

**August
2021**

**Billings
Walk
To
Emmaus**

W2E Times

Important Dates!

Fall Kick-Off
September 12, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Riverfront Park

MEN's W2E, #80
January 13-16, 2022
WOMEN's W2E, #81
January 20-23, 2022

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**Help Someone
Become A
4th-Dayer**

Are You Aware?

Are you aware of the Christians around you? We so often are distracted by life's daily drama and busyness that we miss the grace projected by the people we interact with. The following is a short story from Senator John McCain's book *Destiny Of Character* where he shared an experience from his years as a POW in a N Vietnamese prison camp. McCain was captured by the enemy after his plane was shot down over Hanoi and he spent 5.5 years in a brutal N Vietcong prison. He was tortured brutally and spent much time in solitary confinement.

One night, as punishment for communicating with another prisoner, McCain was tied up tightly and thrown into the punishment cell. To his surprise, a N Vietnamese guard snuck into his cell and loosed the ropes binding his arms, greatly reducing his pain.

McCain didn't understand why his enemy would show him such kindness until a few months later. It was Christmas morning, and the prisoners were allowed outside for a few moments of fresh air. The guard who had snuck into his cell a few months earlier walked up beside him he did not speak or make eye contact but in the dirt, he scratched out the sign of

the cross with his shoe. Then he quickly rubbed the sign out and walked away. The enemy guard was a fellow follower of Jesus Christ.

That was why he risked his own life to help John McCain.

McCain wrote, "for just that moment I forgot all my hatred for my enemies and all their hatred for me. I forgot about the war and all the terrible things that war does to you. I was just one Christian venerating the cross with another Christian on Christmas morning. In the middle of a POW camp, under the cruelest of conditions, John McCain experienced the presence of God through a very brief moment with another believer. Even though they were enemies, they were still brothers in Christ and that was a bond not even war could break.

I would venture a guess that we miss some of God's "shoulder taps" going about our daily activities. Being more aware of the folks around us may help us recognize and acknowledge fellow believers. It always gives me a lift when I see grace in others and when others see grace in me. Just say'n.

Glenn Paulson



FALL KICK-OFF

BIBLE TRIVIA

(FARMING)

1. Who planted the first garden?

Hint: Genesis 2:8

2. What king planted many vineyards, gardens, and orchards?

Hint: Ecclesiastes 2:4-5

3. What judge was also a farmer of grain?

Hint: Judges 6:11

4. Who was the first man to plant a vineyard?

Hint: Genesis 9:20

5. Who was a farmer in Gerar and received a hundredfold harvest?

Hint: Genesis 26:12

6. What king of Judah enjoyed farming?

Hint: 2 Chronicles 26:9-10

7. Who had a vineyard that was coveted by Ahab?

Hint: 1 Kings 21:1-4

Those of us who attended our last “fall kickoff” (Sept. 2019) remember the turnout of over 200 people. That result was because we as 4th-Day-ers attended but we also invited family and friends. What a great event to invite potential pilgrims and yes, all the family and friends you can talk to. There is plenty of room at Riverfront Park – Shelter #3. Let’s fill er up! See you there.



Is There Anything to Eat?

Late resurrection Sunday, the two fellows from the Emmaus Road came rushing back to town to tell the others they have seen Jesus alive. Let’s pick up the story there:

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything to eat?” They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. (Luke 24:36-43).

This is a funny moment. The pair from Emmaus Road are in the middle of telling their incredible story when Jesus just appears in the room, as if to illustrate everything they’ve said. Yep, that was me. Yep, I did it just like that. Suddenly He’s just standing there and all He says is, “Peace be with you.” Here the most fantastic thing in the world is happening before their eyes, and all Jesus says is, “Hi!” The disciples are stupefied, dumbfounded; they don’t believe that He is real. Finally, He asks, “Is there anything here to eat?” like a neighbor dropping by for some chips. He chews it carefully in front of them, swallows it, and waits for a few seconds for everyone to digest the lesson. You have got to love this moment and the point He’s making. Jesus raised is still Jesus, a man—flesh and bones and all. Jesus was more human than humanity. His was the most human face of all.



Isaiah 55:10-11

“The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with My word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.” **Now is the time to send the word of the “Emmaus Walk” out to friends and family. It will always produce fruit!**

SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

All our fret and worry is caused by thinking without God.

In God's garden of grace, even a broken tree can bear fruit.

You can't keep love alive without forgiveness.

One trouble with being an atheist is that you have nobody to talk to when you are alone.

Who of us would dare to stand before God and say, "My God, judge me as I have judged my fellow man or woman."

Until you see the cross as that which is done by you, you will never appreciate that it is done for you.

Your steps of obedience will always be smaller than your problem.

The battle with the Bible is whether you think it is thick enough to solve your problems.

How's Your Action? (Part three of a three-part series)

I hope you have had an opportunity to read the recent newsletter articles on Piety and Study, the first two legs of the Walk to Emmaus tripod. If you have read them, I know you have been yearning for this third and last article, the third leg of the tripod, Action!

"Christian Action" was the eighth talk of your Walk to Emmaus weekend and perhaps the most challenging. The Holy Spirit steps up in Christian action and inspires us to spread God's word to our families, work places, community, Church and really, anyone you meet.

Remember, the **three legs of the tripod** are essential tools to deepening your relationship with Jesus Christ. Each leg must be given equal attention or your tripod, your walk with Jesus, will fall. To illustrate the importance of the tripod, look at the Walk to Emmaus card you were given at your weekend. Accountability groups focus on reporting your piety, study and action for the week. By holding yourself accountable, you can keep your tripod in balance.

So, what is "Christian Action"? In its simplest form, Christian action is God's call to share Christian word and deed—in all we do. Each person's gifts and personality determines the style of Christian action we take. Effective Christian action comes about when we feel comfortable with our faith and with the situation in which we find ourselves. We will feel comfortable with our faith when we spend time on the first two legs of the tripod – piety and study.

Many people find it challenging to spread God's word to others. However, remember God commanded us to go out and spread His word. So, even if you're uncomfortable with taking this step, know that, if you have God in your heart (Piety) and have learned about Him (Study), sharing His word will become a natural thing for you to do. Also, you are not alone. The Holy Spirit is 100% behind you!

If you're just beginning to take up God's call, the first thing you should do is make a plan!

Christian action does not happen by accident but by deciding to show forth Christ's love in specific ways in word and deed. Christian action does not consist of occasional heroic acts; it is a way of life that occurs daily.

Together with the help of the Holy Spirit, other committed Christians will join you in your efforts.

In Luke 10:1, Jesus sent His disciples out two by two. I encourage you to read that chapter again as Jesus gives very specific instructions to His disciples, as they start on their journeys to spread His word.

Many of you are already doing Christian action and don't even realize it. For example, working at a Walk to Emmaus weekend is a great way to spread God's word and love to others. Sponsoring someone to a Walk weekend is awesome Christian action! Remember the saying "Make a Friend; Be a Friend; Bring that friend to Christ".

In the Catholic Church, lay people are allowed to read the readings before the Gospel at Mass. I have been a Lector for almost twenty years and it is my favorite way to spread God's word. Maybe there is something in your Church you can help with. Join a ministry or the choir, teach a youth group; whatever may be available.

Writing these articles for the Walk to Emmaus newsletter is another form of Christian action and is a part of my plan. Thanks, Larry Atkins, for publishing them! I encourage any one of you who feels called to write an article about the Walk or other Christian subject, to do so and submit it to Larry.

Planned Christian action could include volunteering at a local charitable organization in town.

Make some sandwiches, serve dinners, help wherever you can. Include your accountability group or Bible Study group in this part of your plan. The need is great in Billings and the opportunity is there!

Your plan can be more specific. You may be called on in your personal life to support someone who is going through hard times, such as problems at work, marriage woes, serious illness, or death of a loved one. Ask yourself "What would Jesus do?" Bring Jesus into the talk with your friend. You'll find most people are receptive to hearing about God. Picture Jesus sitting there with you and your friend and the right words will come.

Piety, Study and Action – the formula for becoming a dynamic disciple of Jesus! Together, these tools will propel you forwards on your journey with Christ! Get going on your Christian action plan and God bless you!

Patsy Guenther

The WALK TO EMMAUS community invites you
to an outdoor musical performance by

🎵 **HOMeward** 🎵



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 at 3:00 pm

🍁 **RIVERFRONT PARK - SHELTER #3** 🍁
(located on the east side of the park).

BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIRS.

Water will be provided.

Plans for the Walk to Emmaus weekends in January, 2022, are in full swing!

Let's "kick-off" this season of preparation
with the inspiring and uplifting music of Homeward!

Bring your friends and family.

Reunite with old friends, & make new friends.

In case of bad weather, the event will take place at
First United Methodist Church.

🍁 **We'll see you there!** 🍁