

Beachside Emmaus Community, First United Methodist Church of FWB, Florida 850-243-9292

Emmaus Epistle

What Good Is a Recession?

In the present economic downturn, many of us are looking for a way forward. Regrettably, I'm not qualified to bring much economic expertise to this conversation. But I have come to believe that, as Romans 8:28 assures us, God wants to bring *good* out of this bad time, for those who trust Him. Specifically, I believe God will use financial pressure to work in us some godly traits that we might not learn any other way.

For example, what if God intends to use this economic crisis to strengthen our faith by giving us new, if sometimes painful, opportunities to trust God as our source and supply (Philippians 4:19)? Or to realize that, even when we struggle financially, most of the world's population lives on far less than we? What if God uses this recession to help us adopt a simpler, less costly, lifestyle--in order to be able to give more to God's kingdom?

Our Methodist founder, John Wesley knew plenty about economic uncertainty. In his time (1703-1791) Britain experienced rapid urbanization and the shift to industrialization. The results included the collapse of rural economies and a host of problems in the cities: overcrowding, disease, unemployment, debt, substance abuse, and an economic system in which 5 percent of the population controlled nearly one-third of the national income.

Wesley ministered mainly to the lower-middle class. He never became wealthy, although he eventually made a very comfortable income, estimated to be the equivalent of about \$200,000 a year. But early in his life and ministry, Wesley made a commitment to give a tithe (one-tenth) of his income back to God. He also pledged that, as his income grew, he would live a simple lifestyle in order to give more than the tithe. Wesley once wrote, "If I leave behind me ten pounds, you and all mankind can bear witness against me that I have lived and died a thief and a robber."

If, through this time of economic difficulty, God helps return us to the simplicity of following Jesus and growing in Christ-likeness; if God reduces our attachment to material wealth; if God awakens us to the suffering of a larger part of the world's population; if God teaches us that loving, serving, and *giving* are the primary markers of genuine faith—then much *good* may come from these bad times.

Grace and Peace,
Mike Sigler

Ding's A Peal

When last we had a newsletter conversation, I offered a recommendation to watch two Christian movies, Facing the Giants and Fireproof. Well, Terry and Kathleen Wetzel recently shared another movie with Karen and me, The Perfect Stranger. How would react if you received an invitation for Christ to have dinner with Him. Would you accept? Would you believe the invitation was from Him? What might you ask Him? The movie asks and answers these questions and others. I have accepted the concept, paraphrasing Christ's words, "I Am the Way," but I really did not understand the why in the premise. This film brought a new view of "The Way" to me and a new understanding. I suggest that you add The Perfect Stranger to your list of "Must Sees." You will be entertained and asked to look at concepts and ideas from new viewpoint.

FwX, (Fly with Christ),
Trash

Upcoming Walks and Flights

- † *Walk 198 (Men's)*
Feb 5 - 8, 2009
- † *Flt 72/Jry 21 (Boys')*
Feb 19-23, 2009
- † *Walk 199 (Women's)*
Feb 26-Mar 1, 2009
- † *Flight 73 (Girls')*
Mar 26 - 29, 2009
- † *Walk 200 (Women's)*
Apr 16 - 19, 2009
- † *Walk 201 (Men's)*
Apr 30 - May 3, 2009

Our Next Meeting

Thursday, Feb 05
Rooms 203-204
6:30 P. M.

Please bring your
Nametags and Guides

**BEACHSIDE
EMMAUS**

103 First Street SE
Fort Walton Beach,
Florida 32548

Phone: 850-243-9292

Fax: 850-243-0905

Editor's Comments

Hope you all had a Christmas and New Year's season. No meeting in January so no meeting notes.

I will miss the February meeting as I will be helping on Walk 198.

FwX, (Fly with Christ),
Trash

Next Walks, Flights, or Journeys:

Walk 198 (Men's)	Feb 05 - 08	Attendees	Henry Jablonski, (<i>Robert Hawkins</i>), Phil Humber (<i>Chris Garrick</i>)
Flight 72 /Journey 21(Boys')	Feb 19 - 23	Attendees	TBD
Walk 199 (Women's)	Feb 26 – Mar 1	Attendee	TBD

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

See us at: <http://beachside.truepath.com>

7

BEACHSIDE EMMAUS

103 First Street SE
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548