

Rainbow Bend

December 2004 Vol. 5, Issue 12



Merry Christmas



As humans, new beginnings are generally associated with the New Year. As Christians, however, our new beginning is associated with Christ, even with Advent. The Christmas season found a surprise package for me in the familiar Christmas story.

In Matthew's story of Jesus' beginning, he describes how Joseph decided to gently divorce Mary when he found—to her shame—that she was pregnant. Matthew says that Joseph decided on a quiet divorce for one reason; he did not want to bring disgrace or shame on Mary or her family.

Can you imagine that! If there ever was the Gospel in a pre-nuptial agreement, that has got to be it! Talk about amazing behavior and God's desire not to burden us with shame! Joseph's attitude and his decision making anticipates and even announces what God's going to do with us.

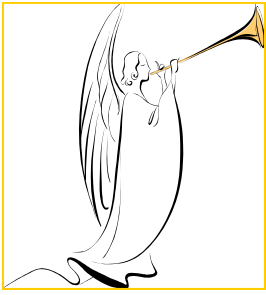
What God chooses to do is not designed to bring shame on us. God, in Christ, takes the shame on Himself. God knows what it's like to be estranged and shoved away from everyday society. Having been there, God's making sure we never get laughed or ridiculed out of life.

Our Emmaus experience is so completely reflective of this Gospel's intent. Which is to find a safe place to grow in a relationship with Christ and each other. Our walks together bring us into contact with our God who is bent on redeeming, perfecting and empowering us.

You might consider a sponsorship of a spouse or friend as the best Christmas gift you can give. As we enter 2005 we were going to be watching God, over and over again, as He transforms us in a way that will not shame or disgrace us and our friends. God is going to work to redeem us. Hide and watch.

Wishing each of you a Blessed Christmas
Rev. Billy Storms
Emmaus Community Spiritual Director





2005



EMMAUS - DAMASCUS - CRYSLIS SCHEDULE

#1198	1/13/05	Women's Emmaus Walk	Diana Cheek
#32	1/27/05	Men's (Houston) Journey To Damascus	Dan Clark
#33	2/17/05	Men's Journey To Damascus	Alex Garcia
#1211	2/24/05	Men's Walk To Emmaus	Gary Gray
#1216	3/17/05	Women's Walk To Emmaus	Shonnie Conley
#34	3/31/05	Women's Journey To Damascus	Pat Guernsey
#35	5/12/05	Men's Journey To Damascus	Jim Kollaja
#1232	5/19/05	Women's Walk To Emmaus	Lynn Cates
#1235	6/16/05	Men's Walk To Emmaus	Joe Christina
#TBA	TBA	Girl's Chrysalis Flight	TBA
#TBA	TBA	Boy's Chrysalis Flight	TBA
#1239	7/14/05	Women's Walk To Emmaus	Rhonda Henslee
#36	7/21/05	Women's Journey To Damascus	Valerie Pompa
#37	8/18/05	Women's (Houston) Journey To Damascus	Roxanne Stanley
#TBA	TBA	Young Women's Chrysalis Journey	TBA
#38	9/15/05	Men's Journey To Damascus	Larry Patterson
#1250	9/22/05	Women's Walk To Emmaus	Valerie Caldwell
#1261	10/13/05	Men's Walk To Emmaus	Dean Adkinson
#39	10/20/05	Women's Journey To Damascus	Eileen Vara

For more information on the various events check the local web sites listed on the back page or contact the Lay Director listed for the event.

Merry  *Christmas*

Journey to Damascus Gathering

Please Join Us for the Journey to Damascus Gathering

January 21, 2005 at 6:30 pm

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church

Parish Hall

3502 Saratoga Blvd, Corpus Christi

Praise and Worship Music

Fourth Day Speakers

Covered Dish Supper

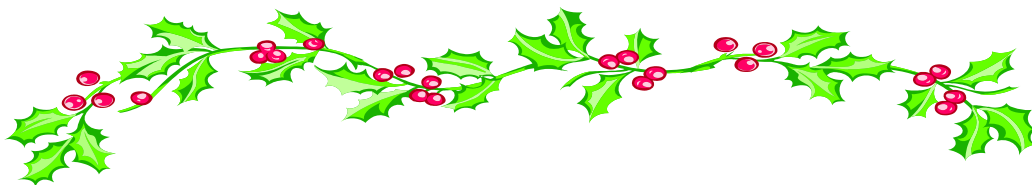
(bring your favorite dish)

Everyone involved in the Journey, Walk, Chrysalis and Cursillo is invited to attend this annual event of fellowship and food! Please remember to bring your lanyards and nametags from your weekend.

All "significant others" are invited to attend even if they have not participated in a weekend.

Babysitting will be available for your children as well.

Please join us!



For Pilgrim and Team applications and more information

Check out the Journey To Damascus WEB site

Journeytodamascus.org



Future Events



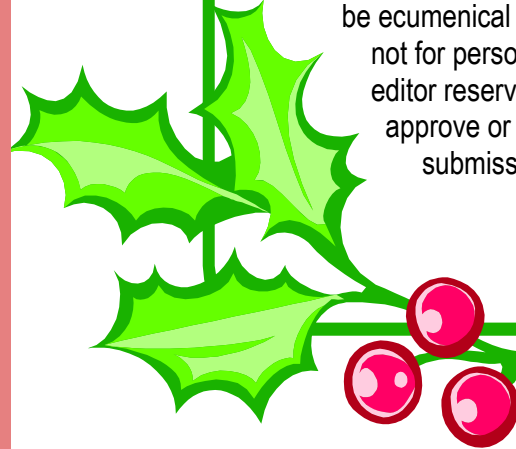
Women's Walk To Emmaus # 1198
January 13-16, 2005
Diana Cheek, LD

Men's Journey To Damascus # 3
(Houston)
January 27-30, 2005
Dan Clark, LD

Men's Journey To Damascus # 32
February 17-20, 2005
Alex Garcia, LD

Men's Walk To Emmaus # 1231
February 24 -27, 2005
Gary Gray, LD

If you have an event, information or article of interest you would like included in the newsletter, please submit the information to the editor by the 20th of the month. The information will be reviewed and included on a space available basis. All items submitted must be ecumenical in nature, and not for personal gain. The editor reserves the right to approve or disapprove submissions.



Editor

Additional Information

Newsletter Data Base

Submit by the 20th of each month to:

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Corpus Christi, TX 78414
814-6868 (H)

Send corrections & changes to:

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2004/2005 EMMAUS BOARD

Lay Director Jerry Kramer
Asst. Lay Dir. Fay Crider
Spiritual Director Rev. Billy Storms

Website:

www.coastalbendemmasus.org

2004/2005 DAMASCUS BOARD

President Susan Patterson
Vice President Waynette Jarrell
Spiritual Directors Monsignor Shirley
Rev. Ralph Willis

Website:

www.journeytodamascus.org

2004 CHRYSALIS BOARD

Lay Director Shonnie Conley
Asst. Lay Dir. Kathy Borhauer
Spiritual Director Rev. Ralph Willis
Registrar Jim Conley

Website:

www.coastalbendchrysalis.org

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Corpus Christi, TX 78413

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