



The Greater Austin Emmaus Community Newsletter



January 2018

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Volume 29, Number 1

CHANGE:

So you remember back to your Walk when the Changing Our World talk was given? And, remember after your Pilgrim Walk, the fire inside of you to go out and Change the World? We had big dreams because we had an encounter with our God. He stepped in and changed us deeply and miraculously. Our natural response was, "God, let's take this show on the road and let's tell everyone."

About 16 years ago God put a man in my life who became my husband, and my world was changed. My husband, Harold, belonged to a church where his parents had been in the group of the founding members, and he had grown up in that church for the majority of his life. When he asked me to marry him I made the decision to become a member of this church. Yet, at first I just filled a pew.

One day Harold came home to tell me I had been nominated to be co-chair of a committee at the church. What? Was he crazy? I have never done anything like this and did not know the first thing about co-chairing a committee and did not know the other co-chair.

When I expressed my concerns about this, he told me the other women who were co-chairing with me had been serving on the committee for several years and they knew what to do and would help me with what I would need to do the job. I just needed help. Okay, good, that lets me off the hook. She can tell me what to do and I will just do it. Sounds easy. About a month later I got word that my co-chair had left the church. What now? For a while my committee did nothing.

One day the pastor asked to talk to me. So I went to the meeting and took notes. I put a plan together to get this committee active and productive. That is when I found that stepping out of my comfort zone was part of God's plan for me. It was stepping out on faith. He does not tell us it will be easy, but He promises He will be there for us and I have found this to be true.

Changing our world involves sustaining the change in your heart (piety), mind (study), and will (action). A changed world begins with a changed self.

With 2018 coming up there will be a lot of changes, and my questions to you... Will you be a part of the change or will you still fill a pew? Ways you can get involved would be to be a part of the change. Get involved in your Emmaus Board, if you have not sponsored a pilgrim make plans to do it in 2018. And when was the last time you served on a team? There are so many ways to get involved in the change and you can make a difference.

I hope to see you January 4th at Oak Hill UMC. We will not have the covered dish starting with this gathering, but will have the agape feast following the service.

De Colores!
LeeLeen Sundeck
Lay Director

**BETHE
CHANGE
YOU WISH
TO SEE IN THE
WORLD**

Greater Austin Emmaus Community Board of Directors and Volunteers

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Financial Statement as of 11/2/17

**Bank Balance
\$19,484.00**

**Scholarship Fund
\$1,539.50**

Visit the Greater Austin
Emmaus Community
Website at

<http://www.austinemmaus.org>

Emmaus Sunday!

Don't forget!

The first Sunday of each month is Emmaus Sunday. Wear your cross and lanyard to worship. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring awareness to the Walk to Emmaus!



The *WalkTalk* deadline is the 20th of each month.

Please send your articles, information, community opportunities, 4th Day experiences/reflections to:

WalkTalkEditor@austinemmaus.org

The December 7th Gathering was at Cedar Creek UMC, with 25 attending. Everyone left early because of the snow that evening.

Check out the Gathering schedule on the last page. They are normally the first Thursday of each month unless otherwise noted. Childcare available.

2018 Austin Community Sponsored Emmaus Walks

Men's Walk #144

Coe Grace, Lay Director

Spiritual Director TBD

Gene McConnell, Board Rep.

Roxie Greenway, ST Coor.

April 19 — 22, 2018

Contact: Coe@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Gene@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Roxie@austinemmaus.org

Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley

Women's Walk #143

Chris McKemie, Lay Director

Tom Deviney, Spiritual Director

Gina Franklin, Board Rep.

Myles McKemie, ST Coord.

November 15 — 18, 2018

Contact: Chris@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Gina@austinemmaus.org

Contact: Myles@austinemmaus.org

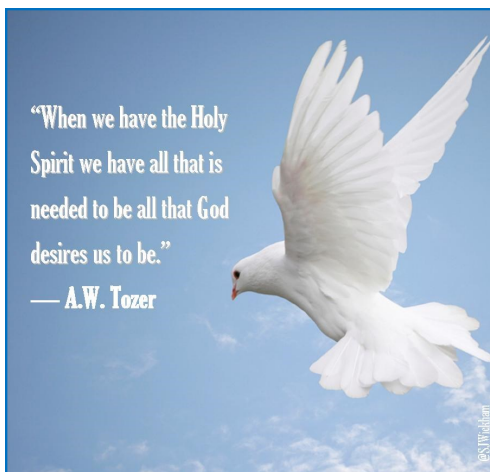
Camp Young Judaea, Wimberley



Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in us the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created.
And you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit
did instruct the hearts of the faithful,
grant that by the same Holy Spirit
we may be truly wise and ever enjoy your
consolations. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Can God Use You?

Jacob was a cheater.
Peter had a temper.
David had an affair.
Noah got drunk.
Jonah ran from God
Paul was a murderer.
Gideon was insecure.
Miriam was a gossip.
Martha was a worrier.
Thomas was a doubter.
Sarah was impatient.
Elijah was moody.
Moses stuttered.
Zaccheus was short.
Abraham was old.
Lazarus was dead.

What's YOUR excuse?
How can God use you?

**God doesn't call the qualified,
He qualifies the CALLED.**

Kairos #64

December 28-31, I was blessed to participate in Kairos #64 at the Ferguson Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, outside of Midway, Texas. This facility is a maximum-security penitentiary located about 2½ hours east of Austin. There are approximately 2,200 inmates there, 300 trustees, and about 500 staff members. Part of being on a Kairos team includes preparing home-baked cookies to be shared with all of the prisoners and guards and staff, so I was responsible for 100 dozen cookies. I announced to an Emmaus Gathering and to my local church (Pflugerville FUMC) about this opportunity to serve by baking cookies, and ended up bringing about 140 dozen cookies to the weekend.

Let me just say that my experience was amazing and I would recommend Kairos to anyone who has been on a Walk to Emmaus who is looking for a spark in your life. First of all, when I arrived at the prison on Thursday, I was very nervous, as this was my first time to ever be in a prison or jail. I had received some safety training at another TDCJ facility in Bryan, TX on December 2, but didn't interact directly with any prisoners at that time. As I entered the chapel, there were about 50 "Brothers in White" who were the stewards and trustees supporting the weekend, and they greeted me like I have never been greeted before, and welcomed me. I immediately felt wanted, loved, appreciated, supported, safe, and encouraged.

Then the Candidates entered the room. They were welcomed just as warmly, and we cozied up with a pair of them and visited for a few minutes, and I got to hear their stories. They were a little unsure of what was going on, but felt the love, support, and encouragement from the stewards and from the team, and they responded enthusiastically. Over the course of the 3 day weekend, these men who are all broken, battered, and used to being mistreated opened up about life, God's love, and they expressed a lot of awe and appreciation for the love shown to them by the volunteers, and the food, and especially the cookies. They cried when they tasted fried chicken, and brisket, and especially pizza. They were real with us about the choices that got them locked up, and genuinely expressed remorse for the things they had done.

Then they proceeded to amaze me. Here they are, locked up in a maximum-security prison, and they went out of their way to pray for homeless people who are out on the street, and for kids, and for orphans and widows. I was blessed to get to walk the cell blocks and hand out all the cookies to the prisoners who were not involved in the Kairos weekend, and told many of them that God loves them, and Merry Christmas, and Jesus loves you, and God bless you...and they were very happy to receive the homemade cookies. The only complaint I heard that entire time was from a guard who said the cookies were a little hard. I told her that they were made with love and that they may not be perfect, but that God loves them just the same. I delivered cookies to a segregated block where I was supposed to be wearing a flack jacket and eye protection, and told the men there that God loves them. They were stunned to see me there and to hear that good news.

We actually did something that supposedly has NEVER happened before, and we delivered a batch of cookies to the inmates in the exercise yard. They were delighted to receive them and we were able to actually shake hands and hugs with those inmates and pass on God's love and the community's love. They were very happy.

I went to Kairos expecting to minister to the prisoners but as it turned out I was ministered to and felt a level of joy and appreciation that is very rare in life. I even earned a prison nickname. If our churches had a fraction of the energy and excitement that we felt at Kairos #64 our services would be standing room only and there'd be a line out of the door for people to get in and get involved. If you are looking for a spark in your spiritual life, I cannot recommend Kairos Prison Ministry more, as the experience was just outstanding on every level, and a true blessing to me. As I returned to what they call the "Free World", I see things differently, and have a profound appreciation for the tiniest things in life that are easy to take for granted, such as the ability to enter or exit a room at will, or being able to use the restroom in privacy, or simple things like food and drink. I have been blessed by this experience and continue to feel the love, even days later.

The guys kept saying to me, "Hey man, have you seen that movie The Hangover? You look just like that guy!" I heard this like 10 times and then when I was introducing myself with my table family I say, "They call me, The Hangover", and the room exploded with laughter and joy. But I can tell you that I do actually have a "Kairos Hangover" and I am a changed man. When I go back, I will tell them that I'm "The Kairos Hangover" and I am singing God's praises even louder now.

God bless you and God bless the Brothers in White, and all Believers everywhere. Amen.

Rob Turk
The Kairos Hangover
Ferguson Kairos #64
GAEC Assistant Lay Director
GAEC Music Coordinator



Greater Austin Emmaus Group

October 25, 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,



It is with gratitude and anticipation that we have accepted the gift of a storage trailer. We especially thank Jeanne Randall for her help in transferring the title and registration to our group. This weekend we will initiate the trailer into our procedures and outfit it with storage boxes as suggested by Emmaus agape veterans.

We would like to extend an invitation to our closing Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 2:30 PM. Twin Oaks Ranch, 100 Marks Overlook, Buda, Tx.

De Colores,

Kairos Outside Central Texas

P.O.Box 1993

Cedar Park, Tx 78630

Affiliation of Kairos Prison Ministry International

[Handwritten signatures: Tony, Valerie Casey, Ramona Wright, Bettie Keifer, Brian Wilson, Sherita Jones, Susan Means]

De Colores!

Upcoming Greater Austin Emmaus Gatherings

Worship at 7:00, followed by agape feast

February 1, 2018

Thursday, February 1, 2018
Worship at 7:00, followed by agape feast
Bethany UMC
10010 Anderson Mill Rd., Austin, 78750
4th Day Speaker TBD

March 1, 2018

Thursday, March 1, 2018
Worship at 7:00, followed by agape feast
Location TBD
4th Day Speaker TBD

April 5, 2018

Thursday, April 5, 2018
Worship at 7:00, followed by agape feast
Pflugerville UMC
500 E. Pecan St., Pflugerville, 78691
4th Day Speaker TBD

May 3, 2018

Thursday, May 3, 2018
Worship at 7:00, followed by agape feast
Location TBD
4th Day Speaker TBD

June 1, 2018

Thursday, June 1, 2018
Worship at 7:00, followed by agape feast
Location TBD
4th Day Speaker TBD

July 5, 2018

Thursday, July 5, 2018
Worship at 7:00, followed by agape feast
Cedar Creek UMC
5630 FM 536, Cedar Creek, 78612
4th Day Speaker TBD

August 2, 2018

Thursday, August 2, 2018
Worship at 7:00, followed by agape feast
Location TBD
4th Day Speaker TBD

September 6, 2018

Thursday, September 6, 2018
Worship at 7:00, followed by agape feast
Location TBD
4th Day Speaker TBD

To reserve childcare,
send an email to:

BM4GatheringSupport@austinemmaus.org

