

February
2021

Billings
Walk
To
Emmaus

W2E Times



We are
Socially Distant
but
Spiritually Close

Important Dates!

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

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

Contact us...

WEBSITE:
billingsemmaus.com

EMAIL:
info@billingsemmaus.com

FACEBOOK:
Billings "Walk to
Emmaus"

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 1975
Billings, MT 59103

Turning Our Hearts Toward Next Year

Thank you, Lord, for choosing us to be your partners in this marvelous undertaking called the Walk to Emmaus. Let us turn our hearts to next year's Walk and help change the crushing circumstances we have been through into the wine of godly blessings that will bring joy and healing to others. Amen. The dictionary defines sponsorship as "one who takes responsibility for another." Sponsorship is a dynamic partnership, involving you, and your pilgrim but inevitably led by God. It starts with prayer, then a time of presentation, then waiting for a decision. Think back on your response to the weekend and words like "renewing, transformation, joyful, etc. appear. Who wouldn't want a family member, a friend, a neighbor, or a fellow church

member to experience this same joy? Your W2E board has some "helps" to make your presentation more comfortable. We have two brochures; one about the history of the Walk and the other full of testimonies of those who have been through the Walk. In addition, we have put together two "testimony" sheets from recent men and women who have shared their Walk experiences. Both of these sheets can be downloaded from our web site. In addition, both pilgrim and sponsor applications can also be downloaded from our web site. If you need the brochures or have any questions you can contact Larry Atkins at 406-647-2809 or email at stoneboat@hotmail.com. These resources will help you present the life-changing wonders of the Walk weekend and support your sponsorship efforts.

SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

We don't live on man's explanation—we live on God's promises.

The chains of habit are generally too small to be felt until they are too strong to be broken.

Sometimes God's best judgement is to let us have our own way.

Most of us have lived long enough to be thankful for unanswered prayers.

The one great redeeming factor of failure is this; we have a chance to learn something we could never learn any other way.

It's alright to talk to God about our problems. But sometimes we need to talk to our problems about God.

God writes over some of your days, "will explain later."

After several years of anticipation and preparation, I fully expected to spend January 14 – 17, 2021 as the lay director for the men's W2E #80. Karen Poling was ready for her lay director experience, which should be wrapping up toward its powerful closing as I write these words today.

As we all know now, our plans did not work out. There were no Billings Walk to Emmaus weekends in January 2021. About a year ago, a microscopic virus made its way to the United States, arriving in Billings in mid-March 2020. And with the arrival of that tiny, seemingly insignificant bug, our lives were forever changed.

When we look back on our lives, we tend to focus on the big things ... weddings, births, jobs, moves, and so on. Those types of experiences are burned into our memory because they have such profound and long-lasting effects on us.

But I believe that big things come about because a whole bunch of little things led to them. If Robin or I had chosen different colleges more than 40 years ago, we never would have met. She was led to our college by her high school guidance counselor.

The Little Things John Felton Lay Director, W2E #80

I ended up there because the person I met on that campus was friendly and welcoming, while a meeting at another college was very unsatisfactory. Had we not gone to the same college and selected the same major, we would not have met, fallen in love, gotten married, had children, moved to Billings, or become part of the Billings W2E community. Little things change our lives in ways we might never understand.

So, why did this nasty little virus have to come along and disrupt everything so dramatically? How could something so tiny and seemingly insignificant fracture our relationships, our community, our state, and even our nation into groups of those who fear it and those who think it is a hoax? I don't know, but I have faith that everything happens for a reason ... faith tells me that our God has a purpose for everything and because He knows, that's good enough for me.

Unfortunately, our beloved Walk home, Billings First United Methodist Church, had some water leaks this year that did some significant damage. The wood floor in our conference room, Wesley Hall, is buckled and warped apart

If we did not cancel the Walk weekends because of the virus, would we have had to cancel at the last minute because we had no place to hold our retreat?

Do I think that this virus was loosed on the world so the Billings W2E would not have to contend with a destructive water leak? No. Do I think that we have an opportunity to grow and be better because of the challenges we face? Yes, I do.

There are people out there who need a Walk weekend who might never have considered it absent the challenges they have faced and this reminder of how important their faith is to their lives. As we work toward recovery from COVID-19, let's prepare for the next W2E weekends – and they will come – let's start thinking about who we should sponsor, how we can participate, and how individually and collectively we can make our community and our world a little better. Let's remember the beauty and impact of our weekends and pledge to help others experience the life-changing and faith-affirming effects of those three days on the Walk to Emmaus.

BIBLE
TRIVIA
(From sweet
to bitter)

1. Who ate a book that was originally sweet but turned bitter in Revelation? Hint: Revelation 10:8-10

2. Who presented a riddle about finding something sweet in a lion's carcass in Judges? Hint: Judges 14:12-14

3. According to Proverbs, what kind of bread is sweet to a man? Hint: Proverbs 20:16-18

4. What kind of grapes set the children's teeth on edge according to Jeremiah? Hint: Jeremiah 31:28-30

5. What strange thing did Moses make the people of Israel drink in Exodus? Hint: Exodus 32.20

Staying in Touch

We are so glad that you are receiving these emails from the Billings Walk to Emmaus. It's important that we stay in touch during this time when we're not able to be together. Sadly, some email addresses in our contact list are no longer current.

Would you help us update our contact list? Please make some phone calls to folks who are an important part of your Walk to Emmaus family. Call your sponsor. Call persons who you have sponsored. Call your Walk to Emmaus friends. They will enjoy hearing from you. Ask if they are receiving emails from the Billings Walk to Emmaus. If they aren't receiving our communications, please send their correct email addresses to info@billingsemmaus.com. The calls will be a blessing to you and to each person you reach!



God's Timing

A little boy asked God, "how long is a second in heaven?" God said, "one million years." The boy asked, "how much is a penny in heaven?" God answered, "one million dollars." The boy said, "could I have a penny?" To which God answered, "in just a second."



A Shipwreck Survivor

There is a story told of a shipwreck survivor who washed up on a deserted island. After he had been there a few days, he built himself a hut and prayed to God for a rescue. Each day he anxiously looked out over the horizon as he waited for God's deliverance in the form of a passing ship. One day, after returning from a hunt for food, he discovered that his hut was consumed in flames. He was devastated and believed it to be the worst thing that could happen to him on the island; everything he had was gone. The next day however, a ship arrived, and the captain said, "we saw your smoke signal." Sometimes, when it seems our whole world is crumbling, it is difficult to believe that God is at work on our behalf. But just when we think all is lost, God unfolds his plan and teaches us that he had it under control the whole time.