



# NOVA Emmaus – Sponsorship 102

October 25, 2008

## Review

- Bring Spiritual Revitalization to Christians
- Importance of Good Sponsorship BEFORE, DURING, & AFTER
- For Active Christians and church members
- Purposeful and prayerful
- Commitments and responsibilities
  - Prayer
  - Appointment
  - Invitation
  - Seek Commitment
  - Pray
  - Agape letters
  - Prayer during Weekend
  - Presence
  - Fourth Day Involvement

## New Area for Consideration – Your Local Church

Remember first the Purpose of Emmaus: To **renew the church** as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

An Emmaus weekend is not about giving someone a wonderful weekend. In our own experience, that certainly happened, but that wasn't the purpose. That was a nice extra!

## Clergy

- Be sensitive that clergy already have many demands on their time
- They may be hesitant to hear about something else demanding of their time
- Begin by explaining the concept and the **value it brings to their church**
- Key is to help the pastor understand what The Walk can do for the church and how it energizes the body of Christ.
- Explain the origin and how The Upper Room is involved
- Explain how the three-day event provides individuals with spiritual resources that strengthen the ministry of their local congregation.
- Ascertain pastor's interest for that local congregation and ask to meet with the leadership group of the church

## Group Contact

- Show the Walk to Emmaus Video
- Be prepared to share examples of persons who have returned to their church revitalized to take on new leadership roles, etc.
- Explain how some have received the call to ordained ministry as a result of the weekend

- Help the church governing body realize that the purpose of The Walk to Emmaus is to develop and strengthen church leaders
- Remember that The Walk is just one part of a total program of spiritual formation for the church.
- Explain the role of sponsorship as an integral part of the weekend experience.
- Help interested individuals find a sponsor
- You may be given an opportunity to meet with a larger group of the congregation
- When presenting, do not communicate that everyone in the group should attend. The Walk is not for every disciple, but it is for the renewal of the church.

### **Image of God's Process of Renewal**

*"To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till it was all leavened" Luke 13:20-21*

The Emmaus Movement is intended to be such a leavening influence in the life of the church. Just as leaven does not work by turning all of the meal into leaven, renewal does not require getting everyone in a church to go to Emmaus. Renewal does not come about by getting the whole church into Emmaus, but by getting the gifts of Emmaus into the church. Not all, or even most, church members will ever participate on Emmaus Walks; this is not a realistic strategy for renewal in most churches. But the quiet, persevering influence of a few leaders and members who return to their congregations with a renewed spirit and vision can be transforming and contagious. Those who do participate in Emmaus are challenged to find creative ways to insert themselves into the life of the church and to share the gifts they have received, not as "Emmausites," but as Christians and members of Christ's body." *The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus*

### **Ways to Spread Information**

- Informational brochures and registration forms
- List Emmaus events and activities on church calendar including dates for The Walks
- Notices in church bulletins or newsletters with a contact person
- Invite persons to gatherings
- Publish times and places of reunion groups, making clear anyone can be a part
- Acknowledge those who have attended or teamed
- Develop a connection with denominational leaders to keep them informed
- Introduce Emmaus through intentional group meetings where supportive Emmaus pilgrims and clergy are present

### **Summary**

- Present in a positive way
- Affirm people in their own walk
- Be open and honest about the events of the weekend and answer any questions that arise
- Wise and intentional sponsorship is the foundation for building renewal in the church
- God has used Emmaus to change and mold many lives
- He will continue to do so as long as we allow it.

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