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Speech at Emmaus Bible School Commencement

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5/29/79

*both - the aspect of "developmental" (evolutionary) - ...
Falsification
- Learning process & life long exper - stages of life
✓ ~~development~~ commitment
✓ ~~instincts~~ f. ~~instinct~~
✓ ~~learn~~ mistake*

EMMAUS BIBLE SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT

TODAY

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE WITH YOU ~~TONIGHT~~ AND TO SHARE THE

JOY OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENT. AS YOU EXPERIENCE THE FLAVOR OF

THIS HOUR, I ASK YOU TO TAKE A MOMENT TO LOOK BACK ON THE

LEARNING PROCESS YOU HAVE JUST COMPLETED WITH ITS STUDY,

TESTING, STRESS, COMPANIONSHIPS, DISAPPOINTMENTS, DISCIPLINE,

all of you have some

ANXIETY, AND ENCOURAGEMENTS. ~~YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED THE PAIN OF~~

as part of your learning - growth - and

~~GROWTH AS PART OF YOUR PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE.~~

I KNEW OF A MAN WHO HAD THE PRACTICE ONCE A MONTH OF DIPPING

HIS ENTIRE BODY IN SCALDING HOT WATER. THE PROCESS WOULD

TAKE APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF HOUR AND AT THE CONCLUSION ALL

BUT HIS HEAD WOULD BE IMMERSSED. HE DID THIS TO FEEL PAIN

*in every part and extremity of his body
and he lost his senses - what then some
muscleless right not at all this person*

was an intelligent well reasoned physician -
Dr. F. Brand -

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~~YOU SEE THIS MAN WAS DR. BRAND, A MEDICAL MISSIONARY IN INDIA
WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF A LARGE LEPROSARIUM. AT THIS REMOTE MISSION
STATION THE ONLY WAY HE COULD EFFECTIVELY TEST WHETHER OR NOT HE
HAD CONTRACTED THE DISEASE WAS TO FEEL THE SENSATION OF PAIN.~~

the reality of and freedom from that
TO HIM PAIN MEANT LIFE OR ~~CONTINUED GROWTH.~~
destructive and debilitating disease -

~~THE TITLE OF MY BRIEF REMARKS TONIGHT IS "THE JUSTICE OF PAIN,"
OR "THE WEIGHT OF HIS GLORY."~~

Some thing that is sinful hurts
~~AS WE DISCUSS THE SUBJECT OF PAIN TONIGHT, LET US AGREE UPON~~
And

~~THE FOLLOWING DEFINITION: "A HURT THAT DEMANDS A RESPONSE."~~

We some times describe it as
~~THIS OF COURSE WOULD INCLUDE THE PHYSICAL PAIN WE'VE ALL~~
but more often than not it is the
~~And some times as~~
~~EXPERIENCED IN VARYING DEGREES AND THE MENTAL PAIN THAT COMES~~

or better
~~WITH DISAPPOINTMENT, REJECTION, AND FAILURE, AND THE ANXIETY OF~~

THE UNKNOWN IN THE TOIL OF STRETCHING FOR A YET TO BE REACHED

ACCOMPLISHMENT. *that is the more difficult to*

learn and angles is usual

Common

*of the world
the age*

the ultimate of is

THE MESSAGE OF THIS WORLD IS THAT LIFE MEANS LIBERTY AND THE

PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS. THE BEST LIFE IS THE MOST COMFORTABLE

with the end

with all the firmness - ~~to go~~ to go and being to do what I want to do when I want to do it

LIFE) BUT WE MARCH TO A DIFFERENT DRUMMER. GOD HAS CALLED US

who seek to follow Jesus are called to

TO SHARE IN HIS PAIN, TO LEARN THAT LIFE BEGINS WITH DEATH.

FREEDOM COMES FROM SURRENDER AND HAPPINESS CANNOT BE UNDERSTOOD

suffering we are told

WITHOUT PAIN. ~~GOD TELLS US~~ THAT OUR MOMENTARY TROUBLES ARE

ACTUALLY HELPING US TO ACHIEVE AND SHARE AN ETERNAL GLORY THAT

FAR OUTWEIGHTS THEM ALL.

A

*that confers
and provide*

are obtained

TO KNOW AND SERVE GOD IS TO KNOW PAIN THAT IS THE EVIDENCE OF LIFE,

THIS INVOLVES MUCH MORE THAN THE ONE TIME EVENT OF SALVATION BUT

IT IS A PROCESS AND INVOLVES THE HURT THAT FLOWS FROM RISKING THE

INVESTMENT OF ONE'S SELF IN THE LIFE OF ANOTHER.

THE PAIN OF THE UNKNOWN FUTURE AND WITH IT THE CHALLENGE TO
INITIATE AND CREATE.

IN GOD'S PLAN, PAIN WHETHER IT BE DIRECTED OR ALLOWED IS ^{often} ~~THE~~

the crucible
~~CATALYST~~ FOR UNDERSTANDING HIS LOVE.

CHRIST'S MESSAGE TO US IS CLEAR AND CONCISE. IN THE GOSPEL
OF JOHN CHAPTER 17 WE ARE TOLD "NOW THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE THAT YOU
MAY KNOW GOD." TO KNOW GOD THERE MUST FIRST BE THE EXPERIENCE
OF REBIRTH. THEREAFTER A RELATIONSHIP IS TO DEVELOP. NOW THE
BASIC PREMISE OF THIS RELATIONSHIP IS THE NEED FOR ALTERATION.
AN ALTERATION OF ONE WHO WAS ALIENATED FROM GOD TO ONE WHO SOME
DAY WILL ASSUME HIS GLORY. WE CAN EXPECT PAIN IN THE PROCESS. IN
EXAMINING THE JUSTICE OF THIS PROCESS WE MUST FIRST UNDERSTAND

~~THE NATURE OF GOD. WHAT IS YOUR CONCEPT OF GOD? I AM NOT~~

~~ASKING FOR A GROCERY LIST OF ATTRIBUTES, OMNISCIENCE, OMNIPOTENCE,~~

~~OMNIPRESENCE BUT YOUR UNDERSTANDING AS A RESULT OF YOUR LIFE~~

~~EXPERIENCE. HOW DO YOU PERCEIVE GOD? GOD IS GOOD, GOD IS LOVE,~~

BUT GOD'S GOODNESS AND GOD'S LOVE IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN

A HUMAN UNDERSTANDING OF THESE CONCEPTS. WHAT SEEMS TO US TO BE

GOOD MAY BE EVIL IN HIS EYES. ~~TO KNOW GOD THEN IS NOT SIMPLY~~

~~TO OBEY HIM BUT TO BE INVOLVED IN THE LEARNING AND UNDERSTANDING~~

~~HIM. GOD'S LOVE DOES NOT MEAN A GOODNESS THAT CAN BE EQUATED~~

^a WITH¹ KINDNESS OR A HAPPINESS THAT SAYS IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT

ONE DOES AS LONG AS ONE IS CONTENTED. THIS EXPRESSION OF KINDNESS

OR HAPPINESS, CARES NOT WHETHER ITS OBJECT ^{is growing + developing} ~~BECOMES GOOD OR BAD~~

~~PROVIDED ONLY THAT IT ESCAPES SUFFERING. C.S. LEWIS HAS~~

^{Person's a good} DESCRIBED THE AVERAGE MAN'S CONCEPT OF GOD AS FOLLOWS:

"WE WANT IN FACT NOT SO MUCH A FATHER IN HEAVEN AS A GRANDFATHER
 IN HEAVEN, SENILE BENEVOLENCE WHO, AS THEY SAY LIKED TO SEE
 YOUNG PEOPLE ENJOYING THEMSELVES, WHOSE PLAN FOR THE UNIVERSE WAS
 SIMPLY THAT IT MIGHT BE SAID AT THE END OF EACH DAY A GOOD TIME
 WAS HAD BY ALL."

IF GOD IS LOVE, HE MUST BE MORE THAN KIND. HE HAS PAID US THE
 COMPLIMENT OF LOVING US IN THE DEEPEST MOST TRAGIC SENSE. HE
 SUFFERED PAIN THROUGH SEPARATION AND DEATH OF HIS SON THAT WE
 MIGHT HAVE LIFE. AND SO AS WE ARE ENJOINED TIME AND TIME AGAIN

IN SCRIPTURE TO IDENTIFY WITH THE PAIN OF HIS SACRIFICE AND DEATH

in so doing AND WE ARE CALLED TO A PROCESS OF ALTERATION. *remaining, growing and* THE DEATH OF CHRIST

DOES NOT ELIMINATE THIS PROCESS. IT SIMPLY PROVIDES THE

for each of us to make a choice - a choice to ~~commence~~ and ~~accept~~ and
 OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENCE THE PROCESS, ~~AND SO WE ARE REMINDED BY~~
 APOSTLE PAUL

And as the Apostle Paul said
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"TO REJOICE IN THE HOPE OF THE GLORY OF GOD, TO REJOICE IN OUR
SUFFERING BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT SUFFERING PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE,
PERSEVERANCE, CHARACTER; CHARACTER, HOPE. AND THAT HOPE
DOES NOT DISAPPOINT US BECAUSE GOD HAS POURED OUT HIS LOVE INTO
OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOM HE HAS GIVEN US."

So for those of us who have made such a choice we still

~~SO~~ WE STAND HERE ^{Today} TONIGHT AS UNCOMPLETED ARTIFACTS OF GOD'S CREATION,

AS A DIVINE WORK OF ART WE ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS OF BEING
*This shaping occurs as we are enveloped in the world around
not isolated and cut off with ourselves*
CREATED AND SHAPED IN HIS GLORY. ~~WE CAN AND SHOULD EXPECT TO~~

EXPERIENCE THE AGONY AND PAIN OF THIS SHAPING PROCESS TO THE END

THAT OUR ILLUSION OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY MUST BE SHATTERED

AND THE PLAUSIBLE SOURCES OF FALSE HAPPINESS MUST BE

ELIMINATED. YOU SEE IT IS THIS ILLUSION OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY

THAT CONTINUES WITH US AND IS A PRESENT DANGER ESPECIALLY IN

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SUCCESS. THE ACT OF SELF SURRENDER CANNOT BE WILLED OR ACCOMPLISHED IN THE ABSENCE OF SACRIFICE AND SURRENDER. WHAT THEN CAN GOD DO IN OUR INTERESTS BUT MAKE OUR OWN LIFE LESS AGREEABLE AND TAKE AWAY THE PLAUSIBLE SOURCES OF FALSE HAPPINESS. THIS IS DIVINE JUSTICE.

WE HAVE ALL HAD THIS TYPE OF EXPERIENCE IN OUR PERSONAL LIVES.

I CAN REMEMBER SUCH A TIME IN MY OWN LIFE - I WAS STRIVING HARD TO BE A SUCCESSFUL LAWYER, I WANTED TO BUILD A PRACTICE - I LEFT THE SECURITY OF A LARGE _____. WE WERE BUILDING A LAW FIRM AND A PRACTICE. BY 1971 WE ALL WERE MOVING - WE HAD TEN LAWYERS. I HAD JUST COMPLETED WORK ON A SUCCESSFUL MERGER OF ONE OF OUR CLIENTS WITH A MAJOR COMPANY ON THE NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE AND OUR FIRM HAD BEEN DESIGNATED AS COUNSEL TO THE SURVIVING CORPORATION. FROM A MONETARY AND

PROFESSIONAL STANDPOINT I WAS AT A FLOOD - NOT REALIZING
THAT CERTAIN EBB CURRENTS WERE ALREADY AT WORK. THE MONETARY
SUCCESS OF THE FIRM RESULTED IN TENSION WITHIN THE FIRM -
LOSS OF SOME - MY HEALTH CAME TO A SUDDEN LOW AND I FOUND MYSELF
IN THE HOSPITAL FOR SIX WEEKS RECUPERATING FROM A SERIOUS
OPERATION AND WITH THE FORCED TIME OF REFLECTION. I ALSO
REALIZED THAT I HAD EFFECTIVELY EXCLUDED MY WIFE AND FAMILY
FROM THE FLOODS OF MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE - BUT THESE EBB
EXPERIENCES WERE ALL PART OF PREPARATION FOR NEW OPPORTUNITIES
APART FROM THE PRACTICE OF LAW. CHANGES THAT BROUGHT ME TO
WHEATON AND THEN TO SERVICEMASTER.

IT IS NOT ONLY IN THE DENYING OF SELF THAT ONE EXPERIENCES THE
DIVINE BENEFITS OF PAIN. IN I JOHN, CHAPTER 4 WE ARE TOLD
"THAT THIS IS LOVE, NOT THAT WE LOVE GOD BUT THAT HE LOVED
US AND SENT HIS SON AS A SACRIFICE FOR OUR SINS." WE ARE
REMINDED THAT NO ONE HAS EVER SEEN GOD BUT IF WE LOVE EACH OTHER
GOD LIVES IN US AND HIS LOVE IS MADE COMPLETE IN US. THUS
GOD'S LOVE

CAN ONLY BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD IF WE RISK THE PAIN OF INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHERS. IT IS A RISK OF AN INVESTMENT, INVESTMENT OF ONE'S SELF IN THE LIFE OF ANOTHER AND THUS TO RISK THE PAIN OF REJECTION, REBUKE, FAILURE. IT IS TO EXPERIENCE THAT VICARIOUS PAIN OF KNOWING AND UNDERSTANDING ANOTHER'S FEELINGS. PAIN EXPERIENCED IN THE BODY OF CHRIST IS ONE OF THE VEHICLES THAT ALLOWS THE BODY TO ACT AS A UNIT. THE RESPONSE TO A MEMBER OF THE BODY IN PAIN DEMANDS PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT, PRESENCE AND CONCERN, COMMUNICATION AND PRAYER. THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL FUNCTIONING BODY OF CHRIST IS ITS ABILITY TO SENSE AND RESPOND TO PAIN. MUCH LIKE A LEPER, A LOCAL BODY OF CHRISTIANS WILL DESTROY ITSELF IF IT BECOMES NUMB OR CALLOUSED OR IGNORES THE CRY OF PAIN OF ITS MEMBERS. MANY LOCAL BODIES OF CHRIST ARE

SUFFERING AND DECAYING TODAY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT SUFFER
ENOUGH WITH THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS.

I WISH THAT EACH OF YOU COULD HAVE SHARED WITH ME THE PAINFUL
EXPERIENCES I HAVE HAD THIS PAST YEAR, AS AN ELDER OF A LOCAL
ASSEMBLY, WORKING WITH A YOUNG COUPLE WHO HAVE DECIDED THAT MARRIAGE
AND THE FAMILY COMMITMENT IS NO LONGER WORTH IT. THE AGONY OF
COMPLICATED EMOTIONAL ISSUES THAT HAVE NO PAT ANSWERS, THE PAIN
OF BROKEN SPIRITS COMPOUNDED BY ACUTE FINANCIAL NEEDS AND THE
CONFUSION OF BEWILDERED CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN REJECTED OR
IGNORED BY BOTH PARENTS AS THEY MAKE A DESPARATE EFFORT TO
SECURE A BETTER SOLUTION. PEOPLE WHO HAVE CALLED UPON GOD
AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOR BUT WHO ARE RESOLVING THE ISSUES OF
LIFE ON A LESSER OF EVILS BASIS.

IN RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR MEANINGFUL HORIZONTAL RELATIONSHIPS WE ARE CONFRONTED WITH THE INTRINSIC WORTH OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE GROWTH OF THAT INDIVIDUAL. EACH OF US HAS BEEN CONDITIONED BY OUR OWN EXPERIENCE AND ENVIRONMENT TO UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF GROWTH ONLY WITHIN A FRAME OF REFERENCE THAT HAS DEFINED LIMITATIONS. SO WE KNOW THAT PEOPLE GROW ONLY SO TALL AND THEN STOP. WE KNOW THAT CITIES OR GOVERNMENTS GROW - BUT ONLY WITHIN DEFINED TERRITORIAL LIMITATIONS. BUSINESS' GROWTH IS LIMITED BY THE SIZE OF THE MARKET IT SERVES. PEOPLE LEARN, BUT ONLY WITH THE LIMITS OF THEIR INTELLIGENCE.

I SUGGEST ANOTHER DIMENSION FOR OUR THINKING. THE PRIMARY ISSUE IS NOT THE GROWTH OF THINGS, ALL WITH DEFINED LIVES AND LIMITATIONS. NO, THE REAL ISSUE IS THE GROWTH OF PERSONS.

NOT JUST PEOPLE WHO ARE SO TALL AND HAVE CERTAIN PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS AND SPECIFIC I.Q.'S. NO, NOT PEOPLE, BUT PERSONS- THE BEING OF MAN - THAT BEING THAT WAS CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE AND AS SUCH IS AN ETERNAL BEING WITH A POTENTIAL FOR THE INFINITE AS SO WE ARE AGENTS OF GOD IN THE PAINFUL GROWTH OF OTHERS AND IN TURN WE GROW. AS C.S. LEWIS REMINDED US "THERE ARE NO ORDINARY PEOPLE." YOU HAVE NEVER TALKED TO A MERE MORTAL. NATIONS, CULTURES, ARTS, CIVILIZATIONS, THESE ARE MORTAL AND THEIR LIFE IS TO OURS AS THE LIFE OF A GNAT. BUT IT IS IMMORTAL WHOM WE JOKE WITH, WORK WITH, MARRY, SNUB, AND EXPLOIT.

NOW AS WE HAVE TALKED ABOUT OUR OWN PAIN AND THE PAIN OF IDENTIFYING AND RELATING TO OTHERS, LET ME SUGGEST A THIRD FORM OF GROWING PAIN- THE PAIN OF RESPONSE AND MOVEMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF AN UNKNOWN FUTURE. GOD HAS CALLED US TO A LIFE OF A SUBSTANTIAL UNKNOWN.

HE EXPECTS US TO MOVE ON WITHOUT ALL OF THE ANSWERS AND IN THE PROCESS TO INITIATE AND CREATE. WE SOMETIMES REFER TO THIS PAIN AS KNOWING GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIFE.

EXAMINE YOUR POSITION THIS EVENING AS YOU EXPERIENCE THIS COMMENCEMENT PROCESS. DO YOU LOOK UPON YOURSELF AS ONE WHO HAS FINISHED THE COURSE OF INSTRUCTION AT EMMAUS BIBLE SCHOOL OR ONE WHO IS COMMENCING ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ALL THE CREATIVITY AND INITIATIVE GOD HAS IMPARTED TO YOU. NOW I ASSUME FOR SOME OF YOU THAT THE SPECIFICS OF THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE MAY BE BLURRED. THE PAINFUL EXPERIENCE OF MOVING AHEAD WITHOUT ALL THE SPECIFICS IN SIGHT MAY MEAN FAR MORE FOR YOU IN THE GROWTH PROCESS OF ALTERNATION TO HIS GLORY OF GOD THAN IF YOU WERE HERE WITH ALL THE SPECIFICS IN MIND. AS YOU COMMENCE THIS NEW ADVENTURE

WITH GOD, WHATEVER THAT MIGHT BE, YOU HAVE A DUTY, AN
OBLIGATION TO USE YOUR TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE TO INITIATE.
GOD'S WORK IS DEPENDENT UPON IT.

I CAN STILL REMEMBER COMMENCEMENT DAY FOR ME SIXTEEN YEARS AGO.
I HAD COMPLETED A RIGOROUS THREE YEAR PROCESS COMMONLY REFERRED
TO AS LAW SCHOOL. THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER WAS JUSTICE SCHAEFFER,
CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

A COMMENT HE MADE THAT DAY MADE AN IMPRESSION UPON ME BECAUSE
WHEN I FIRST HEARD IT I DID NOT BELIEVE IT AND SINCE THAT TIME
IT HAS PROVED TO BE A MOST ACCURATE ASSESSMENT. THE THOUGHT WAS
SIMPLY THAT WE AS A GRADUATING CLASS HAD MORE SYSTEMATIC
CURRENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAW THAN HE HAD AFTER 25 YEARS
OF PRACTICE AND 10 YEARS AS A DISTINGUISHED JURIST. ALTHOUGH

WISDOM HAD BEEN GAINED DURING THIS PERIOD HIS DEALING WITH LEGAL PROBLEMS WAS LIMITED TO INDIVIDUAL CASES AND AFTER LAW SCHOOL THERE NEVER AGAIN WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THREE YEARS OF CONCENTRATED SYSTEMATIC STUDY OF THE ENTIRE BODY OF THE LAW. HE THEN REMINDED US THAT THE VITALITY OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION WAS DEPENDENT UPON THE NEW YOUNG LAWYERS WITH THEIR CURRENT KNOWLEDGE, THE WILL TO INITIATE AND INTEGRATE THAT KNOWLEDGE WITH THE WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE OF THEIR ELDERS. THE PROCESS WOULD INVOLVE SOME PAIN AND TENSION.

SO YOU TOO HAVE A SIMILAR OPPORTUNITY AND OBLIGATION. YOU'VE JUST COMPLETED A SYSTEMATIC COURSE OF STUDY OF GOD'S WORD AND RELATED SUBJECTS. YOU ARE BETTER PREPARED AND HAVE MORE KNOWLEDGE THAN 98% OF THE PEOPLE YOU WILL BE COMING IN CONTACT

WITH THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY OR CHURCH THAT YOU ATTEND, HOW BEST CAN YOU USE THIS KNOWLEDGE? IN THE PROCESS OF USING IT WILL THERE BE PAIN OR TENSION? DO NOT ALLOW YOUR LEARNING OR KNOWLEDGE OF THE SCRIPTURES TO SIMPLY BE AN ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENT, YOU MUST DO MORE THAN BE PREPARED TO EXERGET A PARTICULAR PASSAGE OR HAVE ALL OF THE SYMBOLISM OF THE TABERNACLE OUTLINED WITH THE APPROPRIATE ALLITERATIONS. THE KNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE MUST BE TRANSLATED IN YOUR LIFE AND INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS, YOU MUST EXPERIENCE THE PAIN OF SEARCHING FOR AND APPLYING BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES. THERE ARE PAINFUL ISSUES TODAY THAT ARE SHOUTING FOR A RESPONSE-- DIVORCE, ABORTION, HOMOSEXUALITY, THE CRISMATIC MOVEMENT, THE ROLE OF WOMEN, FAMILY COUNSELING THE ROLE AND NEED OF FULL TIME ELDERS, THESE ISSUES ARE NOT ISOLATED TO TIME MAGAZINE BUT ARE PRESENT IN MANY LOCAL ASSEMBLIES AND CHURCHES. WILL YOU BRING A FRESH WAVE OF KNOWLEDGE?E

ABLE TO INTEGRATE YOURSELF AND WORK WITH THOSE WHO
HAVE GAINED WISDOM THROUGH EXPERIENCE AND TO APPLY BIBLICAL
PRINCIPLES TO THESE ISSUES? I UNDERSCORE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES
HERE BECAUSE IT IS THE PRINCIPLE WE OFTEN LOSE SIGHT OF AS
WE ATTEMPT TO PROVE THE SPECIFICS AND BECOME EXCLUSIVE INSTEAD
OF INCLUSIVE. THERE IS NO REAL DIFFICULTY IN DRAWING LINES
WHICH EXCLUDE PEOPLE OR PRACTICES. THE CHALLENGE IS TO DRAW
THE CIRCLE THAT IS INCLUSIVE YET CONSISTENT WITH BASIC BIBLICAL
PRINCIPLES. GOD IS HERE TO GIVE US A CONTINUED REVELATION OF HIS
TRUTH, THE EXCITING VITALITY AND CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE IS THAT
THERE IS MORE OF GOD TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND AND THIS KNOWLEDGE
AND UNDERSTANDING COMES ONLY AFTER THE PAIN OF SEARCHING AND
INTERACTING.

SO MY FRIENDS YOU ARE COMMENCING ON A NEW ADVENTURE AND HAVE
A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY BECAUSE OF YOUR LEARNING HERE AT EMMAUS TO
HAVE AN IMPACT FOR GOD AS YOU SURRENDER SELF--INVEST IN OTHERS
AND STEP FORWARD IN THE LIFE OF FAITH, A LIFE OF SUBSTANTIAL
UNKNOWN, AND TO DISCOVER THAT YOUR ALTERATION TO GOD'S GLORY
REQUIRES A RESPONSE TO GOD'S MEGAPHONE--PAIN AND ALLOWS FOR A
GROWING EXPERIENCE OF ASSUMING THE WEIGHT OF HIS GLORY.