

G.R.A.C.E. News

Grace For Today

August, 2005
Volume 5, Issue 8

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

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Next Gathering

Thursday

August 11th

@ 7:00PM,

Swan-Wood Springs

UMC, Tyler

G.R.A.C.E. REGISTRAR
P.O. Box 44
Judson TX.
75660-0044

Dear **G.R.A.C.E.**

From the Lay Director's desk,

I hope your summer has been filled with fun activities and that you are enjoying our Texas heat. July has been a month for us to take a break from responsibilities; however, with the beginning of August we are turning our attention to the next GRACE Emmaus gathering. On **August 11**, we are meeting together for worship and fellowship at **Swan-Wood Spring UMC. We will meet at 7:00pm** and our 4th day speaker will be Susan Stallings. We plan to see you there, so mark you calendars for this next gathering.

Our October walks are filling up. Thank you for your hard work and listening to the Holy Spirit as pilgrims are identified to Walk to Emmaus. Al Tribe, our Community Registrar, is keeping us posted and our women's walk is rapidly filling. The men's walk is progressing nicely. Keep up your endeavors as we prepare to provide what our Lord, Jesus Christ, is asking us to provide – the opportunity for a time of refreshment, relationship, and renewal with Him. You have leaders and individuals in your churches that need this time to realign with the Lord. Keep following the Spirit's lead, and make certain that you sponsor those who are being called. **Thanks for all your hard work.**

Your **G.R.A.C.E.** Board continues to work on issues that face our community. One of the largest, and most concerning, is making certain that we get the

lines of communication open and working effectively. Your directors all have assignments to communicate with specific groups of GRACE members and share with them community happenings, events, and information. **If the communications are not getting to you, or you have not heard from a GRACE director, please let our Assistant Lay Director, Bob Meyers, hear from you.** Bob has willingly undertaken the responsibility for leading the communications efforts of our community. He needs your feedback and comments.

Please continue to pray for our churches and pastors, our Emmaus community, the upcoming October walks, the teams and leaders for the walks, your directors, and all who support the Lord's work.

DeColores **Grace and peace**
Bill Burgdorf

G.R.A.C.E. Community Lay Director

REFLECTIONS ON THE LAST 8 YEARS

While I don't claim to have been a part of the formation of **G.R.A.C.E.** Emmaus Community for the last 8 years, Sandee and I have been an active part of this extended family since the first walks. Although I cannot give a complete perspective, I can give you an idea of some of the changes we have had in our community. Historically, our community began with the assistance of the North East Texas Emmaus and the East Texas Emmaus, communities.

The first groups of leaders, as is so often the case with start-up organizations did all the work in every area for years until the

walks were well under way. Many of those same people can still be seen today, but some may well have burned out in the process. Others have moved on to different parts of the country or are even now with our Lord. The responsibility for beginning a community and starting the momentum is a heavy one, and our Lord has greatly provided.

Our community grew

We have been greatly blessed, just as many other communities have found growth, in a movement that greatly changed lives. We began to grow rapidly, walks were filling up, both men's and women's. We even had waiting lists for the women's walks, and added extra walks when the overflow became too great, changed locations, and wrestled with a number of growth issues. Somehow, even though we were blessed at a time to have the extra women walks for a while, we have never been as fortunate with the Men, and struggle each time to fill them or as the case has been recently to even have enough to have them. Now, we, as many other communities are finding, and struggling with dwindling numbers, whether to cut the number of walks each year, and/or cut walks, the rising costs at our current facilities (which we love). Many are wondering what we are doing wrong. Perhaps we need to recognize who we are today and what we need to do.

Our community population has changed.

More than ever, our overall society is more mobile. We keep moving (physically) with jobs, etc., and we keep moving in activities. People are more involved than ever in outside activities, many of them involving church and other

ministries. Emmaus is no longer the only other choice for something new and exciting. Now people are enjoying serving and participating in Kairos, Epiphany, Chrysalis, and other activities that might not have been previously available or even appealing to them prior to their Emmaus walks.

So, what do we do?

Well, first, we pray. Your Board of Directors has been praying and has had the prayer support of some very special people within the community. We thank you all. Perhaps we will find that as a community we will need to consider dropping back to one set of walks per year in order to be good stewards of our resources and in order to keep costs down for pilgrims and team, let us pray and work as a community, to not have to take these kinds of drastic measures. Whether we have one set of walks or two, we need to concentrate on doing them with the standard of excellence, we all experienced in our own walks. The Walk to Emmaus should be and is a once in a lifetime experience. The Lay Director of each walk promises it to be in that in the Thursday night talk given by them on the walk. It will not be unless the community makes it that way. The prayer coverage, attendance at **ALL** the community functions, enthusiasm, service by the servant teams at meals, funny entertainment, floods of good delicious homemade agape gifts and food, and an overwhelming sense of love are some of the special items that make Emmaus a once in a lifetime weekend. I ask you to join the Board of Directors for a wonderful set of fall walks. Please plan now to participate in making our 8th year as special and exciting as our first.

Christ is counting on you.

The editor

From the Women's Lay Director for Walk No. 35

What a privilege to serve as Lay Director for **G.R.A.C.E.** Walk #35. I feel very unqualified, but I remember this quote, "God does not call the Qualified, he Qualifies the Called". I believe the Lord will equip the wonderful team that is being put together, and myself to do His work. I urge every member of this Community to pray for both walks in October. Also, we as a Community must come together to participate at candlelight and closing to show Agape Love to our new pilgrims.

I am excited to get started with team training along with our Spiritual Director, Mike Cline. The team is almost complete, and we will begin training soon. As we begin team training, my prayer is let all we do give glory and honor to God alone. Our scripture for Walk #35 is "I am the light of the World. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of Life." John 8:12 May all the pilgrims and team come to know that God is the light of the World.

God Bless!



Juanita Keosoff,
Lay Director Walk #35

Servant Team leaders looking for a few good servants.

Would you like to serve on the Outside Servant Teams? Tom Perdue, Servant Leader for the Men's Walk No. 34, and Donna Swenson, Servant Leader for Women's Walk No. 35, would love to have you serve with them. Fill out one of the applications on page 3 and 4 and mail it back to them, or give it to them at the next gathering. **See you there.**

G.R.A.C.E. Men's Outside Servant Team Application

Contact Information

Individuals or Reunion Groups information here. (If Reunion Group, please list names of members to be involved).

Name:	
Street Address:	
City, ST, ZIP:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
Cell Phone:	
E-Mail Address:	

Availability

During which hours are you available for Servant Team assignments?

<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 2:00PM thru Sunday 6:00PM - (\$130.00)	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday–Saturday 1:00PM - 2:00PM ***
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <u>ONLY</u> 2:00PM - 10:00PM (\$8.00 Dinner Only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat.–Sun. 1:00PM - 6:00PM ***
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Evening <u>ONLY</u> 6:00PM - 10:00PM (No Meal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <u>ONLY</u> 2:00PM – 6:00 PM (No Meals)
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday–Friday 2:00PM - 2:00PM ***	*** One Night Lodging & 3 Meals for \$45.00

Previous Walk Experience

Summarize your previous Walk experience. (Walk No., Date, Position or Assignment).

Person to Notify in Case of Emergency

Any Specific Medical Needs:	
Name:	
Street Address:	
City, ST, ZIP:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
E-Mail Address:	

Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted as a volunteer, I will be financially responsible for any housing and meals for the times I serve.

Signature:	
Date:	

Mail to Outside Team Leader (OTL): Tom Perdue 3449 Iberville Tyler, TX. 75701

G.R.A.C.E. Women's Outside Servant Team Application

Contact Information

Individuals or Reunion Groups information here. (If Reunion Group, please list names of members to be involved).

Name:	
Street Address:	
City, ST, ZIP:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
Cell Phone:	
E-Mail Address:	

Availability

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Signature:	
Date:	

Mail to Outside Team Leader (OTL): Donna Swenson 13736 Victory Ln. Tyler, TX. 75703