

April, 2010 Volume 10, Issue 4

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

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<u>NEXT</u> GATHERI NGS

Saturday, April 24 LANES CHAPEL UMC TYLER, TX Babe Chick, 4:30pm Potluck, 5:45pm Worship, 6:45pm

Saturday, May 22 PAYNE SPRI NGS UMC Fellowship, 5:00pm Potluck, 5:30pm Worship, 6:30pm

DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE GRACEMMAUS.ORG WEBSITE

YA'LL COME!!

DEAR G.R.A.C.E.

Greetings Brothers and Sisters. God is truly awesome in this place. We are so blessed to live in East Texas in the springtime. Well we are blessed to live here at anytime but Spring is just so beautiful. I'm blessed to live among wild redbuds, dogwoods, and plums. Each of those remind me of the season we are celebrating right now.

The Redbuds in the woods down in front of my home are such a bright color, they remind me of the crimson color of the blood, shed for you and me by our Savior and Lord on Calvary.

We've all heard the legend of the dogwood, which may or may not be true. It is worth your time to read it and you can find it at http://www.promiseofgod.com/dogwood/. The story isn't biblical but it is never-the-less, beautiful. The legend ends with Jesus' promise:

"Because of your regret and pity for My suffering, never again the dogwood shall grow large tree enough to be used as a Henceforth it shall be slender and bent and twisted and its blossoms shall be in the form of a cross--two long and two short petals. And in the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red, and in the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns, and all who see it will remember." I never look at a dogwood blossom that I don't think of

this promise from the legend. And the wild plum blossoms pumps forth into the air the softest and sweetest aroma I've ever experienced, giving us the promise of sweet fruit in the near future. It reminds me of the sweet and gentle love that Christ has for me and His sweet promise of fruit in our near future. His love, soft and sweet, yet the most powerful force in the Universe.

You see, a walk through the woods in the springtime is a Spiritual uplifting for me, as were the Candlelight services and Closings of Walks # 52 & #53. I hope you were there to experience them with me. And I look forward to seeing you at the future gatherings and functions of the GRACE Community. Plan and pray now for Pilgrims to sponsor for the fall walks #54 & #55 at Camp Gilmont. We need both Walks to fill up for us to meet our goal of 3 out of 4, 2010 Walks to be full.

May your Spring and Easter be a celebration of New Beginnings for you.

Your Brother-in-Christ, Dan Matthews

From the Spiritual Director

I wondered who first said, "My past has become my present." I searched this phrase on the internet to see if I could find the original author. What I got was quite a few interesting stories. One person stated how much Facebook usage had increased this year especially in the AARP group.

(http://www.thereporteronline.c om/articles/2009/03/24/opinion/ srv0000004967173.txt)

She talked about our expectation that things we did as a child used to remain as a child. She felt safe posting a picture done by a professional photographer. Then someone tagged her in a sixth grade photograph and her bubble was popped.

It made me wonder about the things I have in a box that is some twenty years old from "my walk". It cannot be said often enough that what happens at Emmaus stays at Emmaus, FOREVER! With all the social networking we encounter it is not appropriate to discuss a walk over the internet or watercooler. It might help someone, but it might also hurt someone. I don't think it would ever be our intent to hurt or damage anyone; it always seems to happen by mistake.

The reason I was looking up the statement "My past has become my present" was from something that happened the other night. I was in a Nameless town after dark looking at travel trailers for sale. It was a business that had sales lots on both sides of the street. I drove by very slowly peering in the darkness and then crossed four lanes and a divider, bumped the curb and peered on the other side. All this time, unknown to me, a police car was behind me.

I stepped out of my truck to get a better look at the trailers. I turned and spotted the police car next to my truck at the curb. I waved, he waved and drove off. I wondered, why didn't he ask me what I was doing? After a moment I remembered a book I read as a child, *The clothes make the man*. I was wearing a suit and wondered what would have happened had I been wearing a hooded shirt and jeans.

All this is to talk about Emmaus paraphernalia. When we wear a little something and others see it, I wonder what they think? Would it give an opportunity to talk about Emmaus or God and the effect God has had on our lives? When we look in a mirror would it make our day a little brighter?

Things that happen at Emmaus stay at Emmaus except for our feelings and our relationship with God and God's church. When we become aware of the love of God we cannot keep it in one place. We need to share it. But, we must only share OUR feelings and the changes made in our life.

De Colores David Mays Spiritual Director.

Cleaning for a Reason

If you know any woman currently undergoing Chemo, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning - 1 time per month for 4 months while she is in treatment.

All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service.

http://www.cleaningforareason.org/

Please pass this information on to bless a woman going through any type of Cancer treatment. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. It's our job to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there that care. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along.



Mark You Calendars for these Dates:

Girls Chrysalis Flight Sept 4th, 5th and 6th 2010

Boys Chrysalis Flight Dec 18th, 19th and 20th 2010

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun, God stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time **U** pray, you'll see it's true,

You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name, For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for **U** is the reason He died. It even takes **U** to spell cr**U**cified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew, And this word resUrrection is spelled with a U. When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension, He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's trUe
That I love them all - Just like I love U."

Men's Walk #52

Greetings Grace Community!

What a great Men's walk! Disciples Crossing Camp provided a wonderful setting for the pilgrims of Walk 52. The Lord provided us with great conference room, outside and chapel teams and you could see the Spirit working through each one of them. Every comment I have received from the team and the pilgrims has been positive.

It was such a joy and honor to serve as Lay Director of Walk 52 and I will forever be blessed by it. Thank you for all the support that was shown by the community for showing up to one of the biggest candlelights I have ever seen. Also many thanks for your agape, time, effort, prayers and sponsorship.

Please make sure to bring your pilgrim to the Babe Chick Meeting on April 24, 2010 at Lanes Chapel UMC, Tyler, at 4:30 p.m. Make sure to get them plugged into a reunion group as soon as possible too. Thank you again for the honor to serve.

Yours in Christ,

Brent Hooser Lay Director, Walk #52

Women's Walk #53

I never know when a Walk is finished, who has been blessed the most--the pilgrims or the team. Maybe everyone is equally blessed for am sure that we are all equally exhausted and practically brain dead! Needless to say, it was a fantastic Walk with relatively few problems. I wish everyone could have heard the pilgrims answer the two questions at the end (What has this walk meant to me? And what am I going to do about it?) These ladies got the message of Emmaus in a big way. They were responsive and attentive through out the entire weekend and very caring towards each other. The team was super to work with (the notion that the LD doesn't do anything on a walk is not quite true but close.) © As some of you know, being a LD was not a position that I sought but given the opportunity, I am now very thankful that it happened. During the moments of prewalk preparations when I often berated myself with, "WHY did you accept this!?!?!" and my husband thought Ι permanently attached to the computer, all I can now say is Walk 53 was worth it all. I was blessed, the team was blessed. the pilgrims were blessed and we only hope we were a blessing to them. They are a beautiful bunch of women so be sure to meet and welcome them at the next Gathering at Lane's Chapel. And a huge thank you to all the G.R.A.C.E. community for support and help. You, too, are a great group of people. So to Scottie Wood, (next women's walk LD) "Hang in there! Let God

do His work. You will be blessed exceedingly."
Laquita Showen, LD Walk # 53

Notice

In the cleanup after Walk #53 we found a pair of cloth/leather tan/brown gloves that need a home. Ditto for a Christian music CD. Identify the CD and I will mail it to you. Don't have to identify the gloves.

Ray Carden call me at 903-245-9138

HOW TO SPONSOR OTHERS

This is taken from **DAY FOUR:** The **Pilgrim's Continued Journey**, also on pages 23-24 in Steve Bryant Handbook

1. Pray for the person's openness to God's call to discipleship, not for how to get him or her to go on a walk. 2. Make an appointment with the person or couple for the purpose of discussing their participation in Emmaus. 3. Extend an invitation. Invite them to attend for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ, not jus a weekend to go on. Share your faith; explain the basic elements of the walk, its purpose and followup dimensions which help us live in grace for the rest of our lives. Have the attitude

that you are giving them a wonderful gift rather than that they need to go because you really need it to be a better Christian.

- 4. Ask them to make a commitment by filling out the registration form. If the person is married, speak with both partners and encourage an equal commitment by both spouses.

 5. Continue to pray, prepare agape letters, enlist the support of their pastor. Collect eight to twelve personal agape letters. Do not ask the team to deliver personal gifts during the weekend.
- 6. Support the Walk through your prayers during the 72 hour prayer vigil and your presence at the send off, sponsors hour, Candlelight, and Closing. Support the Pilgrim's family by house sitting, baby sitting, and watering plants, picking up the mail, feeding pets or just checking in with the spouse to see if any help is needed. 7. Encourage the Pilgrim in his or her Fourth day involvement. Give your friend an opportunity to talk through and propitiate the experience. Help them find a group. Or, be prepared to start a group with him or her for a period of time until they find others to be in the group. Take them to Gatherings as your guest for a couple of months. 8. Help the pilgrim reenter their Church and consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm.
- 9. Inform the Pilgrim of how he or she can serve the Emmaus community and future walks. 10. Help the Pilgrim sponsor others. Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the Pilgrims, for the Emmaus Community, and for the church. It is a

demonstration of agape love. It is making oneself an instrument of prevenient Grace. recommend by the Upper Room and the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Board that recent Walk to Emmaus attendees wait 6 months before sponsoring their first Pilgrim. It is recommended by the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Board that a Sponsor should sponsor no more than one to two pilgrims on a single Walk.



REUNION GROUPS:

ABOUT YOUR FOURTH DAYS: Reunion Groups

As you concluded your Walk to Emmaus weekend, vou were introduced to the concept of the Fourth Day -- a symbol of the days of Christian pilgrimage that follow the three-day Emmaus experience. The Walk to Emmaus is a unique opportunity to reflect on one's faith journey and make a deeper commitment to Christ. In fact, "the whole reason for The Walk to Emmaus is to make vou a more faithful disciple and active member in your church." (Bob Wood, Day Four) Thus, a Fourth Day Reunion Group is central to the Emmaus experience, as it extends your experience beyond the weekend and into life in the world.

In living your Fourth Days, you are encouraged to continue to grow in relationship with Christ and live as faithful disciples in all of life. An important and necessary foundation for faithful Christian living is a vital connection to the Christian

community for support, guidance, and challenge.

PIETY: Giving our Hearts to Christ

The Emmaus group reunion is a small accountability group of two to six persons who have usually participated in the three-day Walk to Emmaus and who want to continue their pursuit of a life lived wholly in the grace of God. These follow-up groups' pilgrims translate the message conveyed on the Walk to Emmaus weekend into a daily walk with Christ. With the regular support of a few faithful friends, the gift of God's love in Jesus Christ becomes a lifestyle of Christian discipleship through the threefold discipline of piety, study, and action.

Group reunions meet at regular times, usually weekly for an hour. The meeting consists of persons' sharing the stories of their walk with Christ during the past week.

Members listen to one another, celebrate the grace of God in each person's life, and reinforce each one's core commitment to living in union with Christ in all facets of daily life. Members express that reinforcement through gentle accountability, encouragement, and support of one's stated discipline and plans.

STUDY: Giving our Minds to Christ

A mature Christian is an informed Christian -- informed about the mind and heart of God by knowing scripture. A Christian knows about the world and its needs and works toward gaining the best insights on how to alleviate the hurting world's agonies. Human beings rise above the animal world of simple instincts when they become knowledgeable and use that knowledge to help build God's kingdom. Study, like piety, can be approached in an intentional, systematic way, resulting in a deeping of your relationship with God and an empowering of your Christian discipleship.

ACTION: Giving our Hands to Christ

Reunion groups provide a natural launching pad for mission in the community. Reunion groups are also a support base for acts of agape for Emmaus weekends. Shared engagement in service to others deepens friendships and opens up avenues for Christian action.

As valuable as group activities and a sense of common mission can be, Emmaus groups must remember that these efforts are "extracurricular." Always make time for the primary work of the group -- reviewing the service sheet and reflecting on Christ's presence and call.

The sole purpose of the Emmaus Movement is to strengthen disciples within the ministry of individual congregations. Emmaus is in partnership with the church to inspire its leaders to become more effective and intentional in their ministry. . . . Although the Walk to Emmaus is a unique and powerful instrument through which faithful people are renewed and inspired, it cannot provide the well-rounded programs such as education, evangelism, missions, and stewardship that are provided by an individual congregation. One way to act in Christ's service is to become involved in some facet of your church's ministries

GATHERINGS for GRACE(2010)

April 24, 2010 Lanes Chapel UMC; Tyler

Babe Chick training 4:30 PM Pot Luck Dinner 5:45 PM; Worship 6:45 PM

May 22, 2010, Payne Springs United Methodist Church; Fellowship 5:00PM, Pot Luck Dinner 5:30PM, worship 6:30PM. (NOTE: A correction to this date has been

made. Previously newsletters had a wrong date!!!!)

Aug. 28, 2010 Grace Community, OJ Campus; Sponsor training 4:30PM; Pot Luck Dinner 5:45PM; Worship 6:45PM

Nov. 20 2010 Grand Ultreya; Green Acres Baptist Church; Babe Chick training 4:30PM; Pot Luck Dinner 5:45PM; Worship 6:45PM

Lay Directors for upcoming Walks

Men's Walk #54, Camp Gilmont October 7-10, 2010 Lay Director: Mike Minor

Women's Walk #55, Camp Gilmont October 14-17, 2010 Lay Director: Scotti Wood

Men's Walk #56, Disciples Crossing Date to be determined Lay Director: Bill Durr

Women's Walk #57, Disciples Crossing Date to be determined Lay Director: Toyia Urbaniak

Men's Walk #58, Camp Gilmont September 29-October 2, 2011 Lay Director: David McPherson

Women's Walk #59, Camp Gilmont October 27-30, 2011 Lay Director: Cindy Hooser

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GRACE Board for 2010

Publications

George Asaaf

geeassaf@suddenlink.net 903-569-6553

Crosses, Nametags, and Team Selection

Ken Braswell

braswellsbb@aol.com 903-677-3341 (h) 903-288-5949 (c)

Exificio

Ray Carden

raycarden@suddenlink.net 903-882-1780 (h) 903-245-9138 (c)

Trailer/Clean-up

Frank Copeland

<u>fhcopel@gmail.com</u> 903-723-3420

Secretary

Diana Frachiseur

Tdhbe05@yahoo.com 903-842-3030 (h) 903-571-2646 (c)

Wall Agape/Prayer Clock **Judy Hawn** Jacieh2002@yahoo.com

903-681-1565

Babe Chick Training

Brent Hooser

Brenth12000@ yahoo.com 903-939-9528 (h)

903-521-7367 (c)

Music Director

Patti Jones

Shellie47@aol.com 903-469-3431 (h) 903-288-4550 (c)

Assistant Lay Director Gathering Coordinator

Burton Love

 $\frac{burton love@\,embarqmail.com}{903-425-3864}$

Community Lay Director

Dan Matthews

danmatt4497@hughes.net 903-338-2136 (h)

903-948-9039 (c)

Book Table

John Norman

jenorman@hughes.net

214-803-4074(c)

Newsletter Editor

Jov Parker

Bjparker859@yahoo.com iparker@co.wood.tx.us 903-768-2892 (h)

903-850-2893 (c)

Sponsorship Training

Tom Perdue

tomdue@gmail.com

903-218-1578 (h)

903-571-3199 (c)

Treasurer

Jo Anne Skeen

joanneskeen@gmail.com

903-723-2189 (h)

903-391-1664 (c)

903-723-6143 (w)

Joe Tew

joe@tylerrosenursery.com 903-859-3385

Walk Agape

Jana Russell Whitehurst

jrussell@flex-source.com

903-291-1110 (h)

903-237-9068 (c)

NON-ELECTED POSITIONS

ASD

Ben Bright

bfbright@aol.com

903-845-2871

Chrysalis Steering Chair Registrar

Teresa Elliott

Elliott.teresa@gmail.com

Elliott@tmfhs.org

903-570-5233 (h)

903-531-4485 (c)

ASD

Kim Hagedorn

khagedorn@valornet.com 903-678-9621

Spiritual Director

David Mavs

dmays@dkjjt.com

903-374-4766

Webmaster

Tom Perdue

tomdue@gmail.com 903-218-1578 (h)

903-571-3199 (c)

ASD

Douglas Smith

Ddsmith2000@yahoo.com 903-968-3833

ASD

Jodie Windbigler

reviodie@aol.com 432-425-1485

MEET YOUR BOARD...



Diana Hi~ my name is Frachiseur and I attended GRACE Walk #41 in April 2007 at Disciple's Crossing in Athens, and I sat at the table of Rachel

I am married to my high school sweetheart and we have three amazing children. Hannah is currently in transition as an LVN to an RN and is working at Trinity in Tyler. BJ has been serving this country since 2006 and is currently deployed to Iraq. And Ethan is a senior in high school this year.

My family has worshipped at First United Methodist-Troup for the past 20 years, and this is where I call home.

My interests are of anything that will keen outdoors...from the John Deere to the cows, I am usually

'playing' outside. Tony and I love to fish. We camp as often as possible. And Spring is my time of year!

I am honored to serve on this Board, and appreciate any opportunity to be of service to this community.



My name is Frank Copeland . I presently work with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice at the Michael Unit. Before this I retired from Wal-Mart as the Data Processing manager at distribution center in Palestine after 20 years of service.

I attended G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Walk # 40 at Disciples Crossing and I attend Grace United Methodist Church in Palestine. I have worked as an ATL, TL and on the Chapel team since my Walk. I have also worked an Epiphany at the Texas Youth Commission facility in Corsicana. God blessed me with Kathy, the most wonderful wife in the world. We have two children. Mandy who is married to Ben Goodwyn and they have to two beautiful boys (maybe I should say handsome!) and lives in Houston, and Adam, who is married to Jennifer and they live in Crowley. We're truly blessed with our "4" practicing Christian children!

My hobbies include golf, bow hunting, an occasional dove hunt here and there and doing small woodworking projects. I can't remember all of the hobbies I've had over the last 40 years!

My Walk took me to a different level with my relationship with the Lord. Through the slow journey that the Walk provides I changed. I changed from an intolerant man that walked out of the conference room during a discussion period to the man that now understands we are all different just like the stars in the sky. Jesus took my hand and showed me forgiveness as well. I was able to forgive my sister who did an injustice to our Mother in years past. And to sum it all up, as we all did, during the

Walk I got a glimpse of the love of Jesus' love for me. Especially me. This is me. I love my wife, I love my family, I love my church and I love my Emmaus Community. But the Lord is still working on me, chiseling off my edges and prying my eyes open! I've discovered that on the days after one of these sessions, I actually see things more focused and trust Him to lead me by my hand with the problems I can't see.

G.R.A.C.E. <u>REGISTRAR</u> P.O. Box 132212 Tyler TX. 75713-2212

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:	_				
Email Address:					

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 #		_		