

## Sponsorship by Earl Ray Lemon

Many times I have been asked \* \*What can I do at Emmaus?\* I love to hear that question. It means that you are excited about the message Emmaus helps deliver and want to be a part. Unfortunately many of us do not have the ability to commit to a 72-hour weekend. So many think \* there is nothing I can do. That is not the case. I want you to ask yourself \* what is the most important job at Emmaus. Is it the Lay-Director, the Cook, Prayer room Coordinator, Snack room worker? While each of these are necessary (could you imagine a walk without snacks?) they are not the most important. All of these jobs are for one purpose \* to move people (insert pilgrims) closer to Christ. Without those pilgrims, the rest does not matter. The best talk in the world is not effective if no one is there to hear it. The snacks, the talks, the meals, the agape, while all a very important part of the weekend, fade to nothing without Pilgrims. Now you know the biggest secret of Emmaus \* Pilgrims! So again I ask, What is the most important Job at Emmaus? \* SPONSORSHIP!!! Without the Sponsor, we do not have Pilgrims. Without Pilgrims, we do not have a walk.

### Who should I sponsor?

Everyone sits at closing and thinks of all the people they NEED to send. All the people that NEED the weekend. Let me remind you, not everyone will be excited to attend an Emmaus Weekend. Listen to the Holy Spirit. God will bring people into your life that He wants to attend. Stop and listen to Him. Remember, some people may say no. Do not get discouraged.

### What should I do when I get a "YES?"

Try to get the spouse to attend at the same time. Emmaus encourages couples. It is much easier and a lot more fun for the entire family to participate. But, if the sponsor is not interested or cannot attend, still sponsor the one person.

Now that you have a signed application, your job really begins. Send the application to the Registrar. They are not registered until the application is in the Registrar\*s hands. And we use an extremely complicated selection process, the postmark date. So the sooner the application is sent, the better the chance of attending.

Accumulate letters. It is YOUR job to get letters for your pilgrim. Most new sponsors think that the letterbox must be stuffed. It is Quality not Quantity that counts. Pilgrims have a limited time to read and occasionally their eyes are watering (from the pollen of course). This may slow their reading speed, so please do not try to overwhelm them with numbers. But also remember, zero is too few. As a minimum your Pilgrim will have YOUR letter, because you MUST write (not really but you better).

Calm your Pilgrim\*s fears. Tell them anything they need to know. We have had pilgrims that attended on pure faith and pilgrims that needed to know the workings of the entire weekend. Both had wonderful experiences. When the Holy Spirit takes control, the event is significant and meaningful, regardless of whether or not you knew it was coming.

Get your Pilgrim to the camp. If finances allow, take your pilgrim to dinner before the weekend. Remember an evening meal is NOT served on Thursday. It is even better, if

you can arrange to meet other sponsors and pilgrims at this time. But remember, BE ON TIME! We do not begin until everyone is present.

Attend candlelight. This is one of the most important gifts you can give your Pilgrim. Remember your feelings when you saw your sponsor standing there? Pass that feeling along.

Pick up your Pilgrim. We sell all unclaimed Pilgrims, but after the weekend, the world does not value them. Attend closing and pick up your pilgrim. Listen to them. They will be talking and talking and talking. Let them share. If finances and time allow, take them to dinner before you take them home. This gives them a moment to decompress.

### Several Key Notes

#### Finances

The current cost of the weekend is \$80. Most sponsors allow the pilgrim to pay the first \$25. This is a sign of commitment. Then the sponsor pays the remaining \$55.

Scholarships are available for any or all of the fees. No one is denied attendance due to finances. If scholarship is requested, the only people who are aware of this are the Registrar, the Treasurer, and the Community Spiritual Director. It is never disclosed to anyone else. Our purpose is not to embarrass anyone. Never pay fees in front of Pilgrims. These are given to the Treasurer at Sponsor\*s Hour.

#### Contact with the Registrar

Your Pilgrim will receive an activation letter from the Registrar. You will receive a notification letter. Please Please Please contact your Pilgrim and confirm with the Registrar. This is extremely important in activation of alternates.

#### After the Walk

Help your Pilgrim get into a Reunion Group. This is what makes Emmaus different. Bring your Pilgrim to the next gathering. Introduce them to the Community at Large. Help them get involved.

Sponsorship is a great deal of work, but it is extremely rewarding. Send applications to the Registrar as soon as you have them. ALWAYS confirm your Pilgrim with the registrar. Enjoy the experience. God has given you a gift, the opportunity to sponsor this person.