

# Grace For Today

February, 2011  
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G.R.A.C.E. Website  
[www.gracemmaus.org](http://www.gracemmaus.org)

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### NEXT GATHERING

Saturday, March 5, 2011

and

Saturday, March 12, 2011

Disciples Crossing, Athens, TX

Worship @ 8:00

Candlelight @ 9:00

DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE  
[GRACEMMAUS.ORG](http://GRACEMMAUS.ORG) WEBSITE

G.R.A.C.E. REGISTRAR  
P.O. Box 132212  
Tyler, TX 75713-2212

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

What do you say when someone asks, "What is Emmaus"? I'm not sure what others say but it occurs to me that I often launch into a discussion of parts of the weekend, what a wonderful experience it is, how it develops church leaders, and of course the tried and true "you can't really describe it." As we begin the year and anticipate the activities of the community, it is a perfect time to think about all the things that Emmaus is.

A look at the Emmaus handbook gives us some insight. "Emmaus expands participants' spiritual lives, deepens their discipleship, and rekindles their gifts as Christian Leaders in their churches and communities." However, it is not just the Walk that does this. How about group reunions, Community Gatherings, sponsorship, prayer, support of walks, service on teams, community outreach, changed lives of Fourth Dayers?

The bottom line is that Emmaus is a true life "game changer". With the support of the Holy Spirit, we see the love of God expressed in so many ways. This leads a lot of people to want to be a part of the Emmaus Community. The good news is that there are so many things to do outside the Walks.

But...there are even more reasons to participate. I had one of those "What am I doing here" moments the other day. Kind of like the time I was standing on a train platform in the Chicago area waiting for a train at 23 degrees below zero and wondering "What am I doing here?" Emmaus does not evoke those kinds of questions. And in fact, if you are participating in some phase of Emmaus, you are working with positive people who are like-minded in their desire to serve God and follow Jesus Christ.

We have a large community and many opportunities to participate. We are all trying to encourage people to go on a Walk. At the same time we should

be encouraging community members to be an active part of the community. Invite someone to a Gathering, form a new reunion group, volunteer to help with one of the tasks done by a Board member, contact people who have drifted away from the community.

If you have ideas about improving the community through strengthening reunion groups, devising more outreach to encourage people to go on a walk, increasing the quality of walks or anything else, send them along to me or to one of the Board Members.

DeColores

Burton  
Community Lay Director

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### FROM OUR SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Eugene Peterson in his book, *Practicing Resurrection*, talks about growing up, or if we want to be more formal, maturity in Christ. In the book, which is by the way, a fantastic look at the book of Ephesians, he offers this gem:

*"The nature of Christ's sovereignty is not to lord it over his people, but to invite them into the exercise of his self-giving. Which is to say, to become mature, to grow up as participants in who he is and what he does."*

For me, growing up is found in spiritual discipline - spending time with God in prayer, in scripture, in worship, and communion and other Means of Grace. Those who know me will be surprised that I included the word 'discipline' anywhere near 'me'. It's not so much that I get something out of these disciplines every time. I don't. Sometimes it is boring beyond measure. Sometimes I am tempted to rush right through a scripture reading or a prayer time. I also know that sometimes I am the source of that dullness. There are plenty of people kindly enduring my preaching and teaching. Thank you if you are one of

those folks. But when we gather for prayer, worship, scripture, reunion groups, gatherings and other disciplines, we soon sense God is present to us, and that our lives are found in Him. So I urge you: Commit to being in a Reunion Group, spending time in prayer, in scripture, and the other Means of Grace. Cherish them. Savor them. For it is time for us (me, at least) to grow up, and rejoice, that your life is found in your living Lord.

Grace and Peace,

Ricky Ricks



## GATHERING NEWS

If you would like to plan a Gathering, contact George Asaaf at (903) 569-6553 or [geeassaf@suddenlink.net](mailto:geeassaf@suddenlink.net). You can also get guidance from any of the other board members. Keep in mind, it is not difficult and there is a lot of help available to make it a success. It is a true blessing when it all comes together.

We look forward to seeing you at GRACEmmaus Gatherings in the near future.

DeColores



### *Men's Walk Spring 2011 March 3-6, 2011*

Greetings from Bill Durr, a disciple of Jesus Christ by the Will of God.

What an exciting and humbling time of my life this is. Fortunately, I was asked to consider being a Lay Director about a year ago. That far ahead I guess it didn't dawn on me the gravity of how many lives have been and will be affected by this walk.

So many in our GRACE Community have pledged to help me find answers, past and present community lay directors, past and future walk directors, spiritual leaders and so

many of my peers. It wasn't until late November – early December that I realized not only do I not know the answers, I don't know the questions. Planning and team formation has gone so well, I kept thinking there must be something I am missing. Then a light came on; dim at first, then getting brighter. A light that has always been there, that I chose to put a shade over. This isn't my walk, this is God's walk and I am only one of many conduits God has chosen to bring His message to the pilgrims of Walk 56. Where I am weak, God has provided a team of strong and willing servants.

The team is meeting and bonding with great devotion and excitement. Talk previews bring a new and slightly different perspective to God's ancient, never changing message of His love for us.

Please be in prayer for these walks, both the Men's 56 and Women's 57. Be in prayer that God will reveal to you those that the time is right in their lives to hear His message in a way they have never experienced before. Behold, they may not hear the invitation if you don't offer to sponsor them. If you don't know how to sponsor call me at home (903) 586-1720.

Thank you for helping prepare me for God's call.

Yours in Christ,  
Bill Durr

### **God's servants for Walk 56 are:**

- Bill Durr – Lay Director
- Frank Copeland – ALD
- David McPherson – ALD
- Tom McDonald – ALD
- Philip McKanna – ALD
- Mike Cline – Spiritual Director
- Loren Lykins – Music
- Snow Bush – Music
- Bryan Jeanes – TL
- Scott Howard – TL
- Jerry Halpain – TL
- Billy Bass – TL
- Michael Johnston – TL
- David Barnard – TL
- C. J. Cox – ATL
- Scott Shultz – ATL
- Bob Elliott – ATL
- Drew Seidel – ATL
- Roy Drewett – ATL

- Bill Lute – ATL
- Roy & Joy Parker – STL
- Jerry Bach – CT
- Gene Skeen – CT
- Derek Hamm – CT
- Jarratt Major-Clergy
- Bill Holda-Clergy
- Jim Pickens-Clergy



### *Women's Walk Spring 2011 March 10-13, 2011*

### **God's servants for Walk 57 are:**

- Toyia Urbaniak-Lay Director
- Diana Frachiseur-ALD
- Robin Gillian-ALD
- Cindy Hooser-ALD
- Sandy Collins-TL
- Betty Hunt-TL
- Babby Carroll-TL
- Janine Shelton-TL
- Elizabeth Minor-TL
- Stancy Simpson-TL
- Jane Joslin-ATL
- Julia Alexander-ATL
- Carol Brightwell-ATL
- Becky Nono-ATL
- Audrey Gould-ATL
- Debbie Hayes-ATL
- Maxine Kinder-CT
- Karen McGee-CT
- Kim Hagedorn-CT
- Jim Pickens-Clergy
- Enid Shepard-Clergy
- Jackie Thompson-Clergy
- Joy Parker-OT
- Pat Johnson



### ***Pilgrims Needed***

There are plenty of spots open for both the Men's and Women's Walks. And actually – these are not just spots – these are opportunities to have lives changed. If there is somebody who has been on your heart...If there is somebody God is directed you to sponsor...Please do not wait. Talk to that person today. If funds are an issue, please contact Burton Love or any Board Member. We have Community Members who want to make sure everyone who wants to attend a Walk has that opportunity...Don't wait another second...Contact that person in your life today...

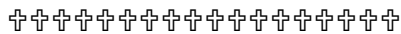




### Prayers Needed

We need the Walk Prayer Vigil slots filled. Both the Men's and Women's Walks need to have every time slot filled with somebody who will commit 30 minutes to prayer. We all know prayer is what drives the Spirit of the Walk. Please sign up today. The Pilgrims and the Team really need your prayers. If you have any questions please me at: [mjedwards@eastman.com](mailto:mjedwards@eastman.com).

Jay Edwards



### Agape Needed

Agape is a very important part of each walk. You probably still have the agape you received at your walk in a box somewhere that you take out from time to time and remember once again how loved you felt during your walk. Please consider making agape for the upcoming walks in March, so that others can feel that same love also. Agape can be in form of small gifts or snacks for the conference room. Those homemade goodies are especially appreciated! We have plenty of bottled-water, liter bottles of soft drinks are needed. You many give your agape to any team or board member or bring it for Thursday send off.

For any questions email:

Judy Hawn  
[mjacieh2002@yahoo.com](mailto:mjacieh2002@yahoo.com)



### Reunion Group Listings

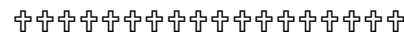
I need help!! And you may say, "You sure do!" That very well may be the case, but I need help in *another* area as well, and that is getting the Reunion Group listing on our web page updated. I just began the process of calling the contact names listed and, wow is it behind! This very well could be the most important bit of information we have on the entire site. Our 3 day Walks' sole purpose is to prepare us for our Fourth Day, so you can see how good, reliable, accurate and up to date information is essential for the new Pilgrims. The Babe Chicks simply must find an active Group! So... here's the deal. Email me at [fhcopel@gmail.com](mailto:fhcopel@gmail.com) and say, "Frank, please update our Group's information with the following information" or... (choices, choices, choices)...go to the G.R.A.C.E. homepage and click on the link on the left side of the page, that reads: "Update Your Info" and here it is:

<http://www.gracemmaus.org/UPDATES.html>

How easy is that!

Hope to be hearing from you soon!

Frank Copeland  
[fhcopel@gmail.com](mailto:fhcopel@gmail.com)



### Book Table Request

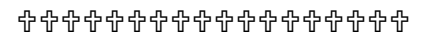
Is there a book that has touched your soul, or opened your eyes, or helped you through some challenging times? How about one that has spoken to you in so clear a language that you've no doubt its authenticity? Or maybe it's a classic-one you'd share over and over with those important to you. I want those books~ I want those titles!!

I am currently making the list for the upcoming Spring Walks Book Tables and I need the community input. I will gladly accept gently-read books or any new ones you would like to donate. And I would greatly appreciate any suggestions you would share for this list. Please e-mail me at [tdhbe05@yahoo.com](mailto:tdhbe05@yahoo.com) or bring your

donated books to our Gathering this February in Hawkins.

Thank you so much -

Diana Frachiseur



### I Was Lost... And I Need to be Found

Loren Lykins loaned his treasured songbook to somebody in the Fall and desperately needs to have it returned in time for the Spring Walks. Unfortunately, Loren cannot remember who borrowed the book. The songbook has a picture of a train on the cover. If you have the songbook, please contact Loren and make arrangements to return it to him. You can contact Loren at: [lykins@yahoo.com](mailto:lykins@yahoo.com)



### Sponsorship 2011 Tom Perdue

We should be extremely grateful to be here today. For if someone hadn't seen something special in us, saw a desire, a longing, a need for us to get closer to God, to take the time to sponsor us, then where possibly would we be right now in our walk with the Lord? The Greater Rose Area Community Emmaus has been around now for 13 years and yet we still struggle with getting walks filled. Sometimes it is not so much is it a problem to fill the Women's walks, but it has been a true struggle and a passion this year for the board to see the Men's walks be full. That has not happened in quite a few years. Let us make 2011 the year that we fill both sets of walks with 36 Brothers and Sisters each, that God wants to wrap His loving arms around as he leads them on to newer and greater understanding and rewards with Him.

What is it that we can get from the walks that we went on? What can we say would be the three things that God may have showed us that makes our hearts burn from within to see more folks hopefully and prayerfully come to find that same love and peace that

we found when we were blessed by someone else that took time to sponsor us and allowed us to attend, to find that special **GRACE** on our weekends.

The **Number One** thing we should have found, is to **LOVE GOD MORE**. We do that through our **WORSHIP**, mostly that is why we are here tonight for this Gathering, for the fellowship, the food, no doubt about that for some of us, but mostly and I hope that it is as important for you as it is for me **and my wife** is the experience and closeness we get with the Lord through our Corporate Worship at one of these **GRACE** Gatherings, and celebrating Communion with Him and our Emmaus Family.

#### **Romans 12:1-2**

It says we are to be a Living Sacrifice for Him.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

The **Second** most important **Number One** thing we should be seeking as committed followers of Jesus Christ and seeking His will for our Brothers and Sisters in Christ is to **increase the Body of Christ** by **LOVING PEOPLE MORE**. That should be **COMMUNITY**, practicing what we were taught on our Walks, Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ or should I say **SPONSOR A FRIEND FOR A WALK**. We should be seeking all those folks that God loves every bit as much as He loves you and me that he brings into our paths daily. Whether they are real brothers or sisters, mom or dad, distant relatives that you know are seeking a closer relationship with God. Or maybe even our closest friends we've had all our lives that know us as well as anyone else on this earth and can see the change that came about from **OUR** encounter with Christ on **OUR** three day experience. Or even possibly a stranger, you know

what I mean not just somebody of a street corner, but someone you casually know, or may not even know personally. Someone in church, at work, in some other organization that you may be a part of, but you all know that someone that God is pressing closer to your heart to "**be that friend to.**"

#### **Acts 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

And finally the **THIRD** most important **Number One** thing we should be doing as devoted, loved and Sanctified, Justified and Prevenient Graceized members of the Body of Christ is to **LOVE MORE PEOPLE**, by doing one of the most important things that God created us for **MISSIONS**.

#### **Acts 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem (*kind of like Tyler*), and in all Judea (*maybe that is Smith County*), and Samaria (*that should be the rest of the GRACE Area*), and to the ends of the earth."

God should have awoken in you on your weekends, a burning passion to see more folks find the true peace of having a loving and committed life with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. That is the mission's part for us to seek out as many as possible by offering ourselves up to Him as a committed and responsible sponsor, that should be each one of our most important missions in life. To see more folks attend a **GRACE** Walk

then we could ever have imagined possible here in East Texas. What do you think our homes, our churches, our neighborhoods, and our towns would look like if we were all seeking Him.

**According to the dictionary, a sponsor is:**

1. One who assumes responsibility for another person or a group during a period of instruction, apprenticeship, or probation.
2. One who vouches for the suitability of a candidate for admission.
3. One who presents a candidate for baptism or confirmation; like a godparent.

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Sponsorship is the act of carrying out that responsibility for a pilgrim that God has chosen and chosen for you to be responsible for. You are God's instrument, "**The Sponsor**", the one who takes responsibility for another. God chose you to go on The Walk to Emmaus experience. Now be sure that God has chosen your potential pilgrim. It requires a lot of **PRAYING**. God should decide whom and when we should sponsor someone.

**GOOD SPONSORSHIP is vital to the Emmaus Movement; it is the most important job in Emmaus.**

#### **Unwise Sponsorship**

Those persons who would find The Walk to Emmaus a discomfoting experience should not be pressed to attend. This discomfort might extend to beliefs about God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit that differ from the traditional Christian belief of the Holy Trinity. The Walk to Emmaus it is not a place for theological or religious debates.

-Do not sponsor persons who are not members of a church.

-Do not sponsor people involved in recent or unresolved emotional distress; for example, the death of a loved one, family breakup, divorce proceedings, work downsizing, job loss, and health problems. (If you are

unsure about this, please ask his/her pastor!) Those who are unable to sit in the conference room chairs for several hours at a time, or have severe medical problems should NOT attend.

-Church Hoppers (those who join a church find something they don't like, complain, and then leave) would be an unwise choice. Many always seem to have an axe to grind against the church, while others are looking for a perfect church.

-People that use any forum to talk about their own agenda. They do not hear or want to hear other views.

-Persons who decide not to make a Walk after being presented the opportunity.

### **Wise Sponsorship**

Initially, consider sponsoring those persons who are committed to living a life that is pleasing to God, those who want to grow and increase their knowledge and understanding of God and His will for them in their lives.

-Church leaders (pastors and laypersons), those serving on committees, outreach programs, anyone participating in the ministries of the church.

-Couples: Try to get them to go on the same set of walks or back-to-back walks.

-Single persons who are active in the church.

-Less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled and their commitments renewed.

-Christians who want to grow spiritually.

-Members of diverse congregations, denominations, and ethnic groups. Many times these people are just waiting to be asked to do something.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPONSOR**

-Spend concentrated time in prayer in an effort to discern whom God wants you to sponsor. The whole weekend

experience leads pilgrims to desire a reordering of priorities, to understand and experience God's grace within a community of believers, and to be drawn into deeper discipleship by the Holy Spirit.

-Meet with the potential pilgrim and share with them some of the aspects of the walk: This may be an appropriate point to address the issue of secrecy. One of the worst mistakes made by those of us who have attended the Emmaus Walk is to be too secretive about what happens on a Walk. The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus states "**There is nothing secret about Emmaus.**" When your prospective pilgrim asks you a specific question, you should always give an honest and truthful answer. Chances are they aren't going to think to ask you about Candlelight or Dying Moments, but if they do, you should not try to deceive them. It would be better to tell them more than necessary than to be too secretive.

-Tell your pilgrim about the format of the weekend:

--There will be fifteen talks, group discussions, and time for fellowship. It's fine to tell them about the type of food served, communion, and the sleeping accommodations. They will be with people they don't know, but in a short time they'll become a close-knit community. This experience will demonstrate the love of God and Christian fellowship. Hopefully, this will help to set their minds at ease.

--Also tell them about Reunion Groups and how they can help to encourage them in further spiritual growth.

-After you have answered all questions, give your prospect an application. (Application forms can be downloaded from our website). Be sure to explain the application. If you have a pamphlet or book on Emmaus, give this to your prospective pilgrim also.

-It is the sponsor's responsibility to advise the registrar of any changes such as change of address, phone number or desire to attend a different Walk than originally signed up for.

-Begin preparations to request the personal agape letters; **approximately 12 LETTERS are needed.** Please be sure to get letters from family, good friends, and clergy. Please mark the letters with "**SPONSOR**" or "**S.**" If you have more than 12, **give the extra to the pilgrim after closing.** Just be sure the most important letters are in the initial 12 the pilgrim will be given on Sunday. If you do not have 12 letters, people working behind the scenes (who probably don't know your pilgrim) will have to make up the difference.

-A few days before The Walk event, contact your pilgrim as a reminder about the upcoming Walk. Offer guidance about what to pack for the weekend. There are guidelines in the letters sent to each pilgrim.

-Get your pilgrim to sendoff between 6:30-7:00 p.m., and assist with check in. Remain with your pilgrim through send-off, introducing him or her to others. Following send-off, **the sponsor is to attend sponsor's hour.** At this time you have the opportunity to pray for your pilgrim.

-Spend as much time as possible in prayer for your pilgrim. **Be a part of the 72-hour prayer vigil.**

-During the 72 hours check on your pilgrim's family to provide necessary assistance.

-Attend the Saturday Gathering hour and candlelight service and take any additional agape letters you have collected. Ensure they do not contain gifts. Any letters containing gifts will **NOT** be given to the pilgrim.

**-Be at closing.**

**-Take your pilgrim to the Babe Chick Training at the next Gathering and even to another one of these Sponsorship Training when they are offered.** The Babe chick Training is usually taught at the gathering following the walk.

**-Assist your pilgrim with joining a reunion group.**

-Get the new "Babe Chick" member to a gathering and introduce him/her to others in the Emmaus community.

-Teach the new Emmaus member how to be a good sponsor and be sure he/she understands the responsibilities of good sponsorship. They can learn much from you if you are a good sponsor.

-Tell the pilgrim how to serve the Emmaus community in future Walks. If you are not sure, ask a board member.

Please remember that sponsorship can be wise or unwise. Unwise sponsorship results from unbridled enthusiasm. Sponsors with unbridled enthusiasm approach anybody and everybody with the admonition that "you need to go on The Walk." Wise sponsorship is careful, intentional, prayerful, and purposeful because it results from God's leading. Wisely sponsored pilgrims return to their churches and community renewed in the commitment to be effective disciples. **THIS is the purpose of Emmaus.**



### **CHRYSALIS**

I would like to extend an invitation for the GRACE community to send their Youth to the Northeast Texas upcoming Chrysalis Flights.

Please check website for upcoming Flights...

Decolores! Fly With Christ!

**Tim M.**

Chrysalis applications can be found on the web site for North East Texas Emmaus - NET  
[www.netemmaus.org](http://www.netemmaus.org)

If you have questions you can e-mail this community at  
[netemmaus@gmail.com](mailto:netemmaus@gmail.com)



### **Coming to East Texas**

EAST TEXAS  
CRUSADE FOR CHRIST  
presents

The Grandson of Billy Graham  
EVANGELIST JONATHAN LOTZ  
Bringing the Message  
"GOD UNDERSTANDS"  
April 13th, 14th and 15th at 7:00 pm  
nightly  
R.E. St. John's Football Stadium in  
Kilgore, Texas

Pray for the Great Awakening of East Texas

East Texas Crusade for Christ  
401 East Main St.  
Kilgore, TX 75662  
903-986-2273  
Website:  
[easttexascrusadeforchrist.blogspot.com](http://easttexascrusadeforchrist.blogspot.com)



### *Lay Directors for upcoming Walks*

Men's Walk #56,  
Disciples Crossing  
March 3-6, 2011  
Lay Director: Bill Durr

Women's Walk #57,  
Disciples Crossing  
March 10-13, 2011  
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



### **GRACE Board for 2011**

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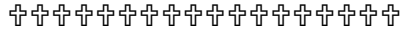
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***NON-ELECTED POSITIONS***

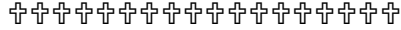
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Tyler Emmaus Community  
DBH: **GRACE Emmaus  
Community**  
**P.O. Box 132212**  
**Tyler, TX 75713-2212**



## 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 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 \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Transit/ABA # \_\_\_\_\_

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