

#### August, 2011 Volume 11, Issue 8

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

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# DEAR G.R.A.C.E.,

#### Love Notes from the Community Lay Director - August 2011

The excitement is beginning to build again. Team meetings guided by our weekend leader, David McPherson, start for the men on Aug. 6 and for the women guided by our weekend leader, Cindy Hooser, on Aug. 27. It is time to begin praying for Walks # 58 and # 59 (if you haven't already started) By the way, the prayer clock has already been made available on line by Jay Edwards. (You can access the prayer clock through a link on the GRACEmmaus.org web site.) Now is great time to access the prayer clock and commit to some convenient times to pray for the Walk. An act of anonymous servant-hood would be to handle the sign up for some of our community members who might not have access to a computer or the internet.

It's not too early to begin to make plans to attend Candlelight and Closing for both of our Walks. One of the nicest sights is a full church van pulling into the lot at Gilmont. We all these know that Gatherings are opportunities for the Holy Spirit to work through the Community and impact the lives of our pilgrims. Candlelight for the Men's Walk will be Saturday evening Oct. 1 with closing on the afternoon of Oct. 2 Candlelight for the Women will be Saturday Oct. 29 with closing on the afternoon of Oct. 30. Many of us have fairly long drives, so it is never too early to start to at least think about it.

My wife and I have lived in our current home for nearly 7 years. This year, we finally came close to having all of the flower beds weed free. We then left town for nearly three weeks. When we got back, I asked my wife why she had not weeded the flower beds (she had done most of the work). Of course she wasn't amused with my attempt at humor. Weeds in the flower beds are like sin in our life. If we don't pay attention and work on them constantly, they creep back in just like weeds. Weeds and sin are also alike in that it only takes a little bit of time each day to keep each one away. If my wife and I take 10-30 minutes each day to pull weeds and to nurture our relationship with God, we can keep both weeds and sin under control. The beauty of Emmaus is that reunion groups, Walks and Gatherings allow us to work with others to keep the weeds (sin) away and give us a way to be constantly reminded of our need for a relationship with God.

Have you put the dates for our Walks in your church newsletter, bulletin, etc.? Have you prayed for potential pilgrims? Have you scheduled a time with your reunion group to make agape for the Walks? Have you prayed for rain? Just thought I would throw that in to see who is paying attention.

I pray that your summer has gone well. I look forward to seeing you at a future Gatherings.

Burton I. Love

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## FROM OUR Spiritual Director

This past Sunday we read Romans 9:1-5 in worship. I've read it lots of times before, but this time the passion that Paul had "for his people" struck me in a profound way. I think it happened because I realized that Paul on pronouncing, "that nothing can separate us from the love of God that we now in Christ Jesus our Lord" in chapter 8, immediately reflects on what he's going to do with that kind of love in chapter 9. His answer? He could do anything including giving his life that his people would know this life changing love of God.

Would I do anything? Would you in a world of too busy, too many things to take care of, so much to do, perhaps we ought to all stop and reflect on the wonder of God's power and presence in our lives. Maybe we ought to then ask of ourselves who are "my people" - the ones that pull on my heart strings? What am I willing to do that they may know God?

Then, in a world of too busy - and all of that; live - inviting those people to the gospel Kingdom. There is no greater gift that we give to the world. If you see it is the best tool for them in their lives at this time, invite them to spend a weekend with your Emmaus family. We will rejoice to share our lives with them.

With Hope and Joy in Christ,

**Ricky Ricks** 

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#### MEN'S WALK #58 Sep 29, 2011 – Oct 2, 2011 Camp Gilmont

With the Fall Walks approaching, now is the time to start thinking about sponsoring someone.

It is true that sponsorship is a lot of work. You have to get letters for the pilgrim. You have to take time to carry them to Gilmont. You have to pray for them. You need to attend candlelight then you have to come back for closing. But consider this a blessing rather than a chore. And think just where would you be today if YOUR sponsor had not asked you to go? What if they had felt it was too much work?

So let's get busy. We can fill up both Walks and have a waiting list. You can start by getting with the people from your church that have attended a Walk. Discuss how to light the fire again. I personally have been going to churches in my area and talking to the various men's groups. I can come to your church if you need me.

Team Meetings:

August 6th at Mineola UMC

August 27th at Lanes Chapel UMC September 10th at Lindale UMC September 24th at Fairwood UMC

David McPherson Lay Director Walk #58

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#### WOMEN'S WALK #59 Oct 27, 2011 – Oct 30, 2011 CAMP GILMONT

Walk #59 is progressing and we are anxiously awaiting our first team meeting to be held on August 27, 2011. The team is set and hopefully Pilgrim applications are coming in. Please be in prayer for that person or persons you would sponsor and get the applications to them.

God has put together a great team and I believe He has amazing things in store for the Pilgrims and the Team.

The team is as follows:

Cindy Hooser	LD
Kathy Kapka	ALD
Elizabeth Minor	ALD
Cynthia Bellar	ALD
Jo Anne Skeen	BR
Michael Cline	SD
Jana Russell	TL
Berita Morse	TL
Karol Johnston	TL
Jeannie Hanssen	TL
Carol De Rieux	TL
Marjorie McPherson	TL
Talia Groce	ATL
Janis Johns	ATL
Fran Ayers	ATL
Lorraine Haley	ATL
Kayla Hamm	ATL
Jamie Funderburk	ATL
Edwina Huddleston	CTL
Nima West	ACTL
Susan Jeanes	ACTL
Robin Gillian	STL
Jerri Lykins	ML
Stacy Boyer	AML

Please be in prayer for the team as we prepare to serve on Walk #59.

Blessings,

Cindy Hooser Lay Director Walk #59

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#### THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED



Exodus 13: 17-18 Exodus 13: 21-22

When I left Walk #6 in Lindale, Texas in May of 1999, as a new member of the Grace Emmaus Community, I was full of love, faith, peace and joy! God's presence and love had never been more real to me. I was ready to face the world, fully renewed and knowing that God was in charge of my journey.

Twelve years later, I still know that He is in charge of my journey, but the journey has not all been smooth roads and pretty scenery. There are times that I have felt a kinship with the Israelites, grumbling and doubting that this was really the road to take. I have whined to God that the road is too long and too difficult for me. At times, fear of what lay ahead has blocked my joy and peace and caused me to doubt the road I had taken. While reading these scriptures, I came to understand something I needed to know.

God did not lead the Israelites on the main road, which was a shorter route to their destination. He led them by the desert road because the shorter route would have meant them facing war with the Philistines. God knew that it might scare them into forsaking their journey and returning to Egypt into bondage. The terrain may have been more treacherous and difficult, but God knew their weaknesses and knew which road they were more able to handle to get to their destination. Do you think He might do the same

Do you think He might do the same for you and for me? Our journeys may seem like we are climbing uphill, like we meet obstacle after obstacle. We may question God about the difficulty of our life journey. Why is this so hard? Why is this taking so long? Why can't I take an easier, shorter route? Could it be that God really does know best? Could it be that the route that is shorter and easier is really fraught with more difficulty. Could it be that the easier route takes us right into a major battle with Satan and that we might be defeated by our fear?

God led the Israelites by day in a pillar of cloud and at night by a pillar of fire. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people. If you are taking the road that God has led you to, no matter how difficult it may be, He will lead you on faithfully to your destination. He will not leave His place in front of you. There may not be a pillar of cloud or a pillar of fire, but He is faithful to His Word and He has promised "never to forsake you" on your journey and He is good for His Word. Journey on Dear Friend, you are on the right road.

Judy Hawn

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#### **BURNING HEARTS**

"Were not our hearts burning..?" (Luke 24:32)

Don't you just love that?

We need to learn this secret of the burning heart.

Suddenly Jesus appears to us, fires are set ablaze, and we are given wonderful visions; but then we must learn to maintain the secret of the burning heart - a heart that can go through anything.

It is the simple, dreary day, with its commonplace duties and people, which smother the burning heart unless we have learned the secret of abiding in Jesus.

Roget's Thesaurus list the word "abide" as "await, be patient, be still, continue, exist in". To abide means to accept and follow out, remain faithful to, endure. If we do any one of these in Christ, we are abiding in Him! And the fire remains. Glory be to the Father! I will be accepting donated books for our upcoming walks/book tables at the next two Gatherings. These books will be available to the Pilgrims on Saturday along with consignments from The Scroll.

Burning hearts are what powers our community and makes tangible the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.

DeColores!

Diana Frachiseur

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#### **PRAYER VIGILS**

Prayer Vigils are up and ready. Please take a few minutes and find a time to support the upcoming Walks with your prayers. Links are attached to the GRACE Emmaus home page...

#### DeColores

Jay Edwards

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#### WORKERS WANTED

I know it is August. It's hot, it's dry, and I do not remember what a good rain looks like. One thing I do know is this: In less than 3 months we will start selecting workers for Men's Walk #60 and Women's Walk #61. This should give everyone plenty of time to get all of their work caught up and their priorities in order. Emmaus should be high on your list. You are not too old or too inexperienced to be on the team. We welcome new faces and old friends who have not been involved for a while. Please take time to think about working the Spring Walks...Disciples Crossing, Athens, TX

Men's Walk #60 March 15-18, 2012 Women's Walk #61 April 19-22, 2012

DeColores

Ken Braswell Selection Committee \*



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## LAY DIRECTORS FOR UPCOMING WALKS

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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## 2011 GRACE BOARD

Gathering Coordinator George Asaaf geeassaf@suddenlink.net 903-569-6553

Team Selection/Nomination Chair Walk Clean-up Coordinator

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## **NON-ELECTED POSITIONS**

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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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 St	ate	Zip
Account #	Transit/ABA #		

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