

Grace for Today

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter

August 2024

Our next Walks are soon...
Do you have a Pilgrim? Pray about it!

Coming Events

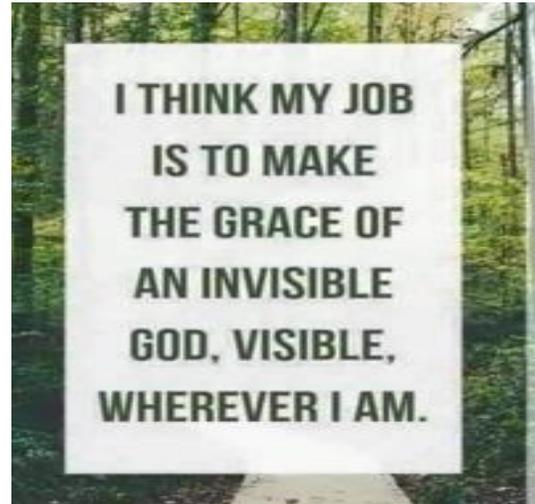
Sat, Aug 17, Gathering, Bar None Cowboy Church, Tatum - Potluck lunch at noon, with Worship immediately following.

Fall Walks at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer

-Men's Walk #106, September 26-29, Gathering & Candlelight, Sat, Sept 28, 7:30

-Women's Walk #107, October 3-6, Gathering & Candlelight, Sat, Oct 5, 7:30

Sat, Oct 19, Gathering, Mineola Methodist Church - Babe Chick Training at 4:00 PM, Potluck at 5pm, with Worship immediately following.



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Find More on the G.R.A.C.E. Website:

www.graceemmaus.com

Community Lay Director's Corner

Dear GRACE Community,
Please pray for our Country and our leaders.

It was a blessing to see each of you who attended our July Gathering at Winona Methodist Church. Special thanks to Pastor Dan Vickers and the wonderful folks for hosting us along with their warm hospitality. We had a very large turnout along with eleven Pastors in attendance as well. Praise God!

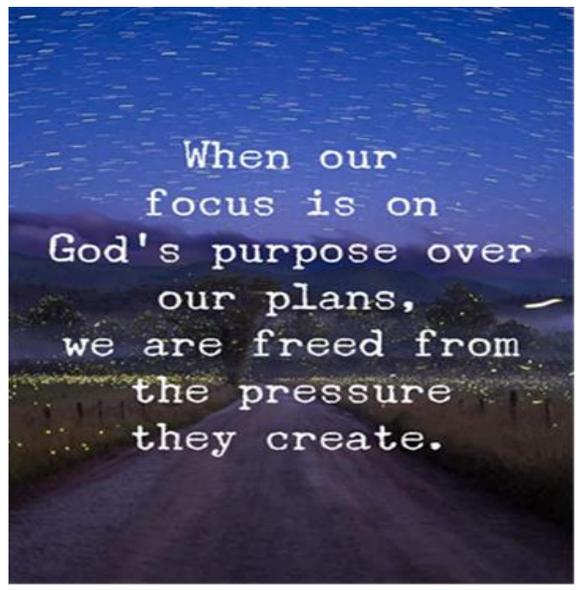
Fall Walk #106 and #107 Lay Directors Rick Rundquist and Liz Webb are "knee deep" in the planning and coordination of Team Training which begins August 10th. Training schedules are being put together to ensure that each team member has the proper training and that each Talk follows the Upper Room guidelines. Let us, as a Community, keep our Walk Leaders and Team members in our prayers.

GRACE Community, please identify people in your circle of influence that God has put on your heart to approach about attending the Fall Walks. Their response is not your responsibility. God asks only for your obedience to Him. We need to remember to pray for each one of these Pilgrims and also remember - God can open closed doors. What may seem impossible to us is nothing for our Creator.

I look forward to seeing each of you at Bar None Cowboy Church in Tatum for our Gathering on August 17th. We will have a potluck luncheon at noon followed by Worship.

Please pray for our Country and our leaders.

De Colores
John Webb
Community Lay Director
"Let it Shine"



Board of Directors Candidates Needed

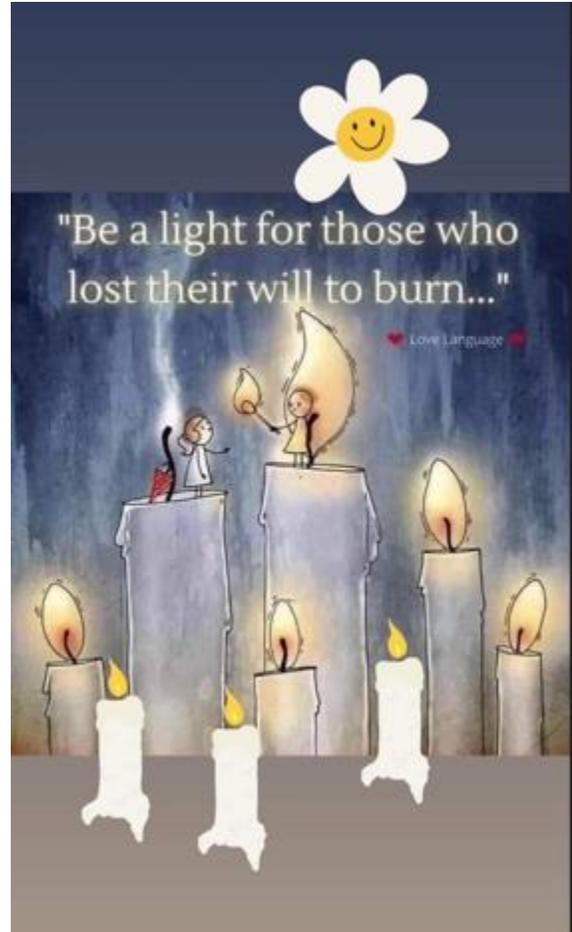
The time has come to start a list of new candidates for next year's board, and we have 5 positions to fill.

Is God calling you to fill one of those positions?

The board meets one Thursday a month, and you would serve for 3 years. It's not a hard job, but a very important job for our Emmaus Community!

Please reach out to me, or any board member for information.

Sandra Grasch
Assistant Community Lay Director
903-286-3331
grasch3@gmail.com



**When you have already started eating at a Gathering, and somebody says...
“LET’S PRAY!”**

How to help with the Fall Walks

- **Fall Walks at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer**

Men's Walk #106, September 26-29, 2024

Women's Walk #107, October 3-6, 2024

Schedule of events during each Walk -

Thursday: Sponsors, please have Pilgrims arrive promptly at 7pm and stay for Sponsors' Hour after Sendoff.

Saturday: Servers for the Agape dinner arrive at 4pm.

Saturday: For Gathering, Worship and Candlelight arrive at 7pm.

Sunday: Sponsors pick up Pilgrim's belongings at 3:30, Closing begins at 4pm.

Mark your calendar to attend the Gathering and Candlelight for each Walk.

- **Pray, Pray, Pray for our Walks!**

- **Sponsor a Pilgrim!** The Teams have been selected and preparations are being done. Do you know someone you would like to share this amazing experience with? Prayerfully consider asking them to attend a walk. Pilgrim information is found on our website www.graceemmaus.com -> Applications tab -> Pilgrim Application.

- **Start making agape gifts for men and women!** Recommended number of identical pieces of agape for each Walk (you can add the name of your Reunion Group and city to the Agape, but please do not put the name of your church):
 - Agape for Everyone – 72
 - Dining Room Agape – 64
 - Bed Agape – 36

Feel free to make as many sets as you would like! It's not too early to start! We will also need lanyards for nametags and crosses, and decorated place mats. Contact Nancy Edwards (ne52055@aol.com) for more information.

- **Do you have a Golf Cart or Mule we could borrow for one or both Walks?** Contact one of the Walk Lay Directors, Rick Rundquist (roundtwig01@gmail.com) or Liz Webb (lizw3bb@gmail.com), if you can help.
- **Consider being a server for the Agape Dinner on Saturday evening of each Walk.** Women will serve for the Men's Walk on Saturday evening. Men will serve for the Women's Walk on Saturday evening. All you need are black pants, a white shirt, and a willing heart! Contact Nancy Edwards (ne52055@aol.com) for more information.



YOUR WALKING FITNESS

How's your Walk? No, not your step count on your Fitbit. You know, your important Walk. The Walk you have with Christ by your side. Your personal, in this world of the fallen, the daily struggling Walk.

2 Timothy 4: 3-5 instructs all of us in the dangers of following our culture in pursuing our daily Walk with Christ.

'You're going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching but will fill up on spiritual junk food—catchy opinions that tickle their fancy. They'll turn their backs on truth and chase mirages. But you—keep your eye on what you're doing; accept the hard times along with the good; keep the Message alive; do a thorough job as God's servant.'
--The Message

As a part of our Walk with Christ, we are called to fellowship and discipleship for a number of valid reasons. We are to lift up, support, and hold one another accountable for our thoughts, actions and inactions. Oops, did I just step on my own toes? Or maybe yours?

In a day-to-day world that no longer holds to God's Word, what do we listen to? The everyday things are not in accordance with what is the truth, or do we listen to combat evil through prayer, study and action on our part. To "keep the Message alive", takes perseverance and persistence. It requires our participation in the building up God's Kingdom here and now.

All of us, as Fourth Dayers', have had the blessing of The Walk to Emmaus. We know how it changed and enhanced our Walk with Christ. How it gave us new tools and determination to rebuke the world in favor of the Word. In some manner, every one of us can support the upcoming Men's and Women's Fall Walks. Could you sponsor a Pilgrim, attend Send-Off, Candlelight, Closing, participate in the Prayer Vigil, or most importantly, pray in general for the Walks and our Community?

Let us all take a personal Walk Fitness assessment. The lessons learned from our Walk to Emmaus will contribute to our obedience to "do a thorough job as God's servants".

DeColores!
Rick Rundquist
Walk #106 Lay Director
"Taste and See That The Lord Is Good"
--Psalm 34:8



The road I've traveled
hasn't been easy, but I'm
still here. The only
reason I'm here today is
BECAUSE God was
walking the road with
me every step of the way.
Amen

God Answers Prayers

He parted the Red Sea and brought the dead to life. We have proof throughout the Bible that God performs miracles, but we don't live like we know we can ask for them.

Without bold prayers, we can't recognize when miracles happen. And if we don't ask in faith for big things, God can't get the glory when they come.

He performs big and small miracles every day. As we begin to recognize His movements, we're able to look back on our lives and see God's faithfulness. By praying big prayers, we're able to see God as a powerful Father who wants to give us good gifts.

Sometimes God moves a mountain an inch a day, and sometimes He moves it a foot in a moment. We don't get to decide the timing or the outcome, but we can choose to trust in His goodness and faithfulness. We can continue to ask in faith and believe that He can and will answer our prayers.

I know God has placed someone on your heart to speak with about attending the Fall Emmaus Walks. I know this because the Team of Walk 107 has been praying for these Pilgrims. God knows who they are, and He has tasked you to invite them. Don't know what to say? What if you simply asked someone if they have a desire to elevate their relationship with the Lord; to take

their relationship with Him to the next level?

Be bold. Be obedient. Their response is not your responsibility. God has already worked it out in their heart. They are waiting on something they don't even know they're waiting on.

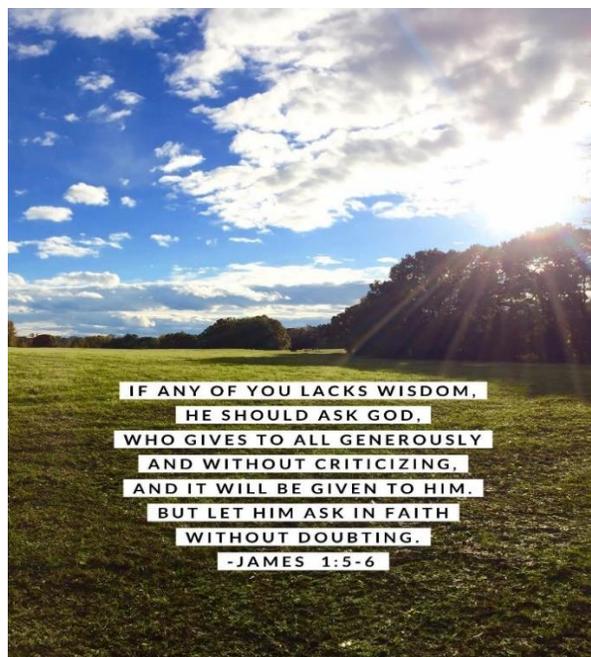
I had no desire to attend an Emmaus Walk when I was asked. Yet, I found myself saying, "Yes" and I couldn't believe it. That's how God works.

Attending Emmaus changed my life. It elevated my relationship with the Lord. I didn't even know another level existed. I owe all the glory to God! He worked a miracle in me. He's still in the business of miracles. He just needs your obedience.

DeColores

Liz Webb

Walk 107 Lay Director



Words For Reflection from the Emmaus Ministries

The rapid procession of church seasons, beginning with Advent every year, can sometimes seem like we're holding onto the tail of a runaway tornado. Advent, then Christmas (and the season thereof that follows), then Epiphany, which can take just a few weeks or a little longer depending on when Easter Sunday is that year. Lent, and the season of Easter, and the grand celebration of Pentecost with its violent wind and tongues of flame. Whew! Everybody, take a breath!

Then it seems we are in "the season after..." f-o-r-e-v-e-r! Six months. Immediately after Pentecost, families begin summer vacations and other travels, followed by the busyness of returning to the routine when August and September begin creeping in. It is easy to feel that nothing important happens in the church or in our spiritual lives during this time.

But nothing could be further from the truth. This season is when we step directly into the story of Jesus. We walk alongside him on the journey and participate in the teaching, preaching, giving, and forgiving of our Savior. As we walk, we observe the perfect example of Christian living and service, which is Jesus walking on this earth, fully human and fully divine. It is during this time that we are transformed into the image of Christ at work in the world ... if we will but allow it!

In this Season of "after Pentecost," let us live out our lives as mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, friends, and neighbors — and even strangers — together, being faithful to our calling to live in the love, grace, joy, and hope of Jesus Christ with one another. Let us truly live as the people — and the movement — that God calls us to be.

De Colores!
Hess "Doc" Hall
The Upper Room Emmaus Ministries Staff
June 2024



*In God's wisdom, He frequently chooses to meet our needs by showing His love toward us through the hands and hearts of others.
— Jack Hayford, minister and author*

Worship and the Presence of God

Did you know that worship isn't only for God? Then you worship God, it brings pleasure and delight to God, but it also does something for you. There are benefits that come from being in God's presence through worship.

Psalm 16:11 tells us,

You reveal the path of life to me
In Your presence is abundant joy
In Your right hand are eternal pleasures.

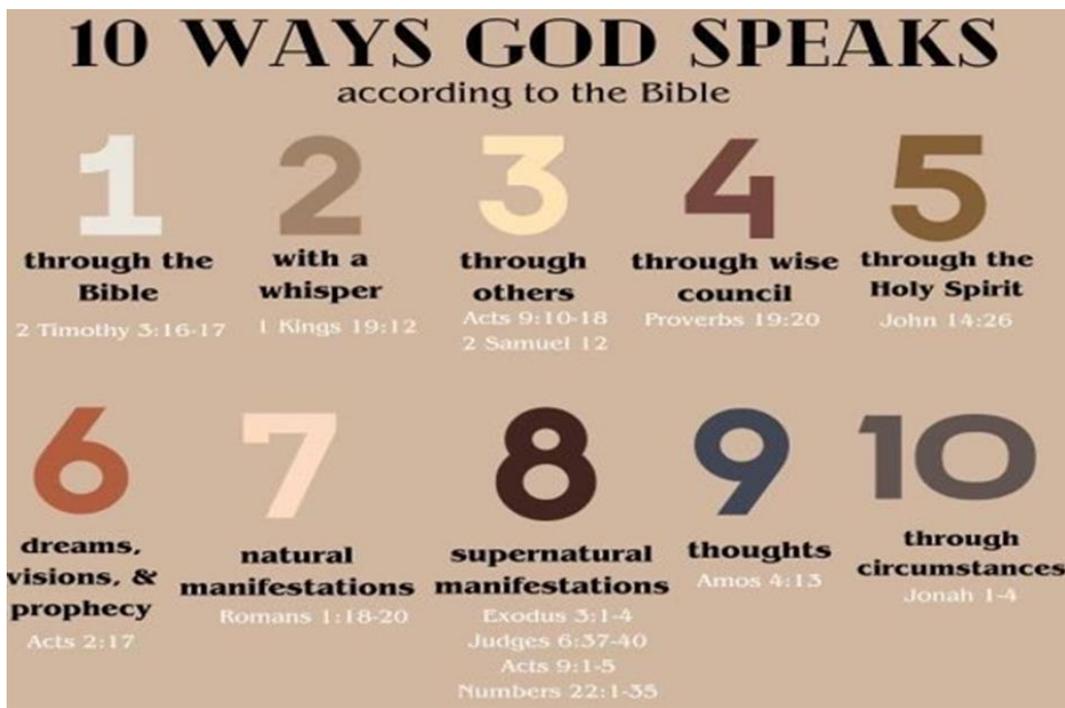
The psalmist says that worship brings joy. Being in God's presence lifts us up emotionally. When joy has escaped you, it is time to worship. When life has crushed in on you, it is time to worship. When the devil has robbed you of your happiness, it is time to worship. When Satan has surrounded you or circumstances have

surrounded you with things that bring you down, it is time to worship.

The reason King David ran to worship is because he knew the joy in God's presence was the fullness of joy. So, if you want to be lifted in your spirit and emotions, go to God. Sing to God. Say nice things about God. Tell God you love him.

You don't find joy by looking for joy. You find joy by being in an environment of joy. And believe me, God lives in an atmosphere of joy. Worship is not something that you do because you feel like it. It is something that you do because God deserves it. That is why you worship. God says when you worship because He deserves it, you are in His presence, and in His presence is the fullness of joy.

Submitted by Betty Buchanan
Reprinted from Instapray.com



FREEDOM

What is "Freedom"? The dictionary defines freedom as the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint. It is the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved.

Jesus, according to John 8:31-32, said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in My Word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know The Truth, and The Truth will set you free."

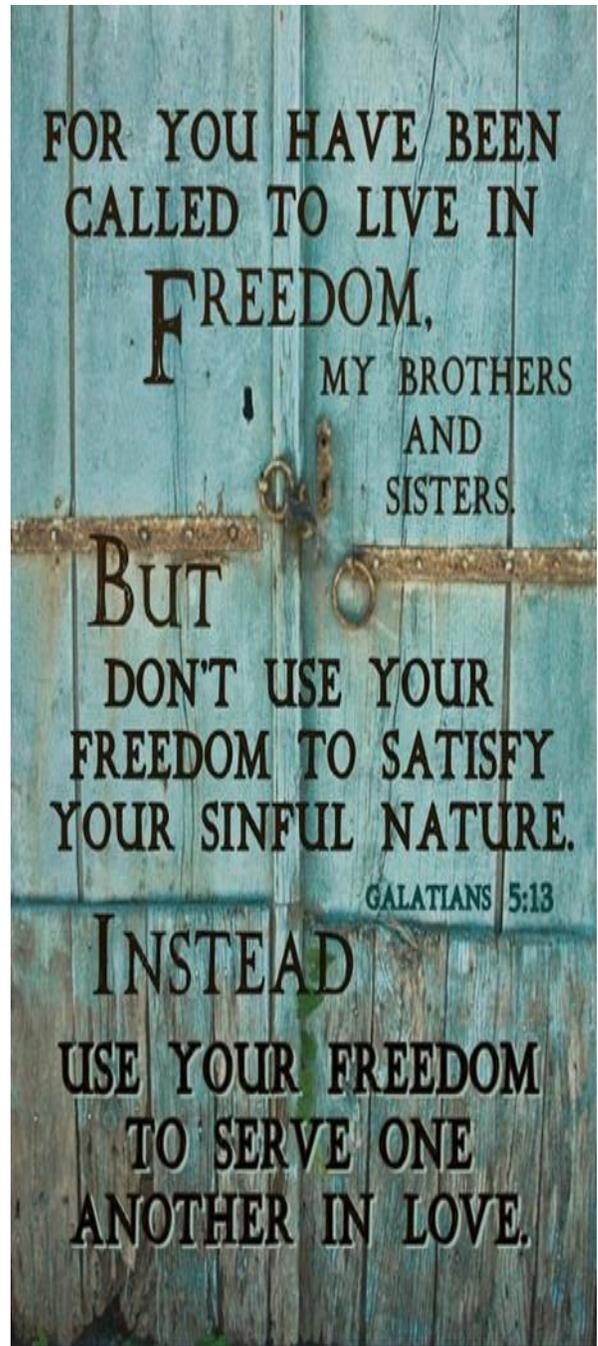
Freedom in Christ is the freedom to say "YES" to God! Christ has set us free from sin and selfishness, and from Satan and bondage! But, Christ has also set us free for His Purpose!

- We are set free, to be set apart, for His Purpose!
- We have been set free in Christ as His sons and daughters!
- We have been set free in Christ ultimately to enjoy God!

Jesus declared, "So if The Son sets you free, you will be free indeed: (John 8:36).

Because of Him, and because of our freedom, let us:

- Live in His Word!
- Live by His Word!
- Live from His Word!



Chad Bearden
Community Ex-officio Lay Director

BIBLE WORDSEARCH

H M V K V O X L W Z N E D E Z
B X G H Q V Z F T C L P U J Z
I T E H P O R P L K E J E A S
P L N R L Y R M A I G Y L O H
I O E Y F L J L S O N L S S A
H R V I H C F E L C A R I M R
S D A A A Z A I A T K R A Q V
R S E H O C I T Q E W D M M M
O M H S N J T X Z J X F A G E
W R L U N S H H E U K E D G V
T U O Z Z G A B H D D C A W E
M O S E S A B P R E Y A R P J
X E V L G K S U S E J R X O O
N K I C Q E Y K M O D G N I K
M S I T P A B L M F I D O G A

WORD LIST

ADAM
ANGEL
ARK
BAPTISM
EDEN

EVE
FAITH
GOD
GRACE
HEAVEN

HOLY
JESUS
KINGDOM
LORD
MIRACLE

MOSES
NOAH
PRAYER
PROPHET
WORSHIP

Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY

Prayer Power: Summer with God

For some, summer is a verb. As in “Where do you summer?” The question assumes a certain level of wealth and leisure. Of course, not everyone can afford a lake house or country home, let alone an extended stay away from the pressures of daily life. But we can all summer with God.

Want to enjoy a season of spiritual warmth, growth and renewal? Pick from among the following six suggestions, which form the acrostic summer. Or even try them all!

Slow down.

Summer brings a change of pace—vacation, holidays, travel. Why not take advantage of that change and invite God into it? Take a break, whether it’s a beach vacation or a weekend away, and listen for God’s voice. Pause for prayer on a walk or hike. Arrive early at church, or linger a little longer in God’s presence.

Unload a burden.

We dress lighter in summer: No heavy coats, scarves or sweaters. But is something still weighing you down? A grudge? Regret? A bad habit? An unrealistic expectation? This summer, ask God to help you let go of whatever’s cluttering your spirit.

Move prayer practice outside.

Take your morning coffee-and-prayer time to the backyard. Or find a spot in the park to pray and read your Bible or an inspirational book. A favorite memory of mine is from a backpacking trip I took with my teenage son. We stopped by a mountain stream, kicked off our shoes and read In His

Steps while dangling our feet in the cool water.

Mingle seasonal pleasures with prayer.

Stop to smell the roses—literally—and give thanks for the fragrance of summer. Share a tall glass of lemonade or slice of melon with your prayer partner. Drop by a Little League game or neighborhood playground to savor the sounds of the season, and let God prompt a few fond memories from your childhood—or your children’s.

Enjoy an outdoor worship experience.

Do any churches in your area host concerts or worship services in the park or at the beach? Some churches even hold periodic “holy hikes,” blending worship and low-impact walking. Check out a nearby prayer labyrinth. Or simply find a flower-filled meadow and sing a hymn of praise to God.

Reflect and recharge.

When you look back on these summer months, how would you like your spiritual life to be different? Refreshed? Rejuvenated? What moments might produce such a result in you and for you?

You might spend an hour reflecting on the first half of this year and asking for God’s blessing on the second half to come. Or you might renew a practice you’ve let slide, such as attending church or singing in the choir. Or you might rekindle a friendship and pray together over the phone.

Summer is an easy season to love. You’ll love it even more if you include God in your plans and summer with him.

Reprinted from Guideposts Power of Prayer
July 2024

Pray for God's Walks!

At a recent gathering, we were reminded by the Fall Lay Directors that "God's Walks" are just around the corner!

In Thessalonians 5:16, Paul tells us to PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, and it is not too early to start praying for the Team and the Pilgrims that will be at those Walks. It is also important to pray for the Family they will be leaving at home and all who will be traveling throughout the weekend. Add the Sponsors who work so hard to get their Pilgrim ready and then are available for the Pilgrim's Family. We can also pray NOW for those who are thinking about being a Pilgrim and the Sponsors that are talking to them and praying for them.

This outline has been used often before and during our Walks. Although we don't know the names of the pilgrims yet, we can still pray for them by number. I hope this will encourage you to start **TODAY** praying for the Walks, and please consider signing up for the Prayer Vigil.

Remember, anyone, regardless of age or health, can be a Prayer Warrior.

Carolyn McCain
Board Publications Chairman

Suggested Prayer Outline for God's Walks

1. Thanks, and praise to God our Father in Heaven
2. To our Savior Jesus Christ
3. To the Holy Spirit
4. For the previous person who prayed
5. For strength for the hour
6. For Pilgrim 1
7. For the team
8. For Pilgrim 2
9. For the Lay Directors
10. For Pilgrim 3
11. For the Spiritual Directors
12. For Pilgrim 4
13. For the Talks
14. For Pilgrim 5
15. For the Conference Room Team
16. For Pilgrim 6
17. For the Servant and Chapel Team
18. For Pilgrim 7
19. For the Table Leaders
20. For Pilgrim 8
21. For the Lay Speakers
22. For Pilgrim 9
23. For the Clergy Speakers
24. For Pilgrim 10
25. for the Sponsors of the Pilgrims
26. For Pilgrim 11
27. For the Families of the Pilgrims
28. For Pilgrim 12
29. For All Pilgrims
30. For Pilgrim 13
31. For Jesus our Lord
32. For Pilgrim 14
33. For Bonding of Team and Pilgrims
34. For Pilgrim 15
35. For Families of the Team
36. For Pilgrim 16
37. For Binding of Satan from Camp
38. For Pilgrim 17
39. Thanks for a successful Walk
40. For Pilgrim 18
41. Magnify the Prayers
42. For Pilgrim 19
43. For Wisdom to those Present
44. For Pilgrim 20
45. For the Team Members' Churches
46. For Pilgrim 21
47. For the Churches of the Pilgrims
48. For Pilgrim 22
49. Thanks to our Father for GRACE Community
50. For Pilgrim 23
51. For Faithful Prayer Vigil servants
52. For Pilgrim 24
53. For the Musicians Working
54. For Pilgrim 25
55. For Prayer Partners.
56. For Pilgrim 26
57. For the Moving of the Holy Spirit during Candlelight
58. For Pilgrim 27
59. For Safe travel for the Candlelight Attendees
60. For Pilgrim 28
61. For the Community Spiritual Director.
62. For Pilgrim 29
63. For the Community Lay Director
64. For Pilgrim 30
65. For the Board Representative
66. For Pilgrim 31
67. For Safe travel for all
68. For Pilgrim 32
69. For the One who needs it the Most
70. For Pilgrim 33
71. For the One who thinks they need it the Least
72. For Pilgrim 34
73. For Pilgrim 35
74. Thanks for the opportunity to Pray
75. For Pilgrim 36
76. For the next person on the Prayer Vigil

Returning To God

The father said to his servants, "This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate. -- Luke 15:24

After receiving his share of the inheritance, the son in the parable from Luke 15 left home and lived wildly. But when he was in need of help, he remembered his father again. He must have felt ashamed of his actions and wondered if his father would ever forgive him. But returning home was the best decision that the son could have made. The father joyfully welcomed his lost son, kissing him and calling for a celebration. I always told my son and daughter when they were going up that they would always be loved and have a home to come home to.

When we fall away from our faith or offend God, we may feel undeserving of God's mercy. But this parable reminds us that God always forgives. God sent Jesus to redeem us from our guilt, shame, disbelief, and unfaithfulness. We may think that our sin could never be forgiven, but God is always awaiting our return. No matter how far we may feel from God, God longs for our return and waits with open arms. Let us take action today by acknowledging our shortcoming and asking for God's mercy and love. God has been searching for us and awaits our return. No matter what bad things we have done in our lives, always remember we have a God that is always waiting for our return.

Lord God, thank you for choosing us. We seek the path that leads to eternal life and pray for the courage never to depart from your side.

Dennis Gage
Community Book Table
Reprinted from
The Upper Room Daily Devotional



GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2024

Lay Director

John Webb
webbgraceemmaus@gmail.com
903-714-6346

Assistant Lay Director

Sandra Grasch
grasch3@gmail.com
903-286-3331

Ex Officio Lay Director

Chad Bearden
cbearden@txfb-ins.com
214-490-9351

Spiritual Director

Jim Pickens
jpickens316@msn.com
214-476-5558

Assistant Spiritual Director

Secretary

Debbie Hays
dhays55@yahoo.com
903-452-5331

Treasurer

Betty Buchanan
Jimbet85@gmail.com
903-930-2678

Committees

Agape (Banquet)

Nancy Edwards
ne52055@aol.com
903-987-3110

Babe Chick Training

Brian Jones
bjones171958@gmail.com
469-337-8654

Book Table

Dennis Gage
gagefireandsafety@gmail.com
903-987-3908

Community Trailer

Douglas Denmark
douglas.denmark@yahoo.com
903-917-3454

Gathering Coordinator

Tim Thompson
826sambojr.tt@gmail.com
903-368-8819

Music Coordinator/Trailer

Brad Burton
brad.d.burton@gmail.com
903-920-6662

Newsletter Editor

Martha Walker
marthasgarden55@gmail.com
903-235-0158

Prayer Vigil/ Wall Agape

Bob Holloway
thegapp2@yahoo.com
817-296-2586

Publications Coordinator

Carolyn McCain
cbmccain@hotmail.com
903-335-1460

Reunion Groups

Ken Sides
sideskr@gmail.com
903-724-3003

Sponsorship Training

Kevin Abney
kevinabney01@icloud.com
903-780-2768

NON-VOTING

Registrar

Charlene Burton
cburtonlindale@gmail.com
903-920-6677

Walk Crosses

Elizabeth Minor
mnm-design@msn.com

Dove Name Tags

Jay Edwards
je7255@aol.com

Community Trainer

Brett Walker
brettfcall@gmail.com
903-987-3090

Webmaster

Brian Walker
triyourself@gmail.com
903-563-2131

Ministry Manager Data Administrator

Martha Walker
marthasgarden55@gmail.com
903-235-0158

SUPPORT FOR THE GRACE EMMAUS COMMUNITY

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.

De Colores

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 in 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 #: _____

MAIL INFORMATION TO:

Tyler Emmaus GRACE Community

P.O. Box 132212

Tyler, TX 75713-2212