

Wilmington Emmaus

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Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

YOU CAN'T HANDLE THE UNTRUTH! from Robyn's Roost

There is a line Jack Nicholson spewed belligerently at Tom Cruise in the movie "A Few Good Men" that has become a classic: "You can't handle the truth." As the old saying goes, "the truth hurts," but do you know what hurts worse than truth? Untruth.

Have you ever had a friend lie maliciously about you? It hurts. It gouges gaping wounds in the soul that can fester, infect, and cause extensive damage to our psyche. It generally evokes our equally sinful retaliation; bitterness and vindication ensue. For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, and an unfet-

tered vengeance will make the offense escalate from bad to worse.

But does it have to be this way? I don't think so.

If we become bitter when treated unjustly, the damage compounds. We are told in Galatians 5:14-15: "For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: Love your neighbor as yourself. If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other." Though it is human nature to harbor offense when our rights are violated, it is also an unrighteous and self-defeating response. Instead, we can choose the higher road. God's counsel

would be to forgive the offender and not strike back. We can turn the other cheek.

Proverbs 17:9 says: "Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends."; and Hebrews 12:15 says: "See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled." By God's grace shown in the way we forgive others, you CAN handle the untruth!

DE COLORES!
Robyn Hinman

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THE BLOOD OF JESUS

"Christ entered once for all into the Holy Place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption."

Hebrews 9:12

Talk about the "blood of Jesus" has long baffled me. Blood of Jesus imagery is central to the Holy Eucharist. A good portion of Christian devotional literature and hymnody center on it. And the Epistle to the Hebrews makes much of it, tying it to the sacrificial system of the Jerusalem temple.

But blood of Jesus talk still confounds me. The problem is probably in my mind, but that doesn't make it any less perplexing for me. I just don't get it. Except in one respect—bleeding hurts.

I know what it is to bleed—to hurt, to be confronted by my own mortality in stark crimson tones. When I am able to understand that Jesus bleeds for me, I don't have to comprehend the ins and outs of why he bleeds for me. It is

enough for me to know that when I gaze upon his bloody brow and his wounded sided, I see how much Jesus loves me. "See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?" (Isaac Watts, *The Hymnal* 1982, #474)

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MUSINGS FROM MAURICE

As I consider what to share this month in our newsletter, I am also preparing a worship service for Pentecost, what is celebrated as the birthday of the Church. The account is recorded in the 2nd Chapter of Acts (read Acts 2). It shares the gift of the Holy Spirit as it descended upon the disciples. The disciples, 120 of them, were forever changed, and 3,000 were added to their numbers.

A story came across Associated Press lines sometime back about two groups of firefighters in a small town in Maryland that came to fight a fire and ended up fighting each other.

It seems that the paid and volunteer firefighters got to the fire at the same time and argued over who should be the first to carry a hose into a burning townhouse. Eventually, they had to be separated by the police. Fortunately, the fire was put out before too much damage was done.

I can't help but think of the church. Rather than fighting the fires of evil in this world, we seem to prefer to fight each other. Not so with the church at Pentecost and for years afterwards. They prayed together, ate together and even shared possessions with one another. The source of the church's power was, and is, the Spirit of God. Where the Spirit is, there is unity.

The events recorded in God's Word ought to make our hearts race. When the Spirit of God comes, things happen. On the day of Pentecost, those touched by the Holy Spirit were accused of being drunk, or maybe crazy. Today, believers are still considered to be

weak, foolish, or emotionally unstable. But more and more studies are showing that religious faith is linked to lower blood pressure and lower rates of drug use, alcoholism, suicide, and mental disorders.

What is sad, is that we seldom pray with the intensity that the early church prayed, we don't share like the early church shared, we don't love like the early church loved, and we don't reach out to the people in our community like the early church reached out. That is sad, very sad. We don't necessarily need all the fireworks of that first Pentecost, but we do need the Spirit of God to fall afresh on our lives to make us all that Christ means us to be. I believe it can happen, even today.

Our task is to claim our communities and our world for Jesus Christ. It is to bring the Kingdom of Christ into individual's lives by showing them Christ's love and acceptance. It is to find those who are unable to help themselves and flood them with the grace of God that requires nothing in return. That is our purpose and a mighty purpose it is. And we have been given a special power, the gift and presence of the Holy Spirit, to achieve it.

It used to be that if you built a church, people would come, five or six decades ago, people were expected to attend church. Not so anymore! We need to go out where the hurting live and share God's love. It's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work by the power of God.

What do you say?

Pastor Maurice Mitchell

THE WILMINGTON HOUSE OF PRAYER: IN LOVING SUPPORT OF EMMAUS

My name's Robyn Morris, Women's Walk #86, table of Elizabeth. I serve as Director of the Wilmington House of Prayer (WHOP). For the last several years WHOP has had the amazing privilege of covering any gaps in the 72 hour prayer vigils for each of the Emmaus Walks, as well as posting all of the pilgrims and team members by name to be prayed for at WHOP. "The Community Prayer Room", as WHOP is often called, is a prayer ministry with over 40 volunteers called "Watchmen," representing approximately 25 congregations. I'm blessed that several of the watchmen are from our Emmaus Community, yet I often hear that many from Emmaus are unaware of the Prayer Room. So I'm pleased to have this chance to share some about it.

Located at 63 W. Main Street in Wilmington, WHOP is an interdenominational Christian ministry that began in 2002, providing prayer on behalf of our community, personal prayer ministry, classes on prayer, and prayer gatherings throughout Wilmington and the state of Ohio.

As a ministry on Main Street we see quite a few people and are privileged to visit with many who might not otherwise ask for prayer. Our motto in the prayer room is, "Upward to God and Outward to the Community through Prayer." Upward: we have six floor-to-ceiling chalkboards painted on our walls where people from the community come in and write their prayer requests for the Watchmen to lift "up" before the Lord. Outward: while the person is writing their prayer request, the watchmen personally pray for them as they go back "out" into the community. It's very (continued on page 3)

PILGRIMS ON WOMEN'S WALK #94

NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	SPONSOR
Koni Adams		Clarksville	OH	45113	Carla & Calvin Martin
Martha Chute		Marysville	OH	43040	Judy Cutter
Elizabeth Collie		Washington CH	OH	43160	Nancy Penwell
Tiffany Craycraft		Wilmington	OH	45177	Chad Craycraft
Amanda Gordley		Wilmington	OH	45177	Zachary King
Abby Helterbrand		Hillsboro	OH	45107	Lela McWhorter
Beth Lambros		Cincinnati	OH	45245	Jordan & Amanda Foster
Kim Pelosi		Pleasant Plain	OH	45162	Michelle Carnes
Jessica Pitzer		Wilmington	OH	45177	Adam Pitzer
Bobbie Reno		Hillsboro	OH	45133	Kevin Reno
Rebecca Sorg		Blanchester	OH	45107	Robyn Hinman
Terri Spradlin		Wilmington	OH	45177	Robyn Morris
Kim Stone		Wilmington	OH	45177	Marsha Tomlin
Kelly Swanson		Wilmington	OH	45177	Diane Hertlein
Judy Tobias		Port William	OH	45614	Susie Tabor
Elizabeth Tomlinson		Wilmington	OH	45177	Jeff & Chandra Bills
Donna Williamson		Pleasant Plain	OH	45162	Michelle Carnes

PRAYER LIST

Prayer was requested for these people at our April Gathering.

Those on the Autism Spectrum

Katie Lowell Aurigema

Dave & Dinah Bond

Family of Mike Campbell

Family of Ken Humphries

June Women's Walk

Pam Kline

October Women's Walk

September Men's Walk

Jeff & Janell Smart's grandson coming

Lebanon UM Pastor, Dillon Staas

Adel Shoe

Jim West

Iris Wilkinson

Lesley Wilkinson

WHOP (continued from page 2)

humbling to know that so many in the community utilize the prayer room, stopping in for personal prayer and writing their heart-felt requests on the prayer boards for us to hold before the Lord on their behalf.

There's so much more I could tell you about the ministry of WHOP, but I'm running out of room – we really could use more watchmen and we'd be tremendously blessed to have more of the praying saints from our Wilmington Area Emmaus Walk family. So won't you please stop by sometime? I'd love to show you around.

THE TEAM

Name	Position	Talk
Chandra Bills	Lay Director	Perseverance
Debbie Lynch	Assistant Lay Director	Priority
Nichole Avery	Assistant Lay Director	Fourth Days
Soundra Weaver	Assistant Lay Director	Grow Through Study
Kim Bolden	Table Leader	Piety
Dora Brady	Table Leader	Discipleship
Jennifer Brown	Table Leader	Changing Our World
Donna Potts	Table Leader	Priesthood of all Believers
Tiffany Walls	Table Leader	Body of Christ
Amanda Foster	Table Leader	Christian Action
Teri Cragwall	Assistant Table Leader	
Pam Heath	Assistant Table Leader	
Teri Kelley	Assistant Table Leader	
Deanne Miller	Assistant Table Leader	
Heidi Tite	Assistant Table Leader	
Darlene Pitzer	Assistant Table Leader	
Judith Sturgeon	Music Director	
Jennie Harner	Assistant Music Director	
Dave Hinman	Spiritual Director	Means of Grace
Christy Mitchell	Assistant Spiritual Director	Sanctifying Grace
Paula Erwin	Board Rep	
Janet Workman	A.V. / Logistics	
Dow Tippett	Visiting Clergy	Obstacles to Grace
Joni Manson	Visiting Clergy	Prevenient Grace
Debbie Linville	Visiting Clergy	Justifying Grace

Wilmington Area Walk to Emmaus

Wilmington United Methodist Church
PO Box 191
Wilmington, OH 45177

We're on the web:
www.wilmingtonemmaus.org

See you at the GATHERING:
JUNE 9

7:00pm
Singing starts at 6:30pm

Wear your nametag!
Bring a snack to share!

Bits & Pieces

The September Men's Walk is coming very soon! Do you have a pilgrim in mind? Pray for guidance before approaching your prospect. Remember that Emmaus should be shared with both husband and wife, and once one of the couple attends a walk, the spouse gets priority for the next walk!

CHRYSALIS—The Washington Court House group continues to work toward reviving the Chrysalis community. Do you feel a calling to help? Contact either Robyn Hinman or Mark & Janet Workman and they will get your information passed to the proper person. There is plenty of work for everyone who wants to help and you can start NOW by praying! Chrysalis changes lives and strengthens the resolve of young people to live for Christ.

Would you be interested in becoming the next Newsletter Editor? Contact John Glaze or Robyn Hinman for more information about this opportunity to serve our community!

Did you sign up to help support the June Women's Walk? If not, be sure to do so at the June Gathering! This is the first opportunity for the men who attended the February walk! Guys! Be sure to use this opportunity to get to know some of your new best friends! Serve God by being his hands and feet to the women attending the June walk!

Devotion

Take nothing for your journey, no staff, no bag, nor bread, nor money—not even an extra tunic. Luke 9:3

Being content with little or nothing is a theme running through all the world's great spiritual traditions. The eleventh-century Tibetan Buddhist Milarepa said, "I have no desire for wealth or possessions, and so I have nothing. I do not experience the initial suffering of having to accumulate possessions, the intermediate suffering of having to guard and keep up possessions, nor the final suffering of losing possessions."

Among Christians, Saint Francis of Assisi reasoned that owning something was a way to grasp at material security, rather than the spiritual security of renunciation—of following Jesus and the disciples in a life of poverty. In Francis' monasteries, monks did not even possess pencils of their own.

Hundreds of other spiritual masters can be quoted to the same effect. If the holiest men and women of every time and place embrace voluntary poverty, why do so many people spend their time and energy acquiring, managing, and holding onto possessions? Why do so many churches obsess over numbers, budgets, and property? What would happen if every Christian congregation embraced voluntary poverty? What would happen if you did?

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