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## A Note From Our Community Spiritual Director: “Moment Closest to Christ”

Several things take place at Emmaus gatherings. We have classes to teach, how to be a sponsor, or entry into Emmaus called Babe Chick training. We gather around tables and share food and fellowship. Then we gather in the sanctuary and worship with prayers, song, sermon and communion.

Following this pattern at gatherings is following the words found in Acts. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” (Acts 2:42) Have you considered that Biblical Authority sets our agenda?

When we meet in reunion groups part of the process is to answer three questions. When were you closest to Christ, when were you the church in action and where were you farther from Christ. Of course this is not a quote, only my interpretation of the questions. We might map these questions to a gathering and ask during a gathering when are you closest to Christ, farther from Christ and acting as Christ?

Focus for a moment on closest to Christ. Where would you most likely discover Christ or receive a blessing. Most of us would respond with worship or some particular point in worship. Very likely you are thinking communion. We arrive at gathering with a pre-conceived decision that at communion we will come to know Christ better. By doing this we reduce our observance and participation in other areas of the gathering.

This is normal behavior to expect to encounter Christ at an expected moment, during the breaking of the bread. Reflecting on the Gospels it seems that this is not the most likely place to encounter the risen Jesus our Lord. Jesus met people by the fire, at the seashore, sick in bed, falling through the roof, at a well getting a drink, or cooking fish to name a few. Yes, the Disciples eyes were opened to the Scriptures during the Breaking of Bread but they encountered Christ during normal events. They came to know Christ by observing life and asking for explanation. They discovered Christ in dialogue.

I would like to encourage you to consider that all events at an Emmaus gathering have the ability to reveal our Lord and provide an experience or blessing. Christ seems to “show up” at unexpected times in unexpected places. When you sit at table and share food are you looking for Christ? When you stand along the wall and watch as people discover how to be a sponsor, are you looking for Christ? We you are present in the room as a new babe chick reveals a discovery, are you looking for Christ.

Open my eyes that I may see, glimpses of Truth Thou has for me ... Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine. (Clara H. Scott 1841-1897) Be looking for Christ in the normal regular events of life as well as the expected, planned and prepared.

**De Colores, David Mays**



## **GATHERINGS (2010)**

Jan. 23, 2010 Fairwood UMC; Sponsor training 4:30PM; Pot Luck Dinner- 5:45PM; Worship 6:45PM

April 24, 2010 Lanes Chapel UMC ; Babe Chick training 4:30PM; Pot Luck Dinner- 5:45PM; Worship 6:45PM

Aug. 28, 2010 (In Tyler TBD); Sponsor training 4:30PM; Pot Luck Dinner- 5:45PM; Worship 6:45PM

Nov. 20 2010 Grand Ultreya (Location in Tyler TBD) ; Babe Chick training 4:30PM; Pot Luck Dinner- 5:45PM; Worship 6:45PM

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## **GATHERING NEWS**

We want to thank Grace Community Church for hosting our Nov. 20, 2009 Grand Ultreya (Gathering). Approximately 120 people attended. We had a good turn out of Babe Chicks who learned about the many ministries available through Emmaus. It is always wonderful to hear the positive witnesses of the people who have recently attended their walk to Emmaus. Hopefully everyone got some ideas about agape gifts which can be created for future walks. Ray Carden, our 2009 Community Lay Director again guided the activities of the day. Ray is completing a very successful year as Community Lay Director and we want to thank him for everything he has done for the Grace Emmaus Community.

As you can see above, we have established the dates for all four centralized Community Gatherings for 2010 and locations for the first two. We are still in the process of setting up the other two locations for centralized Gatherings for 2010. As soon as we have the two additional locations for the Aug 28, 2010 and Nov. 20, 2010 Gatherings) confirmed, we will share that information with the Community. Please continue to keep in mind that the Grace Emmaus Board has voted to change the time of day for 2010 Gatherings. Training will start at 4:30PM, Dinner will be at 5 :45PM with worship starting at 6:45PM. Centralized Gatherings will continue to be on Saturdays in the Tyler area.

If you are interested in hosting a local Gathering, any of the Grace Emmaus Board members can help you with nearly all aspects of your planning and acquiring resources. 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](mailto:Burtonlove@embarqmail.com) 903 425 3864 or any of the other Grace Emmaus Board members. We will be happy to help with the planning and preparation for these local Gatherings. Dec. is still available for 2009. Wouldn't celebrating your Christian faith be great way to honor the season? Any month except March and October 2010 would be available for local Gatherings. March and October find a significant part of the community busy with the walks.

**(Be sure to check the Grace Emmaus web site ([www.gracemmaus.org](http://www.gracemmaus.org)) for additional directions and any updates on these Gatherings).**

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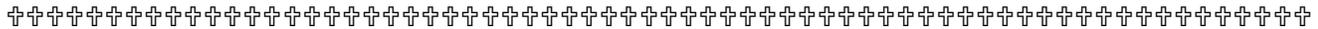
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WANTED: EIGHT MEN AND WOMEN TO HELP LOAD TRAILER !

Those of you who love to hear the testimonies at the WALK CLOSINGS.... this job is for YOU! We need help moving the lidded, plastic boxes, speakers, banners, etc., to the Trailer. The Outside Team will have everything packed and by the door nearest the trailer. It has been a real chore for the faithful two or three who have helped in the past. With several committing to faithful service we can get the job done quickly! Frank has organized the trailer so all boxes are uniform sizes for easy stacking, and are distributed for lighter weight. You'll be there for the 4 pm closing, anyway, and all can immediately begin loading the trailer when closing is over. Your help would be very appreciated!

PLEASE CONTACT FRANK COPELAND AT FHCOPEL@GMAIL.COM OR (903) 391 - 3542.



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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.Box132212  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

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