

Grace for Today

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter July 2024

Coming Events

Sat, Jul 20, Gathering, Winona Methodist

Potluck lunch at noon, with Worship immediately following.

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

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,

It was great to see each of you at the June Gathering at Carroll Springs Community Church. Many thanks to Pastor Mike Johnston and the kind folks for their warm hospitality and for hosting us.

As we begin the month of July, June brought with it some very interesting weather. Torrential rains, thunderstorms, winds strong enough to knock down huge trees, power lines, etc. All this has given me the opportunity to spend a lot of time with my chainsaw, tractor, and my dogs on our ranch as we have about 10 enormous trees the storms took down.

As I was driving my tractor to the burn pile for the 30th something time, I was thinking about the upcoming Walk to Emmaus Fall Walks. Suddenly the name Ed Castro came into my mind. You might ask, "Who is Ed Castro?" Let me explain...

Probably between 2013 and 2018 I had been approached by multiple people about attending the Walk to Emmaus. Some of those Saints were aggressive in their approach and some were more passive. I had created a stock answer having been approached so many times, "Thank you for sharing this information with me. I'll think about it over the weekend, make a decision, and let you know." The truth is, I was not interested in attending.

One Sunday as I was leaving Church, I heard Ed Castro call my name. He wanted to talk with me about something. As he walked toward me, he had an Emmaus brochure in his hand. I was prepared. We talked for a few minutes, and I gave him my standard response. I told him I would have an answer for him the following Sunday. Ed smiled and said, "Great!"

What happened next was something I'll never forget. He gently put his hand on my shoulder and said softly, "John, the Walk to Emmaus can change your life. It changed mine." He then walked away.

When I got home, I tossed the brochure on the desk in my office where it remained until the next Saturday afternoon. I remember picking it up and closing my eyes. As I sat there, I could hear Ed's words ringing in my ears, "John, the Walk to Emmaus can change your life. It changed mine."

I believe with Ed's prompting through God's grace, the Holy Spirit rained down on me that day. My answer was, "Yes. I am going on the Walk to Emmaus."

How about you? Who was your “Ed Castro?” Who cared enough about you to listen to God’s call and plant the seeds for your journey to the Walk to Emmaus? Ed Castro was right. The Walk to Emmaus changed my life significantly in so many ways. My wife, Liz, went on her Walk the following week after mine. I have been blessed to experience firsthand how it changed her life in her walk with the Lord and in serving Him.

This year’s Fall Walks are being led by Lay Walk Director’s Rick Rundquist and Liz Webb. Both attended the Walk to Emmaus in 2018. Rick and I sat at the Table of Matthew together and he has been a great friend and mentor ever since.

So, I am asking you to prayerfully consider doing two things:

1. Contact your sponsor and tell them, “Thank you” for their sponsorship and for planting the seeds for your Walk to Emmaus and for their agape love.
2. Identify people in your circle of influence that God has put in your heart to approach about the Walk to Emmaus for the Fall Walks and then pray for each one of them.

It isn’t your responsibility to persuade anyone to attend. All you have to be is obedient to God. He is in the business of opening closed doors. He opened mine.

Thank you in advance.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our July 20th Gathering at Winona Methodist Church for a potluck luncheon at 12 noon and Worship Service following.

Blessings,
John Webb
Community Lay Director
“Let it shine”



*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

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.

God Always Keeps His Promises

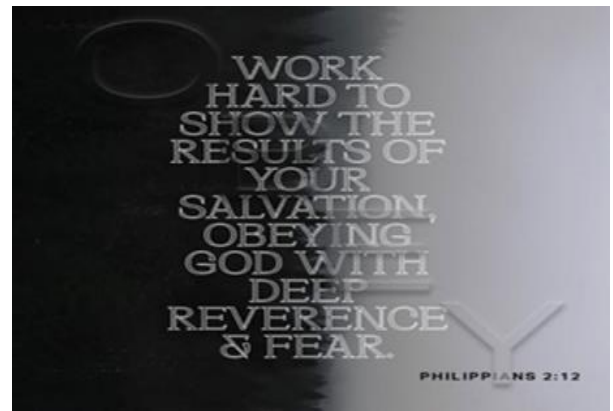
The Israelites were God's chosen people. In Exodus 3 God shows up in a burning bush to Moses and tells him, "Do not come closer. Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." Then He continued, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of My people in Egypt, and have heard them crying out because of their oppressors, and I know about their sufferings. I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and to bring them from that land to a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey. The Israelites' cry for help has come to Me, and I have also seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. Therefore, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh so that you may lead My people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." Exodus 3:5-10

God saw and knew all. For the entire 430 years the Israelites were in Egypt God didn't miss one thing that happened to them. He never took His eyes off His children.

God came down to rescue them. He would deliver them to the land He promised. God never breaks a promise. He always keeps His promises. He has the power to make them, and He has power to fulfill them. Some doubt this fact.

The initial company of Israelites who departed from Egypt did so with reluctance. Bad as things were in Egypt, the known seemed better than the unknown to those who lacked faith. During their forty years of desert wandering, the children of Israel alternately blessed and cursed the name of God. When He showed



them miracles, they humbled themselves. When the tests and rigors of desert life became difficult, they hardened their hearts in anger and resentment. They worshipped other gods. They forgot His power and trembled in fear. In so doing, they lost their privilege to enter the land of promise. Only 3 men over the age of 20 who left Egypt on that Exodus Day were alive 40 years later after wandering in the wilderness. Three! And only two of those three crossed into the Promised Land.

The same God who led the Israelites out of Egypt is the same God we worship today. And yet, we make the same mistakes as the Israelites. How many blessings and promises are we missing out on because of our fear, because of our lack of faith and trust in God? Will we be the generation who misses His promise?

The Fall Walks are fast approaching. The opportunity to invite and sponsor a Pilgrim is upon us. God has called us to "Go" and tell others, to invite them. We are to gather as many as possible, all kinds. May we be obedient to our Lord and Savior.

To God be the glory!
Liz Webb
Lay Director Walk #107

Plan of Salvation

What do you understand it takes for a person to go to Heaven? Consider how the Bible answers this questions:

*Quote From:
The Fireman's Bible
Copyright 2004
by Holman Bible Publishers.*

It's a matter of Faith:

(F) is for Forgiveness:

We cannot have eternal life and heaven without God's forgiveness--- Ephesians 1:7

(A) is for Available: Forgiveness is available.

It is--

- Available for all. John 3:16
- But not automatic. Matthew 7:21

(I) is for Impossible: It is impossible for God to allow sin into heaven.

- Because of who He is: God is loving and just. His judgement is against sin. James:2:13
- Because of who we are: Every person is a sinner: Romans: 3:23
- But how can a sinful person enter heaven, when God allows no sin

(T) is for TURN. Turn means to repent

- Turn from something- sin and self. Luke 13:3
- Turn to Someone; trust Christ only. Romans 10:9

(H) is for Heaven. Heaven is eternal life.

- Here. John 10:10
- Hereafter. John 14:3

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and have displeased You in many ways. I believe You died for my sin and only through faith in Your death and resurrection can I be forgiven. I want to turn from my sin and ask You to come into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this day on, I will follow You by living a life that pleases You. Thank You, Lord Jesus for saving me. Amen



Dennis Gage
Community Book Table

Our Purpose in Life

Our “Purpose in Life” was once simply explained to me as “Our sole existence is for the Glory of God”.

But what does that mean? How can I bring Glory to God?

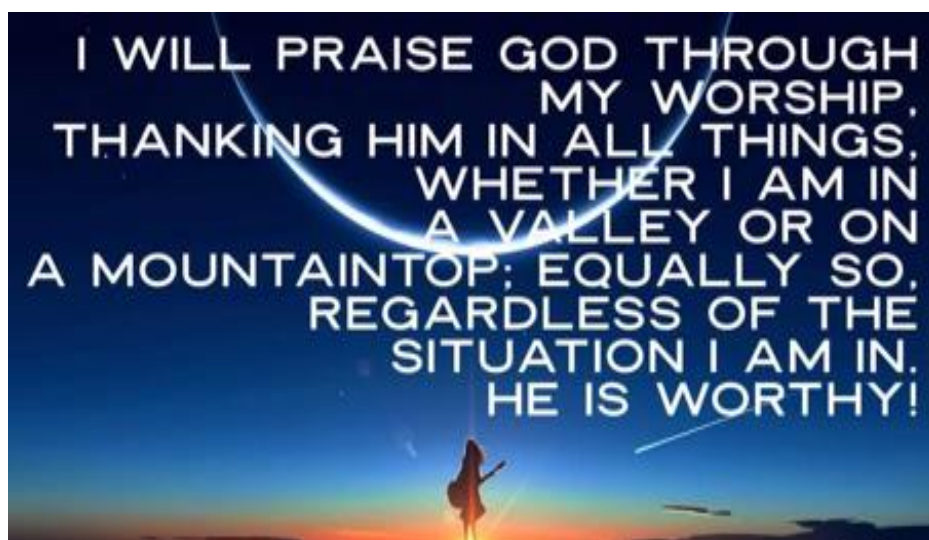
His Word teaches us that giving our “highest praise” to God, satisfies Him! And giving God “honor”, blesses Him! Therefore, we must ask ourselves if it is our habit every day to praise and honor God? If the purpose of our existence is The Glory of God, then how are we declaring and displaying His Greatness?

Psalm 145:1-3 states, “I will extol You, my God and King, and bless Your Name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You and praise Your Name forever and ever. Great is The Lord, and greatly to be praised, and His Greatness is unsearchable.”

We will never run out of things for which to praise God! We will never stop seeing and recognizing God's Greatness in our lives!

Let us practice declaring and displaying The Greatness of God **EVERY DAY**, in **EVERY WAY**, in **EVERYTHING**! Yay God!

Chad Bearden
Community Ex-officio Lay Director



Experiencing God's Miracles

I recently read a devotion about how serving allows us to experience miracles. It pointed out that in the story in John, about Jesus turning water into wine at his friend's wedding reception, the miracle was only witnessed by the servants at the wedding. No one else at the wedding had any idea that Jesus had just completed his first miracle. What an amazing thing those servants were blessed to witness.

Now, this could have been a coincidence, but I have found, when it comes to God, things are rarely a coincidence. Perhaps God had a reason for only allowing those who were serving to witness this first miracle.

I know I don't want to miss out on any of God's miracles! If serving allows me to have a better chance of, not only witnessing, but being a part of God's miraculous works, then I will serve.

"From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Ephesians 4:16 NIV

Sandra Grasch
Assistant Community Lay Director



It is wonderful what miracles God works
in wills that are utterly surrendered to Him.

– Hannah Whitall Smith

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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 #: _____

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