

## Our Emmaus/Chrysalis Journey: Part Two

In our previous article we were looking at how Paul introduced the image of the human body in his writings to the early church (Ephesians 4:15-16). This image brings insight into the relationships between the members of the Body of Christ, the Church. We were looking at the human body as a large system with many sub-systems that are interdependent. These insights could be helpful to us as we continue to offer leadership in Emmaus/Chrysalis as well as in the Church.

Scientists apply systems theory to analyze organizations. Examining how systems work can bring insights into our understanding of any organization, including the church. Scientists describe a system this way:

- a series of functions or activities within an organization that works harmoniously to accomplish the goal of such organization; and
- an interdependent group of persons or processes with a common purpose.

An organization is a system with intertwined processes.

Parts → → Working together → → Goal

This theory fits with the message that Paul is trying to share with the early Christian church (1 Corinthians 12:14-26).

It might be helpful if every Emmaus/Chrysalis community understood itself as a system. After all, we are an interdependent group of persons with a common purpose. We have many functions and activities that need to work harmoniously to accomplish our goal. It is evident that within Emmaus/Chrysalis we find many intertwined processes. We are a system, that is, we are many parts working together toward a common goal.

What is our common goal or purpose? The purpose of Emmaus and Chrysalis is to renew the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

We should never lose sight of our goal. If we do, we will stop doing what God is intending to accomplish through Emmaus and Chrysalis. If we start thinking that our goal is to put together good weekends where everybody has lots of fun and where we can have a spiritual high, we are deviating from the real goal of Emmaus/Chrysalis. Our goal is the renewal, the transformation, of the church and we support that through everything we do in Emmaus/Chrysalis, not just the weekends.

Each Board of Directors is responsible for guiding the community so that this purpose can be accomplished. In doing so, the Board needs to make sure that all the appropriate processes are in place by following the directions contained in the most recent edition of *The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus* and *The Upper Room Handbook on Chrysalis*.

The Upper Room Handbooks clearly define the parts of the system, which are:

- The Community;
- The Board;
- Board Committees;
- Conference room team;
- Behind-the-scene support servants;
- Reunion Groups or Next Step Groups;
- Gatherings or Hoots;
- Upper Room; and
- Local church.

How does the system work? Each of these parts has many different processes or activities to be performed harmoniously by faithful servants who understand the goal of Emmaus/Chrysalis. The processes or activities are interdependent and should work in concert to fulfill our common purpose. Each part needs to understand its function and perform it as it should. That's why constant training is important.

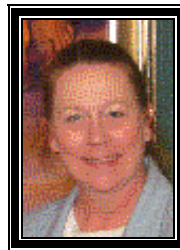
No part should feel that it is better or less important than the other. Each part needs to understand how its task impacts the whole, the goal of the system. Through progressive servanthood, community members are given the opportunity to serve in the areas of the system where they feel more comfortable.

The on-going cycle of the Emmaus/Chrysalis system is defined in three stages as 1) pre-event; 2) event; and 3) post-event (refer to the Handbooks). All three stages are important to the effective performance of the Emmaus/Chrysalis system. All the processes as well as the servants who perform these processes are extremely important to the life of Emmaus and Chrysalis as a system. It is through these servants and through the tasks that each one performs that we continue to build up the body in love.

Remember, we are a people on a journey, and this is a journey that we don't make alone. We have each other; we have Jesus guiding us in journey. I am sure that all of you know how wonderful this journey is.

De Colores!

Rev. Victor Pérez  
International Spiritual Director  
Walk to Emmaus & Chrysalis



Deana Frederick

We are pleased to announce that Deana Frederick, CPS, has accepted the invitation to join The Upper Room staff as the Assistant to International Lay Director for Emmaus and Chrysalis. Deana brings to this position significant experience working in office environments and she is a Certified Professional Secretary.

### What's inside?

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2. **Please welcome Deana Frederick**
3. **Greetings from Swaziland**
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## Greetings from Swaziland,

I just wanted to share with those of you who have been on a walk to Emmaus my experience this past weekend here in Swaziland. I went to a closing ceremony for Swaziland's 26th Walk to Emmaus. It was a men's walk of about 10 men. I was blessed -- so blessed. We got there in time to hear the pilgrims give their answer to the questions what did the walk mean to them and what were they going to do about it.

I laughed as they told their stories of trying to get out of coming, the shock of giving up cell phones and watches, and my heart soared when they told of how God had changed their life over the weekend. The ceremony was done in English. I felt like I belonged to this group, even though most of the people in the room I had never met.

They followed the Emmaus guidelines to the letter -- probably better than Central Texas Conference does!

To know that I was a part of a Christian movement that was happening in the same way on the other side of the world from where my home is was the most powerful thing I have felt so far. Tears of joy, love, and thanksgiving streamed down my cheeks during most of the ceremony.

I knew that I belonged to the body of Christ and physically felt his presence for the second time that day. God knew what I needed. He knew it was time to remind me that I am not alone in a strange country trying to figure out what he would have me do by myself. I have brothers and sisters in Christ around me and I have Christ to sustain me. The ceremony was so familiar to me. It was as if I was home only sweeter because of my current situation.

I was also acutely aware that if it hadn't been for my walk to Emmaus, I most likely wouldn't be sitting in a closing ceremony in Swaziland! I praise God for my sponsor, Diane Simmons, and for all of those who supported me on my Walk and my fourth day experiences.

The Bishop gave the sermon during communion and again his words filled my soul -- his directness, his gentleness, his love of Christ that shine through his very being. I felt honored to hear him speak twice in the same day. (Check out my blog for more on this.) He advised the pilgrim to find fellow Emmaus community members or people that will encourage and support them to act on the feelings and convictions they had at that moment. He talked about how the disciple didn't always get it right, for example, when they tried to stop the children from coming to him or when they told Jesus that no one had touched him in the crowd of people, that someone must have bumped him accidentally (referring to the woman who reached out to touch the back of Jesus and was told that she was healed because of her faith.) so he advised them not to be discouraged, but to turn to the people and lessons of Emmaus. He told them the outcome of their 4th day is their choice. What good advice for any Christian.

We followed the same service for the Lord's Supper out of the same book. We sang "Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary" during communion. The Bishop blessed the pilgrim saying "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and give you peace." Do you know how precious those words were to me, especially spoken in English? And when it was all over, we all sang DeColores! What a joy it was to hear them struggle and laugh during the song the same as we do in Texas! But that song was never dearer to my heart than it was at that moment.

Next weekend is the women's walk, number 27. You can be sure that I will help serve in any way that I can and I look forward to candlelight and the closing ceremony. Please pray for the pilgrims from this walk, for next week's walk, and for the Swaziland Emmaus community. And please relay how wonderful it is to go to an Emmaus gathering on the other side of the world with those from the Emmaus gathering on the other side of the world with those from the Emmaus community in Round Rock. Knowing there was that connection with home through Christ is something that I can't find the words to describe.

DeColores!

Chris

## New Clergy Regional Representatives:



**Rev. Garry Speich**

Garry comes to the role of Spiritual Clergy Representative after 42 years as an ordained United Methodist pastor. His last pastorate was the Hermitage UMC where he served 19 years. He finished his ministry by serving six years on the Nashville District in the Tennessee Conference. Garry and his wife Peggy were pilgrims in the Upper Room Model Cursillos in the Spring of 1977. They served as team members on Walks 1 and 2 in Nashville. They also were chosen to be team members on the launch teams 1 and 2 in Australia. Garry has served on many Emmaus and Chrysalis teams. He was the Community Spiritual Director for two different terms. He and Peggy have been married 42 years and have a grown son Eric. They moved in retirement to Garry's childhood home in Crossville, Tennessee..



**Rev. J. Michael Cave**

Mike is a native of Texas and a clergy member of the South West Texas Annual Conference. He is actually serving as a senior pastor of a local church in San Antonio, TX. Mike has served on the Emmaus International Advisory Committee for many years and has been instrumental in the development of some of the Emmaus Spiritual Directors resources. His involvement in Emmaus and Chrysalis includes having served as weekend spiritual director in many Emmaus and Chrysalis weekends as well as Community Spiritual Director. As of January 1, 2008, Mike is serving as our Emmaus/Chrysalis Clergy Regional Representative for the South Central Region. We welcome Mike as a member of our Emmaus/Chrysalis staff team.

Blog: [chrisinswaziland.blogspot.com](http://chrisinswaziland.blogspot.com)

## ***Regional Representatives***

All of our Regional Representatives are working hard to serve your community. When they make contact with your leaders, please make them feel welcome. Please contact them. Regional Representatives are available to serve. Here are the Regional Representatives and their contact information.

### **NORTH CENTRAL** Regional Representative

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### **SOUTH CENTRAL** Regional Representative

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**Websites:**  
[www.UpperRoom.org/Emmaus](http://www.UpperRoom.org/Emmaus)  
[www.UpperRoom.org/Chrysalis](http://www.UpperRoom.org/Chrysalis)





## Emmaus launching in Russia:

Finally, after much prayer, discernment and planning teams for the first Emmaus walks in Russia have been put together. Praise God! Walks will be offered in the language of the people of Russia. Estonia Emmaus Community will provide key leaders to serve as Weekend Lay and Spiritual Directors, Assistants to the Lay and Spiritual Directors, and some table leaders. The rest of the Conference Room team will be local Russian leaders who attended their walk in Estonia last year. A small group of U.S. servants will be in Russia to support these walks serving in the background and mentoring Russian leaders in these roles.

Both the Men's walk, July 16-19, 2008 and the Women's walk, July 21-24, 2008 will be held in a local camp (Zyuratkul) near Satka, Chelyabinsk region. If your community is interested in sending Agape or providing some scholarship funds for the local leaders please contact Olga Batova at the following address: Gulf Breeze UMC, Gulf Breeze, FL (850) 932-3594 or email [obatov@gbumc.org](mailto:obatov@gbumc.org) Please share this information with your community and ask them to be prayer for the Russian walks this summer.



In the picture: Rev. Neil Epler, Larry Seale, Olga Batova, Rev. Victor Pérez, Roger Banks & Jack Lawrence

