiment. But in this second case, it

was different. The child trembled and refused to move. My friend held out his arms and tried to persuade the child to trust his strength, but nothing could move him. At last my friend had to lift him down from the post and let him go.

"What makes such a difference in the two?' I asked.

"My friend smiled and said, 'The first is my own son and he knows me; but the other is a stranger's child whom I have never seen before.'"

Do you see the important difference? There was no difference in the ability of the man; the difference was in the boys' level of trust. The son knew his dad and trusted him. The other was a

stranger and this adult had not earned his trust.

So it is with us. How well do you know our Lord God, and how far do you trust Him? He comes to us with outstretched arms and calls us by name. Listen to God's call to us and the assurance that He will not forsake us.

"Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

As we begin a new year, where, or in what do you, put your greatest trust? Your own abilities, family, or God? May God bless you in the new year!

Maurice Mitchell
Community Spiritual Director

Did Christmas Cost You Too Much?

Bob Miller

Reprinted from January, 1996

One of the standard complaints heard after Christmas is that one spent too much (or put too much on the credit card). Christmas was too costly. Maybe a better question would be "Did Christmas cost me enough?"

The first Christmas cost Mary and Joseph the comforts of home as they journeyed to Bethlehem, and later as they took that angel-directed trip into exile in Egypt to protect the Christ-child from the murderous Herod.

It cost mothers and fathers in and around Bethlehem the massacre of their boy babies by the wicked Herod.

It cost the early apostles and the young church persecution and sometimes martyrdom.

What did Christmas cost God the Father? "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son..."

What did Christmas cost Jesus? It cost Him a life of sacrifice and service, a cruel death that is unmatched in history.

Is Christmas costly? The answer is yes. Is Christmas *TOO* costly? That's another question and I want to discuss it with you.

Christmas is too costly if it doesn't mean HOPE. The prophecies of the Old Testament had promised a Messiah. The waiting time had

been long but when the angels brought their message it was a message of hope. Since then we've not been without hope.

But hopeless are all those who have not heard or received Christ. Christmas is too costly if we do not receive Christ and experience God's love. No one understands the first Christmas until one experiences the love of God in Christ. Christmas costs too much if we do not experience the forgiveness of sins. "...call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins."

Christmas is too costly if we do not radiate JOY. The angel said, "I bring you good tidings of great joy..." Joy is a Christmas word! Let us radiate joy.

Christmas is too costly if we do not manifest peace and good will. There is no room for bitterness at Christmas.

And if we do not proclaim the Good News and exercise faith, Christmas is too costly. Faith is also a Christmas word!

But Christmas has not been too costly if we respond to our Lord! God loves us tremendously and He wants to come and dwell with us and in us. He can do this through the Christ of Christmas! De Colores.

God bless... *Pastor Bob*

Pastor Bob Miller

Bob Miller served the Lord for many years before going "home" to his heavenly reward. Part of that time was spent serving this Emmaus Community. If you ever served on a walk, or were a pilgrim on a walk when Pastor Bob presented one of the Grace talks, you'll remember a strong-voiced elderly gentleman who usually ended his talks with a song in his rich, baritone voice. Pastor Bob is one of the sweet memories many of us will cherish for years to come.

35 Years!

Did you know that the first Upper Room Cursillo (now the Walk to Emmaus) was hld in Peoria, Illinois in April of 1977. This April will complete 35 years of having the Walk to Emmaus and look how it has grown!

February Men's Walk is a "GO!"

As of this publication date, there are fifteen men signed up to be pilgrims on the February Men's Walk! Great going, Community! YOU DID IT! Do you still have a pilgrim in mind? There is still space. Get that application in ASAP!

TEN YEARS AGO!

Women's Walk #64 had 40 pilgrims scheduled to be on the January, 2002 walk! The Lay Director was Lela McWhorter.

SPIRITUAL TALK FROM 1996



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

SEE YOU AT THE GATHERING!
January 10
Singing starts at 6:45PM!
 Bring a snack to share after the Gathering
 Wear your name tag!

Time to renew? See below!

Your NEWSLETTER subscription should be renewed if you took your walk BEFORE 2011. The subscription rate (donation) is \$5.00 (which only partially covers the cost of mailing). Send your renewal to: Pat Meranda, 99 Marys Ln, Hillsboro, OH 45133



MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

MUSIC FOR GATHERINGS

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>SPECIAL MUSIC</u>	<u>INSTRUMENTALIST</u>	<u>SONG LEADER</u>
January		Susan Thompson	
February			
March			
April			

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.