

SO YOU ARE AN EMMAUS SPONSOR.....?

PRAY-PRAY-PRAY

First and ALWAYS – PRAY

Start by reading, hopefully RE-reading your Fourth Day Book.

PRAY. As you prepare to sponsor an Emmaus pilgrim, pray that God has led you to someone who is ready and able to fulfill the purpose of Emmaus and who will have the ability of leaving the weekend “inspired, challenged and equipped for Christian action in their home, church, workplace and community.” Remember that our community strength depends on strong leaders who can strengthen their local church and be a force for its renewal.

PRAY. A basic summary of your responsibilities includes these steps: **1. PRAY** – Prayer is the foundation of the Emmaus movement and enables it to continue. Offer prayers that will help you identify those who are ready to continue a life-long journey of faith. **2. MAKE AN APPOINTMENT** – As often as you may have casually talked to a potential pilgrim, set aside some time to be intentional about answering his/her questions and to make certain that they understand what they are committing to.

3. EXTEND THE INVITATION – Make it “official” so that they know you are serious and intentional about the walk. Encourage them to pray also. **4. SEEK A COMMITMENT** – Seek a real commitment without being pushy. Once they have given a definite commitment, help them with the paperwork and other preliminaries. **5. PREPARE AGAPE AND ENLIST PASTORAL SUPPORT** – Now begins some of your most important work. Pray. Stay in touch and collect information for agape letters from family and friends. *PLEASE – ALL AGAPE MUST BE ABLE TO FIT INTO A 9X13 MANILA ENVELOPE. ANY “SUPER” AGAPE WILL BE RETURNED TO THE SENDER TO BE GIVEN DIRECTLY TO THE PILGRIM AFTER THE WALK.* Talk to the pastor involved and let them know what is happening and ask for their prayer and support as well. **6. SUPPORT THE WALK** – Make certain the pilgrim’s family has their need taken care of during the weekend. Do they need babysitting, food, rides, etc.? Attend the send-off, sponsor’s hour, Candlelight and closing. Pray. **7. SUPPORT THE PILGRIM ON THEIR FOURTH DAYS** – Begin “debriefing” on the way home; if possible, take them to dinner first. Schedule another intentional talk time to discuss the weekend. **8. HELP THE PILGRIM RE-ENTER THEIR CHURCH** – Make sure they understand that Emmaus is not their new church! Perhaps even talk to them and their pastor together to share more about the weekend. **9. HELP THE PILGRIM SERVE EMMAUS** – Make sure they know what opportunities for service are available and help them contact the appropriate people so that they can cook, help with the prayer vigil, etc. Give them ideas for table and bed agape. **10. HELP THE PILGRIM SPONSOR OTHERS** – This brings your sponsorship full circle. Help them through the sponsorship procedure in any way you can.

PRAY. There is also a list of specific actions, which you should take at the appropriate times before, during, and after the weekend. So, here we go! PRAY.

BEFORE THE WALK, as a sponsor, just as a refresher course from above, you should **PRAY**:

1. Prayerfully consider your responsibilities to the pilgrim.
2. Be available to help meet the needs of the pilgrim and family during the walk.
3. Properly prepare the pilgrim for the weekend.
4. Find friends and family to write agape letters (see sample attached).
5. Encourage and assist the pilgrim to find a share group.
6. Bring the pilgrim to the very next monthly gathering.
7. Work with them as a fellow Christian and be interested in their spiritual welfare.

Other considerations should include signing up for the prayer vigil; make certain your pilgrim knows when you are picking them up; check on last time for family needs.

DURING THE WEEKEND YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE: PRAY

Bring your pilgrim to the walk at Sidney First United Methodist Church as 230 Easy Poplar St. in Sidney on Thursday night. Arrive between 6:00 and 6:30 PM at the back parking lot entrance. Bring in all luggage and other needed items. There will be persons there to assist you. There will be a light supper meal served which serves as a “send-off.” Please bring a covered dish to share at this meal.

At check-in the balance of your pilgrims’ fees are due (check or cash). Make sure that those in charge have emergency contact information for family.

If Possible, provide snacks and other foods for use during the weekend.

The send-off meal will be at 6:30 PM. Please remember to take your covered dishes out of the eating area immediately following the meal as the room needs to be re-set for the pilgrims and waiting would disturb the beginning of their evening. You will NOT be able to return to the fellowship hall for your food and dishes.

Immediately following the meal, there will be a “Sponsor’s Hour” at around 7:45PM. This brief service is an opportunity for you pray over the actual Emmaus cross which your pilgrim will receive on Sunday and to participate in Holy Communion on their behalf. ***IF YOU CAN’T ATTEND ANY OF THE ABOVE, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT THERE IS SOMEONE IN YOUR PLACE, ON BEHALF OF THE PILGRIM.***

Attend the Candlelight Worship Service on Saturday evening at 8:30 PM in the sanctuary. If possible, please enter through the front doors of the church on Poplar St. Bring any late agape letters and place them in the baskets at the Polar St. entrances.

Attend the closing service on Sunday at 4:30 PM. ***DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 4:00 PM.*** Gather in “The Tabernacle” directly underneath the sanctuary. Do NOT remove any luggage until ALL pilgrims have gone to the sanctuary, and do so quietly and discreetly.

Arrange for the pilgrim’s transportation home on Sunday. They will be ready to leave the church approximately 7:00 PM. Again, if possible, a stop for a meal on the way home would be great!

AFTER THE WEEKEND YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES ARE: PRAY

As a sponsor, you are responsible for arranging for the new member (your pilgrim) to the first Gathering after their walk (their Reunion Gathering) and so that they can be introduced to the rest of the community.

HELP THEM FIND A SHARE GROUP! If you need assistance, contact the Good Shepherd.

Help them with their first sponsorship and guide them through the process of being a GOOD sponsor.

Oh, did I mention – PRAY!