

Grace for Today

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter

April 2024

Coming Events

Sat, Apr 6, Crossroads Church, Canton

4 pm - Babe Chick and Sponsorship Training

5 pm - Gathering - Potluck dinner, with Worship immediately following.

Sat, Apr 20, Gathering, FMC Gladewater

Potluck lunch at noon, with Worship immediately following.

Sat, May 11, Workday at Camp Gilmont

Arrive at 8:00 AM to work; lunch at noon, with Worship immediately following.

Sat, Jun 15, Gathering, Carrol Springs UMC

Potluck lunch at noon, with Worship immediately following.

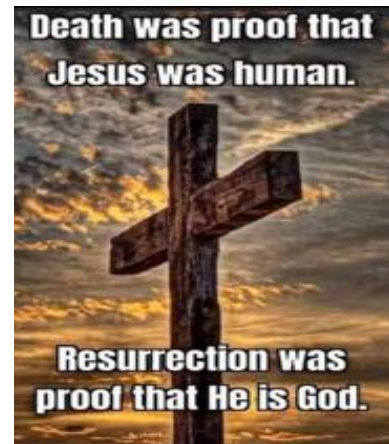


No pessimist ever discovered the secrets of the stars, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new heaven to the human spirit.

—Helen Keller

Find More on the G.R.A.C.E. Website:

www.graceemmaus.com



Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

Luke 24:45–47 (NIV)

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Community Lay Director's Corner

Dear GRACE Emmaus Community,

WOW! The BEST Walks ever! I want to extend a warm welcome to each of the 40 new members of the GRACE Emmaus Community who experienced Walks #104 and #105 at Disciples Crossing. I pray your experience was one you will cherish and remember for the rest of your life. We are excited to have you as a part of our Community.

Our Community is one of wonderful, caring people who continue to seek Christ in everything we do. The intention for your Emmaus weekend is to send you back to your Church as a better member, leader, and example. No better and no worse than anyone else, but hopefully a much closer love and understanding of Christ in you will be evident to others. PLEASE stay active in our Community and get plugged into serving as led by the Holy Spirit.

Thank you to the GRACE Emmaus Community. So many of you devoted yourselves to serve as Christ's hands and feet to support the Pilgrims. You were there for sendoff and Sponsor's Hour. Your prayers filled the Chapel. You spent hours making agape gifts. You spent time praying around the clock and filled the Prayer Vigil. You travelled long distances for Candlelight on Saturday night. And on Sunday, you came back to participate in our Closing ceremonies.

As we begin preparation for our Fall Walks, please prayerfully consider serving on one of the Teams. Serving on a Walk can give you blessings you cannot possibly imagine. If you feel called to serve on either of these Walks, please submit your applications as soon as possible via the link on our website as Team Selection will begin very soon.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our Gathering on Saturday, April 6 at Crossroads Church in Canton. As a Sponsor you committed to having the Pilgrims here at 4pm for Babe Chick Training. We will follow this with a Potluck dinner and Worship service.

Please keep our Fall Walk Lay Directors, Rick Rundquist and Liz Webb, in your prayers as they are busy planning and preparing for Walks #106 and #107.



DeColores,
John Webb
Community Lay Director

Fall Walks Are Coming and You Can Help!

- **Fall Walks at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer**

Men's Walk #106, September 26-29, 2024

Women's Walk #107, October 3-6, 2024

Schedule of events during each Walk -

Thursday: Sponsors, please have Pilgrims arrive promptly at 7pm and stay for Sponsors' Hour after Sendoff.

Saturday: Servers for the Agape dinner arrive at 4pm.

Saturday: For Gathering, Worship and Candlelight arrive at 7pm.

Sunday: Sponsors pick up Pilgrim's belongings at 3:30, Closing begins at 4pm.

- **Pray, Pray, Pray for our Walks!**

- **Consider serving on the Walks!** Team Selection will soon, so it's important for you to get your applications in as soon as possible if you want to serve! Go to our website, www.graceemmaus.com -> Applications tab -> Team Application.

- **Sponsor a Pilgrim!** Do you know someone you would like to share this amazing experience with? Prayfully consider asking them to attend a walk. Pilgrim information is found on our website www.graceemmaus.com -> Applications tab -> Pilgrim Application.

- **Start making agape gifts for men and women!** Recommended number of identical pieces of agape for each Walk (you can add the name of your Reunion Group and city to the Agape, but please do not put the name of your church):

- Agape for Everyone – 72
- Dining Room Agape – 64
- Bed Agape – 36

Feel free to make as many sets as you would like! It's not too early to start! **We will also need lanyards for nametags and crosses, and decorated place mats.**

- **Do you have a Golf Cart or Mule we could borrow for one or both Walks?**

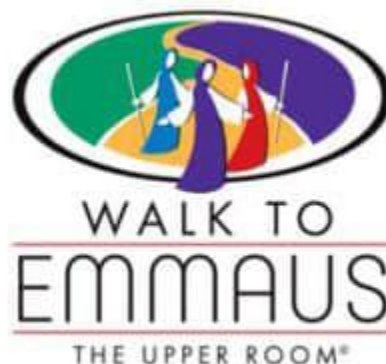
- **Consider being a server for the Agape Dinner on Saturday evening of each Walk.** Women will serve for the Men's Walk on Saturday evening. Men will serve for the Women's Walk on Saturday evening. All you need are black pants, a white shirt, and a willing heart!

- **Mark your calendar to attend the Gathering and Candlelight for each Walk.**



Welcome GRACE Emmaus New Fourth Dayers!

David Arguijo
Chip Arnold
Casey Barnett
Skip Boals
Vaughn Brown
Joel Bunting
Kenneth Davis
Justin Eden
Colton Hawkins
Gene Johnson
Michael Lucas
John Nystrom
Jerry Pruitt
Jeff Reins
Josh Shepard
David Smith
Steve Smith
Brandon Turner
Joe Webber
Frank West
Caleb White
Tod White
Jake Wilson



Jenna Arguijo
Shanna Boals
Mary Bowers
Amanda Brewer
Donna Estes
Brittany Floyd
Gail Gardner
Jessica Hawkins
Janice Heuer
Adriane Lawless
Kari Marshall
Angie Martin
Ginni Metcalf
Katherine Middleton
Toni Nino
Lornita Parson
Teresa White



Fall MEN'S WALK #106

*"For I'm going to do a brand-new thing. See, I have already begun! Don't you see it?
I will make a road through the wilderness of the world for my people to go home,
and create rivers for them in the desert!" Isaiah 43:19 (TLB)*

I am so privileged to humbly serve as your new Men's Walk Lay Director for the fall Walk. The Men's Walk # 106 will be here before we know it.

Can you think of someone you know who would benefit from walking this road through the wilderness, this Walk to Emmaus? Would you like to help lead them to this spiritual river in this desert of the world? Prayerfully search for those who will be blessed by attending a Walk and invite them. For just as my life was, and is, blessed and renewed by attending the Walk, I am positive that yours was too. To not share this would be a wasted opportunity.

We will quickly be forming the Teams for Walk # 106. I encourage you to participate in this journey. Together, we will do mighty things in the name of our Lord. Team Applications can be found on the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Website. If you are not sure which team you would like to serve on, do not be dismayed, we will place you on a team. ALL teams are equally important!

The Walk will not happen without the whole body.
Come! Help "Feed my sheep".
DeColores!

Rick Rundquist
Walk 106 Lay Director



Fall Women's Walk 107

Hi Emmaus Family,

What an honor to be the Walk Lay Director and serve God's Team and this Community for Walk #107!

Our awesome God already knows who will apply to serve on this Walk and I am excited about what His hand is doing. I have prayed for servant hearts to apply to be a part of this Walk. If our focus is on servicing the Lord, we are the greatest example of what it looks like to serve others well. Walk #107 Pilgrims will be blessed indeed. May the Lord provide wisdom and discernment to see His will. Please pray for us.

I also know the Lord chose long ago the Pilgrims who will attend Walk #107. I pray we are all reaching out and encouraging these Pilgrims to come and enjoy this experience. I pray for hungry Pilgrims, those the Lord is trying to take to the next level in their relationship with Him and those the world is depleting so they can come and be filled up and overflowing with the goodness of God. The table will be set, and the hungry will be seated. Lord, have Your way.

Please remember how precious the agape you received on your Walk was to you. What a privilege to show our love to the Pilgrims in this very special way. If we start now there is plenty of time to get several items completed that will brighten and encourage each Pilgrim. Please participate.

If you were part of the COVID Lockdown Walk at Disciples Crossing in March, 2020 then you will remember how the Servant Team went above and beyond to make Walk #93 special for the Pilgrims. Y'all, I cannot impress upon you how vital this Servant Team is for EACH Walk. Our Servant Team is so important to the smooth function and operation of every Walk. May we never think lesser of serving here as it may be the most important role on a Walk as a servant of our Lord and Savior.

Keep in mind a young boy named Robert Moffat who came from a poor, but devout Christian family. Having nothing to give the Lord, he asked the Deacon to lower the offering plate, and as he climbed in said, "All I have to give is myself." May this be the posture of our heart for this Walk. Open our eyes, Lord.

Maybe you believe you can no longer serve on Walks. If you are capable of praying, please don't minimize this gift. Don't ever underestimate the importance of the time you spend daily on your knees for these Walks. Prayer changes things. Prayer changes hearts. Prayer changes how people receive and respond in situations. Prayer makes a difference. Your prayers for Walk #107 are needed. Please sign up for our Prayer Vigil under the tab on our GRACE Emmaus website: www.GRACEemmaus.com

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.”
James 5:16

The Lord has great plans for Walk #107. Pilgrims will come from near and far and I truly believe they will be rewarded with a new commission to take home to their church.

The cross is and always will be a symbol of our Lord’s dying love for us. Our job is to reach out and serve those around us. Please join daily in praying this Team up, let us continue to fight the good fight and spread God’s Word.

Lord, You will not mine.

DeColores,

Liz Webb
Lay Director Women’s Walk #107



Remembering the 'Best Walks Ever'

Men's Walk #104

Walk 104 is in the books.

As all Walks go it was "The Best Walk Ever", and as this walk goes it truly was the best Walk I have been on in a long time. Chains were broken, souls were saved, and lives changed due to the love of the Holy Spirit's presence. We had a great music team playing wonderful music all weekend long.

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to lead this walk. It was an experience I will cherish forever. I am praying that all the pilgrims received a blessing from their experience of being on the walk.

God is counting on me, and I am counting on God!

Eddie Leibold
Walk #104 Lay Director



Women's Walk #105

What a beautiful, God filled weekend we had!

Walk #105 could not have been more blessed. In spite of rainy weather, backed up septic, and fewer pilgrims than we wanted ... God showed up in a big way. God showed me so many times through the planning, preparation and then through the weekend, that He is in the details. I tend to think that He doesn't have time for the little details. He has much bigger problems to worry about. But that is not the case! He showed me, over and over, how He was in all the details of this Walk.

As I was praying Friday morning, asking God for discernment and direction; asking him to do this and that ... I clearly heard God tell me to be still and let Him do what He does. He never disappoints! He did so much more than I could have imagined!

Once again, God made it "the best walk ever"!

Sandra Grasch
Walk #105 Lay Director

Thoughts of a new Fourth Dayer



I just left Walk 104 taking my pilgrim home. The first thing he said when he got in the car was that, even though he was trying to think of a way to leave on Friday, he was thankful and understood why all the details were not disclosed to him. He said it just kept getting better. He now looks forward to the Reunion Group meeting every week. My Fourth Dayer is a good servant, and I believe the Walk has and will continue to increase his servant's heart.

Blessings!

Bob Holloway
Community Prayer Vigil/ Wall Agape

From the Webmaster



Grace Community, DeColores!

The Team Applications page on the website has been updated and is ready for submissions for walks 106 and 107. Walk 106 is for men and will be held from September 26 to 29, 2024, at Camp Gilmont, and Walk 107 is for women and will be held from October 3 to 6, 2024, at Camp Gilmont. Also, be aware that the Walk fees will be increased due to economic pressures outside of our control. We have explored all options to keep the price as low as possible, and this is the only option we had as a community to keep these Walks sustainable. You will be notified when the new cost is determined. Please start submitting your applications ASAP, as team selections will take place soon. If you have problems submitting an application, please email or call the Webmaster so I can help you get your application submitted. We do not want anyone to miss out because of a technical issue. My contact info is listed on the Board Members page of the website.

If you would like to make agape for the walks, there is a new AGAPE page on the website that details the amount and needs for the walks. Please start making agape now, as the walks will be here before you know it.

It is also time to start thinking about Pilgrim's sponsorship for the next walks. If you have asked someone ten times and can't get a commitment, please bring them to one of our monthly gatherings. This may be the love and comfort needed to get a yes. Continue to pray and discern who God is calling you to invite and ask that He will soften their hearts to join the Emmaus family.

Brian Walker, Community Webmaster

Are We Different?

If you know me, then you know that one of my greatest procrastinations is exercise. And of the different types of physical exercise available to us, "running" is one that makes me cringe to even think about. At my age, if I am running, someone better be chasing me.

But did you know that the bible calls us to run? In fact, it calls us to run a race. That's right. But we are not talking about physically running. Instead, we are to run a spiritual race.

According to 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable. So, I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified."

If we shall run, we should run to win! There are many people today who will be competing in life in order to win a championship! They have a desire, that is then connected with discipline, and connected to their devotion to winning. Let me encourage you to Run the Good Race! For the greater game is the game of life that we all get to compete in with God's Gifts, Power, and Promise! Let us lay aside anything that would hinder us in that game, in that race, and begin running to win!

Through faith in Jesus, we have everything we need to win! God has gifted us the desire to know and experience Him! God has gifted us His Holy Spirit to equip us to win! And we must fight through with devotion to God to win His Race for us, His Purpose! Yay God!

Chad Bearden
Ex Officio Community Lay Director



Plant Daffodils



If you want to understand the ways of the Lord, plant daffodils.

Early in spring, there's just a plain field or a plain patch of dirt. But leave for a weeklong trip, and when you return, you may find a field of yellow! Where there had been nothing, now gorgeous stems stand proud and graceful, bursts of life from barren ground. Amazing! We made a trip a couple of weeks ago to Ms. Lees Daffodil Garden. There weren't precious little sprouts peeking through the soil, but stems and stems, strong and plentiful, hundreds reporting the week of warming weather. There is nothing new in this story, especially if you are a seasoned gardener, but it "springs" up two points:

First, that we can hear spring stories like this — seeds sprouting, bare trees leafing out, flower buds swelling to bloom — but when we see them, when they are our personal experience and when we personally stand in awe at their appearance, that is another matter altogether (Job 42:5). We know; we believe! Life has burst up from the sleeping soil before our very eyes and sends joy, resilience and wonder surging through our soul.

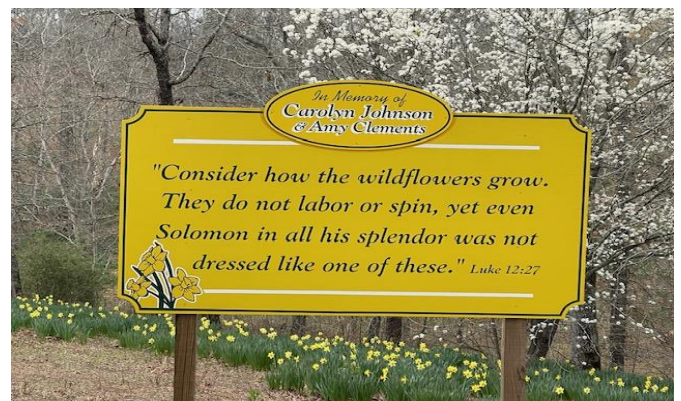
Secondly, that the garden stewards the story of spring, the resurrection story: What was dead comes back to life. The moment simply speaks to us of Jesus' resurrection, an event the returning array of daffodils imprints on us with a deeper intensity. The bare plot turned yellow beauty shows us new birth and a living hope (1 Peter 1:3 – 4), a graphic and amazing account of death to life.

The hosannas of the lilacs, can you hear them shout and sing? The greening of the grass. The leafing of the trees. How could anyone not see what's happening, how could anyone miss it? There is nothing subtle or cryptic about it. Who wouldn't be a believer, watching breathlessly in reverential awe, as unfathomable wonders, one after another, reveal themselves to us?

Over and over the spring garden proclaims the way of God's salvation (Psalm 67:1); new shoots and vibrant leaves keep us in the company of the redemption story, reminding us that God has blessed us with his salvation (Psalm 67:6).

Happy Spring 🌷

Charlene Burton
Community Registrar



Publications For You

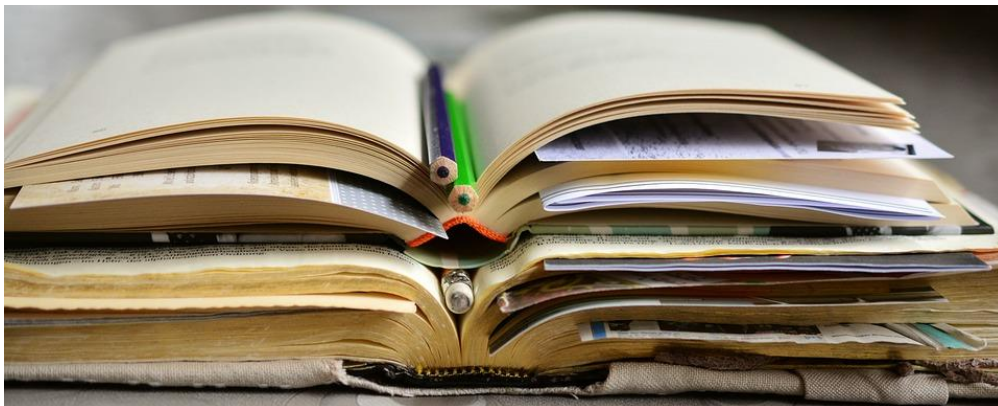
Hello to all my G.R.A.C.E brothers and sisters. My name is Carolyn McCain and for the last two years I have served the GRACE board as Secretary. Currently I am serving as the Publications Coordinator.

That means I order all the materials we use at the walks and distribute at Gatherings and other G.R.A.C.E Events. I prepare the materials for each walk and make sure they have plenty of each product to distribute to the pilgrims and others who might need something. I also provide the materials for Babe Chick and Sponsorship training. There is always a basket at each gathering with Purple Books, Sponsorship books, Upper Room Devotional Books, etc. Anyone can pick up what they need and leave the designated payment in the basket.

A good publication for anyone who is truly interested in getting more involved in the Walk to Emmaus, and its workings might need a copy of Emmaus Ministries Community Manual. If you would like a copy, please email me at cbmccain@hotmail.com. Price is \$18.00 for the publication plus \$7.00 for shipping. I also have copies of the publications that are in the packet given to each pilgrim at the end of their Walk. They are "Sponsorship", "Coming Down From the Mountain", "Day Four" and "Sustaining the Spirit". If you would like any of these booklets, you can email me at the above address.

I pray for the community and hope you have wonderful memories of your Walk. Think about serving on a team, sponsoring a pilgrim or attending monthly gatherings. Remember, you get out of Emmaus what you put in it.

Carolyn McCain
Community Publication



Daniel and the Lions

Daniel has just learned that his worship would sentence him to death in the lion's den. While many know this portion of Scripture, it is Daniel's steadfast response to the decree that serves as a profound reminder to us all.

"When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously." Daniel 6:10

"As he had done previously."

His fate sealed, Daniel is guaranteed the consequences of going about life the same, yet he didn't waver in his commitment to worship. He didn't mourn the loss of his right to pray, he prayed as he had previously done. He didn't deny the punishment that was to come, he fixed his eyes on Jerusalem as he had previously done, remembering his identity as God's chosen people. He didn't fear death, he worshipped as he had previously done.

He remembered Who was in control. He remembered Who alone he worshipped. He responded by doing just as he had done previously. Be like Daniel.

Friends, I don't know where you find yourself. I don't know where you stand with Jesus Christ. I don't know what you believe and hold to. But I can tell you my response will be to do as Daniel did.

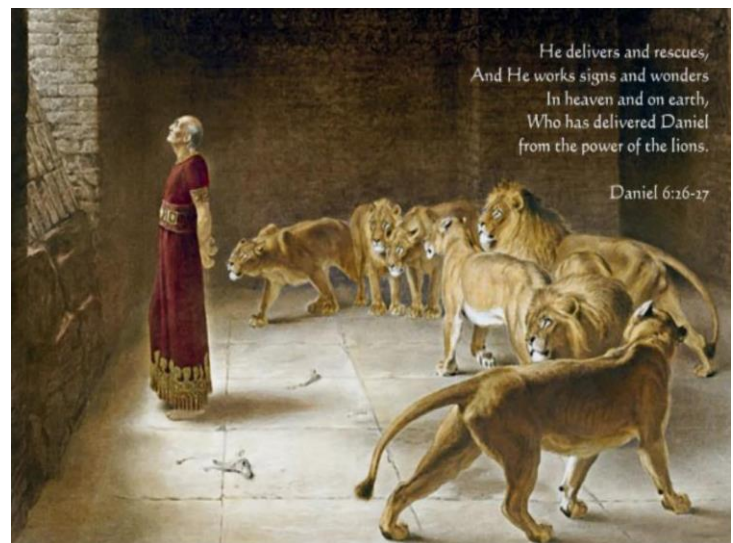
I will go about my days reading His Word, being refined by His truth, transformed by His holiness, forever reminded that He holds our days in His hands.

I do not know what tomorrow holds. I do not know what life looks like ten years from now. I do know my God is bigger. I do know my God created it all. He is the Alpha and the Omega. Nothing happens without His foreknowledge. Everything is orchestrated or allowed by God. His hands are in and through it all as though kneading dough. Scripture validates this truth.

I can be like Daniel. I can surrender to the will of the Father, worshiping Him no matter what lies ahead.

You can too. You can choose to be like Daniel. Fix your eyes on Him. Fall on your knees before Him. Pray, give thanks, and worship God.

The God who shut the mouths of lions for Daniel holds our future in His hands.



Not Forgotten

*The Lord says, " Can a women forget her nursing child,
fail to pity the child of her womb?
Even these may forget, but I won't forget you.
Look, on my palms I've inscribed you ".
Isaiah 49:15-16*

I have nothing to fear because God will never forget me.

My forgetfulness reminds me how wonderful it is to know that God doesn't forget us. God doesn't misplace us or leave us unattended. God knows exactly where we are and what we need.

God also tells us not to fear. Fear can be crippling, but we are reminded that if we have received the gift of salvation, we are redeemed. God knows us and our circumstances, so we do not need to fear.

We can have faith that God will give us what we need. When we are focused on ourselves and our current situation, it's easy to forget past blessings and to fear the future. But God reminds us to keep our faith focused on the One who will not forget us.

*Dear God, thank you for never forgetting who we are and what we need.
Help us not to live in fear but in faith. Amen*

Dennis Gage
Community Book Table



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SUPPORT FOR THE GRACE EMMAUS COMMUNITY

The G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community wishes to continue to spread the life-changing experience that an Emmaus weekend can deliver. Won't you help us by donating funds for scholarships for both Pilgrims and team members, or the general fund of our community? We are asking you to consider donating \$5, \$10, \$25 monthly or whatever amount you would like to set the donation to. This monthly donation will be debited automatically from your bank account on or about the 15th of the month.

Thank you for your continued support of our Emmaus community.

De Colores

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW:

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

BANK INFORMATION

I (We) hereby authorize GRACE Emmaus to initiate debit entries to my (our) checking in account indicated below. The amount will be charged monthly. This authority is to remain in full force and effect until GRACE Emmaus receives written notification of its termination.

Monthly gift amount \$ _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Fill out information below or attach voided check.

Depository Name: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Account #: _____

Transit/ABA #: _____

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P.O. Box 132212

Tyler, TX 75713-2212