



# **Emmaus Sponsorship Workshop**

# **WELCOME**

# What is Good Sponsorship?

- Underlines God's personal care and commitment to each pilgrim
- Reflects the relational nature of God – God reaching out to people through people
- An act of sacrificial love where God's grace is passed on through each Emmaus Movement
- Strengthens the Emmaus Community and the churches affected by the movement

# The Purpose of Emmaus

- Strengthen the local church
- Spiritually renew the church members so that that can bring God's love and grace to those they encounter
- Bring Christ's Spirit to environments such as home, business, friendships, communities and churches

**When sponsoring a person consider the overall purpose**

# Whom to Sponsor?

- **A person who is already on a pilgrimage**
  - Someone willing to grow and move forward in his or her faith journey
- **A person who has a Christian orientation**
  - Knows God can make & has made a difference in life
  - Not so consumed by other situations that he or she would be distracted during the weekend
- **Church leaders who will bring vision, commitment and understanding back to their church**
- **Dependable church members who are the quiet backbone of their church**
- **Persons who represent a cross section of the church**
  - Will help keep the essentials of our common faith and open to different perspectives
- **Persons of diverse congregations, denominations and ethnic groups**

# Emmaus is NOT for Everyone!

- **Non-Christians**
- **Christians whose theology and/or practice notably differs from the traditional theology & practice represented by the Walk to Emmaus**
  - They should not feel a need to defend their uniqueness
  - They do not share belief in traditional doctrines of the faith basic to the major denominations of the church and to Emmaus
- **Persons undergoing emotional crises**
- **Persons who say no after being presented the opportunity**
  - Timing may not be right
  - Perhaps God will renew this person in another way
- **“Church Hoppers”, who may use Emmaus to divide their church or further their own theological agendas.**
- **Persons who are always looking for another “spiritual high”**

# Ten Suggested Steps for Sponsorship

## 1. Pray.

- How can this person become a more vitally alive Christian in helping bring God's kingdom into their surroundings?

## 2. Make an appointment.

- If married meet with both husband and wife.
- This is an invitation to enrich their faith and thus become more effective disciples.
- Share your experience.

## 3. Issue the Invitation.

- It is more than a 3-day weekend. It is part of a whole new way to life.
- Explain group reunions, community gatherings, team membership & formation, renewed interest in serving one's church

# Ten Suggested Steps for Sponsorship

## 1. The Commitment

- Have the registration form with you. If talking to a married couple, bring one form for each person.
- Ask pilgrim to complete in your presence and answer their questions as they complete the form.
- Complete the form and mail it along with the registration fee.

## 5. Continue the preparation.

- Continue to pray and enlist others to pray
- Answer the person's questions.
- Gather Agape letters.
- Talk with the pilgrim's pastor – especially if the pastor has never attended an Emmaus Movement

# Ten Suggested Steps for Sponsorship

## 1. Responsibilities of the weekend

- Care for the pilgrim's family while they attend the weekend. The team will take care of your pilgrim.
- Attend Send-Off, Sponsor's Hour, Candlelight & Closing.

## 2. Remember Day Four!

- Spend time with the pilgrim and help them digest the weekend.
- Provide direction for those first steps of discipleship.
- Help them find a reunion group.
- Bring them to the follow-up gathering and encourage them to attend regular gatherings.

# Ten Suggested Steps for Sponsorship

## 1. Back to Church

- Pilgrim returns to church with an enthusiastic, supportive attitude.
- Talk to pastor about helping direct the new enthusiasm. Be particularly sensitive if pastor has not attended an Emmaus Movement.

## 2. Understand Emmaus

- Explain how the pilgrim can serve the Emmaus Community.
- Prayer Vigils, Agape, Day Servants, Team, Snacks, etc.

## 3. Help the Pilgrim Sponsor

- Share this information with them
- Encourage them to attend a Sponsorship Training workshop.

# Things You MUST Tell Your Pilgrim

- If married – the equal commitment to the Walk to Emmaus
- Describe the sleeping arrangements. After all, sleeping and showering are very personal activities.
- Participation in weekend activities is expected.
- What to bring – towels, clothes, bedding, etc.
- What NOT to bring – watch, cell phone, radio, etc.
- No contact with family or business. Explain how they can be reached in the event of an emergency.

# Things You WILL WANT Tell Your Pilgrim

- What the 3 days meant to you and what it did for your personal relationship with Jesus.
- What effect the Walk has had in your family, church, job and community.
- How it changed your priorities.
- How you stayed enthused and engaged – reunion groups, gatherings, etc.
- How the weekend is unique to each person.

## Things You MAY WANT Tell the Pilgrim

- Fifteen talks dealing with priorities, improving knowledge about God, serving God, being a disciple and persevering in faith.
- Time will be spent discussing the talks
- Time for meditation and prayer.
- Communion will be emphasized.
- Good food, fellowship and a chance to deepen their relationship with Christ.

# Things You WILL NOT WANT Tell the Pilgrim

- Candlelight Service
- Personal Agape Letters
- What YOU expect the pilgrim to experience. Remember this is their unique journey with God.

# How Will I Ever Remember All This Information?

You don't need to remember.

All this information can be found in the book “**Day Four – The Pilgrim’s Continued Journey**”. Reference the chapter titled “**The Next Generation: Being a Good Sponsor**”

This book was included in your Pilgrim’s Packet when you attended your weekend.

## In Conclusion

Building the kingdom of God is serious work. A strong Emmaus community is part of that task. This is why good sponsorship is key to achieving this purpose. Take sponsorship seriously and always approach it with the love of Christ.

**De Colores!**