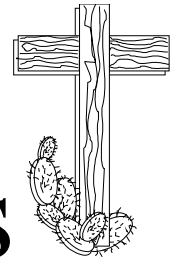


Cross Country News



We're Baaaaaack!

October Gathering

After a too-long hiatus the Cross Country News is back. The long delay was caused by several different things, the latest of which is the fact that our bulk mailing permit expired and must be renewed.

October Gathering at First Baptist Church in Seymour on October 10th, will carry a Chrysalis theme. Be sure, all you Butterflies out there, to come to Seymour and meet old friends and make new friends! C'mon out and give a HOOT!

In the future, the Newsletter will be published quarterly, rather than monthly, to cut down on cost to the community. Other ways that we will investigate to help with cutting cost of the Newsletter are:

Be in prayer for our Chrysalis Board as they continue to become increasingly more autonomous from the adult Community. Chrysalis has it's own Board now, it's own Registrar and is making plans for the upcoming Flights this summer. A promise of a Chrysalis Flight in the summer would make a really good Christmas present, don'tcha think?

1. Publishing a copy of the Newsletter on the website so that it can be accessed there.

2. Holding a subscription drive, not for paid subscriptions, but by clearing the present mailing list and starting over, to eliminate the many listings that are no longer valid. This will consist of discarding the present list and having all who wish to receive a paper copy of the Newsletter resubmit a request for subscription. When that is about to occur, an application for subscription will be printed in the Newsletter to give everybody time to request a paper copy. If you want to read it on the web, thereby saving the community the cost of printing and mailing, simply do not return the subscription request.

December Gathering

Questions may be directed to **Philip Martin** via the following methods:

Gathering for December will be on the FIRST Monday, December 5th, rather than the second Monday of the month. This is done every year, so as not to intrude so much on Christmas Holidays.

US Postal Mail
1401 North Avenue K, Haskell TX 79521

or

Email:
prazers@valornet.com

Once again, we will have December Gathering at Bethel Lutheran Church in Ericksdahl. For those new to the Community, who have not been there, this is a very beautiful church with a lovely, old-world look to the sanctuary. The Christmas Gatherings here are always very beautiful and very special. The Board would like to thank Bethel Lutheran for allowing us to return to their lovely facility. Gathering will start at 7:00PM. There will be no meal preceding the Gathering.

Community Sponsors

Please do NOT send subscription requests at this time. We'll let you know in plenty of time when you need to do that. Glad to be back!

Sponsors for Gatherings are reminded to come to the facility by 600PM to get the area ready for the Gathering Meal. Come ready to work! Arrange tables and chairs, get the food tables ready, prepare drinks and ice, place food offerings on the tables. Also to stay after the meal for clean up. We want to be good stewards!



Upper Room Directives

At The Upper Room training session, Cross Country was given a set of directives to enact. Some were immediate, some could be put into effect systematically over the next several months. Here is a partial list, so that you know what the Board is working toward.

1. Immediately cease using the grace before meals that we have been using. It resembles a copyrighted song and we are instructed not to use it any more. The Board discussed and chose to begin using Wesley's Grace in the worship book.
2. No Communion or song service at Sponsor's Hour. This is intended to be a time of prayer only, to focus on the Pilgrims, not the Community.
3. Enforce the time limit of 25 minutes for all talks except Means of Grace.
4. Open microphone during closing. Rather than the table coming to the mic together, open the mic and allow those Pilgrims who wish to do so to come to the mic and answer the two questions.
5. Use "Sing Alleluia" as the song before each talk, rather than "Open Our Eyes." This is part of our coming to the point that our Walks more closely resemble the Walks in other Communities.
6. No gifts for the Walk LD and SD. This is a team-focused activity and should not occur.
7. No Christian fiction on the booktable. Only books of instruction, edification and bibles.
8. Don't say "True Stories." Say "Joke Time" instead. The concern is in calling something true that obviously is not, even in a joking manner.
9. Use of a hand cross, one to be held in the speaker's hand while he/she talks. A table cross is still permitted but should not be carried in and out, but left on the table.
10. No Swatches. Don't make a big deal about surrendering watches. It is voluntary.
11. Don't cover facility clocks. Overall, don't make a big thing out of keeping time hidden.
12. Tell them "a 15 minute break" rather than "a 3 color break" for the same reason.
13. Dying Moments should not exceed 45 minutes in length. Return to the handbook description of Dying Moments where one word or a short phrase is used rather than a long altar time for each participant.
14. Board must approval all final team lists, even after approval by Team Selection.
15. Make the Board a "working board" with board members being responsible for different aspects of Community functions.
16. Encourage all Agape to be hand-made rather than purchased items.
17. Stop putting personal names on Agape items.
18. No Agape should go out before the Justifying Grace Talk.
19. Talks should be assigned by the Team Selection Committee.
20. In general, the Team Selection Committee should take a much more active part in the construction of the Team and the position assignments.

The Wedding Feast

One very specific instruction from The Upper Room was to discontinue the practice of having elaborate decoration and preparation for the Saturday night supper. Specifically we were instructed to cease the practice, seen on some women's Walks of The Wedding Feast. The entertainment for Saturday night supper should be simple, the decorations should be, too.

The Wedding Feast has become a part of the Walks that was getting to be more and more elaborate, taking focus from what is happening that day, even eclipsing Candlelight and The Agape Feast. No outside persons are to be brought in to act as escorts or provide special decoration for Saturday night.

The Agape Feast should also be kept simple, so as not to detract from the experience of Candlelight. Light food, simple decorations should be the rule.

Lotsa Changes!

Through discussing all the changes that have been handed down to us by The Upper Room, the Board certainly realizes that not all of them will be popular. Personally, I hate losing "Open Our Eyes" because it is a song of such deep meaning to me. But we, Cross Country Emmaus Community, that is, are not given a lot of choice in these matters. We operate under the umbrella of The Upper Room. We are under their authority. As Christian men and women, it behooves us to accept that authority with the most grace that we can muster. In a spirit of "cooperation and charity" we ask you, the Community, to make the best of it with us.

Think back to when we initiated the outside Agape Team. It was difficult. But we did it and it is working very well. Please give prayerful thought to all these things. When you see them being put into practice, remember that God is not limited by the amount of décor or what song we sing before meals. Those things only effect those of us who have gone on Walks and want other Walks to be the same as the Walks we attended. It's something we are going to have to get over. Remember that we are there to serve, not to impress. The Pilgrims on future Walks will not miss the Wedding Feast or the old grace before meals or "Open Our Eyes." They never knew those things. What they will remember is that they were shown servanthood with Christ's unconditional love.

From Our Peerless Leader

By David Caldwell, Lay Director

Famous Quotes... I'm a collector of sorts. I've got them taped to my filing cabinet. One is an old sticky note stuck to my computer and there are several on a metal cabinet in my office. There are two quotes that I cherish.

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream. -- Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain). These words are a challenge to me to step out of the box and look at things differently. To look at what we do, and ask the question, "Is there a better way?" To further make sure that I don't squander the opportunities before me. For the past nine months I've been asking this question over and over. Do we have vision and a plan of action? Joel Barker said, "**Vision without action is just a dream. Action without vision is a waste of time.**"

It is my opinion that Cross Country Emmaus has operated overall very well for 15 years. In recent times however that has changed. Fiscal responsibility has become become critical with rising cost. Nine months ago we were operating in the red. Today, as of our last board meeting, we were in black ink. Three years ago, in a prior Upper Room training session, many corrections were given to us but only a few were acted on. Today those initiatives have all been met. We are working hand in hand with The Upper Room and they've given us new initiatives in a recent Upper Room training to help us move closer to the model. A model that is inspired by God. We are moving to enact those transitions back to the model.

The challenge in 2005, has been to fix the things that had fallen and prepare for the future. That's been the vision and action of your Board of Directors. As a Board, we've made some difficult decisions this past year and we have more to make. We have pushed the Community hard and I realize that, for many, this has been painful. So with just a couple of months left as Community Lay Director, I ask myself the question, "Has it been worth it? How will I feel in 20 years about these changes?"

At a recent closing the answer presented itself to me. As the Cross was passing through the pilgrims for the final time, a pilgrim wrapped her arms and embraced the cross. It was a poignant moment for her. She held it closely, with her eye's closed. I can only imagine the thoughts running through her head at that moment. Then she passed it on! She was holding on to her Jesus as tightly as she could and then she passed it on. Every member of our community has played a role in her reaction. It took all 6,000 of us to get where we are

today, every Walk, every Pilgrim, every team member and every board decision.

So the question: "Has it been worth it?" Yes! Absolutely yes! I know there are some that would argue this but I stand by the fact that the Holy Spirit is moving and God is ever present on our Walks. This past year, as has happened for our 15 year history, people are changing their lives on Cross Country Walks. Leaders have been born. Men are learning how to be men of God and women are stepping into new roles of leadership. While today I may agree with Mark Twain, when the march of time comes to a halt and eternity begins, the real question will not be what do I think but what does our Father think about this time. --DeColores!



CCEC Website

The Cross Country Emmaus Community Website is back up and running, thanks to David Caldwell! The address is:

www.ccemmaus.net

The site is chock-full of great information such as upcoming Walks, future Community Gatherings and many Community Contacts.

Also available on the site are applications to volunteer for Walks and applications to attend Walks and Chrysalis Flights.

In future, we also plan to have the latest version of the Newsletter available on the website so that those with internet access can read the Newsletter there, saving the Community some expense. Take a look at the new version of the website. It is helpful and can answer many questions you have about the Community.

An interesting item on the site is a listing of all the Walks held by Cross Country from Walk #1 on. Amazing to think that we (you and I) have helped so many people gain new insight into their Christian walk and have sent those people back into their home churches ready to be leaders and movers and shakers for Christ.

Please take the opportunity to review the information on the website for accuracy, and if you spot an error, please contact Dick McCallon at the following email address with the correct information.

rmccallon2@cs.com

Thanks!

Community Sponsors

10/10 @ Seymour.....Olney
 11/11 @ Stamford.....Knox City
 12/5 @ EricksdahlHaskell and
 Ericksdahl



Upcoming Gatherings

October 10 at FBC Seymour

November 11 at St John's Stamford

December 5 at Ericksdahl Lutheran

DATE	M/W	WALK #	PLACE	LAY DIRECTOR
NOV 10-13	W	138	BUTMAN	LYNNA COX
DEC 1-4	M	139	LUEDERS	RODNEY DUNHAM
JAN 26-29 '06	W	140	BUTMAN	ROBIN GOZA
MAR 2-5	M	141	LUEDERS	TEDDY CLEMMENS
AUG 10-13	W	142	BUTMAN	VANESSA WILLIAMS
AUG 17-20	M	143	BUTMAN	JAMES WITTENBORN
SEP 7-10	W	144	LUEDERS	DIXIE KIRBY
OCT 5-8	M	145	BUTMAN	BRET HIGHT
NOV 9-12	W	146	BUTMAN	JANA GRISHAM
NOV 30—DEC 3	M	147	LUEDERS	RANDAL KINNIBRUGH



Cross Country News
 1401 N Avenue K
 Haskell TX 79521

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

CLASS OF 2005: Dan Hooper, Tim Farnsworth, David Caldwell, Suzie Wilson, Kay Hight.

CLASS OF 2006: Philip Martin, Syl Godfrey, John Bethel, Nadia Hassen, Dayle Kuehler.

CLASS OF 2007: Rick Madeiros, James Wittenborn, Mike Cade, Rhonda Ward, Ben Daws.

REGISTRAR: Marla Hawkins, Knox City 940 658 3041

TREASURER: Suzie Wilson, Rule. 940 997 2607

NEWSLETTER: Philip Martin, Haskell. 940 864 2924

prazers@valornet.com

NAMETAGS: Joe Reimer, Seymour, 940 889 2028

AGAPE LETTERS: Beverly Kinnibrugh, Seymour. 940 888 5445

PRAYER CALENDAR: Kay Gann, Lueders. 915 228 4629

TRAILER: Jimmy and Jana Grisham

WEB ADDRESS:

www.ccemmaus.net