

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

Grace  
For  
Today

January, 2007  
Volume 7, Issue 1

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

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## Next Gathering

Thursday

January 11<sup>th</sup>

@ 7:00PM,

Lanes Chapel UMC,

Tyler

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

DECOLORES

Dear G.R.A.C.E.

“Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked with us by the way...?”

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I pray that every one of you had a very blessed Christmas filled with all the colors of God’s love and grace. As the year 2007 begins I have been honored with the privilege of serving as a Board Member/Newsletter Editor of the G.R.A.C.E. Community. There are exciting times ahead for this community of believers. As Habakkuk 1:5 says, “...watch and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told.” I believe that God is ready and willing to do something “utterly amazing” through the G.R.A.C.E. Community. Because of God’s generosity to us, we generously share the love of God with all the pilgrims on each walk. Because of our faithfulness to God, He uses us to touch and change lives. Because He changes lives, our faithfulness grows and we become even more generous with His gospel message of love and grace. Because He gives His grace to us freely, we freely give to others. This community has been blessed abundantly with members who give freely of themselves. You give your time, your talents, your service and your presence to the Emmaus movement all because God has given to you. My prayer for the coming year is that we “kick it up a notch.” Out of God’s abundance given to us may we ALL give of ourselves and “pay our blessings forward.” I challenge all of us to be more active in and more committed to the Emmaus movement. Please say “yes” when called to serve, attend

community events like Gatherings, Candlelight’s and Closings, sponsor more pilgrims, and give generously to support the everyday operations of the Community. God can use us and our gifts to “do something you would not believe even if you were told.” May we be found faithful.

DeColores, Tom Perdue  
Outgoing Board Member Newsletter Editor

*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)

### First Gathering of 2007

Start the New Year off right by coming to our first gathering of the year. On Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, the G.R.A.C.E. Community will meet at Lane’s Chapel UMC at 7:00pm. Grab a friend or call up a fellow Fourth-Dayer you haven’t seen in a while, and join us for praise and worship, food and fellowship. Hope to see you there!

### Welcome New Board Members

The 2006 and 2007 G.R.A.C.E. Board met on December 15<sup>th</sup> to bid farewell to outgoing Board Members and welcome the newly elected as well. We are looking forward to the upcoming year, and praying God will use the G.R.A.C.E. Community to further His Kingdom on Earth. The new board members are as follows: Harold Starkey, Ray Carden, Bill Durr, Debbie Hayes, Leah Huffstetter, and Robin Gillian. We thank you all for your willingness to serve our community. Please plan to come to the January gathering and get to know your new representatives. We would also like to thank those board members who finished their term in December. They are Tom Perdue, Becky Hanks, Kay McKinley, Linda Slay, and our 2006 Community Lay Director,



## May 12

Gathering 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church, Mineola –  
Covered Dish and Gathering at NOON

## May 17

Board Meeting at Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.

**June 14** – OPEN TBA

## June 21

Board Meeting at Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.

**July NO GATHERING; NO BOARD MEETING**

**August 9**– OPEN TBA

## August 16

Board Meeting at Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.

## September 13

Gathering Crossroads Community,  
Longview – 7 p.m.

## September 20

Board Meeting at Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.

## October 13

Candlelight at Camp Gilmont, Gilmer–  
8 p.m.

## October 18

Candlelight at Camp Gilmont, Gilmer–  
8 p.m.

## November 10

Grand Ultreya at St. Lukes UMC Kilgore  
at Noon

## November 15

Board Meeting at Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.



## **KAIROS No. 30 MICHAEL Unit**

Please pray for the team going into the Michael Unit, April 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2007. There are many needs for the Team more volunteers are needed, on both the inside and outside teams. You can contact Terry Beck at (903) 729-3199 (H) or (903) 724-3372 (C) or you can drop him an email at [the-bopper@earthlink.net](mailto:the-bopper@earthlink.net)

The team is still forming and there are still many positions available, contact Terry, and let the Lord take to a new level of service in your life. If you want to bake cookies for us you can download

the recipes from our unit website, find out more about the KAIROS Prison Ministry and learn what a marvelous ministry this is. Just click on this link to access our site. <http://www.michaelunit.homestead.com/home.html>

You can sign up to attend the closing and get closing instructions at this link.

<http://www.michaelunit.homestead.com/Closing.html>

Please pray for this ministry satan really works overtime to confuse the hearts and minds of the men that will be attending this weekend. Pray for the strength of the Holy Spirit to carry this team into the Unit to do battle.

## **Girls's Epiphany #9 Corsicana February 8-11**

Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Girl's No. 9, will begin at the Texas Youth Commission Facility in Corsicana, TX. If you are interested in praying for the weekend, they do this really phenomenal prayer chain that gets introduced during the weekend to demonstrate God's Agape Love and Prayer for the boys during the weekend, it represents 24/7 prayer for the boys during the weekend. If you would like to sign up for a prayer slot (30 minutes) just send Tom Perdue an email with your name(s) (Sunday school, reunion groups or families are welcome) at [tomdue@suddenlink.net](mailto:tomdue@suddenlink.net) If you've ever seen one of these it is awesome and the Girl's spend a lot of the free time just looking at it and wondering why someone would want to pray for them. If you would like to come to the Closing, be at the Front Gate to the unit by 3:00PM, be conservatively dressed, no open toed shoes or revealing clothing, children 12 and older may attend with a parent or guardian, no children allowed younger than that. Buzz Barton, from Ennis TX. is the Lay Director for this

weekend, if you have any support or words of encouragement for him you can email him at [barton2870@netzero.net](mailto:barton2870@netzero.net)

For directions to the unit and more information about Epiphany email Jerry Bach at [usglobal@suddenlink.net](mailto:usglobal@suddenlink.net)



It is time for us to start catching some butterflies in the GRACE Community. In December the board signed a "Letter of Intent" to be sent to the Upper Room asking for assistance in starting a Chrysalis Community here in GRACE. We are so excited to be able to bring this opportunity to our Community. In the past if our teenagers wanted to attend Chrysalis they had to go to a neighboring community in order to accomplish this.

For those of you that don't know what Chrysalis is – it is a faith based weekend established on the same principles as the Walk to Emmaus. It is designed for Youth between the ages of 15 – 18 years old Chrysalis Flight AND 19 – 24 yrs old for college age that is called Chrysalis Journey.

The butterfly – an ancient Christian symbol of Christ's death and resurrection – provides the central image of the Chrysalis experience. This journey of spiritual growth is illustrated by the life cycle of the butterfly: caterpillar, cocoon and butterfly. Dying to what it was, the caterpillar becomes what it is meant to be. Similarly, our Christian transformation involves dying with Christ to our old self through faith in God's accepting love (Day One), rising with Christ to a new life motivated by hope in God's promises (Day Two) and going forth with Christ in love to joyfully share Christ's ministry (Day Three).



We are now in the development stages of this program and are ready to start a Steering Committee to go forward. If you are interested in being a part of the steering committee please contact: Teresa Elliott @ (903) 570-5233 OR [tgelliott@suddenlink.net](mailto:tgelliott@suddenlink.net) OR snail mail me at 811 Shiloh Road, #B2 Tyler, Texas 75703. We hope to have our first meeting in February.

**DeColores and Fly with Christ - and let's go catch some butterflies!!!**

**Yes, it's almost that time again.**

TAX TIME!!! I hope the following will help answer questions to do with the funds for sponsorship, scholarships and donations.

Remember, this will not be gospel for every household; there are different circumstances. Contact your tax accountant or attorney for details pertaining just to your circumstances.

1. The fee paid to the community for a pilgrim (in turned paid to G.R.A.C.E.)? This is not tax deductible.

Rationale: Payment in which something in return will be provided, such as lodging, food and supplies is not deductible.

2. The monies collected at the Gathering? Yes, it is deductible but see the rational.

Rationale: It can be claimed as a tax deduction if there are "no strings" attached to the money given. If you gave money at the Gathering and specify that it goes for Joe Blow to attend a walk then it's not deductible.

3. If a scholarship is given for an unnamed pilgrim? Yes, it is a tax deduction.

Rationale: Monies given to a scholarship fund can be claimed as a tax deduction. Again, if strings are attached is where the gray area is—if I give monies to the scholarship fund and I name a pilgrim then it is not a deduction. If

I give, unnamed, it is giving to a scholarship and can be deducted.

4. What about money given to your church and the church writes one check? YES and NO—see rational.

**Rational: No: if the money is stated for a fee for a pilgrim to attend the walk, it is not deductible.**

**Yes: If the money is given to the ABC church, in their Emmaus scholarship fund, and there are no strings attached—then you may deduct it.**

5. What about the \$10.00 per pilgrim we pay to Upper Room Nashville? Not a deduction.

Rational: This is considered to be a license fee and not deductible.

6. Donations for weekend supplies and/or food? Yes this is a deductible expense.

Rational: Donations to the community should be made as donations to the community. The board/committee chair makes the expenditure of the funds. This makes the donation a tax deductible item.

Do not shoot the messenger! This is not the Board's rational. This is our government and our tax laws. Again, there are different circumstances—contact the person who does your taxes for clarity.

### **Thoughts on Sponsorship**

Sponsorship is the life blood of our Emmaus Community. Without new folks who come to experience the love of God through the Walk, we neither grow nor flourish. I would offer to you that if you have not sponsored someone, you need to be thinking about how you get started doing so. When you see someone in Church or elsewhere and the thought hits you that perhaps he or she would be great for an Emmaus Walk... don't discount the fact that God may be putting that thought in your mind. I have

come to realize that God will often ask me to sponsor someone I would not normally think to interact with... but someone who needs the experience all the same. When I think back to the two folks in my Church who sponsored me... neither of them were good friends at the time. When God nudges—follow.

If you don't know the ends and outs of sponsorship... ask someone you know who's done it. It's pretty simple... really...

- Convince someone to attend the Walk, and have them fill out an application. Applications can be printed from [www.gracemmaus.org](http://www.gracemmaus.org)

- You fill out the balance of the application and collect the initial check from the potential Pilgrim... Send it all in quickly.

- Once the Pilgrim is accepted onto a Walk, it's your job to start collecting letters from close friends and family so that you have at least twelve (12) of them to hand in on Thursday... when you hand over your Pilgrim.

- Don't forget to take care of the Pilgrim's family while they are without that member of the family. Assist with child care, cook meals, do whatever you can to make it a good weekend for your left behind family. We don't want to turn off a spouse because he/she had to suffer taking care of the kids while the other was away having a great time.

- Follow up with your Pilgrim after the weekend. Get them to the Babe Chick Meeting, and into a Reunion Group. Pick them up for the first Gathering event. Make sure they are engaged in the Community! It's all up to you. We usually never fill up a Men's weekend. Sometimes we don't max out the Women's. With the hundreds of people in G.R.A.C.E. who have walked, all we need is a few more to take interest in sponsorship, and God's work grows at a much faster pace!