

## **From the Community Sponsorship Board Member**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The purpose of this article is to encourage every NK Emmaus member to step out in faith and invite a Christian friend to attend one of our Fall Walks (Men's Sept 18-21, Women's Oct 23-26). I'll start by asking a question. How far along in your Spiritual Journey would you be today if another Believer hadn't reached out and invited you to attend this three-day Walk with our Lord and Savior? In Matthew 25:40 Jesus tells his Disciples; "Whatever you did for one of the least of the brothers (or sisters) of mine, you did for me". The focus of this section of scripture is that we are to love and serve those individuals that God puts in our path.

Sponsorship is the most important job in Emmaus. It is much more than just signing up people to attend a Walk. The quality of sponsorship influences the pilgrim, the health of the Emmaus Chapter, and the home church to which the pilgrim returns. As Christians, each of us has the responsibility of passing the gift of God's grace and unconditional love on to others. Good sponsorship and its associated duties are divided into three distinct periods: Before the Walk, During the Walk, and After the Walk. The duties associated with each of these periods are detailed in a later section entitled "How do we sponsor".

During the upcoming August 9<sup>th</sup> and September 13<sup>th</sup> Monthly Gatherings, I will facilitate "Sponsorship Training Sessions" to go over the information covered in this article as well as answer any questions.

### **Why do we sponsor?**

The fact that the Emmaus experience passes from person to person through Sponsorship reflects the relational nature of God and the manner he reaches out to people through other people. The sole aim of sponsorship is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the body of Christ.

## **Whom do we sponsor?**

Emmaus is for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will bring new energy, commitment, and vision in the church and everyday environments for Christ sake. Those sponsored could include:

- Church leaders (pastors and laypersons)
- Dependable church members
- Less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled
- Christians who want to grow spiritually
- Members and leaders who represent a cross section of the church
- Members of diverse congregations, denominations, and ethnic groups

Those individuals that would be poor candidates:

- Non-Christians (a person having no relationship with Jesus Christ)
- A person in the midst of an emotional or personal crisis
- A person who says no repeatedly after being invited
- Church hopper (a person without a regular church home)
- A person who can't commit to the entire Walk

## **Two Kinds of Sponsorship:**

Wise sponsorship is purposeful and prayerful. Unwise sponsorship is haphazard and undiscerning.

## **How do we Sponsor? (i.e. Duties of the Sponsor)**

### Before the Walk:

- Pray for prospective pilgrim's openness to God's call to discipleship.
- Make an appointment with the person (or couple) to explain the Walk and the commitment for the weekend. I've prepared some documentation that can help with this.
- Ask the person to make a commitment by filling out an Application. If the person is married, speak with both partners and encourage a commitment from both. Application forms can be obtained from the Internet by going to the following address <http://www.nkemmaus.com/sponsor.htm> and clicking on Emmaus Application. At this sight you will find a one page of condensed Sponsorship guidelines as well as the two page Application form. Hard copies of these forms will be provided to those sponsors unable to get them from the Internet.

- Complete the Sponsor section of the Application and send it along with a registration deposit fee of \$50.00 to the Northern Kentucky Emmaus Community, PO Box 76037, Highland Heights, KY, 41076. Note: the balance of the registration fee (which is currently \$80.00) is due upon notification from the Registrar of the pilgrim's acceptance to the Walk.
- Collect a minimum of 12 agape letters that are personal, uplifting, and of significance to the pilgrim. A sample agape request letter can be obtained at <http://www.nkemmaus.com/sponsor.htm> and clicking on Agape Letter. Again, a hard copy of this sample request letter is also available for any one that doesn't have access to the Internet.
- Maintain contact with Pilgrim and their family to answer questions or concerns pertaining to the Walk.

#### During the Walk:

- Continue to pray for the Pilgrim's openness to God on the weekend.
- Bring the Pilgrim to the Walk along with snacks and drinks.
- Attend Sponsor's hour.
- Attend Candlelight service.
- Attend Closing service.
- Keep in contact with the Pilgrim's family and provide updates on the weekend's progress.
- Take Pilgrim home after the Closing service.

#### After the Walk:

- Continue to pray for the Pilgrim's 4<sup>th</sup> days.
- Be available to discuss the Walk with the Pilgrim.
- Bring the Pilgrim to the first Gathering following the Walk.
- Help the Pilgrim become involved in a small Accountability Group.
- Mentor the Pilgrim on the importance of Sponsorship.
- Encourage their continual involvement in their local church and Emmaus Community.

#### **Who can sponsor?**

Any persons who have completed an Emmaus Walk can sponsor another person to go on a Walk so long as they understand the aim and responsibilities of sponsorship and can fulfill them for their pilgrim. A member should sponsor only one pilgrim to a given Walk. Sponsors should not serve as team members on Walks with persons they are sponsoring. If

persons choose to serve as team members, they should find others who will sponsor the particular persons they would otherwise sponsor.

**Equal Commitment Rule (Wisdom but not Law)!**

For married couples, both the husband and wife should be encouraged to make a commitment to participate in the same set of Walks that are a month apart. This approach results in increased participation of many grateful husbands who, quite likely, wouldn't have attended an Emmaus weekend otherwise. However this Equal Commitment Rule doesn't mean a wife (or husband) can't go to a Walk unless their spouse also agrees to go. Circumstances may exist where both partners aren't able to commit. Bottom line: When a sponsor is reaching out to a Christian couple about going on an Emmaus Walk, the sponsor should be approaching both the husband and wife at the same time.

**Final Thoughts and Comments:**

During the past four years, I (like many of you) have had the honor of sponsoring others to attend an Emmaus Walks. It matters not whether you're a new member or a long time member; each of us knows fellow Christians who need to experience the miracle of Saint Anne's. I pray that each member of our Emmaus Chapter will invite another Christian to these upcoming Fall Walks. It's your opportunity to love as Jesus loves. He is counting on each one of us.

DeColores!

Your Brother in Christ,  
Pete Linstruth