

Lansing Emmaus Community Footprints



Number 08-5

This Issue is being sent by First Class mail to every member because it contains your Emmaus Election Ballot.

October, 2008

Community Lay Director, Andrew Sass
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Outreach Coordinator, Becky Green
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POLICY FOR FUTURE WALKS

We recently finished another spirit-filled Walk to Emmaus. Once again God has used this community to show His love to His children. Comments from the Pilgrims show how strongly God moved on this walk. Comments from the pilgrims included, "I'm speechless," "I have High Definition Vision," "God's overwhelming love is for me too," "I intend to be a blessing to my family and others," "I saw a glimpse of the Kingdom of God on Earth," "this will change others, not just me," and many others.

During this Walk, our community tried out the Infection Control Policy for the first time. We have received a few comments on the policy. Did you participate in the Walk in any manner, as a pilgrim or a team member (auxiliary or conference room)? Did you attend Thursday night, Candle Light, or Closing Ceremony? If so, the board would like to know what was your experience was and what is your impression of the policy, as implemented at the last Walk.

You can contact any board member and share your thoughts and experiences. You can find the contact information

for the Board in this newsletter, or on the Lansing Area Emmaus website at: <http://www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com/Board.html>. If you would prefer to keep your opinion and/or experience private, but would be willing have your opinion made known, you can contact me directly at 517-627-0452, or email at to4cc2me@comcast.net. I will share your position with the board while respecting your confidentiality. Please note that, as the Community Lay Director, I do not vote on issues before the board, except to break a tie, and as an attorney, I know about and respect confidentiality.

Your input on this policy will be greatly appreciated, so that the board can make a fully informed decision on this policy for future walks.

God Bless and Keep You,
Andy Sass
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GLYASDI



TO THE AUXILIARY OF WALK #71

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your extraordinary efforts on the recent walk. When the Board asked Amy and I to step up as Auxiliary Heads for what would be a challenging facility, we were honored and excited. We put in place lots of plans to even have extra help serving behind the scenes.

Well, as you all probably know, while things do not usually go according to our plans, God has his own plans. We may not have understood during the organizing phase or during the walk why some community members said "yes" while others said "no", or why some got sick or had personal things come up. However, like so many other times, when we get out of the way, God goes to work. God brought together an outstanding group of truly selfless volunteers who were able to serve with the ultimate goal in mind-

fulfilling God's plan to bring these Pilgrims closer to Him. Though many of you had last minute changes in assignments or were needed to fill-in in multiple areas, not once did we hear a complaint or argument. We want you to know how valuable your willingness and humble hearts were to us. While God put together a team that could work with a lot less bodies than we had thought, you all had to be willing to step up. You truly let God's light shine. We even had people near the church step up as extra hands and feet, stopping by to see what was needed and going so far as to open your homes for the Team to shower.

Closing showed that the Pilgrims had a fantastic time- and so did we. Thank you all for making it happen, and praise God for our success in bringing people closer to Him.

God Bless you all.

Kevin Gentner,
Auxiliary Head Walk #71

IN THIS ISSUE:

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Page 6: Upcoming Events

LANSING AREA EMMAUS BOARD 2008

Name	Position	Phone	E-mail	Expires
Lyle Ball	Treasurer Supply Coordinator Site Selection	(231) 972-7335	ljball6@hotmail.com	2008
Troy Bongard	Agape	(989) 386-0629	bongard@voyager.net	2010
Rev. Andy Croel	Community Spiritual Director	(517) 646-6530	pastorandycroel@sbcglobal.net	2008
Terrie Eisenmann	Registrar	(989) 561-2578	terrieblue@power-net.net	2009
Ray and Jane Francis	Gatherings, Music	(989) 330-9135	drrayfrancis@yahoo.com	2008
Renee Hahn	Sponsorship, Candlelight, and Closing Coordinator	(989) 620 4317	mrhahn1@verizon.net	2008
Becky Green	Assistant Lay Director; Outreach Coordinator; Member-At-Large	(989) 386-4994	rgreen4363@yahoo.com	2010
Judy Hazle	Auxiliary Coordinator Kitchen Coordinator	(989) 224-4260	hazle@ceicmh.org	2008
Rev. Susan Poynter	Asst. Community Spiritual Director	H (989) 427-3289 W (989) 427-5575	susepoy@yahoo.com	2008
Andrew Sass	Community Lay Director	(517) 627-0452	to4cc2me@comcast.net	2008
Clare Taylor	Emmaus Store	(517)-394-4162	mirman@myexcel.com	2010
Harry Wallin	Secretary; Data Manager; Newsletter Coordinator	(517) 566-8452	owltalker@centurytel.net	2009

YOUR EMMAUS BOARD

To save space this time, the Board Minutes are not published in the Newsletter.

They will be published on our Website instead.

Please visit the Website at www.lansingemmaus.truepath.com .

Come join us at our next meetings at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, November 11 and Tuesday, December 9 (at Pilgrim UMC). Board meetings are always open to any Community member who wishes to attend. Do you have concerns: Call or e-mail Andy Sass, our Community Lay Director, or any Board member and we'll be sure you get included in the agenda. Please prayerfully consider being a member of one of the Board Committees. All Board members have committees to help them do the work. There really is much more than one person can do. Join us in service.

PASTORS KAY AND MERLIN PRATT BACK FROM JAMAICA

Hi Everyone,

Hope all is well with you and yours. We're finally getting settled in after a tumultuous summer. We moved to Canton, Michigan where we serve two churches here just East of Ann Arbor in the Detroit Conference. Look forward to hearing from you.

You can check up on us via Cherry Hill UMC's website at cherryhillumc.org On Merlin's blog page, we hope to keep everyone up to date as to what is happening.

God Bless You all.

Merlin & Kay Pratt

LANSING AREA EMMAUS – BOARD MINUTES September 9, 2008

Board members present: Andy Sass, Becky Green, Renee Hahn, Troy Bongard, Ray Francis, Lyle Ball, Terrie Eisenmann, Harry Wallin, Clare Taylor

Guests: Amy Gentner, Kevin Gentner, Roxi Bass

Called to order at 7:10

Opening prayer and devotion: Andy Sass led us in the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Secretary: Harry Wallin. Moved by Lyle Ball Seconded by Ray Francis to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carries.

Guest Matters

1. Walk Lay Director: Andy Sass reminded us that Judy Hazle has stepped down as Board Representative on the Women's walk, and that two people, Janet Ball and Renee Hahn have stepped up in her place.

Renee Hahn received an e-mail from a recent Pilgrim who wants to sponsor someone on the upcoming Walk who has mental challenges. Renee advised her to speak to her Pastor first, but requested more information by the date of this meeting, which she did not receive. Board consensus was that the pastor and the sponsor should determine between them the appropriateness of this person attending a Walk. Roxi brought up the question about whether that person has the potential to be a church leader since the mission of Emmaus is to raise up leaders for the local church.

2. Infection Control Committee Report Last month the Board decided to implement Proposal 1 for this Walk and decide in the future about remaining matters in the Committee's proposal. Proposal 1 mainly deals with the establishment of a Walk Medical Coordinator.

Proposal 2 is a formal statement that volunteers and Pilgrims should come healthy. Page 10 of the proposal is a the specific list of symptoms and illnesses that would disqualify someone from attending or working on a Walk. The question was raised how we will follow through on this. The response was that the first line of defense has to be the sponsor. Sponsors will have to be trained in the new health policy. The Walk Medical Coordinator will also be present at registration.

Proposal 3 states if you become ill on the way to the Walk, or at the Walk, based on the same list of symptoms and illnesses, you will go home, based on the decision of the Walk Medical Coordinator, in consultation with the Walk Lay Director, the Walk Spiritual Director, the Walk Auxiliary Head, and the Walk

Board Representative. There was a suggestion that people who get sent home be on a priority list for a position on a future Walk. That decision will be made on a case by case basis as it has been done in the past. The proposal continues that it will be necessary to quarantine anyone who becomes ill based on the symptom and disease list, and common sense.

The Gentners presented the balance of the Committee's proposal detailing the precautions that need to be taken in different specific work areas.

There was a specific concern about Dying Moments. Ray Francis agreed to check with Cathi Eberly, our Emmaus Regional Representative, and see what guidance was offered from the Upper Room. Andy Sass found specific guidance in the manual regarding precautions that can be added to the Dying Moments Communion, and noted that it is the Spiritual Director's decision whether and when to implement these precautions.

The Board expressed their appreciation to the Gentners and their committee for the work they have put in on this policy proposal. Kevin and Amy have volunteered to supply the needed extra medical supplies and materials for this Walk. Moved by Troy Bongard, seconded by Lyle Ball, to implement the proposal as present for the upcoming Walk on a trial basis and evaluate afterward. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer: Lyle Ball. Moved by Harry Wallin seconded by Becky Green to approve the Treasurer's Report pending audit. Motion carries. Lyle reported that the Community had received a substantial number of contributions to the Scholarship Fund following Tom and Lori Mason's wedding, and that those funds have been transferred

Community Spiritual Director: Rev. Andy Croel absent

Assistant Community Spiritual Director: Susan Poynter absent

Assistant Community Lay Director: Becky Green No report

Community Lay Director: Andy Sass see e-mail report

Andy reported that there is a pretty good crop of Board candidates for next year.

Training: none tonight.

Data Manager / Newsletter – Harry Wallin: No recent reports of progress on the database. Harry plans to put out the postal newsletter by week's end with a July-August supplement using the contributions he already has in hand. The deadline for the next full issue of the Newsletter, which will in-

clude the ballot and the biographies of the candidates, as well as the new health policy, will be September 21.

Supplies / Site – Lyle Ball: Lyle requested that people compile a list of supplies they need for the upcoming Walk.

Registrar / – Terrie Eisenmann Terrie reported that she has 28 complete registrations, with 5 confirmed on the way, for a total of 33 Pilgrims. There was some talk of allowing more than 36 Pilgrims on the Walk. A matter regarding using money on deposit for a Pilgrim who had to go home ill from the last Women's Walk for another member of her church was brought up in an e-mail. That transfer has been made.

Prayer Vigil – Terrie Eisenmann: There are many openings in the Prayer Vigil. Terrie would like to get them filled as soon as possible.

Sponsorship / Candlelight / Closing – Renee Hahn: Renee reported that Russ Fries is handling things well, with Ray Francis' assistance.

Auxiliary / Kitchen – Judy Hazle: Judy Hazle was not present at this meeting. Andy stated that he had been informed indirectly that Judy intends to resign her position after this upcoming Women's Walk. He will wait to hear directly from her before taking any action. His suggestion is to ask someone who has agreed to be on the Board starting next year to step in for the balance of this year if the position should officially become vacant. He has a couple of people in mind, but someone will need to be asked and agree to serve in this capacity before his/her name is published.

Agape – Troy Bongard: No report.

Team Selection – Andy Sass / Elnora Wallin: The Team Selection Committee is in the process of getting ready to contact Lay Directors for the Spring walks.

Emmaus Store – Clare Taylor: Clare reported that the order has been placed for the few clothing items we need for the Fall Walk, and they should arrive in plenty of time. Clare had e-mailed a question which had been asked to him regarding the distribution of the "What is Emmaus?" booklet to all Pilgrims. Board consensus echoed e-mail response at the time. It is a matter of sponsor decision and responsibility. Some potential Pilgrims may need this level of detailed information before their Walk, but most probably will not.

Clare asked about bumper stickers, and the suggestion was made to check with Cokesbury to obtain them for sale. He also said that all but a few of the candles in the Emmaus Store will be transferred to Candlelight Supplies for loan at the Walks.

Gatherings – Ray Francis: Ray reported that he is all caught up and ready to start work on the December Talent Show.

Music – Ray Francis Ray reported that he still needs someone to play music at Saturday dinner for the Walk. Both Renee Hahn and Roxi Bass had suggestions.

Outreach / Member at Large – Becky Green No report.

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at 9:48

In Christ's Service, Harry Wallin, Secretary

LANSING AREA EMMAUS – BOARD MINUTES October 14, 2008

Board members present: Andy Sass, Becky Green, Renee Hahn, Ray Francis, Lyle Ball, Terrie Eisenmann, Harry Wallin, Clare Taylor, Susan Poynter

Guests: Kevin Gentner, Russ Fries, Janet Ball, Ryan Cressman, Roxi Bass

Called to order at 7:05

Opening prayer and devotion: Pastor Andy led us in a devotion. There are some using Halloween for evil, but Christians who choose to celebrate the holiday can be yeast and encourage wholesome celebration, Kind of a kingdom of God moment. All Saints Day used to be in May, but the church decided to make it the day after the pagan festival to show a better way.

Secretary: Harry Wallin. Moved by Lyle Ball Seconded by Becky Green to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carries.

Walk Review Many commented how successful and Spirit-Filled the Walk was. One Pilgrim left, but was not ill.

Kevin Gentner wanted to know whether this pilgrim, who left very early Saturday morning, would get letters or agape. The Pilgrim does not get any more Agape. There was disagreement over what should be done with letters that were given to a pilgrim who did not complete the Walk. Standing procedure is that it is a decision of the Sponsor. The Sponsor is the one who knows the person, and who they asked for letters. There were some who felt that the letters should be automatically delivered. Others felt that automatic delivery would cheapen the gift. Susan Poynter moved that to clarify the policy we specify that in the case that a Pilgrim leaves without completing the Walk, that their letters will be returned to their Sponsor with discretion of the sponsor to give them to the Pilgrim or to hold them for a later Walk, also that the Sponsor contact those who wrote letters to let them know that the Pilgrim did not complete the Walk. Seconded by Clare Taylor. The motion passed with more ayes than nays.

Kevin will present his Auxiliary report next month. He has a rough draft of the Medical Coordinator's report. Any challenges that came up on the weekend were minor and showed areas that need a little revision. Infection Control matters need to be entered into the Manuals. A specific case will be discussed in greater detail next month. Kevin will e-mail the report for inclusion in the minutes. Because Amy was with a Pilgrim at the hospital, she did not get to return health forms. Two Pilgrims requested that their forms be returned. Moved by Becky Green, seconded by Terrie Eisenmann that the two health records of the Pilgrims who so requested have them returned, and that the other records be shredded. Motion passed unanimously.

We need to create a medical coordinator manual. Two need to go with a Pilgrim to the hospital, who should the second one be? Pilgrims and Auxiliary need to know that there is a Health Coordinator, and that s/he is available. Amy will research and present suggestions next month.

Becky Green has a kitchen report, see written copy.

Roxi Bass presented a report. She voiced opinion that Walks need to be booked a year ahead. She was displeased with the roster sent by Team Selection. She had to repeatedly ask for more names.

Renee Hahn presented a report, and will review it with the Board once everyone has had a chance to review it.

Treasurer: Lyle Ball. Moved by Becky Green seconded by Harry Wallin to approve the Treasurer's Report pending audit. Motion carries unanimously. Expenses are current with Upper Room for the next two Walks except for the Purple Books. The Scholarship Fund has a good balance. Between Scholarship Fund and Undesignated, there is a balance of \$927.00. Becky Green asked whether Scholarship Funds are available for auxiliary workers. Lyle said he sees no reason it shouldn't be. Russ said that when he was Auxiliary Head, if someone couldn't afford to pay, they just didn't collect it. Janet Ball said it is important that everyone be included. Lyle Ball moved that scholarship funds be available for auxiliary workers who cannot afford to pay them. Seconded by Clare Taylor. Motion carries unanimously

Community Spiritual Director: Rev. Andy Croel Five Spiritual Directors were a good idea, since one was called away because a death in the family. Andy feels that with family and work needs, he needs to resign. He is willing to help with Gatherings and Candle-Light. Susan Poynter said when she came on that she did not want to be the sole Spiritual Director, but she is now willing, for present. Moved by Becky Green, seconded by Lyle Ball to accept Andy Croel's resignation and appoint Susan Poynter as Spiritual Director.

Assistant Community Spiritual Director: Susan Poynter Susan wants to know if there is a job description. She would be eager to have a number of pastors to rotate duties.

Assistant Community Lay Director: Becky Green No Report

Community Lay Director: Andy Sass see e-mail report

Training: none tonight.

Data Manager / Newsletter – Harry Wallin: Harry has started updating the spreadsheet and will continue. Computer equipment was adequate for the recent Walk. Russ Fries reported that he had been given the box that previously was in the trailer which contained data from Walk 27 to Walk 45. He will get the material scanned to .pdf file. Russ has Board permission to contact Stan Vissar who professionally constructs databases to find out what the cost would be and when a database structure would be available.

Harry has very little material for the newsletter. Deadline is this Friday for new articles.

Supplies / Site – Lyle Ball: Lyle has a possibility for next Fall for a site. He will report further next meeting.

Registrar / – Terrie Eisenmann 6 Women and 7 Men are scheduled for Spring. Lyle has had two inquiries about where to get applications.

Prayer Vigil – Terrie Eisenmann: no report

Sponsorship / Candlelight / Closing – Renee Hahn: All is well. Word is getting out that Sponsors must have training before submitting paperwork to sponsor a Pilgrim.

Auxiliary / Kitchen – Judy Hazle: Absent: no report

Agape – Troy Bongard: Absent: No report.

Team Selection – Andy Sass / Elnora Wallin: Andy will be in contact with Elnora and let her know we need to get going on Spring Walks.

Emmaus Store – Clare Taylor:

Gatherings – Ray Francis: There were 194 people at candle-light. Ray asked whether the Women's reunion was a gathering. It is not.

Music – Ray Francis

Outreach / Member at Large – Becky Green No report

Other Business

The meeting adjourned at 9:55

In Christ's Service, Harry Wallin, Secretary

BOARD CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

These are the biographies that candidates for the Lansing Area Emmaus Community Board of Directors submitted in response to a request by the Nominations Committee. Blank spaces were eliminated in the interest of saving space. All of the candidates' responses are complete.

BARB TYLER

Home Church and City: Clare United Methodist—Clare MI, 48617 Church activities/ministries: Sr. High SS/Youth Leader; Choir; Praise Band; VBS; Drama Ministry; Funeral; Liturgist

4th Day/Reunion Group name: Saturday Morning Ladies (?) We meet every Sat in AM at Big Boy

Walk Date and Number: April 2002 @ Mason UMC

Auxiliary positions held: Kitchen 4 to 5 times; Kitchen Head 1 time; Dining Room 1 time, Housekeeping 2 times. **Conference Room Positions Held:** Assistant Table Leader 1 time.

Other experience in Chrysalis, Keryx, Cursillo, Via de Cristo, Kairos, etc. I participating in a Keryx for the first time this weekend (9/20/08) in Kingsley, MI. I have sponsored 2 Caterpillars at Chrysalis and participated in their Candle Light services.

Other information you would like the Community members to know about you: I am a full time wife, mother, and working. I have a wonderful husband that I have been married to for 18 years. I have a son (12) and daughter (10). When I prayed for more children, God gave me Jr. High and Sr. High kids. I have a wonderful church family and am blessed with many friends I call family. I said, "No" to the request to Board last year due to family and work obligations; however, God never let it leave my mind. This year when asked, I responded with, "Yes" and I have felt peace since. I hope that I will serve the community in the way that God has designed and directs. GLYASDI, Barb Tyler

SCOTT LOBERT

Home Church and City: Trinity United Methodist Church, Lansing mi

4th Day/Reunion Group name: Trinity U.M.C. First / Third Saturdays 7:00 AM

Walk Date and Number: march 2004 walk # 58

Auxiliary positions held: Auxiliary Head / Co-Head / Assistant 3 times +/-; Dining Room 2 times; Housekeeping 1 time; Other many times.

Conference Room Positions Held: Table Leader 1 time; Assistant Table leader 1 time.

Other information you would like the Community members to know about you: I am currently a single dad of a wonderful 15 year daughter who is more than a handful, but she says I do a good job as her dad. I am unsure of how well I can fulfill my possible role as a board member but I am sure that with God's help I will be able to do what is needed

CHERYL CRUM

Home Church and City: Pilgrim United Methodist Church, St. Johns

Church activities/ministries: Presently, new attendee welcome ministries, children's Christian education, prayer ministry past: Sunday school teacher for 3,4 and 5th grade, choir, lay leadership committee

4th Day/Reunion Group name: our church doesn't have one currently, I have others I meet with for accountability.

Walk Date and Number: Oct 2005, Walk #62

Auxiliary positions held: Kitchen 2 times; Kitchen Head / Co-Head or Assistant 1 time; Housekeeping 1 time; Snacks 1 time.

Conference Room Positions Held: Assistant Table Leader 1 time.

Other information you would like the Community members to know about you: I am so grateful for Christ's saving grace in my life and I desire to share it with any and all I can. The Emmaus community has helped me grow spiritually and continually exemplifies how I can effectively communicate this gift of grace to others. In serving each area so far, I have gained confidence in God's will, conviction in areas I need to improve and guidance in sharing Christ with others in the most meaningful way possible. I look forward to the many other ways I will continue to grow and serve in the Emmaus community and more importantly in day to day life.

BALLOT

Lansing Area Emmaus Community Board

This year's nominating committee met and prayed over names to be presented to the LAE board as potential candidates to contact to run for the Emmaus Board. A list of 33 names was presented to and approved by the board. The individuals on the ballot have indicated a willingness to serve Christ by serving on the board for this community, at this time. Currently, there are 10 lay members of the board. Ideally, we would like to have 12 lay members, 4 with 3 years of their term left, 4 with 2 years of their term left, and 4 with 1 year of their term left.

Of the 10 lay members, the terms for 5 lay members are ending this year, due to resignations and appointments to serve for the remainder of the year. We have listed the individuals who have agreed to serve in alphabetical order, by last name, and have left two spaces for write in candidates

Cheryl Crum

Dr. Ray and Jane Francis (Serving jointly in one position)

Rachel Liscek

Scott Lobert

Roger Silverthorn

Barb Tyler

Write in Candidate's name

Write in Candidate's name

Please return the ballot postmarked within two weeks to:

Andrew Sass
216 Harrison
Grand Ledge, MI 48823

or bring ballots to the November, 2008 gathering.

HEALTH POLICY UPDATE

As part of the LAE Board's initiative to create a safer environment for everyone involved with each Walk, they passed a motion requiring everyone working half a day or more, including Pilgrims, Conference Room Team, and Auxiliary, to complete the LAE Health History Form. As part of this motion, the Board approved the newly enacted Medical Coordinator for that Walk to review the forms either prior to the Walk or at the beginning of it. We ran Walk #71 as a trial run for all of the new policies regarding health initiatives, with evaluation, necessary adjustments, and final adoption to take place afterwards.

The intent of having Health History Forms and having a Medical Coordinator review them is to allow further preparation and try to prevent medical issues during the Walk. For instance, a number of health issues such as diabetes and allergies were only reported to the Medical Coordinator, and we could not have properly provided for those people without that information. The Kitchen and Snack Room were then able to modify the food available for the Walk. The Health Forms are also to be used to avoid giving people medication they should not have (whether from allergies or interactions with other medications or conditions unknown to those around them).

For confidentiality, the only person allowed access to the medical forms is the Medical Coordinator for that Walk unless, like on Walk #71, it is needed to share with other medical personnel for treating someone. From the perspective of having had a medical emergency on this last walk, having been able to review the form made it much faster to get the person the care they needed both immediately at the church and at the Urgent Care Center. There are times when the victim of the emergency is unable to even remember all of their medications or conditions let alone emergency contact information, and a reviewed health form will ensure the right people have that information fast to get them the necessary care without putting them at further risk.

Except for the few that are requested to be returned and are picked up immediately following the Walk, the Medical Coordinator will shred the forms soon after the Walk ends to protect the privacy of the information contained in them.

As intended when they were adopted, all of the recent health policies are being reviewed and revised after Walk #71. Just as before this pilot walk, all are welcome to help the committee. If you have any suggestions for improving the health and safety of the community, please forward them on to me as I prepare a report for the next Board meeting. As both the trial-base Medical Coordinator and Committee Chair, I can be reached at amgentner@hotmail.com or 989-227-0680.

Serving in Christ's name,
Dr. Amy Gentner

BONTRAGER FAMILY NEWS OCTOBER 2008

'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 4:6b NKJV)

After a seemingly very short summer, we again are getting ready to leave for our trip to Guatemala. Every year we have to accept the fact all over again that we will be leaving the 'easy' American style of living and immersing ourselves into another culture. On one side of the coin the flesh rebels, knowing that there are more 'hardships' ahead, but on the other side there is a feeling of anticipation and an urge to move on, knowing there are also many blessings ahead which are special to God's call.

Even though the building trade is very poor in Michigan God has blessed us with sufficient income and generosity of friends, which enables us to serve again in Central America. Our plans are to start the trek again in several weeks. That means we will be working 'over-time' to get everything wrapped up what needs to be done.

In order to keep the bus running decently in the extremely rough mountain roads and living conditions of Central America, it is imperative to do some upgrades even though the additional \$4,000 plus in expenses means tightening our belts and sacrificing other details. Recently someone put a 2-speed rear end on the bus so we will be able to scale the mountains better. Also we put a retractable awning on the side of the bus so while we are living in the bus we can have a place to expand to the outside with an extra 'room' while getting protection from the hot sun. We also want to install a donated shower stall and water heater in the back room of the bus so we will be able to take necessary showers. While we continue praying that there will be no major break-downs along the way, there always are things in the order of 'maintenance' coming up where we get dirt and 'grease-jobs' done on our bodies.

We are very thankful for the many donations that have come in to help in the ministry. We feel it is a special blessing from God to have many faithful Christian friends that are supporting us in prayer and various other ways. It gives us the courage to keep pressing on.

We hope to start the journey to Guatemala on the first part of November. On our way we want to connect with several missionaries and their ministries throughout Mexico and Guatemala. Friends who helped us get started in Guatemala are now working in Mexico, so we are excited to join them for a short while. As we travel the full length of Mexico we want to make several more contacts with other missionaries. In southern Mexico there are still large areas of un-reached native people groups, unlike the northern part of Mexico where many, many ministries work within a days drive from the U.S. border. Whether at home or abroad, all areas of the world are in need of the message of the true gospel of Jesus Christ, so it is important to serve where the Lord leads and opens doors. It's good to remember to be available for the Lord's work at all times, wherever we happen to be at any given time.

We wish abundant blessings and the Spirit of God to you all that are supporting us in prayer. Please continue to intercede for us in prayer.

Love in Christ,
Henry Bontrager & family
2512 N. Shepardsville Rd.
Ovid, Mi 48866
989-834-2028

For info on missions, log on to: www.GodsLittleChildren.org

"But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (Matthew 6:6 NKJV)

Upcoming Events

October 31 - November 2 *Flight of Hope Chrysalis* Girls' Flight, Immanuel Community Reformed Church, Lansing
November 7 -9 *Flight of Hope Chrysalis* Boys' Flight Immanuel Community Reformed Church, Lansing
November 11 *Lansing* 7:00 Board Meeting, Pilgrim U.M.C.
November 14 *Lansing* Gathering, Pilgrim U.M.C. Gather at 6pm, Potluck at 6:30, Worship at 7pm, Sponsorship Training at 8pm
December 9 *Lansing* 7:00 Board Meeting, Pilgrim U.M.C., St. Johns
December 12 *Lansing* Gathering and Talent Show, Pilgrim U.M.C. Gather at 6pm, Potluck at 6:30, Worship at 7pm, Sponsorship Training at 8pm
January 9 *Lansing* Gathering, Pilgrim U.M.C. Gather at 6pm, Potluck at 6:30, Worship at 7pm, Sponsorship Training at 8pm
January 13 *Lansing* 7:00 Board Meeting, Pilgrim U.M.C., St. Johns.

February 10 *Lansing* 7:00 Board Meeting, Pilgrim U.M.C., St. Johns.
February 13 *Lansing* Gathering, Pilgrim U.M.C. Gather at 6pm, Potluck at 6:30, Worship at 7pm, Sponsorship Training at 8pm
March 12 - 15, 2009 *Lansing* Men's Walk, Immanuel Community Reformed Church, Lansing
March 13 *Lansing* **No Gathering at Pilgrim UMC!** Note the Change! Gathering will be at Men's Candle Light.
March 14 *Lansing* Candle Light and Gathering at Immanuel Community Reformed Church, Lansing. Sponsorship Training 7:00 pm Gathering 7:30 pm C'light service begins 9:00 pm
March 26-29, 2009 *Lansing* Women's Walk, Trinity United Methodist Church, Lansing
Immanuel Community Reformed Church, Lansing

This Newsletter is available on our Website containing the full Board minutes from September and October.



Newsletter Deadline for Next Issue

If you have an idea for a story, please let me know by November 14, 2008. Contact Harry Wallin (517) 566-8452 owltalker@centurytel.net

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