



August Big Country Emmaus Newsletter

Big Country Emmaus Community meets the 1st Tuesday of each month. The next Emmaus Community will be Tuesday, August 2, at Wylie United Methodist Church, 3430 Antilley Rd., Abilene, TX. Babe Chick Orientation begins at 6:00pm. Praise and Worship at 6:30pm. Childcare is provided for ages 9 and under. Come out and welcome all the new caterpillars of Chrysalis Flights 62 & 63 and others who haven't experienced Big Country Emmaus yet! Let's show our support to all these new babe chicks!! There is plenty of room for everyone to come to Wylie and enjoy!

A Note from Your Community Lay Director:

I was reminded that it was time to write my article for the newsletter. I never know what to write, so I always place the task on Jesus. He always seems to come through by placing things on my heart. Sometimes it is clear and I thank him through prayer - however - sometimes it doesn't seem quite correct, so I question him and wait. This has been one of those questionable times when I said - GOD is that really what you want me to write - are you sure??? I kept putting it off, but last night I woke at 3:00am and could not go back to sleep - there was no doubt in my mind that GOD was tugging on my heart. I always try to follow his will and I always try to do what he says - so here goes - it is not a comfortable subject.

I grew up in Abilene and through elementary school, I was in an all-white school. I knew that there was another school in town called Woodson and I also knew that all of the black children went to school there, but I never knew why - that's just the way it was. I never thought that I grew up in a racial family; in fact I didn't even know what that meant. As I look back now though, I remember hearing the "N" word, but didn't think much about it - really had nothing to do with me.

When I entered High School in the 60's, things changed. Black kids where in class with me. They played sports with me and we ate together and that is when I saw what racialism was all about. My first memory was at the cafeteria, where all of the black students were on one side of the room and all of the whites on the other. That seemed curious to me, so my eyes were opened

and I saw more racialism each day. Then the language and what was being said - it was awful - and I heard so much it became commonplace.

Through college, I had very little interaction with students of color, I just studied and did my thing - but I noticed racialism, was still everywhere. Then off to the working environment, and again, very little interaction with people of color, however it was very clear to me racialism was still a part of the life around me. Things had improved, but we were nowhere close to Martin Luther Kings "Dream".

My first true interaction with a Black Man was in Emmaus years ago. Some of you might know him, his name is Kelvin Kelley. Kelvin was on the spiritual team of a Walk that I worked. When Kelvin spoke, you could not help but listen. Words of Wisdom, Words of Guidance, Words of God's Love and Words of his love for his fellow man. I grew to respect Kelvin more than most men I had ever met in my lifetime, I can honestly say, that I have grown to Love Kelvin. Kelvin has prayed with me many times. We have witnessed mini miracles together. We held hands and prayed over my mother's casket. Anytime I needed Kelvin, I would call and he would come. We have traveled this country together, laughed together and cried together. I don't see a Black Man, when I look at Kelvin - I SEE JESUS.

When I started serving on the Emmaus Board, I met another Black Man - Randy Roy. Randy is smart, has a keen sense for seeing peoples heart and understanding peoples desires from their actions. And OOOH, he is a man of GOD. I sat in a room once where he spoke to many - but it was clear - the words coming from his mouth were not his, it was GOD speaking through Randy directly to me. I have grown to Love Randy. I don't see a Black Man, when I look at Randy - I SEE JESUS.

I have never thought of myself as being racial, but then again, I just don't understand racialism - maybe I am racial and I just don't know it. What I do know is that GOD has placed men of color in my life and I have grown to love them - I don't see color - I see Jesus. MAYBE that is how we solve this problem that is so apparent recently. MAYBE we just need to take a moment and look at a person's heart and not at the color of their skin. MAYBE we need to just sit down and talk. MAYBE we need to grow friends and not enemies, or MAYBE we just need to start by singing a song we learned as children:

Red and Yellow, Black and White - They are all precious in HIS sight - we learned it as a child, now it is time to live it.

De Colores,
Tim McClarty

2016 FALL WALK DATES

Aug. 18-21 Men's Walk 213 Phillip Robinson
Sept. 15-18 Women's Walk 214 Glenda Riley
Oct. 13-16 Men's Walk 215 Scott Warren
Nov. 10-13 Women's Walk 216 Lynda Scales

Walk # 213 Team

Don Morrison

Phillip Robinson

Allen Young

Walk # 213 Pilgrims

Eugene Hudson

Luke Wylie

Alan Sherman

Josh Strain

Titus Vesel

There will be sign up sheets at community for agape, the prayer vigil, and announcements for specific needs for the upcoming walks! Please don't miss out on opportunities to serve our community!