



Oak Leaves

Oak Grove Mennonite Church, West Liberty, OH

January 2012



Personal Reflection: My Walk to Emmaus

By Jeff Yoder

Approximately three years ago Roberta attended a walk to Emmaus in Sidney. To attend this event you need a sponsor. Russ and Peg Markin was Roberta's sponsor. When Roberta got back Russ said he would like to sponsor me to do this. I had all the normal excuses. Too busy, too much work, not enough time, who is going to do chores, etc. Every time I would see Russ he would remind me about the Emmaus walk and ask if I wanted to go, and every time I said no. I also got to become friends with one of our customers who was involved with the Emmaus community in Marysville and he invited me to go on the walk also. Well I still had all the excuses, same as before.

About two months ago one of my friends mentioned he was going on the Emmaus walk in November. I said that I had been invited to do this but never did. I started thinking about it. Was I too busy? Did I have too much work to do? Did I have the time? Who was going to do chores? God had been sending me all the answers for a few months. Was I too busy, no. Did I have too much work to do, no. Did I have the time, yes. Who was going to do chores, Kyle. God has blessed me with people that I get to work with that I can rely on. It is time for me to realize that He is sending me signs that it is time for me to go on my walk to Emmaus. The next day I called Russ and ask if he would be my sponsor and he was very happy to do so.

I was still a little nervous about going but at the same time looking forward to it. The day came and Russ picked me up to drive to Sidney. Roberta also went and they took me to Sidney on a Thursday evening. It is really hard to put into words what the next 72 hours was like. It is a time to put away all your worries and responsibilities for 3 days and devote your time to listening to ways that God may be speaking to you personally. There are no watches, clocks or cell phones allowed so you do not know what time it is. Not knowing what time it is really enhances your worship experience .Because there is no sense of time you don't have to worry about where you have to be and what time you have to be there.

The three days are spent listening to speakers, small group discussions, some fun activities, reading and meditating on God's word, singing, praying, and meeting new friends. I really can't put into words what it is like being on an Emmaus walk. You just need to go experience it. Just a few of the things I learned about are, setting my priorities right, God's Grace, and discipleship. I put this experience as one of the top five things that have happened to me on my Christian walk.

If you are interested in learning more about the Emmaus walk please don't hesitate to ask me. Some other people at Oak Grove who have been on the walk that I know of are Roberta, Erica, Sara, Cynthia, Esther and Dick. I'm sure you could ask them about their walk too. You will need a sponsor and anyone who has been on the Emmaus walk can be your sponsor. And by the way, in case you were wondering, the food they give you is wonderful. Three home cooked meals a day and plenty of snacks too.

Service Adventure Unit: Albuquerque, New Mexico

A post from their blog: <http://serviceadventureabq.wordpress.com/> Written by Brian Schlabach. Brian and Anna Yoder Schlabach are the leaders of the unit. Brian is Bruce and Janet Schlabach's middle son. Oak Grove sent a monetary donation from the Share and Care Fund*.

A life disrupted

December 14, 2011

From Mennonite Mission Network - A fire broke out at the Albuquerque Service Adventure unit house yesterday afternoon when participants were at their work placements. Praise God that no one was at home when the fire started. While there were no injuries, almost everything in the house was damaged by smoke. The participants and leaders are unhurt and being hosted by former Service Adventure leaders who are part of Albuquerque Mennonite Church. Pray for Erin Regier, Melanie Pilz, Hannah Martin, Michelle Peachey and unit leaders Brian & Anna Yoder Schlabach as they deal with the loss and disruption. Also, pray for the congregation as they support the unit and look for alternate housing over the next few weeks.

From Brian - Many thanks to everyone who has sent food, phone calls, thoughts and prayers. We really feel the support from Albuquerque Mennonite and the broader Mennonite Church. The girls are anxious to be able to get back into the house to retrieve and try to salvage their belongings, but everything in the house is heavily smoke damaged. Our immediate needs have been taken care of, such as food, beds, toiletries, towels and blankets, but right now the biggest issue is clothing, since nearly every item of clothing the girls had is damaged. We have already begun the process of looking for a house that can accommodate our unit, but since almost every piece of furniture was damaged by fire or smoke, furnishing a new house will be a big task for the future. Probably the biggest loss for our unit, aside from our lives and work being disrupted, was the loss of our kitten Sadie, who unfortunately didn't survive. Anna and I were fortunate that our casita wasn't damaged. We count ourselves lucky that a neighbor called in the fire before it could spread to other parts of the house, and that it happened while nobody was home. We also appreciated the quick response from the fire department and the support from organizations who specialize in after-fire rebuilding, as well as neighbors, friends and the folks at Albuquerque Mennonite. As people who came here to do service for this community, we are certainly experiencing the support and love of the community that we came to serve. The girls' placements have all been very understanding and helpful as well, and the girls will begin going back to work today. We'll keep you updated on what our needs are as we rebuild, but for now our immediate needs are donations of money or gift cards for clothing for the girls.

-Brian

**If desired, additional donations can be sent to Albuquerque Mennonite Church at [1300 Girard Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106](#). You can make checks payable to Albuquerque Service Adventure or Albuquerque Mennonite Church, and mention SA in the memo line.*

WORRYING does not
take away
tomorrow's
TROUBLES; it takes
away today's PEACE.

People are so worried about what they
eat between Christmas and the New
Year, but they really should be worried
about what they eat between the New
Year and Christmas.

There are only two ways to
live your life. One is as
though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though
everything is a miracle.
- Albert Einstein

FRIENDS OF Champaign County LIBRARY

Soup and Bread Tasting Event

Sat. January 21, 2012 at Urbana branch.
11 AM until the soup and bread are gone.

Recipes and free food available to everyone.
Last year there were over 15 types of soup
and lots of breads. Perfect for a winter's day.

January Birthdays:

- 1 Dixie Idle
- 2 Bev DeVore, Roberta Yoder
- 3 Becca Hager
- 4 Josh Shoemaker, Jon Alspaugh, Chris Smucker
- 5 Cynthia King
- 7 Evan Kauffman
- 10 Emma Kauffman, Mary Barrett
- 12 Kelly Taylor
- 13 Donny Kauffman
- 14 Matthew Kauffman
- 20 Anthony Thoman
- 21 Jacob Siegenthaler, Lena Kauffman,
Harmon Conrad
- 23 Lydia King, DJ Yoder
- 24 Jessie Neer
- 26 Christine Yoder, Ashley Hager
- 30 Rudelle Matthews

January Anniversaries:

- 11 Randy and Jennifer Reminder

Bible Quiz:

1. We all know about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, but do you know their names before they were changed? (Daniel 1:7)
2. Who was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot after he you know what? (Acts 1:23-26)
3. Who said "What have I done to you to make you beat me these three times?" (Numbers 22:28)
4. Why wasn't Moses allowed to move to Canaan? (Numbers 20:13)
5. What servant lied to Elisha and got leprosy? (2 Kings 5:27)
6. What was Daniel's Babylonian name? (Daniel 1:7)
7. Elijah taunted 450 prophets of Baal during a contest on which mountain? (I Kings 18:27)
8. Extra credit! When Jesus said, Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God," what verse was he quoting (____ quoted in Mark 4:4)

MCC Thrift—Global Crafts

There is a need for one or two people to price men's clothing. This should take about 2 hrs. a week.

Time can be set to the pricer's schedule.

Call Kathy Lowry @ 465-3077



Did you know. . .?

Todd Buschur has a new website for his paintings.
Reed Jones wrote and recorded the music for the site.

<http://www.toddbuschur.com>

The Charles Schulz Philosophy

The following is the philosophy of Charles Schulz, the late creator of the 'Peanuts' comic strip.

You don't have to actually answer the questions. Just read straight through, and you'll get the point.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America pageant.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday.

These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

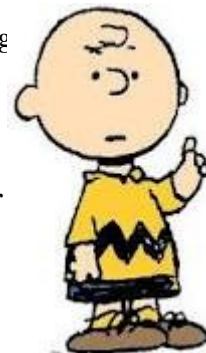
Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special!!
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending

Easier?

The lesson:

The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials...the most money... or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most.



-contributed by Anita Bartlett

WHAT IS NEW IN THE LIBRARY?

Take a look at some new additions to the church library! Thank you for those that have made donations! We appreciate any donations of recently published items. If you have any suggestions of materials to be added to the library, please let a committee member know! Lisa Hershberger, Sarah Leichty, Gretchen Christopher, Michelle Neer

A series about Mennonite beliefs by John D Roth, professor of history at Goshen College... These books are “an effort to respond positively to this challenge of summarizing Christian faith and practice from the perspective of a believer "Always be prepared," we read in 1 Peter, "to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (3:15). This is one effort to do just that: to give a simple account of the Christian convictions that have sustained the Mennonite church for nearly five hundred years.” (from the author)

Beliefs – Mennonite Faith and Practice

Stories – How Mennonites Came to Be

Practices – Mennonite Worship and Witness

***Biking Through* by Paul V Stutzman** – One man. One bicycle. 5,000 miles. Join Paul as he pedals the long journey from one end of the country to the other, hearing and seeing America’s stories.

***Prayer, Finding the Heart’s True Home* by Richard J Foster** – “The truth of the matter is, we all come to prayer with a tangled mass of motives...God is big enough to receive us with all our mixture. We do not have to be bright, or pure, or filled with faith, or anything. That is what grace means, and not only are we saved by grace, we live by it as well. And we pray by it.” (from the author)

***A Mother Held Hostage* by Barbara Borntrager** – “I know what it is to observe your child. To know that he is different from the rest. His behaviors are irrational, unpredictable, compulsive...This book is for those who know they don’t have it all together... for mothers and caretakers of special needs children who struggle with doubts, guilt and crushed dreams.” (from the author)

***Lancaster County Secrets Series* by Suzanne Woods Fisher**

The Choice – One moment Carrie Weaver was looking forward to running away with Lancaster Barnstormers pitcher Solomon Riehl – plans that included leaving the Amish community where they grew up. The next moment she is starting into a future as broken as her heart. Now Carrie is faced with a choice.

The Waiting – Jorie King’s life is on hold, waiting for Ben Zook to return to Lancaster County, join the church and get married. But when news arrives that Ben has been killed, Jorie is devastated. She find unlikely comfort in the friendship of his brother Caleb. Then their worlds are turned upside down again.

The Search – As a child caught up in crisis, Lainey O-Toole made a split-second decision with far-reaching effects. Fifteen years later, when her car breaks down in Stoney Ridge, the very town where that decisions was made, she is forced to face the past and discover how her decision has impacted so many.

The Lost & Found Family (DVD) – When her husband dies, Mrs. Ester Hobbes learns that his wealth was just an illusion. Her only real inheritance is a run-down Southern home occupied by a foster family. Slowly, Mrs. Hobbes finds herself making unexpected connections with these rebellious teens (Rated PG, Affirm Films/Sony Pictures)

Hachi – A Dog’s Tale (DVD) - Based on one of the most treasured and heartwarming true stories ever told ~ Professor Parker Wilson, a distinguished scholar, discovers a lost Akita puppy on his way home from work. Despite initial objections from Wilson’s wife, Hachi endears himself into the Wilson family and grows to be Parker's loyal companion. As their bond grows deeper, a beautiful relationship unfolds embodying the true spirit of family and loyalty, while inspiring the hearts of an entire town. (Starring Richard Gere and Joan Allen, Rated G, Sony Pictures)

WHO AM I?

- I was born in Goessel, Kansas and grew up in Inman, Kansas.
- Some favorite childhood memories are of my cousins and I having a Mud Pie Bakery, going fishing at the sink hole and working on the farm with my Dad.
- My first job was driving the tractor when my Dad and Uncle did custom baling work for neighbors. I earned a penny a bale. My first full time job was being a clerk at the 5&10 Kress Store.
- I enjoy reading devotional books by Max Lucado. Right now I'm also reading "The God I Love" by Joni Eareckson Tada.
- Not many people know that I followed the wheat harvest from Kansas to Wyoming with a family that did custom combining.
- My favorite vacation I've taken is a trip to Alaska. I would love to go back!
- I enjoy my flower gardens, fishing with friends and the Fish Fry that follows and fishing trips to Arkansas with my cousins and family. I like going to OSU Women's basketball games and watching sports on TV. I enjoy working at Global Crafts and playing table games with friends.
- What would I do if I had no work responsibilities for the whole day? I'd let that day come to me and see what comes along. It's amazing that when you make yourself available, days fill up with opportunities to help others or to be with friends. I'd also nice to just enjoy a day at home relaxing, doing whatever, or even nothing.
- Meaningful verses of the Bible to me are John 8:12 ~ Jesus said, "I am the light of the world". Then in Matthew 5:14a & 16 Jesus says, "You are the light of the world. Let your light shine."
- A favorite passage of Scripture is Acts 3-4:22 and Acts 5:17-42 (CEV)...Acts 3 ~ Peter and John had just healed a lame man, and then Peter speaks in the temple. Acts 4:1-22 ~ Peter and John are brought in front of the council. The main idea is that they were continuously told to stop teaching and telling people about Jesus (vs 17&18). And Peter and John kept right on teaching (vs 19&20). "Do you think God wants us to obey you or to obey Him?". In 5:17-42 the Council members again told them not to speak in the name of Jesus (vs 40) and in vs 42 they never stopped teaching and telling the good news that Jesus is the Messiah. (Read it in the Contemporary English Version – It's wonderful!)
- I appreciate many things about Oak Grove including the Jesus-centered sermons, and the servant attitude of our leaders. I appreciate the many young couples with children and how no one gets upset when the babies cry during the service. I appreciate the sharing, caring and friendliness of the congregation and the closeness of my Sunday School Class.



*(Answer can be found in this issue of the Oak Leaves marked with an *)*

1st Annual Oak Grove Turkey Bowl

On Saturday, November 26th at 10:00 AM, twenty or so Oak Grovians gathered on the soccer field at Lion's Park for a game of touch football. All ages, genders and services were represented. Some of the highlights of the game included Chuck Kratz "accidentally" knocking Jared Shoemaker to the ground (who was just fine!), Amy Pratt form tackling some of the younger kids, and a Reed Jones touchdown ran in from the half field marker. The weather was fine, the participants were fantastic, and the game was over in time for everyone to head home and watch the OSU-Michigan fiasco. Overall, the event was a great success. So we want to invite you all to mark this on your calendars for next year. See you there!



Reed Jones

MYF-Sunday School Fondue Party

The high school Sunday School and MYF teamed up on Tuesday December 13th for a fondue party and Tacky Sweater contest. Senior High School S.S. teachers Rod and Margaret Hager hosted the party at their house and provided the fondue, which included cheddar cheese, Swiss cheese, and chocolate dips, as well as bread, hot dogs, and various fruits to dip with. Everything was delicious, and no eyes were poked out with the sharp forks! After the meal, the group



Bekah and Josh Kratz

gathered for a few Christmas games, including a relay in which two teams had to wear thick gloves and try to unwrap and eat chocolate the fastest. Talk about difficult. Most everyone participated in the tacky sweater contest. There was some pretty stiff competition, with Becca Hager wearing a red sweater covered in snowmen and Bekah and Josh Kratz wearing matching sweaters that their grandparents knitted for their parents. But Matthew Kauffman emerged as the winner, wearing a blue button up woman's sweater vest purchased from Global Crafts that sported several large reindeer. Everyone had a great time, ate too much, and looked silly together. Now it's time to start planning for next year's sweaters...

-Alex Dye

Give your family the gift of 18 minutes a day

by Gregory Ramey, child psychologist, VP of outpatient services at Children's Medical Center of Dayton
Contributed by an Oak Leaves reader

What the most important 18 minutes of the day for families?

"I hate mealtimes with my kids," confessed one mom at a parenting workshop. "I prefer some time at dinner with my husband rather than being a disciplinarian with the kids."

While I applauded mom's commitment to her spouse, I told her she was making a big mistake in not eating together as a family.

For reasons that are not entirely clear, eating four to six family meals per week is related to lots of good outcomes with kids.

Children growing up in that environment get better grades in school, have fewer behavioral problems, get along better with their parents, and are less likely to abuse drugs or become obese.

The typical family meal only lasts around 18 minutes.

What happens during that time that has such a profound impact on kids and parents? Eating together under the right circumstances connects us to our kids. It can be a time when they learn a bit more about us and they sometimes allow us to enter their private worlds.

Family dinners can send a message of caring and support when everyone rearranges their schedule to make family a higher priority over so many other competing expectations.

Only about 50 percent of families eat dinner together, and that percent tends to decrease as kids get older.

Here's how successful families make it work.

- 1. Power down** This means no television, texting or cellphones. Don't answer the phone during dinner.
- 2. Establish and enforce rules of etiquette.** Beginning when the kids are toddlers, make certain that you clearly communicate and consistently enforce expectations for good behavior. This means no name-calling or put-downs among siblings, meals start when everyone is seated and everyone stays seated together until the meal is finished.
- 3. Don't use mealtimes as disciplinary sessions.** Don't yell at your kids during dinner for their dirty room or incomplete school work. It's a time for discussion and connection, not interrogation and punishment.
- 4. Be open.** Allow your kids to get to know the real you. Share stories about your day, including your dreams and frustrations. Teens really like it when we are authentic enough to discuss some of our failures and they get to see us as real people.
- 5. Never, ever say, "...but I'm just so busy."** Give your family about 18 minutes a day, and in return you are more likely to raise happy, healthy, well-adjusted kids. I know it can be hard with your busy work schedule and your child's hectic lifestyle, but that's why it's so important to send the right message that it's "family first."



Be still and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10