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Hi-Sky Emmaus

Serving Christ and the Permian Basin since 1987.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Volume 5, Issue 11  
November 2015



### IMPORTANT DATES

#### DECEMBER

1st:  
Community Gathering

#### JANUARY

26th:  
Community Gathering

#### FEBRUARY

18th - 21st:  
MW #225  
  
23rd:  
Community Gathering

#### MARCH

17th - 20th:  
WW #226  
  
22nd:  
Community Gathering



### GREETINGS HI-SKY EMMAUS COMMUNITY MEMBERS!

I hope everyone had a wonderful God and family-filled Thanksgiving. As this year draws to a close, I'd like to thank the Community for entrusting and blessing me with the role of 2015 Community Lay Director. This year has been quite amazing with countless blessings - but, there were some difficult times too. Most of us can acknowledge though, that anything worthwhile is not always easy. What a privilege it has been to serve with such a hard-working Board of Directors! Thank you!

I would like to thank all the people of this Community who selflessly volunteered their time, knowledge, and many other various gifts during this past year. We sometimes take people and their gifts for granted, and I just want them all to know they are very much appreciated. *"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him"* (Colossians 3:16-17 [NIV]). With that being said, I feel completely humbled by this awesome experience and wish the 2016 Community Lay Director, Dani Pool, a wonderful and productive year!

Christmas is quickly approaching and I really love the Advent season when Christians all around the world wait in anticipation for the coming of the One who is **The Hope of the World**. I pray that we all stay Christ-centered not only during this Christmas season, but all year round. I know our heavenly Father has great plans for the Hi-Sky Emmaus Community in the coming year!! I pray we'll ALL be an integral part of it.



As prayer is the foundation of Emmaus, please remember to keep in prayer our new Board Members, the 2016 Lay Directors, teams, pilgrims, and our entire Emmaus Community.

Blessings to all of you and a very Merry Christmas!  
Martin Ramirez, CLD



The combined November/December Community meeting (the final meeting of 2015) for the Hi-Sky Emmaus Community is:

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1ST:**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

3309 Neely Ave.

**Babe-Chick:**  
6:15 p.m.

**Community Gathering:**  
7:00 p.m.

**Fellowship:**  
8:15 p.m.



The Hi-Sky Emmaus Board of Directors and Community would like to extend its sincerest thanks to **Our Savior's Lutheran Church**, its Pastor, **Rev. Steve Mohr**, and its congregation for allowing our Emmaus Community to hold monthly Community gatherings at this wonderful house of worship for 2015.

We cannot thank you all enough for your kindness and hospitality!



**2016 Location for  
COMMUNITY GATHERINGS**

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**4501 Thomason Drive  
Midland, TX 79703**



## In the beginning...

**By Larry & Barbara McIntosh**  
**Hi-Sky Emmaus Charter Members**

The Hi-Sky Emmaus Community has officially been around for 28 years. Since the two of us were charter members, we have been asked to share some of the early history of the organization. Probably, most of you know that The *Walk to Emmaus*<sup>™</sup> is fashioned after the *Cursillo*<sup>™</sup> of the Catholic Church. The *Cursillo*<sup>™</sup> began in Spain at the end of World War II. When *Cursillo*<sup>™</sup> participants returned to the United States after the war, the movement became ecumenical with Protestants attending. In 1981, the Upper Room, an agency of the United Methodist Church, with the blessings of the Catholic Church, formed the *Walk to Emmaus*<sup>™</sup>.

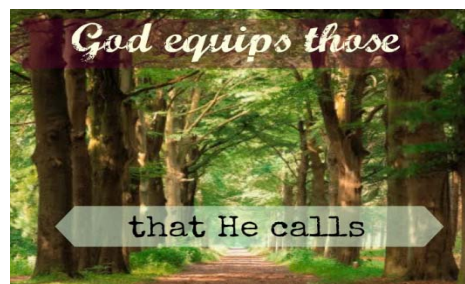
Early on, one of the most active areas for Emmaus<sup>™</sup> was around San Antonio, Texas. Word of this great 3-day event soon reached Midland. In 1985, a few people, mostly from St. Luke's UMC, attended Walks. That's when we heard about it. But, the Walks were being held in Junction or Kerrville which seemed too far to go for a 3-day retreat. Two people who did attend were Larry and Carol Crumpton of St. Luke's. This pair was to provide much of the early Lay leadership for our Community.

In 1986, Walks began being held in San Angelo which was now close enough for more people to attend. So, a number of people from Midland, including the two of us, along with a few people from Big Spring, Colorado City and various other parts of Northwest Texas, attended our Walks in San Angelo. Two couples who attended that year and who provided vital assistance in the early years of Hi-Sky were Jack and Mary Lou Abenschan and Carlton and Waldeen Thomas - both men were Methodist ministers.

After a few of us had attended Walks, we began holding monthly gatherings. The meetings were held in a small Sunday School classroom at St. Luke's UMC. At times, we sang a cappella because we had no musicians. Also, there were times where we had no clergy to consecrate the communion elements. So, we used a love-feast format. But, we grew! We graduated to larger rooms and eventually to fellowship halls and sanctuaries.

In 1987, we decided we were large enough to become "official." We applied for a charter with the Upper Room, elected a Board of Directors and began planning our first two "Best Walks EVER!!" Those Walks were held in August and September, 1987 at Camp Butman, south of Merkel, Texas. We did not have enough people to completely staff the team. So, people from the Concho County Community in San Angelo helped us by providing 12 team members.

Teams were not as large in those days. Music teams consisted of 2 people: a guitar player and a song leader. There were only a few Assistant Lay Directors since there were only a few Reunion Groups in the Community to provide Agape. There was no "outside" team, no "clean-up" team, and no fancy trailer or cabinets to store supplies. Supplies were transported in the team's vehicles. The team cleaned up after the Walk was over and we usually found ourselves getting back to Midland around midnight on Sunday evening.



In spite of a few handicaps, we did have full Walks with waiting lists and the Walks were great. Prayer and the Holy Spirit continued to lead the Community. Before long, Neil Moore of Midland built the first trailer for the Walk materials and supplies, making the logistics of putting on a Walk easier.

(Con't on page 4)



***In The Beginning (Con't from page 3)...***

Some of the team members and some of the pilgrims on the first set of Walks were from the Texas Panhandle. After the Walks had been completed, these people asked us to go to that area and hold two Walks. This was quite a request for a brand new Community that did not have enough people to fully provide the team members for its first Walks. So, what did we say? We said what Emmaus™ folks always say when asked to fulfill a need..."sure, we'll do it!" So, our second set of Walks were held in Amarillo in January and February of 1988 with team meetings in Lubbock and Amarillo.



The Midland team members who attended all the team meetings, and most did, travelled about 1700 total miles for those Walks. That was quite a few "second" miles but how could we do anything else? Our own success was due in part to the help from the Concho County Community. We were aware in return, that we had a strong obligation to help other new Communities. At that time, there were no other established Emmaus™ Communities for hundreds of miles to the East, West and North. The request for help did come in and we responded. Some of the areas that we helped by providing team members, and in some cases Lay Directors, were Abilene, Amarillo, Big Spring, Lubbock, New Mexico, Odessa, Seymour, and Snyder.

We also helped one of our members go to South Africa to help with the first Walk there. In time, one of our participants went to Nashville and served a few years as the Director of the Worldwide Emmaus™ movement. So, in a sense, our Community has helped in sharing the Emmaus experience all over the world. We, like the rest of you, have been richly blessed by Emmaus™. We still look forward to our weekly Reunion Groups. Often, we have heard new Emmaus participants ask, "when does the excitement go away?" Our answer is, "We don't know...We've only been doing it for 29 years!!"

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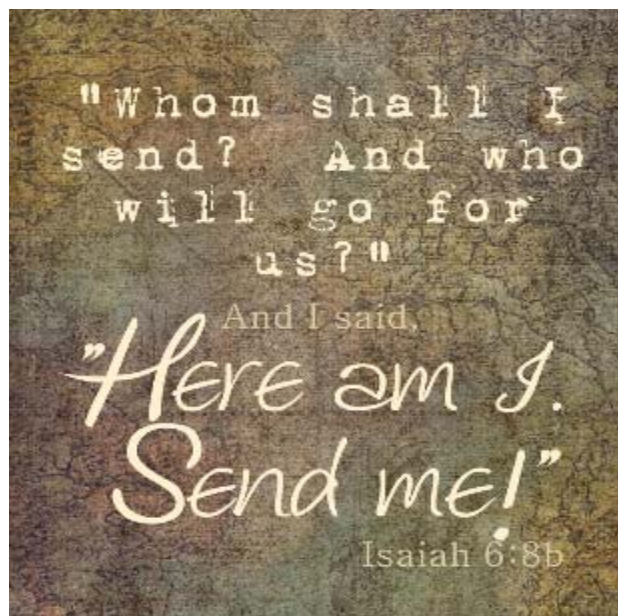
**Greetings Hi-Sky Emmaus Community,**

As you know, December 1st is our last Community Gathering of the year!

Yes, there are Community members who have graciously signed up to bring snacks for all to enjoy after the meeting. But, let's go out with a bang!! Help us fill the food bar with all of YOUR favorites!

The Community will love the yummy surprises YOU will bring!! Remember... As you have been blessed, be a blessing.

Paula Yates,  
Gatherings Chair



**November Financial Report**  
(October 20th - November 24th)

Gross Profit:	\$9,457.03
Expenses:	\$11,143.46
Net Income:	<b>-\$1,686.43</b>

## ~ A Call to **CHRISTIAN ACTION** ~ Opportunities to be **HIS...**



What has Christ called you to do? As the **Christian Action** talk reminds us, we are all called to be His hands and feet - to go into the world so that all can know Him and His love through our actions. Though salvation is by faith alone apart from good deeds, the redeemed will be “eager to do what is good” *Titus 2:14*, including extending charity to fellow believers in need. If you are looking for your opportunity to be His hands and feet in our world, here is one wonderful organization that can use your gifts:

**MARC** Empowering Lives was established in 1959 by volunteers as a school for children with disabilities. Those volunteers educated our community and developed what is now a premier program for people with developmental disabilities of all ages. MARC offers residential, foster care, in-home support, day enrichment programs, vocational services, and therapy services to West Texans with developmental disabilities. MARC empowers about 150 people with developmental disabilities with services offered in our many different programs. It operates 16 group homes, 2 vocational centers, The Marc-et (an upscale resale boutique), 2 office buildings and a park. MARC is excited to be opening Spectrum of Solutions, a new building that will house our therapy program for children with autism and behavioral needs.

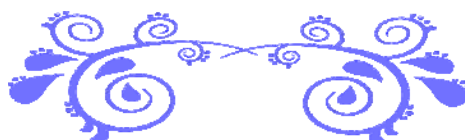
Of all the things we treasure at MARC, our volunteers are at the top. There are many opportunities for people in the Hi-Sky Emmaus Community to volunteer with this organization. MARC volunteers have treated some folks to the movies, taken them out to eat, and even treated a few to a Dallas Cowboy’s game. You can share your special talents with MARC clients through daily enrichment programs by teaching canvas painting, organizing a bell choir, or teaching wood working. Maybe you can teach a class in photography, how to sew, or how to use social media.

MARC also needs volunteers to help with handyman projects like painting, carpentry, vehicle maintenance and general home maintenance and there are also opportunities to volunteer with children in MARC’s therapy programs though camps or social outings.

If you are interested in serving with MARC, please contact the MARC office at 432.695.9901 to find the best fit for your hands and feet!

CHRIST HAS NO BODY ON EARTH BUT YOURS,  
NO HANDS BUT YOURS,  
NO FEET BUT YOURS.  
Yours are the eyes through which Christ's  
compassion for the world is to look out.  
Yours are the feet with which  
He is to go about doing good;  
and yours are the hands with  
which He is to bless us now.  
~St. Teresa of Avila

The King will reply, *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*  
*Matthew 25:40 [NIV]*



\*If you know of a local non-profit organization that we can feature who can use the hands and feet of our Hi-Sky Emmaus Community members, please send an email with the name of the organization, details regarding volunteer opportunities for the organization and your contact information to: [communications@hiskyemmaus.com](mailto:communications@hiskyemmaus.com)