



## Greetings from the Community Lay Director

Well the weather wasn't too cooperative on Saturday 4/18 but about 100 brave souls tackled the weather and came to the Gathering at Lanes Chapel. We had a great time as we trained the Babe Chicks, ate and worshipped in their new facility. Bill Durr did an outstanding job with the Babe Chick training. Now it's all of our jobs to get them into a reunion group. Give one a call and invite to your group. Even better, go by and pick them up.

Our team selection for the fall Walks is planned for 5/21 prior to our regularly scheduled board meeting. If you wish to serve on one of the teams you should complete an application (available on the website) and turn it in either to the mailbox at P O Box 132212 Tyler, TX. 75703, or to one of the board members. Get it done soon.

Your board is having discussions about changing the time of our quarterly Gatherings from noon/ 1 PM to 6 PM/7 PM –lunch to dinner meetings and potluck meals. When we made the change this year to quarterly Gatherings we set the timing at noon. Some community members have expressed their desire to change the meetings to suppertime instead. If you have any strong feelings either, pro or con, about this please contact me at [Raycarden@suddenlink.net](mailto:Raycarden@suddenlink.net) or any other of the board members- their addresses are in this newsletter as well. We want to represent the majority interests.

Have you selected your pilgrim to sponsor? It's not too early to get started now. Pray about it and then personally ask them, not by phone or e-mail, and tell them why you want them to attend and what Emmaus has meant to you.

Our next Walks are # 50 10/8-10/11 (George Assaf) and #51 10/15-10/18 (Teresa Elliott) at Camp Gilmont outside Gilmer. Remember our objective is to fill each Walk with 36 pilgrims, and that God is counting on you to make that happen.

Don't we serve a great God! Make Him pleased with you every day.

De Colores, Ray Carden

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### T W O " F O U R T H D A Y " T E S T I M O N I A L S :

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

I know each of you have no trouble recalling that amazing 72 hour experience that you had on your Walk to Emmaus. I went on Walk 44 at Disciples Crossing in Athens, Texas, and I sat at the table of St. Matthew. You know what that experience meant to you and how great it was to see God's Grace in action.

Recently, I had the opportunity to serve on a Walk Team as a ATL on Walk 48, and let me tell you, you experience the same blessings from a different perspective. To be able to see God hand pick 4 pilgrims to work with 2 team members for three days as we learn to trust and open our hearts to each other and experience God's Grace. You laugh. You sing. You cry, and you share a bond with new Christian brothers and sisters that have become your family and support group all rolled into one.

The cost is the same for a team member or pilgrim but you will not find a better bargain. Wasn't the food great? And plenty of it, also. It takes a lot of work by a lot of dedicated people to make one of these walks happen. I hope you will find time to be a team member on one of our future walks. We have a great Emmaus Community, and isn't it wonderful it is named Grace? Come and join us.

Your brother in Christ,

Dewey Williams  
Grace U.M. Church  
Palestine, Texas

The email arrived inconspicuously into my Inbox, as it normally does. However, when I opened it, this email was one which would change my life forever. It was from my wife. The email was titled, "Something to Consider..." She asked me if I would consider going on a "Walk". She had even checked my calendar and determined I would not be traveling that week. "Will you go?" she asked. Of course, I've said "no" to God many times, but this was my wife. I immediately went into excuse mode. I felt certain, given enough time I could conjure a feasible excuse for not attending. So I went to work, sadly enough, trying to develop a viable excuse for not attending the "Walk". I invented some really great excuses during the next few weeks, but I guess it becomes obvious at this point I could not develop a convincing enough excuse to avoid the inevitable.

After weeks of anxiety and dread, the day finally came for my sponsor to transport me to the "Walk". And not just my sponsor, but another "Emmaus" convert accompanied us on the ride to Disciples Crossing. The drive to the "Walk" was full of conversation and fun, but I was beginning to feel at this point I was the subject of an episode from the show "Intervention". We arrived at Disciples Crossing at sunset. We were early and were held at the entrance. That was strange I thought. In fact, there were many things during my stay which raised my curiosity, although never anything uncomfortable or disturbing. It would not be until several days following the "Walk" that I would reflect back and begin to put the puzzle pieces together.

And let me say this upfront...I do not know who will read this article. Since I have no assurance a potential "Pilgrim" will not see this, I am choosing to omit the most incredible parts of my 3 days. My wife, who had participated in a "Walk" almost four years prior to mine, flatly refused to reveal the absolutely most incredible moments of the "Walk". I am going to do the same. You actually would not want me to tell you anyway...As my wife told me many times, "You are just going to have to trust me." I did – and I am asking you to do the same.

It is a strange scene. I have not received this much attention since I stayed in my last 5-Star hotel – which is never, by the way. I assume this is what it would be like. My luggage is immediately taken to my room. People appear to be genuinely glad to see me. I kept wondering what these people knew that I didn't. Turns out, it was quite a bit. This was actually a foreshadowing of the how the remaining 3 days would go. A few minutes after arriving and finding our nighttime accommodations, we are assembled in a room with the other "Walk" participants. Honestly, it was a bit strange. I was required to actually get to know somebody well enough to introduce a stranger as my best friend, and reveal one interesting thing about myself. It was not easy to open up even that much to somebody I did not know. But I persevered, and, as I would learn over the next 3 days, I would learn to persevere even more. The one thing I did notice about the introductory session was how difficult it was to discern who was there to attend the "Walk" and who was there to work the "Walk". Those lines would become clear as the days passed.

The evening ended with us moving from the meeting room to the chapel. Immediately upon entering the chapel you could feel the presence of God. His Spirit was in this place – and it was strong and palpable. In the corner of the chapel was a table. On the table were several burning candles. These candles were lit each time we entered the chapel. Each one of us participating in the "Walk" had our own candle. That candle was one among many, but God was speaking directly to each one of us. At times, his voice was almost audible, his presence so real. I don't really remember much about what was said that night. I do remember we were asked to maintain silence until we returned to the chapel the next morning. That was very difficult. Here we are with people we do not know, and we are not allowed to talk. But we complied – or most of us did. I guess snoring is not technically considered talking. I have determined, however, that whatever muscles generate the snoring action must also shut down the hearing process.

I do not like to sing. It is not that I would not like to sing, it is simply that I cannot sing. And I'm not kidding. I really can't sing. I wish I could, but I just can't. So guess what we did for the next 3 days. Yes, we sang...And it was painful. But in a strange sort of way, I started to enjoy it. We sang before meals and after

meals, before sessions and after sessions, walking from one location to another – from sunrise to sunset we sang. We sang a lot...And there was actually a reason for that as well. It was just another one of the puzzle pieces that would fit into place days later.

The first morning, once we were released from our observance of silence, we had our initial meal. It was wonderful, as were all of the meals. The food was plentiful, the deserts tempting, and the service impeccable. It was during the lunch meal the first day when I began to realize how many people were working behind the scenes to make all of this happen. All these people were there for me – for us – and that is not something many of us get to experience very often in life.

Following breakfast we returned to the meeting place. We were divided into groups of 6 people. We would remain in these groups throughout the rest of the “Walk” experience. The “Walk” experience would continue over the next 3 days with incredible talks, amazing revelations and many moments of outright, unbridled laughter. The six at our table, as did all the groups, became Brothers for that moment in time. For just an eye-blink of eternity, we walked with God – on our own road to Emmaus. Although we were all there for different reasons and because of different motivations, we were all there for renewal and our own personal spiritual resurrection. Which too would happen, but it would happen in the most surprising and least expected moments. Just when you thought it could not possibly get any better, just when you thought you had seen everything, heard everything, and experienced everything, here would come something else. And each time one of those incredible moments would happen, you were reminded, just as the two in Luke were reminded walking to Emmaus, we were never really alone, and we will never be alone, on that road...

I was in San Francisco a couple of weeks after my “Walk.” San Francisco, especially the downtown area, is full of homeless people. I travel to San Francisco 3-4 times per year. After a while, it is easy to walk past the people begging for food, panhandling for money, asking for help, and never think anything about it. But this time it bothered me. I hurt for these people. I hurt that I could not help them – all of them. And I know you can’t help everybody, but maybe I could help just one. So on the way to dinner one night I pass several homeless people. But on the corner is one man which catches my eye. He is an older Black man, with grey hair and bright eyes and a big smile. He is asking people as they pass if they have spare change. I walk by him and tell him I have no change, which I don’t. But what I can do is feed him dinner. So when I order my dinner, I also order a dinner for him - to go. I leave the restaurant and walk back to the hotel. This man is now sitting on the ground leaning against a light post. As I approach him we make eye contact and I smile and say, “How are you Brother?” He says he is “okay”. I walk up to him and say, “I know you probably have a hard time believing this, but God loves and cares about you.” He drops his head, and from his reaction I can tell he is thinking, “Oh no, one of those crazy Jesus freaks”. And then I say, “And because God loves and cares about you, I do too. Here is some dinner for you.” I hand him the sack of food and walk away. As I walk away, I turn and look back and he is looking at me with tears in his eyes. I’ve got tears in my eyes as well...This is how God has changed me. This is how the “Walk to Emmaus” has changed me...

My name is Philip McKanna. Walk #48. I sat at the table of St. Stephen.

I worship at First Christian Church in Longview, TX. And my life has been forever changed...DeColores.

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## 2009

### Gatherings

We will hold 2 more QUARTERLY gatherings centralized in Tyler on a Saturday as a Pot Luck for the full community.

**August 15<sup>th</sup>**----- Pollard UMC, Sponsor’s Training @ 11:00, Pot Luck @ 12 noon & Worship @ 1:15 p.m.

**November 21<sup>st</sup>**---- Grace Community Church, Babe Chick @ 11:00; Pot Luck @ 12 noon; Worship @ 1:15 p.m.;

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**ALERT: Payne Springs UMC** is planning a **LOCAL Gathering** on Saturday, June 27. Pot luck lunch at 12 noon with worship to follow at 1:15PM. Additional directions will be provided. PSUMC is located between Malakoff and Gun Barrel City on Hwy 198 near Cedar Creek Lake

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

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## **GATHERING NEWS**

Many of you have heard the story of the pastor who got up in front of his congregation and announced that the church has all the money that they needed for their expansion project. The only problem was that the money was still in the pockets of the church members. We have a similar situation. We know that there are folks who are thinking about, planning, or considering putting on a local Gathering. 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. They are a great way to meet other Fourth Day folks and see some parts of East Texas you have not seen before. 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 GracEmmaus 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](mailto: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. June and July would be great times to schedule local Gatherings.

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Thanks to Jim Pickens for serving as Spiritual Director for our last gathering, thanks Jim!

Also, thanks to Kim Hagedorn, the next SD for the Girls Chrysalis, thanks Kim!

Any clergy that would like to serve at the Girls Chrysalis please contact me or Kim H. quickly.

Clergy interested in working on Walks this October need to let me know NOW. Team selection is third week of May.

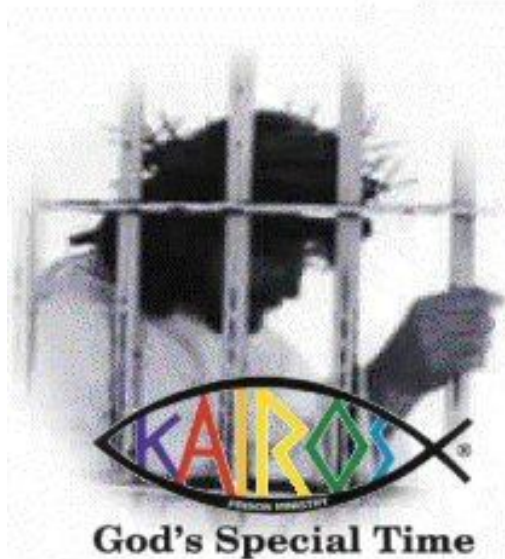
I would like clergy who will serve as Spiritual Directors for Gatherings to send me contact information. Each commitment would be for ONE gathering only.

Grace and Peace,

David Mays, G.R.A.C.E. Spiritual Director

Pastor of Woodland Christian Church

## Praise Report Kairos #34



Great things were accomplished for God at the Michael Unit on Kairos #34. The 42 participants were very touched by and appreciative of all our efforts, especially the cookies, prayer chain and all of the placemats. Thank you to everyone for your contributions. This ecumenical ministry is such a wonderful witness to these men as they see so many denominations working together to bring them God's message of love. I'm so glad you were able to be part of it with us!

The outside support team worked tirelessly to put everything together and we had a wonderful time getting to know each other and working on the various meals and agape projects. Our down time was fun filled with much laughter and our chapel time was spiritually uplifting and helped keep us going through difficulties that came about throughout the weekend. I wish I could say otherwise, but we experienced a few security issues at the prison. These were not issues with the prison's security – or with the inmate candidates, the prison was secure – but with some new and inexperienced team members, mistakes were made on our part. Despite all of this we came together as a team and will benefit in the future from improvements to our training methods and increased security awareness. It was an incredible learning experience for all and much grace was received and exchanged.

I believe God built a thick hedge of protection around the table families (participants and leaders from our inside team, many members from our own G.R.A.C.E. were amongst them), exposing them only to the love being delivered. What Satan wanted to use to discourage, disrupt and confuse only made the hedge stronger as we prayed harder inside and outside and relied more heavily on God for His help and strength with the passing of each day. We might have had to go through a lot to get there, but the mission was accomplished - it was "God's Special Time," and the 42 that were selected (many had been on the list for up 4 years) have experienced a weekend of renewal that will hopefully fuel them for many days to come, providing acceptance and a place to bloom and find light in that harsh dark place.

The Closing was awesome as usual. We had several free world visitors; so I know it blessed the brothers in white to see so many faces in the audience. It was evident that our inside

team; especially our leader, Jim Clark, who was from the Metroplex area had bonded with the men at the various tables and their answers to the three questions for open microphone were inspiring and full of hope. Each man responded to the following: In what spiritual condition did you arrive at the weekend? What did you receive while at the weekend? What are you taking away from the weekend? Two of the men gave profuse thanks to the ministers they had spoken with, Fr. Jim Norwood and Bruce King, and it was obvious that those who had asked to speak with clergy had experienced a great unburdening of their souls. Each table family got up and introduced themselves and I don't recall any of them not wearing the cross they are offered on the last day.

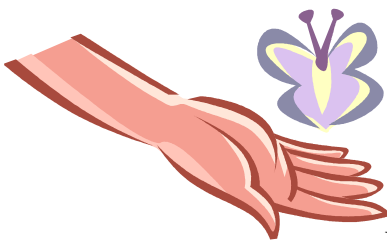
The Fourth Day Speaker, Alejandro Torres, from Kairos #27, gave a great talk about being conformed into the image of Christ. He talked about how much he loves his life - even if he is in prison and the burritos are sometimes bad - because he is free to study God's word and other books about faith and dwell daily with the Holy Spirit. Alejandro has made it through college in the time he has been incarcerated and is now working on a doctorate. He has found purpose and a large mission field in the men amongst him at the Michael Unit. He has also found peace. Alejandro is legally blind and can only see faces if they are within five feet but he has overcome this as he has overcome many things through the power of God. His example spoke volumes to the brothers in white, the team, and the free world visitors. As is appropriate in the fourth day talk, he encouraged these new brothers to join in, accept and enjoy the blessings of being in Christian community with the other Kairos brothers. The Michael Unit Kairos Community was spirited in their welcoming. The faces of many of the participants held that special glow Fr. Jesse Smith spoke about to us one morning in his prayer for the team. Praise God!

For His Glory,

Visit our website in June for upcoming information about the Fall 2009 weekend.

[www.michaelunit.org](http://www.michaelunit.org)

Michael Unit Kairos No. 34



## 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 30<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup> @ Pollard UMC in Tyler, Texas. MARK YOUR CALENDARS !! We are so excited to be able to bring to the GRACE area our 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and Aug 1<sup>st</sup>.

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

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 30<sup>th</sup> Lunch & Dinner; July 31<sup>st</sup> Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner and Aug 1<sup>st</sup> Breakfast and Lunch. Dinner on Friday night the 31<sup>st</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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):

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Assigned roles for the weekend (Please List):

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Talks I have given (Please List):

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I would like to serve on the following Flights:

**GIRLS'** \_\_\_\_ Summer 2009 July 30<sup>th</sup>, July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Please mail to:** GRACE CHRYSALIS - TEAM SELECTION  
PO BOX 6291  
Tyler, Texas 75711

**Questions?** Email them to [elliott.teresa@gmail.com](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## **GRACE Board for 2009**

Community Lay Director

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903-245-9138 (c)

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903-374-4766

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Secretary/ Agape Dinner/ Afterglow

**Joy Parker**

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Gathering Coordinator

**Burton Love**

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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:** \_\_\_\_\_