

Grace For Today

May, 2015
Volume 17, Issue 1

G.R.A.C.E. Website
www.graceemmaus.com

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Director, Burton Love

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Holy Spirit

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Men's Walk # 74
Camp Gilmont - Gilmer
October 1-4, 2015
Mike Johnston

Women's Walk # 75
Camp Gilmont - Gilmer
October 8-11, 2015
Diana Frachiseur

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GraceEmmaus Walk 72 Disciples Crossing

So many blessings, so little time to describe them. Walk 72 was in fact the “Best Walk Ever” but then again all Walks are the “Best Walk Ever” for the pilgrims who attend them.

Even the problems faced by the Emmaus team for Walk 72 became blessings. As an example, early Thursday morning, Oct. 12 (the first day of the Walk) our Spiritual Director, Rev. Ricky Ricks had a family emergency which would prevent him from attending 100% the Walk as he had planned. No problem, Rev. Ricks called Assistant Spiritual Director, soon to be Walk 72 Spiritual Director, Rev. Richard Luna. These thoughtful men, working without any hint of ego, combined their talents to be one of the “Best Spiritual Directors ever”. The other Assistant Spiritual Directors, Jarratt Major, Jim Pickens, and Jon Thornsby did their usual excellent jobs. It was clear, early

on, that the Holy Spirit would be with us for the whole walk.

Even though I knew that the Holy Spirit would be in charge, I continued to delude myself into thinking that my own worrying and fretting would make some difference. I should have known better during the team training. The team developed a Covenant consistent with the Emmaus model and focused on prayer. More importantly, the team adhered to the Covenant throughout the training and the Walk. Woody Allen once said that 90% of success is showing up. Well, a majority of the Walk 72 team showed up for each of the team meetings. That should have been a clear message to me that the Holy Spirit was fully present.

Speaking of team training, I would be remiss if I didn't mention how helpful it is to work with someone like Babby Carroll, the LD for Walk 73. She made setting up combined training easy and effective. I learned a lot about true Christian cooperation from Babby. Thanks Babby.

As we all know, one of the most important jobs on all Walks is Outside Team Leader. I worried about a lot of things, but the Outside Team was not among them. Jay Edwards and his group made the whole weekend work like a well oiled machine. The Chapel Team led by Jim Buchanan came up with some innovative arrangements in the Chapel that made Walk 72 really special.

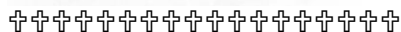
The Assistant Lay Directors, Mac Young, Mac Walling and Mike Johnston did the fantastic job in

the conference room that I knew they would, while they had to put up with my constant questions- "Have we _____?" To fill out the conference room team we had a great music team (Loren Lykins, Mark Jarrard, and John Crow) as well as the best AV person in the business, Tom McDonald.

Finally, I want to recognize the pilgrims of Walk 72. It was clear that they didn't anticipate and they approached the entire weekend with idealism as well as a spirit of cooperation and charity. Those words are repeated throughout the weekend but sometimes they seem to be lost but not this time. The pilgrims chose to take the maximum possible impact from what the weekend provided.

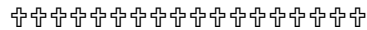
My sincere thanks to the entire GRACE Community for allowing me the blessing of leading Walk 72.

Burton Love



Working a Walk

Fall Walk teams will be finalized soon! Please submit your applications as soon as possible. You can find them on the GRACE website: www.graceemmaus.com.



May Gathering

The Babe Chick Gathering has come and gone, and it was GREAT. Thanks to St. Luke's for hosting us, to all the Babe Chicks who came, and to all the other 4th Dayers who helped make it a success! It's time to start planning to attend the May 16 Gathering at FUMC in Longview. It will be a potluck lunch at 12 noon followed by a worship service and communion. Tea and water will be provided. It will be held in the Faith Center, which is on the Whaley side of the church. Hope to see you there



2015 Gathering Schedule

May 16th Longview FUMC
12 noon Potluck

June 13th Van FUMC
12noon Potluck

July 18th Gladewater FUMC
12noon Potluck

August 15th Ore City FUMC
12noon Bring Dessert only

September 12th Canton FUMC
12noon Potluck

October 3rd & 10th Camp Gilmont
7:00pm Candlelight

November 7th Lane's Chapel UMC
4pm Babe Chick
5pm Potluck
6pm Worship

December 5th Hallsville FUMC
11:00am Potluck Brunch



Fourth Day Spotlight – Janet Bagley, GRACE Walk 69

My name is Janet Bagley. I attended Grace Emmaus Walk #69 at Disciple's Crossing in the Spring of 2014. I worship at White Oak Community Church in White Oak, Texas. It was a little over a year ago that I was introduced to this phrase. And what a year it has been. I went on my walk with quite a bit of fear and trepidation. I will admit I am a control freak and I love my schedules. So not knowing what was going to happen or when it was going to happen was really pushing me out of my comfort levels. And little did I know that in 72 hours I would learn more about the Christian faith and myself than I had in 48 years.

In that 72 hours I realized that God's grace and love for me is more than I had ever imagined. As a child my family did not attend church regularly and I always felt lacking in my knowledge. Paired along with low self-esteem, I always felt not quite worthy as others. Through the presentations, lectures and interactions with the Emmaus Community, I came to realize that I am worthy and that God loves me no matter what. I love the saying that God loves you just the way you are but he loves you too much to let you stay that way. I

Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:5 NRSV).

2. A Bible Verse (Psalm 104:30): “Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth.”

Many people who recite this prayer do not realize that this is a Bible verse. Psalm 104 is a psalm of praise to God for God’s creation of all the earth and its creatures. “O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.” (Psalms 104:24 NRSV). God not only creates all living things, but he sustains them. “These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things. When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.” (Psalms 104:27-29 NRSV). Then we read the phrase: “When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth.” God is active in creating and sustaining — and in re-creating!

The Spirit who inspires our prayers is also the Spirit of all life. So, the invitation for the Spirit’s inspiration is enhanced by a Biblical reminder of who the Spirit is — and what the Spirit does. By the Spirit, God creates — and re-creates.

3. A Prayer: “O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.”

This is the prayer itself. The first two parts can be seen as a preparation for this prayer.

Notice... that this is a prayer to God through Christ inspired by the Holy Spirit. As God instructed the hearts of the faithful in times past, so may God also instruct us today. The purpose of such inspiration is two-fold: that we might be “truly wise” — with the wisdom of God — and that we might “ever enjoy God’s consolations” — all the gifts of God’s grace.

It is this part of the prayer that goes back to at least the ninth century — and probably earlier. Thus, when we join in this prayer we are joining with the early church — and with the faithful of Israel as they sang their psalms — in praying for the continued inspiration and re-creation of the Holy Spirit.

All in all, it’s quite an inspiring and powerful prayer — if we understand it.

While this does make it more personal, it also obscures the fact that the second sentence is actually a Bible verse. People may wonder why they are praying for God to “create” them when they have (evidently) already been created. But, remember: this is an affirmation of who the Spirit is and what the Spirit does. God creates us by the Spirit, because it is always the Spirit of God that gives life. God re-creates us in love through faith in Jesus Christ. So, while that part of the current Emmaus version of the prayer is a little strange, if you know it is a reference to Psalm 104:30 you still get the idea.

This prayer also lends itself to responsive reading:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit, and they shall be created.

And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

All in all, this is a wonderful prayer. It is a way of praying with the early church and with the faithful down through the ages for the inspiration and power of the Holy Spirit. It also joins us with the ancient praises of Israel.

And to round this off, he adds a YouTube video (https://youtu.be/_8UTX_eszkk) of a rock n roll version of the first part of the prayer to the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately the maker of this video does not know who wrote or recorded this musical version. The words of the song are based on both Psalm 104:30 and Isaiah 11:2 (“The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.” NRSV.)

<http://craigladams.com/blog/the-prayer-to-the-holy-spirit/>
November 3, 2014

This article was submitted by GRACE member, Betty Buchanan. Thank you, Betty!



Newsletter articles are welcome from community members. If you have something you’d like to submit please email Janis Johns at jjohns519@gmail.com.



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GRACE EMMAUS

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 donate \$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: _____

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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 # _____

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