

# G.R.A.C.E. News

## Grace For Today

January, 2006  
Volume 6, Issue 1

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

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### Next Gathering

Thursday

January 12<sup>th</sup>

@ 7:00PM,

Lanes Chapel UMC,

Tyler

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

Dear **G.R.A.C.E.**

### SPONSORSHIP – THE FIRST ACT OF AGAPE

The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus lists three aspects of good sponsorship:

- It is “the first act of agape” before a Walk ever begins.
- It under girds the whole weekend “with sacrificial love on behalf of each Pilgrim.”
- It is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement, which results in the renewal of the church. Thus, sponsorship offers an opportunity for spiritual revitalization to individual Christians who then serve as vessels of renewal in their home, congregation, workplace, community, and the world. Wise sponsorship builds up the body of Christ.

Sponsorship is the act of re-experiencing The Walk to Emmaus with the person whom God has laid on your heart. Do not take its responsibilities lightly or carry them out haphazardly. Sponsorship requires extensive prayer, diligent thought, and careful planning before the Walk and follow-through afterwards. Sponsorship is one of the most important aspects of The Walk to Emmaus.

Remember this focus as you consider sponsorship. Viewing The Walk to Emmaus as a hospital to cure psychological, social and even spiritual ills will weaken the community. Emmaus is for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in the church and everyday environments for Christ’s sake.

Emmaus is designed to give pilgrims the skills needed for leadership and invites them to make the commitment needed to build up the church for the sake of Jesus

Christ. Its purposes are to deepen the faith of individuals, to increase the faith of congregations, and to bring Christianity to the World.

#### **Consider these three principles:**

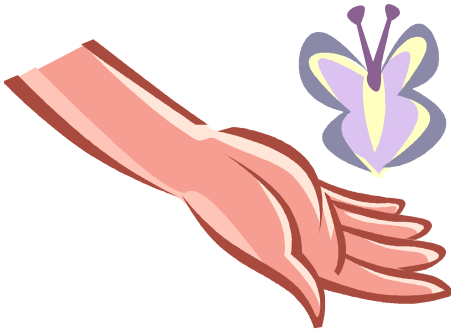
**PRAYER:** Praying is the first step in sponsorship. When we start praying, we commit the process to God. We release to God our control, our desires, and our expectations. As we spend this time in prayer, we need to empty ourselves of self to be filled with God’s instruction, God’s timing, and God’s person for us to sponsor.

**OPENNESS TO GOD:** Our openness to God enables us to become God’s instruments in furthering divine will through The Walk to Emmaus. Being open to God includes having our eyes open to see God at work. Being open to God means we listen. Time and time again, the scriptures admonish us to listen to God and God’s instructions. Our openness to God allows us to receive God’s instruction –

even when the instruction does not conform to our expectations. Our openness to God sensitizes us as to how God wants to renew and revitalize the church using all the aspects (sponsorship included) of the Emmaus experience.

**CALLING BY NAME:** Another aspect of sponsorship is calling individuals by name. God called people by name – Abram (Abraham), Moses, and others. Jesus also called individuals, and he called each person by name. Nowhere in the Gospels do we read Jesus issuing a general call for volunteers. As sponsors, we need to follow the scriptural principles of praying, being open to God, and then calling people by name to attend The Walk to Emmaus. Remember, The Walk to Emmaus is not for everyone. Be certain that the individual you invite is right for Emmaus and the Emmaus is right for that individual.

**Are you ready to be a praying,  
discerning, and completely  
committed sponsor? Is God  
calling you by name?**



**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.** II Corinthians 5:17 (KJ)

### **BOYS CHRYSALIS FLIGHT...**

is to be held in North East Texas on January 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006 in Paris, Texas @ FUMC (downtown). If you are interested in sponsoring a teenage boy to attend this flight there are a few things you need to know. The boys must be at least 15 years old AND have completed the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The cost is \$50. To get an application go to the web site at [www.netemmaus.org](http://www.netemmaus.org), look under Walks/Flights, Registration Forms, then Click on the application to attend a Chrysalis.

Time is urgent. Applications are suppose to be turned in by Jan 6<sup>th</sup> – this Friday. Due to the short time frame I would suggest that you call the registrar to let her know that you have someone to send and make arrangements to either fax the form or hand carry it to the flight. Betty Deaton is the registrar and her number is 903-796-6210.

If you have any other questions or concerns please feel free to contact Teresa Elliott @ 903-570-5233.

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

## MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR BOB MEYERS

Greetings and Happy New Year  
GRACE Emmaus Community,

My prayer for each and every one of you is that the Lord will bless you richly in 2006 and more importantly that GOD will use you in a mighty way to draw others unto Himself. We have a Men's and Women's Walk coming up in March and the Lay Directors are already hard at work putting the Lord's teams together for our "best walks ever!" Please get your sponsor's forms and Walk applications in as soon as possible. If you haven't been praying about who you need to sponsor either for March or October, please do so NOW! God knows who is suppose to be on these Walks and He would love to tell you who it is!

Your GRACE Board for 2006 has already met and is hard at work to make this another success for our Lord: to draw others into His presence and energize them to go back to their home churches, ready to serve and build up the body of Christ.

I look forward to seeing all of you at Lanes Chapel United Methodist Church on Old Jacksonville Highway in Tyler at 7:00 p.m. on January 12<sup>th</sup> for our first Gathering of the year.

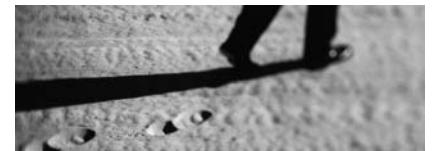
Yours in Christ  
Bob Meyers

# WALK #36

The team for Walk 36 is nearly complete. We are only lacking one or two positions and I am confident that God will fill those positions soon. We will begin our team meetings on Jan 7<sup>th</sup> at Lanes Chapel UMC in Tyler. The other meetings will be on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, and Feb 18<sup>th</sup>. Please pray that the team will come together and be a powerful tool for God.

What we need now are pilgrims!! Please prayerfully consider who you might sponsor for the men's and women's walk. Surely there are more than enough Christian men and women in this area to fill the walks. It is up to the GRACE community (That is YOU and ME!) to offer the Walk to Emmaus to our Christian brothers and sisters who are ready to grow in their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. Don't leave it to someone else. CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU! (Remember?) Please pray about it and see where He leads you.

**Chuck Robinson, Walk 36, LD**



If you have some news that you would like to see in the GRACE Newsletter please e-mail that to Teresa Elliott [tgelliott@cox.net](mailto:tgelliott@cox.net) so that we will have lots of fun interesting information in our newsletters. Thank You. TE