

May
2021

Billings
Walk
To
Emmaus

W2E Times



We are
Socially Distant
but
Spiritually Close

Important Dates!

Fall Kick-Off
September 18, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Riverfront Park

MEN's W2E, #80
January 13-16, 2022

WOMEN's W2E, #81
January 20-23, 2022

Contact us...

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Healing our Wounds

Proverbs 18:8 tells us that "the words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly."

One of the most inspiring and meaningful parts of every Walk weekend is during the closing when our new Fourth Dayers share what the weekend meant to them. We hear words like love, salvation, brothers and sisters, and redemption. And we often hear poignant stories from our pilgrims about how they arrived at the weekend broken, and leave not necessarily whole, but restored and ready to fight on.

We are all broken in some way. It could be related to relationships, or addiction, or unresolved anger, or a myriad of other causes. We might not all be broken the same way, but we are all broken.

But as Christians we know that there is a path to restoration: the unmerited, undeserved grace that God gives because He loves us. And we don't have to pay for that grace ... Jesus paid our tab on the cross.

The last 15 months of the pandemic have broken us collectively. Our society is splintered by politics, mistrust, rumors, lies, and fears. We don't know who to believe, so we become skeptical and cynical. Social media provides a rationale for every opinion, whether based in fact or not. We too often devolve into camps; you are either with us or against us so you better pick a team and get ready to fight.

Just as our faith offers us a path to recovery as individuals, it also provides a path for our collective healing. We KNOW where to find truth for our communities ... on that same cross that bought us our personal salvation.

As we think about recovering from the pandemic, let's think back to our own Walk weekends. Let's remember the relief and joy that came to us as we finally understood that we cannot overcome our weakness and heal our brokenness alone, no matter how many good deeds we do or how hard we try. Let's remember that sense of peace that so many of us described when we accepted God's gift of grace, paid for on that first Good Friday.

And as we remember those feelings, let's all commit to doing our part to help heal the brokenness wrought by a tiny virus that has torn us asunder and set us one against another. One great step on that road to redemption is sponsoring our friends for the 2022 Walk weekends. As our army of Fourth Dayers grows, I am confident that our societal wounds will heal. We know and have experienced the path to wholeness ... let's invite others to join us on that dusty road to Emmaus.

John Felton, Lay Director
W2E #80, January 2022

2021-2022
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The Old Violin...and Us

One foggy night in London many years ago, a poor man shuffled into a quaint little music shop on the edge of town. Under his arm, he held an old violin in terrible condition. "My good sir," the man said to the shopkeeper, "will you please buy this violin from me so I can get something to eat." The clerk took a look at the instrument and said, "I have many violins, so I can only give you 5 pounds for this one." The man agreed and departed with the money into the foggy night.

As the shopkeeper examined the old beat-up violin, he could hardly believe what he saw carved into the wood: "Antonio Stradivri...1704." He ran out into the street to find the man and give him a fair price. But he was gone.

Many of us are like the poor man. We carry with us something of unimaginable value yet we have no idea how much it is really worth. It is our story of what we were like, what happened, and what we are like today. We as Christians, and particularly 4th Dayers, have a message that potential pilgrims need to hear. A simple message but a compelling encouragement. Understand the power of your message and use it to invite others to one of the most amazing and life-changing 3 days they will ever experience.

As always, you can contact Larry Atkins at stoneboat@hotmail.com or 406-647-2809 for Walk to Emmaus brochures. Also included in the brochures are the last Walk Testimonies, which are transforming.



"GOOD DAY, SUNSHINE"



Our Walk to Emmaus musicians, Dave Oltrogge and Tom Blankenship, will be joined by Pastor Tim Hathaway and a talented group of musicians as they present "**Good Day, Sunshine**" **A Beatles Celebration**. This is the first of the summer concert series at St. John's United located at the corner of Rimrock Road and Shiloh Road. Performance time is **7:00 on Thursday, July 8th**. Food trucks will be available or you can bring your own picnic. Join your family and friends for an evening of great music in a wonderful outdoor setting. Don't forget your lawn chairs!

SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

The good thing Jesus did on the cross is bigger than any bad thing you have done.

Nothing wars against our sense of joy like the word "more".

Password to God = "Thank You".

Trust God's heart even when you can't see His hand.

God is never more than one thought away.

The three most important words you will ever say are "I am His".

How's Your Piety?

Do you remember the "tripod" from your weekend? There were so many beautiful talks, such good food, and interesting people that I would be totally impressed if you remembered the tripod, too. The three legs of the tripod are Piety, Study and Action. These are the essential tools we need to further deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ. Sound familiar?

My definition of piety is "turning your life towards God". We give our hearts to God through prayer, meditation, scripture and worship. Through prayer, we communicate with God and personally relate to Him. Meditation gives us time to listen to God. Through scripture, we grow to understand the mind, heart, and will of God. Worship celebrates our relationship and gives witness to God's activity in our lives.

There was a priest in Laurel, Father Charlie Gorman, who would always greet us with "How's your love life?" At first, I thought he was being a bit personal, but soon I realized he was asking us "How's your love life...with God?" I realized that although I had had a close encounter with Jesus on my weekend, and several close moments with Him, I wasn't bringing Him into my total life, as I should be.

Sure, I worshipped God every Sunday, but the rest of my piety was lacking. The first thing I needed to do was become more conscious of Him throughout my day. I put sticky notes on my computer that said "God", so I would be reminded of Him every time I sat at my desk. I began saying decades of the rosary while travelling back and forth to work. It wasn't long until I started thinking about Him on a regular basis. I developed my communication with him, praying and praising Him in my own words. Every time I think of Him now I say, "God, I love you", or "Jesus, I love you". And, of course, I thank Him regularly.

Take time to examine your piety. Ask yourself "Is Jesus my friend" or is He just some far off entity you pray to occasionally? Unless you're very saintly, piety takes work. Recognize God in your life, take time to talk to Him, thank Him, and praise Him. He's worth the effort!

Coming up soon: A review of Study and Action, the other two legs to the Walk to Emmaus tripod.

Patsy Guenther



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BIBLE

TRIVIA

(Kiddie Land)

1. Who was Noah's youngest son?

Hint: Genesis 4:1

2. Who was the youngest son of Joseph?

Hint: Genesis 48:13-14

3. Who died giving birth to Benjamin?

Hint: Genesis 35:16-19

4. What judge had 70 sons?

Hint: Judges 8:30

5. What king of Judah had 28 sons and 60 daughters?

Hint: 2 Chronicles 11:21



FALL KICK-OFF

You won't want to miss the Fall Kick-Off of the Walk to Emmaus! We will be gathering at **Riverfront Park at 3:00 pm on Wednesday, September 18** for a concert by our much-loved musicians, Dave Oltrogge, Tom Blankenship, and Pastor Tim Hathaway. What a great way to kick-off the preparations for the upcoming Walk weekends! Watch upcoming newsletters for more details about this fun event. **Mark your calendars now!**



Presenting Your Story

There is a tale told of the great English stage actor, William Macready. One day, an eminent preacher asked him, "What is the difference between you and me? You appear before crowds night after night with fiction, and the crowds come wherever you go. Yet I am preaching the essential and unchangeable truth of God, and I am not getting any crowd at all."

Macready answered, "That is quite simple. I present fiction as though it were truth; you present your truth as though it were fiction."

When it comes to presenting our story of who we were, what happened, and how we are now to potential pilgrims, many of us lack the confidence in our message to effectively communicate it to others. We don't truly see it as the life-transforming message it is. If you want to get better at sharing your faith and the impact of the "Walk" on your life, start by really believing it first. Ask God to solidify your story in your heart...and you will have a pilgrim blessed by you on Sunday afternoon.