

October  
2022

Billings  
Walk  
To  
Emmaus

# W2E Times



## The Gift of Caring

### Important Dates!

MEN's W2E, #80  
January 19-22, 2023

WOMEN's W2E, #81  
January 26-29, 2023

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I remember that Thursday evening in January when I walked into Brother Van Hall. I'd never been here before, but now I stood in the midst of a couple dozen other men as my sponsor introduced me to many of them. I have always met others with ease, but I found my emotions to be apprehensive. In a way I was beginning to question why I had said yes when my friend had asked to sponsor me on this men's retreat. He had asked a year earlier and I had declined. He gracefully said, "no problem, maybe another time" and I had forgotten about it until he asked me again just a couple of months prior to this day. I don't know why I said yes to his invite this time. Maybe it was to get him off my back. I could also sense a slight desire to see what this weekend retreat was all about. So, apprehensions and all, I decided to make the best of it and try to enjoy whatever lie ahead.

I had been a Christian believer for many years and questioned what could lie ahead other than a good time with the men I'd just met. What unfolded over the next three days was nothing short of incredible. This group of "new" friends laughed, sang, cried, and learned together. I learned of and felt a love from Jesus that I had never experienced before. I had "believed" in Jesus but I had never "felt" Him quite like this. I felt so bathed in Christ's love. It was almost intoxicating. Then as the weekend came to a close, the apprehensions that I had churning in me on Thursday evening returned with a vengeance. Whatever hesitations I felt about being here on Thursday had now multiplied. I didn't want to leave. I just wanted to stay and continue to soak in Jesus' love.

I wish that my story ended here. It would be sweet and tidy. But, as often is the case, there is another chapter. Within a few months after this incredible Walk to Emmaus weekend "soak", I found myself in the midst of the most heartbreaking struggles of my life. I felt hurt and most of all I felt like a failure. Everything in life felt void and removed. I questioned my value to this world. For a person that had always been confident and strong, I now felt worthless and weak. What was I going to do? Hopefully disappear, was all that came to mind. I was angry with myself, life and even God. Yet, even in my anger towards God, I was drawn back to that overwhelming sense of love I had experienced less than a year earlier. That love wasn't just a love that I had believed in, it was a love that I had FELT. Where was that Jesus? He had become personal. I cried out to that love that I had first felt on that weekend several months earlier and it grew over the next months and, now years, from that painful low point in life. From the seeds of that heartfelt love from Christ on the Walk weekend, I was given a hope. Looking back, now years later, I cringe and my insides knot as I think about how my life may have turned out if I hadn't been introduced to a "personal love for a lifetime" from Jesus. I'm honestly not sure if I would have pulled through. Yet, as always, when we cling to our Master, good will come. Now, years later, Jesus is my friend and hope in all of life. He is real and personal.

I tell my story because we all have opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others. You see, neither my sponsor nor myself had any clue that my world would soon be turned upside down. My sponsor didn't give up after I turned down his invitation a year earlier. He didn't pass me off as "not likely to go on a Walk". He asked again and I said yes. I am forever grateful that he cared for me too much to give up and not ask again. The rest of my life's story has been forever changed by that Walk weekend.

**We all, as Fourth Day alumni, have the same opportunities to make a profound difference in someone's life by sponsoring them on an upcoming Walk to Emmaus weekends.** This coming January is our next opportunity. Just like my sponsor and myself, none of us have knowledge of what tomorrow will bring to the lives of people we know. What I do know is that my life would have been profoundly worse if I had not received the "Gift" of an invitation to attend a Walk to Emmanuel.

Be difference makers! **Simply care and ask.**

*Gary Broyles, 1987*

## SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS

You don't drown  
by falling in the  
water, you drown  
by staying there.

It often seems more  
difficult to trust God  
than to obey Him.

God's love cannot be  
explained—it can  
only be experienced

Prayer will become  
effective when we  
stop using it as a  
substitute for  
obedience.

We can always  
tell what our  
relationship is to  
Christ when we  
examine what our  
relationship is to  
God's word.

Trust the next  
chapter because you  
know the author.

The detour is always  
worse than the  
main road.

Faith is not believing  
in spite of evidence;  
it is obeying in spite  
of consequences.

## "DADDY, WHAT'S THAT SOUND?"

A man and his three-year daughter were strolling through the park one hot summer day, when the little girl suddenly asked, "Daddy what's that sound?"

With his little one at that age where every other phrase is a question, he wasn't quite sure what his daughter was asking about. But after some coaxing he finally understood. "Those are cicadas," he replied. "They're bugs that come out during the summer time."

The little girl listened intently for a while then exclaimed, "Daddy! They're talking to me!" "What are they saying?" her daddy asked. "They're saying, 'Have fun at the park. God loves you!'"

Creation is singing a song every moment of every day and night. But most of the time we're too preoccupied with the worries of life to hear it. From the song of the morning lark to the evening chirp of crickets, each day brings you opportunities to join in the chorus of praise and see yourself through the eyes of the One who made it all.

So, the next time you hear a choir of cicadas singing aloud, morning larks singing, or the chirp of crickets, listen prayerfully and hear them say, "Have fun today. God loves you!"



## THE GIANT SEQUOIA

The giant sequoia tree is an amazing example of strength that comes from surrounding support. These giants of the forest can grow to around 300 feet tall with a diameter that exceeds 20 feet. The incredible thing about these trees is that they can grow in just three feet of soil and withstand high winds. Their strength lies in the fact that their roots intertwine with other sequoias, providing mutual strength and shared resources.

God's plan for us is like that. Our ability to stand tall in spite of the storming winds of life is related to the love and support we receive from God and one another. Did you know there are 59 "one anothers" in the New Testament?

Love one another, encourage one another, pray for one another, serve one another, honor one another, and so on. There is great power in the entwining gifts of words of encouragement, prayers of intercession, weeping together, and sometimes just sitting with one another sharing the presence of our support and love. **Let's all step up and "one another" by volunteering for the coming Walk. It takes a village and we are counting on you.**



## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

### (Bows & Arrows)

1. Who was wounded by archers, and asked his armourbearer to kill him with a sword?

Hint: 1 Samuel 31:3-4

2. Who shot an arrow to warn David to flee from Saul?

Hint: 1 Samuel 31:3-4

3. Who was hit by an arrow shot at random, and the king died?

Hint: 1 Kings 22:34

4. Who was angry when Joash struck the ground only three times with an arrow?

Hint: 2 Kings 13:17-19

5. Who prophesied that the king of Assyria would not shoot an arrow in Jerusalem?

Hint: Isaiah 37:33

6. Who sent his son with his bow to get venison?

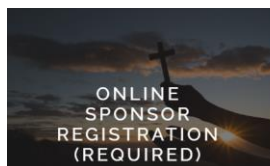
Hint: Genesis 27:1-3

7. Who lamented over Saul and Jonathan and taught the children of Judah to use the bow?

Hint: 2 Samuel 1: 17-18

## EZ Pilgrim & Sponsor Applications

1. Go to our website [billingssemmanus.com](http://billingssemmanus.com)
2. Scroll down to “printable” sponsor and pilgrim applications.
3. Print away!
4. **Remember to enter the data from your printed applications to the “online” registration tabs on the website.** You may also skip the printable applications and go directly to “online” registration tabs and enter data while sitting with your pilgrim.



5. If you cannot print out applications, contact Larry Atkins at 406-647-2809 and he will get them to you.
6. If you have any questions, you can call Becky Muller at 406-672-1194 or e-mail her at [moegirl63@outlook.com](mailto:moegirl63@outlook.com).



## DID YOU KNOW?

- There are 40 Walk to Emmaus weekends occurring in the United States during the month of October, 2022.
- The Walk to Emmaus is ecumenical. The program invites and involves the participation of Christians of many denominations. Emmaus is ecumenical not only because members of many denominations participate, but because Emmaus seeks to foster Christian unity and to reinforce the whole Christian community. This is one of the great strengths and joys of the Emmaus movement.
- 2773 persons have attended a Walk to Emmaus weekend at Billings First United Methodist Church.
- More than one million Christians in 39 countries have experienced a Walk to Emmaus weekend.

# THE GOD MEMORANDUM

God, I thank you for this day. I know I have not accomplished, as yet, all you expect from me and if that is your reason for bathing me in the fresh dew of another dawn, I am most grateful.

I am prepared, at last, to make you proud of me.

I will forget yesterday, with all its trials and tribulations, aggravations, and setbacks, angers and frustrations. The past is already a dream from which I can neither retrieve a single work nor erase any foolish deeds.

I will resolve, however, that if I have injured anyone yesterday through thoughtlessness, I will not let this day's sun set before I make amends and nothing I do today will be of greater importance.

I will not fret the future. My success and happiness do not depend on straining to see what lurks dimly on the horizon but to do, this day, what lies clearly at hand.

I will embrace today's difficult tasks, take off my coat, and make dust in the world. I will remember that the busier I am, the less harm I am apt to suffer, the tastier my food, the sweeter my sleep and the better satisfied I will be with my place in the world.

I will run from no danger I might encounter today, because I am certain that nothing will happen to me that I am not equipped to handle with your help. Just as any gem is polished by friction, I am certain to become more valuable through this day's adversities, and if you close one door, you always open another for me.

I will waste not even a precious second this day in anger or hate or jealousy or selfishness. I know that the seeds I sow I will harvest, because every action, good or bad, is always followed by an equal reaction. I will plant only good seeds this day.

I will condition myself to look on every problem I encounter today as no more than a pebble in my shoe. I remember the pain, so harsh I could hardly walk, and I recall my surprise when I removed my shoe and found only a grain of sand.

I will keep a smile on my face and in my heart even when it hurts today. I know that the world is a looking glass and gives back to me the reflection of my soul. Now I understand the secret of correcting the attitude of others and that is to correct my own.

I will pause whenever I am feeling sorry for myself today and remember that this is the only day I have and must play it to the fullest. What my part may signify in the great whole, I may not recognize, but I am here to play it and now is the time.

I will count this day a separate life. I will remember that those who have fewest regrets are those who take each moment as it comes for all that it is worth.

This is my day! These are my seeds. Thank you, God, for this precious garden of time.