

May
2023

Billings
Walk
To
Emmaus

W2E Times



God Has Been Faithful

Seven years!! Why does the perception of time speed up as we get older? Some say it is because we lengthen our history each day. I'm not sure what that means but admittedly the perception of time did speed up for me the last seven years.

But more importantly, I have been both blessed and mentored during these last seven years as a board member. I have found that our Walk to Emmaus board family was a place where I found strength and companionship for my journey of faith. The center of what God does to help us become more like Him is to reveal Himself to us, to give us a taste of what He's really like, and to pour His life into us. And a critical element in the revealing process is to place us in a community of people who are enough like Him to give us a better taste firsthand. That's what your board has given me. And I hope that is what the Walk to Emmaus has given you.

As I review the last seven years, the only expression I can say is that "God has been faithful." During this time your board has produced two brochures to help you share the message of the Walk. In addition, there are now testimonies on our website that share what the Walk has meant to recent 4th dayers, and your board has also produced 154 pages of our newsletter. All of this during a time of uncertainty. We have had zoom board meetings and intense preparation for Walk weekends only to have our plans crushed twice because we felt it was not safe for us to meet. Throughout the United States a number of Walk to Emmaus weekends have been cancelled forever, yet through it all God in His faithfulness has kept us together.

I believe that God has kept us together for a purpose in addition to glorifying Him and becoming more like Him. And I believe that purpose is connecting. Connecting with someone else occurs when the life of Christ in me touches the life of Christ in you. Our passion behind our efforts to invite someone to the 2024 Walk should be a vision of what another person is and could become because of Christ. The journey toward a better relationship with Christ is intended to be a group expedition where we walk together as honest strugglers who believe the end point is worth any hardship. We share the life of Christ together and are called to nourish that life in one another. Isn't that what the Walk and 4th day small group bible studies are all about? Acts 20:24 says, "But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the good news about the wonderful grace of God."

Finally, many of you know that Dr. Charles Stanley passed away last month. One of his quotes is as follows: "You can do a lot of things for people that do not result in lasting fruit. But when you feed others the truth of Jesus—praying for them and talking to them about what the Lord has done in your life—God will use you to reap great, eternal harvests in them." Let's all talk to at least three people this summer about our Walk to Emmaus and then the Holy Spirit will take over from there. Remember, God specializes in turning crucifixions into resurrections.

Larry Atkins

Important Dates!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

June 24, 2023
3:00 pm at North Park

W2E "KICK-OFF"

September 17, 2023
5:00 pm

CHRISTMAS SING

December 14, 2023

RETREAT

January 13, 2024
9:00 am

MEN's W2E, #82

January 18-21, 2024

WOMEN's W2E, #83

January 25-28, 2024

POTLUCK

February 3, 2024
5:00 pm

Contact us...

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**SPIRITUAL
THOUGHTS**

Who you've become is more important than what you've done.

The turning point of our lives is when we stop seeking the God we want and start seeking the God who is.

Motivation and not understanding is the problem for not reading the bible.

The problem of the heart is that we see what we are looking for.

We are not to be judged by the presence or absence of faults, but by the direction of our lives.

Do we look at the Bible as a rule book or as a revelation of God's heart?

Join God in what he is doing in your life and stop asking Him to join you in what you are doing in your life.

Faith means believing in advance what will only make sense in reverse.

The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for us to do nothing.

Let's gather for an

ICE CREAM
Meet & Mingle
SOCIAL!



Saturday, June 24th

3:00 – 5:00 pm

North Park, Shelter #1

(Located near the parking lot on N. 19th St.)

**Bring lawn chairs and yard games
and join your Walk to Emmaus
friends for a time of
fun, fellowship and ICE CREAM!!**



**In case of bad weather, we will gather at
First United Methodist Church**

DID YOU KNOW?

The book of Esther is the only book in the Bible that does not mention the word of God.

God once gave Moses' leprosy for a short time (Exodus 4:6-7).

If one goes by the total number of words, Luke wrote more of the New Testament than Paul did.

The king of Babylon tried to foretell the future by examining liver (Ezekiel 21:21).

The devastating earthquake mentioned in Amos 1:1 has been verified by modern geologists.

In Joshua 3:16, there is a town called Adam.

The youngest book of the Old Testament is the last one...Malachi.

Delilah did not cut Sampson's hair. She called someone else to do it (Judges 16:19).

There was a window on Noah's ark (Genesis 6:16).

THE EMMAUS ROAD

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.

Luke 24:13

Archaeologists believe they now know the locations of the New Testament town of Emmaus. Since 2017, a French-Israel expedition has been digging at a site known as Kiriath Yearim, a hill overlooking the approach to Jerusalem a few kilometers west of the city. In Bible times, the site was a walled city about seven miles from Jerusalem.

Walking there in today's modern maze of streets and political divisions wouldn't be easy. In a better sense, those who know Jesus are walking the Emmaus Road with Him now, every day.

Think of it! As these two discouraged disciples walked with the Savior, He explained the Old Testament to them, showing them how it proved the Messiah would come, suffer, die, and rise again. Their discouragement faded away, and a surging joy came with the new information. Their hearts burned within them.

Our hearts, too, are revived as we walk the Emmaus Road and realize the entire Bible is all about Him, from Genesis to Revelation, both Old and New Testaments. His Word always revives our hearts.



GOD'S REDEMPTIVE WORK

God's redemptive work in the lives of His faithful people will naturally provoke worship. Author and pastor Leslie B. Flynn once told a story that illustrates this truth.

An orphaned boy was living with his grandmother when their house caught fire. The grandmother, trying to get upstairs to rescue the boy, perished in the flames. The boy's cries for help were finally answered by a man who climbed an iron drainpipe and came back down with the boy hanging tightly to his neck.

Several weeks later, a public hearing was held to determine who would receive custody of the child. A farmer, a teacher, and the town's wealthiest citizen all gave the reasons they felt they should be chosen to give the boy a home. But as they talked, the lad's eyes remained focused on the floor.

Then a stranger walked to the front and slowly took his hands from his pockets, revealing severe scars on them. As the crowd gasped, the boy cried out in recognition. This was the man who had saved his life. His hands had been burned when he climbed the hot pipe. With a leap the boy threw his arms around the man's neck and held on for dear life. The other men silently walked away, leaving the boy and his rescuer alone. Those marred hands had settled the issue.

In our world today, many voices are calling for our attention. Among them is the One whose nail-pierced hands remind us that He has rescued us from sin and its deadly consequences. And because of the redemption He's purchased for us with His blood, we owe our devotion to Him.

