

Devotional from our Spiritual Director

April, 2009
Volume 9, Issue 4

G.R.A.C.E. Website
www.gracemmaus.org

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NEXT GATHERING!

**April 18th, TYLER Lanes
Chapel UMC
Saturday, (babe chick-
11am, potluck-noon,
worship-1:15 pm)**

**G.R.A.C.E. REGISTRAR
P.O. Box 132212
Tyler TX.
75713-2212**

In my earlier years, I worked as a consultant. One of the people I served was a man named Iain from Denver Colorado. He was a geologist in the geothermal business. He told me that consultants were much like stable cleaners. When companies had made a big enough mess they would call a consultant to clean it up.

Often I discover the same situation as a Christian. People get their lives in the biggest mess and then call their friend or pastor for help cleaning up the mess. Sometimes, friends think the best way to help is to send their friend on a walk to Emmaus. Sometimes it helps, but mostly it is short lived if not destructive. However, if we can get all the excrement cleared from around the situations things start looking better for the person covered up.

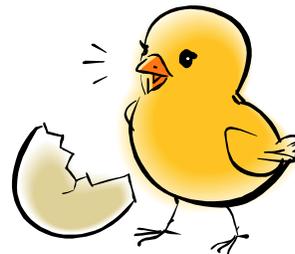
In fact, we all have loads stored in our backpacks that we carry around with us. Emmaus weekends have a way of ripping our packs open and exposing the contents. This may come out at table, chapel, or ... well you get the picture. We cannot fix everyone's problems but we can acknowledge them, enter into covenant prayer and point out God's love in spite of our baggage.

That is one of the wonders of a walk. When we observe someone discover that God loves them and can use them in service even though they had all that stuff in their bag it is a blessing. It is truly a miracle when the bread is broken and their eyes are opened. In a way, we are all called to be God's consultants in God's creation and our pay is God's revelation.

DeColores, David Mays



DRIVING DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE at www.gracemmaus.org



**Sponsors, Your Babe Chicks
Really Need This Training. Let that be your next work of Agape!**

applications of those additional Pilgrims that God had already tapped out to attend, but as sponsors, we had not done our job in getting those applications in. Later that week, on February 28th at our last team meeting at FUMC Athens, with still only 16 pilgrims applications in hand, I appealed to the team to pray that we get at least 24 pilgrims to allow for six tables in the conference room for the walk.

I report to you now, one month later and just three weeks after Walk #48, God **was/is** totally in control. Now, I know that is not something that we are always fully aware of. But often we do not recognize, accept, nor appreciate His sovereignty. On Thursday evening March 5, at sendoff, I called out the names of **24** Pilgrims to embark on their walk of a lifetime, Walk #48.

There is a lot of praying, planning, training, and physical labor required before Sendoff of a successful Walk to Emmaus. “God’s Awesome Team” rose to the task required of them and lived up to their descriptive name. As the Lay Director of the Walk, God could not have provided a better Outside Servant and Chapel teams than those for Walk #48. I’ve been involved in many Walks to Emmaus, in three different communities, and never have I experienced fewer problems than we experienced on Walk #48. I would like to say a special thank you to Chuck Reed, George Assaf, and their team members.

Our Spiritual team was wonderful. The “in camp” team, Jarratt Major and Ricky Ricks, allowed Walk #48 to be truly lay led, but in a way that we were always aware of their presence and eager willingness to be there for the pilgrims, for me, and lay members of the team. Jack Matkin, Gary White, and Richard Luna took time from their busy pastoral obligations to come and give great talks and to spend some time with the pilgrims and team. Thanks to all of you.

Our music team was my dream team. It almost didn’t happen but again God took control and made it so. Both members were pilgrims on Walk #38, the first walk I was privileged to work after moving to this community. Walk #48 was their first time to be able to work together. It is awesome when you have a music team that provides their own original compositions for all the meditative music at chapel time. You know that the team’s music is a gift from God, provided by such talented and wonderful individuals. Loren Lykins and Randy Skiles, thank you for being there for this Walk and making it truly memorable for all.

We truly had perfect table assignments. And guess what? I had nothing to do with it! I spent long hours prior to the Walk thinking, strategizing, imagining, and praying for how to make the best table assignments, and God continued to tell me not to be concerned, and so I continued to put nothing down on paper, feeling no urgency. Finally, on Wednesday evening, March 4th, the eve of Walk #48, I sat down and worked for more than an hour making table assignments and went to bed that night satisfied that I had done the best job possible. Oh, was I in for a surprise!

Thursday evening at our team meeting and time for table assignments, I looked in my brief case for the table assignment sheet, and it was not there. I had left it at home! I took a deep breath, and I thought, and I prayed, and He said, “I told you not to be concerned!” We, myself and the Assistant Lay Directors, quickly made assignments, (we thought we did) taking care only that we did not double up same church members at a table and considering physical limitations for some of the pilgrims by placement in the room. There were no other considerations as I had done the previous evening in making assignments. And I could not recall any of the assignments I had made. Now my memory is not what it once was, but it is not that bad either. **Divine Intervention!** Since the walk, I came home to look at my table assignments. Only six pilgrims from my original assignments were matched the same on Thursday evening and only one TL-ATL were matched the same. I have thanked God on many occasions since the Walk that I mysteriously left my assignments at home.

No human could have made the table assignments better than they were on Walk #48. Pilgrims were assigned to tables with leaders that called the leaders to face prejudices they were struggling with. Pilgrims were assigned to tables whose backgrounds were in conflict with the backgrounds of the leaders at that table. We had Pilgrims assigned to tables that had life situations that were similar, only at different stages, who bonded into support for each other. We had table leaders and assistant table leaders paired up that had major skills and resources to support the other’s weaknesses. In every one of these situations, God worked to heal hurts, mend hearts, and strengthen faith walks of the table family and each individual. And we had a lay director and three assistant lay directors who thought we knew how to direct the best walk ever, but were humbled by God to show us we didn’t, so we stepped back, and allowed Him to do what He does best—to lead and love His children.

Mike Minor, Bill Durr, and Jimmy McGonagill--truly three great brothers who were the best assistants I could have had. Brent Hooser, as the board rep, you were always there to advise and network with—such a comfort to have you there representing the board. Thanks, guys, for your service and support of me.

Table leaders and assistant table leaders—as I told you in your training, your jobs were the most important ones on the team. Please rest assured that the success of the walk rested on your leadership and all I can say is, look at the success of the Walk. Thank you.

Walk #48 would not have been possible without the fantastic support of the community. The agape, the prayers, sponsorship, and faithful attendance at Candle Light and Closing—wonderful—overwhelming. A special thank you to Joanne Skeen and my wife, O.Y., for all that you did in support of me and the team. You are both truly angels.

Pilgrims, Walk #48 would not have happened without you guys. I’ve been truly blessed to have been the lay leader on your Walk to Emmaus. Godspeed as you embark on your Fourth Day.

Thanks be to God! He makes all things possible!

DeColores!

Dan Matthews Lay Director , Walk #48

From the Women's Walk Lay Director

Dear G.R.A.C.E. community,

Praise God! That's really all that I can say. He gave us such an awesome experience in Walk #49. We had a little bit of rain and cool weather, but our hearts were touched and warmed by the Holy Spirit. We had 33 pilgrims and not only were they blessed, but the Team as well. We never realized what a glorious weekend that God wanted us to experience. He is so great!!! Thanks to each of our community members who prayed, made agape or came to any of the Walk functions. All of your prayers were truly felt in mighty ways. You are all truly a blessing beyond measure!

DeColores,
Patti Jones
LD-Walk #49

GRACE around the World by Mike Breedlove



First, let me describe the four pictures that are attached. The first is a scene of a church service on an abandoned airstrip where 12,000 to 15,000 were in attendance. The second shows children carrying water. The third shows the water well the children used. The fourth shows a young mother and child.

Although the trip to Ethiopia began February 1, 2008, the series of events that led up to it began many years before. For years Kay and I had been nominally supporting Dr. Malcolm Hunter and his wife Jean as they served as missionaries to the nomadic tribes in Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya. Malcolm has his Ph.D. from Oxford University in engineering and Jean is a registered nurse. Malcolm not only served as a missionary, but was responsible for building 17 airstrips at remote mission stations. These airstrips allowed for the missionaries and their food, supplies, and medicine to be flown into remote areas in



hours, rather than weeks. Jean's nursing skills were in great demand since very few doctors were available outside of the cities.

The Hunters retired in 2003 after 45 years of service and now live in Mariposa, California. Although they are Scottish, their four children, who were born in Africa, all live in and are citizens of the United States.

As we were having lunch one day in the spring of 2007, Malcolm asked me to go with him to Ethiopia and "see what God has been doing there". He said the trip would be too rough for Kay, even though she had previously been on five African safaris. Without hesitation, I said yes. We made our plans to depart on February 1, and meet in London where we would continue to Nairobi, Kenya. Malcolm's brother, Colin, plus two other men also joined us. Before we left, Malcolm called to say that in the small village named Turmi there is a school/hostel for the children of the evangelists who were living with the nomadic tribes in far Southwest Ethiopia that desperately needed a water well. After making a few phone calls, we had received the \$10,000 needed to drill and complete the well. This well-drilling project in the village of Turmi was our primary goal for the trip.

We were met in Nairobi by Wubshet Megesha, an Ethiopian evangelist to the Barana tribe that inhabits southern Ethiopia and northern Kenya. Wubshet was to be our guide and driver on the 2000 mile trip. We had agreed to pay for getting Wubshet's 1994 Toyota Land Cruiser in top running order. I had no idea how demanding the trip was going to be on this vehicle and its six occupants. The roads were so rough that we had to stop for repairs five times. There were broken springs, shocks, manifold, door hinges, and generator issues.

The first three days of driving were on the main north-south highway in eastern Africa. The pavement ended in Isiolo, Wubshet's hometown, where we spent the first night. It would be more than 1500 miles before we drove on pavement again. In fact, we averaged less than 25 mph for the entire trip. Since the terrain was very arid, even desert-like, we began to see women and young girls carrying jugs as large as 5 gallons. They were walking as far as 12 miles each way to get water. The men do little or no physical labor. Potable drinking water is the number one health issue worldwide.

I will share a few details about the hotel accommodations, and food. We did not stay in Motel 6 accommodations. I would call them Hovel minus 10's. If there was a restroom at all, it was either a small bowl and bottle of dirty water or an open hole into a pipe. I never had a hot shower.

The meat was almost exclusively goat stew (watt) that was prepared three or four different ways. There was seldom any bread, only injira, which was made from ground teff grass seeds and cooked like a large thin pancake. Since there were no eating utensils, we tore off pieces of injira and scooped up the watt. Meals were usually eaten from a central pot of watt.

After four days of driving, we reached Arba Minch, the largest city in Southwest Ethiopia. This was the location of the headquarters of the Kale Heywet (Word of Life) church in that region. The Kale Heywet church (which is more like a denomination) has over 5000 churches around the country. Dr. Hunter began working very closely with this church in 1963. During the Marxist reign from 1977 to 1991, all of the white missionaries were run out of the country and many of the local pastors and evangelists were either killed or imprisoned. In 1977, when the Kale Heywet Church had to go underground, there were approximately one million believers nationally. Amazingly after 14 years of persecution, when the Communist regime fell, the Church had grown to 4 million believers. Today there are more than 8 million in the church. It is from this church, which would be destitute by American standards that evangelists are sent out to live in the nomad villages where they tell the people about Christ.

Upon arrival in Arba Minch we learned that there would be a three-day biennial Church gathering the next day in the village of Chench, where Malcolm had lived for seven years and built an airstrip in the days before there were roads. In fact, in those days it took six days to walk to Chench.

The next morning we drove two hours up the mountain to Chench, which was at an elevation of 6800 feet. As we arrived, people were streaming through the village to the church gathering. Ours was the only vehicle to be seen. With the construction of the road, the airstrip was now abandoned. On this day it was serving as an open air auditorium with a stage of one end. We were escorted onto the stage and were greeted by 12 to 15,000

worshippers, many who had walked as far as 60 miles through the mountains to attend the three-day service. (1st picture) It was an amazing sight. They were expecting another 10 to 12,000 people to come for the last two days of services. I couldn't help feeling somewhat guilty when I remembered the times when it seemed to be too much trouble for me to take the time to drive to a worship service or that I was unhappy because the service lasted too long.

The next morning we left Arba Minch on a 225 mile, 12 hour drive to Turmi. We arrived late that evening. The next morning I saw the young children going to the water well (picture 2) which was 400 yards away (picture 3). Much to our disappointment, we learned that the well drilling rig had bypassed Turmi to go to another area where they had the opportunity to drill multiple wells. The well has yet to be drilled. However, we are hopeful to work out the details of drilling this and other wells in that area.

The result of not having the drilling rig available was that we had three days to drive far into the bush to visit nomad villages. The nomads are herders, who move as the food supply for their animals was depleted. Living in this arid and hostile environment that only has rain for a few weeks during the year, they raised very few crops. One of the tribes that we visited was called the Hammar people. Like the rest of the tribes, the women and girls do most of the work. The Hammar are very warlike and periodically raid and steal from their neighbors. They have a ritual where a husband demonstrates his wealth by having his wife wear polished steel jewelry around her neck, wrists, and ankles. This jewelry, which was worn for life, could weigh as much as 100 pounds. I never saw a woman that weighed 100 pounds. Incredibly, the Hammar husband shows his wife how much he values her by whipping her. (Picture 4). Most of the women have many scars.

Thankfully, these old habits are changing as the evangelists are making an impact. The raiding and killing have almost stopped and the men are no longer beating their wives. We are working on a project to drill water wells at each village where there is an evangelist. The result will be that the nomads will come to the village where the evangelists can more easily teach them about Christ.

It is very obvious how financially blessed we are in America. Even though they live in the fourth poorest country in the world where life expectancy is only 49 years, the Ethiopians living, in the rural areas are curious, inquisitive, and friendly. The Christians and the Kale Heywet Church are caring, loving, selfless, and joyful. They give new meaning to the Beatitudes that Christ taught. I do not know if I will ever go back. However, it is certain that my financial resources will.

If you have any questions or have a desire to assist in this humanitarian endeavor please call or e-mail me.

Mike Breedlove
LD G.R.A.C.E. Walk No. 1

=====

2009 Gatherings

We will hold 3 more quarterly gatherings centralized in Tyler on a Saturday as a Pot Luck for the full community.

April 18th -----	Lanes Chapel UMC; Tyler	Babe Chick @ 11:00; Pot Luck @ 12 noon; Worship @ 1:15 p.m.
August 15th -----	Pollard UMC, Tyler	Sponsor's Training @ 11:00, Pot Luck @ 12 noon & Worship @ 1:15 p.m.
November 21st ----	Grace Community Church, Tyler	Babe Chick @ 11:00; Pot Luck @ 12 noon; Worship @ 1:15 p.m.;

HELP! We know that there are folks who Have expressed an interest in sponsoring local area Gatherings. We just don't have any information about them yet. Let us know as soon as possible and we can provide some support and possibly answer some of your questions These Gatherings are open to the entire community. However, we are praying that more local

community members will be able to participate without having to travel long distances.

Please remember that the requirements for putting on local Gatherings are not complicated or onerous. The basics are as follows: Provide a place for the Gathering (most churches have adequate facilities); Identify a 4th day speaker to provide a 10-15 minute witness outlining the impact of Emmaus on their life; have qualified clergy available to administer communion; assure the presence of a GraceEmmaus board member to provide Community information and collect a love offering for the Community; allow sufficient time to announce the Gathering by e-mail and Community newsletter, provide childcare (not required but certainly advantageous) If you need an update on the criteria and/or you would like to explore hosting a Gathering, please contact Burton Love Burtonlove@embarqmail.com 903 425 3864 or any of the other Emmaus Board members. We will be happy to help with the planning and preparation for these local Gatherings. May, June and July would be great times to schedule local Gatherings.

[Be sure to check the web site (www.gracemmaus.org) for any updates to locations and dates.]



CALLING ALL CLERGY!!!

Grace and Peace from the new spiritual director for G.R.A.C.Emmaus. I give thanks and praise for the work that Tom Haygood has completed during his tenure as spiritual director. I hope and pray that God will empower me to serve you in grace.

YOU can be of help in this matter. I am looking for clergy to lead communion at community gatherings in Tyler and in the four areas. As well, I would like to have a list of those clergy that would consider serving on a team. Please email me with your name, address, church and basic information so that I can create our list. For example, mine would show:

David Mays

dmays@dkjtt.com

P.O. Box 5980

Longview, TX 75608

903-374-4766

Woodland Christian Church

High Sky Emmaus Walk #46 – St. Luke (So I will know if you have attended a walk as a pilgrim.)

Justifying Grace

Sanctifying Grace

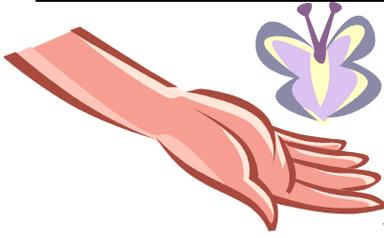
Will serve as needed for community meetings in Tyler and Northeast Area

Will serve on teams once per year or as needed.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation. I would like ALL clergy interested in Emmaus, even if you have not been on or served on a walk, to respond. I would like to schedule area clergy gatherings to talk about serving on Emmaus teams, putting together talks and the effects of Emmaus in your local congregation. If there are clergy who would like to know more about Emmaus and allow us to dispel myths, legends and hear-say about Emmaus, they would be greatly welcomed at the gathering.

If you know of anyone who would like to be included please have them forward their information. I do not see this as a regularly scheduled event but more of a one-time, as needed basis. That means I need your input before anything can happen.

Soon we will be putting together teams for the October Walks. Some areas are holding gatherings so I need your names NOW! The UCC church has a slogan that says, “God is still speaking.” One of the ways in which God speaks is through the Walk to Emmaus 72 hour representation of Christ walking by our side. It is refreshing to be able to go back and walk again along the road and feel the spirit at work.



Chrysalis Corner

Well it is time to start thinking about the Chrysalis Flight for this Summer. We are going to hold a Girl's Flight on July 30th, July 31st and August 1st @ Pollard UMC in Tyler, Texas. MARK YOUR CALENDARS !! We are so excited to be able to bring to the GRACE area our 2nd Chrysalis Flight.

1) We need team members to work this flight, – Adult and Youth alike,...both are needed. Please stop and fill out an application for team service and get that mailed in ASAP. We will hold team selection for this event in mid-April to early May. The team meetings are set so you can check your availability now.

Flight – July 30th, 31st and Aug 1st.

Team Meetings – Jun 27th, Jul 10th & 11th (over night) & Jul 18th

Attached you will see the team service application or you can go to the web site to download an application under (Chrysalis).

2) The next thing we need is for reunion groups AND/OR individuals to contact me to let me know if you can provide food for the flight. The concept is that the reunion group(s)/individuals/Sunday School classes would cook a meal and bring it to the church and serve during that meal. You can use the churches' kitchen and cook there if that is easier to do. We will need meals for July 30th Lunch & Dinner; July 31st Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner and Aug 1st Breakfast and Lunch. Dinner on Friday night the 31st would be the girl's banquet so it needs to be a nice meal. If you would like to help but are not able to cook a meal then green agape (money) to buy a meal is always appreciated. We do this in order to keep the cost down for the team fees and butterfly fees. The total cost per person is only \$50. Since we are not at a camp site and are not paying for meals the cost is much lower than if we did this like the Adult Walks. If we have a full flight we are looking at 36 butterflies and team of about 36 so 72 people for each meal.

3) We will need agape just as you would for the adult walks so reunion groups this is another area in which you can help. The girls just love all the goodies as you did on your walk.

Number of Agape Items:

⇔ BED – 48 items [We don't have just bed agape for butterflies as they are in the gym with the table groups so our youth and adult table leaders are there too.]

⇔ CONFERENCE ROOM / DINING TABLES – 60 items

⇔ ENTIRE TEAM – 72 items

4) Snack agape – some just plain junk food / soda pop... these are teenagers but we do hope to have some nutritional foods to include fruit, light snacks and water

5) We will need those prayer warriors out there for the 72 hour prayer vigil.

6) LAST BUT NOT LEAST - We need butterflies. Hopefully, 36 excited, wonderful girls ready to meet God where they are at in their journey of life. These girls need to have finished the 9th grade and be 15 yrs old to 18 yrs old. We will also have table(s) set aside for college age girls that fall between 18 yrs old and 24 yrs old. Some of the girls like to come to Chrysalis instead of a Walks because the group at their table are all close in age. Applications are at the web site under the Chrysalis tab: www.gracemmaus.org .

DeColores and Fly with Christ,
Teresa Elliott
Chrysalis Steering Committee Chairman

GRACE Chrysalis
Application for Team Service

Name _____ Preferred Name _____

Date of Birth ____ - ____ - ____ Sex _____

Phone Number (Home) (____) _____ - _____ Cell (____) _____ - _____

E-mail address _____

Address _____ City _____ St. ____ Zip _____

Please circle - I went on my Flight / Walk / Other (Please specify _____)

In community _____ number _____ year _____

Church _____ Pastor _____

Address _____ City _____ St. ____ Zip _____

Do you play a musical instrument? _____ What kind(s) ? _____

Can you lead group singing? _____

I have worked in the following communities and in these roles (Please List):

Assigned roles for the weekend (Please List):

Talks I have given (Please List):

I would like to serve on the following Flights:

GIRLS' _____ Summer 2009 July 30th, July 31st and August 1st.

Please mail to: GRACE CHRYSALIS - TEAM SELECTION

PO BOX 6291

Tyler, Texas 75711

Questions? Email them to elliott.teresa@gmail.com

Medical Authorization

(This must be filled out for all working and must notarized if worker in under age of 18)

I, _____, am the parent/guardian of _____
and give my permission for his/her attendance at the GRACE Chrysalis weekend beginning
_____ and ending _____.

During this time, I may be reached at (home) _____ (cell) _____

Emergency contact and number _____

Physician: _____ Phone: _____

Insurance Provider: _____

Policy Number: _____

Date of last tetanus shot _____

Are there any medications, prescription or other, to be taken during the weekend? _____

If yes, provide all medications (prescription and over-the-counter) in the original container.

List ANY allergies _____

List ANY special dietary needs or restrictions _____

Are there any health or physical needs that require special attention? _____

If yes, please explain _____

I understand that my son/daughter will be in the care of Chrysalis adult staff members. In case of an emergency and if I cannot be readily contacted, I hereby authorize the administration of any medical treatment that may be necessary. I will be responsible for the cost of such treatments.

Signature of parent/guardian _____ Date _____

Subscribed sworn before me, a Notary public in _____ County, Texas this the _____
day of _____, 20__.

Signature of Notary Public _____

Date my commission expires _____

GRACE Board for 2009

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RayCarden@suddenlink.net

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903-391-3542 (c)

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Patti Jones

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903-288-4550 (c)

Gathering Coordinator

Burton Love

burtonlove@embarqmail.com

903-425-3864 (h)

If you have a desire to see the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community to be able to further the ministry of God through the Walk to Emmaus program and would wish to make a automatic monthly **tax deductible** donation through your bank account, prayerfully consider filling out the form below and mail it back to

GRACE EMMAUS

Treasurer
P.O. Box 132212
Tyler TX.
75713-2212

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.

DeColores

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

BANK INFORMATION

I (We) hereby authorize GRACE Emmaus to initiate debit entries to my (our) checking 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 #** _____

Email Address: _____