

Grace for Today

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter July - August 2023

Coming Events

Saturday, August 19, Gathering

Bar None Cowboy Church, Tatum
Noon Potluck, Worship immediately following

Fall Men's Walk #102

Thurs Sept 21 thru Sun Sept 24

Camp Gilmont, Gilmer
Sat, 7:30pm, Gathering & Candlelight

Fall Women's Walk 103

Thurs Sept 28 thru Sun Oct 1

Camp Gilmont, Gilmer
Sat, 7:30, Gathering & Candlelight

Saturday, October 14, Gathering

Life Source Community Church, Lindale
Babe Chick and Sponsorship training 4:00,
Potluck 5:00 pm, Worship immediately after

We need PILGRIMS for these Fall Walks!

Do you know someone who is a good candidate? Please consider being a sponsor! Helpful Information is on the website. See the Pilgrim Application tab.

Prayer Vigil signup is posted on the website! Please signup to pray for Walks 102 and 103.



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Find More on the G.R.A.C.E. Website:
www.graceemmaus.com

Community Lay Director's Corner

Greetings and DeColores!

I hope all the community is doing well. As I write this correspondence, I ask myself "Am I doing well, or am I just doing?"

I am acutely aware this morning that I awoke in the midst of the world. My troubles and problems from last night still exist this morning. However, I am working on awaking each morning differently. I am working instead, to awake each morning in the midst of the Lord.

PHILIPPIANS 4 says, "Rejoice in The Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

I am sure there are many truths you can draw from this passage of scripture. I am personally convinced of these four truths found in this passage: (1) We are human and we get anxious and fearful. (2) An Awe of God's Presence is more important, more beautiful, and more real than we can ever imagine. (3) Being in Awe of God's Presence eliminates all worries and fears and (4) The fear of God is the beginning of everything good!

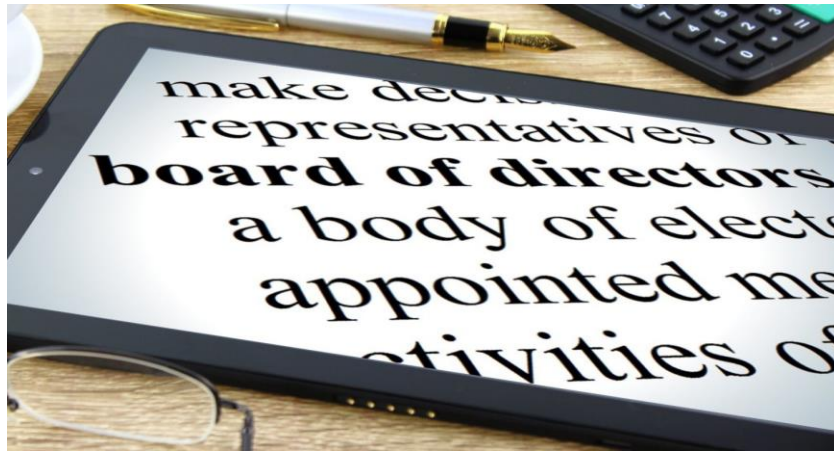
Let us all work to awake and walk in the midst of our Lord daily.

Thank you and God Bless.

Chad Bearden

Community Lay Director





Board of Directors Candidates Needed

Our Board of Directors consists of 15 lay members, who serve 3 year terms, with 5 members rotating off the Board every year.

We are currently seeking Community Members interested in running for election to the Board of Directors for the 2024-2026 term.

Please prayerfully consider serving our Community in this capacity! If you are interested please quickly contact John Webb, our Community Assistant Lay Director, at johnw3bb54@gmail.com or 903-714-6346, for more information. Elections for the open positions will be soon.



Reminders for Our Coming Walks at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer

Fall Men's Walk #102, Thurs Sept 21 thru Sun Sept 24

Fall Women's Walk 103, Thurs Sept 28 thru Sun Oct 1

- **We need PILGRIMS for both Walks!** Do you know someone who is a good candidate? Please consider being a sponsor! Helpful Information is on our website under the Pilgrim Application tab.
- **Prayer Vigil signup is posted on the website!** Please signup to pray for Walks 102 and 103. Access to the prayer vigil is thru our website under the Prayer Vigil tab.
- **We need Agape gifts for both Walks!** For table agape we need 70 identical gifts, and for bed agape we need 36 identical gifts. Please contact Deb Miller at debikmiller54@gmail.com or 214-537-0627 if you can help.
- **We need snacks and soft drinks for both Walks!** For homemade snacks, please put them in individual bags. Please contact Deb Miller at debikmiller54@gmail.com or 214-537-0627 if you can help.
- **We need Golf Carts for the Walks. Do you have one we could borrow?** Please contact one of our Walk Lay Directors if you can help: Ken Sides (sideskr@gmail.com or 903-724-3003) or Charlene Burton (cburtonlindale@gmail.com or 903-920-6677).
- **Consider being a server for the Agape Dinner** Saturday evening for the Walks. Women will serve at the Men's Walk on September 23, and Men will serve for the Women's Walk on September 31. Please contact Deb Miller at debikmiller54@gmail.com or 214-537-0627 for information about what time to arrive and what to wear.
- **Gathering and Candlelight at both Walks** will be on Saturday evening start promptly at 7:30. Please use the parking lot in front of the Dining Hall, and the Gathering will be in the Dining Hall.
- **Everyone is invited to Closing** for both Walks! Please arrive at the Camp promptly at 3:45pm on Sunday. Use the parking lot in front of the Dining Hall, and Closing will be in the Crain Center.
- **Sponsors picking up a Pilgrims after the Walks** should arrive promptly at 3:30pm on Sunday to collect the Pilgrim's belongings before Closing. Please use the parking lot in front of the Dining Hall.

Please help if you can!

Enjoying God

God's word tells us that enjoying our relationship with God is our most important race!

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, The Founder and Perfecter of our faith, Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at The Right Hand of The Throne of God." - Hebrews 12: 1-2

We are His Joy. Sometimes the stress of life keeps us from enjoying God. Let us lay it aside and let Him carry that weight! Sin has a way of clinging to us and bogging us down. Let us receive His Forgiveness and repent and believe Jesus has taken that sin upon himself!

Let us enjoy God as we run the race He has set before us today!

Anonymous Submission
The Hands and Feet



Our Purpose: Walks 102 & 103

“The purpose of the Emmaus movement is to inspire, challenge and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, and daily lives. Emmaus provides a way to lift up our grace filled lives to be lived and shared with others to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, and through them their own families, congregations, and the world in which they live. It is a highly structured event, prayerfully designed, between laity and clergy to foster a renewal of spirit in the participants and the church.”

With that said, the Fall Walk Teams are in place and the Walks are ready to accept Pilgrim Applications! Won't you consider sponsoring someone? If everyone reading this article sponsored one pilgrim, imagine how full our walks would be! Why not share the wonderful experience you had on your walk! You can find Pilgrim Applications on the Graceemmaus.com website!

DeColores!

Ken and Charlene

Lay Directors for Walks #102 and #103



Generous persons will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

—Proverbs 11:25

Phillipians 4:10-19 Serve and Be Served

As we prepare for our Fall Walks, we are all striving to find different ways to serve our Pilgrims. We create Agape, cook sweets, buy water, borrow various items, and so many more activities to be God's servants to the Pilgrims. Even during the Walk, we carry their luggage, clean their rooms, clear their dishes – basically wait on them hand and foot. We want them to feel the love and servanthood Jesus showered on others during His time on earth.

We serve, but the Pilgrims need to allow us to serve them. I have seen many who feel like they do not need to be served. It may not be easy to be the one on the receiving end, but with humility, we can all allow God to gently care for us by a variety of means. In Philippians 4, the Apostle Paul expressed his gratitude for all those who shared 'in his troubles'. He depends on people to support him as he preached and taught the gospel. He understood that the gifts provided for him when he was in need were simply an extension of people's love for God. Our gifts are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God (v. 18).

Servanthood is a blessing.

Carolyn McCain, Secretary

G.R.A.C.E. Board

Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.

—Colossians 3:17



I Shall Not Want

In his beautiful book, "I Shall Not Want," Robert Ketchum tells of a Sunday School teacher who asked her group of children if anyone could quote the entire 23rd Psalm. A golden-haired, four-and-a-half-year-old girl was among those who raised their hands.

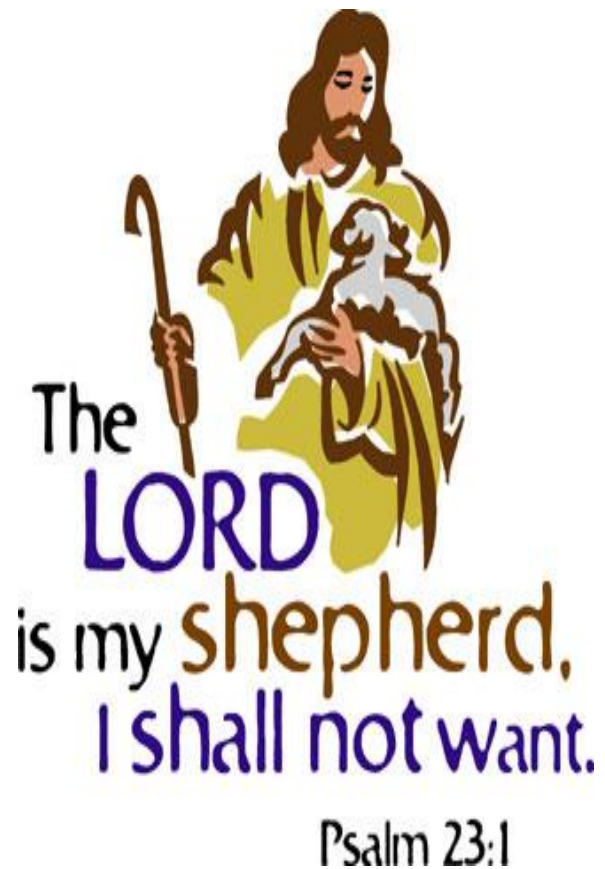
A bit skeptical, the teacher asked if she could really quote the entire psalm.

The little girl came to the front of the room, faced the class, made a perky little bow, and said, "*The Lord is my shepherd, that's all I want.*"

She bowed again and went and sat down.

That may well be the greatest interpretation of the 23rd Psalm ever heard.

Charlene Burton



Finding Grace

With Walks #102 and #103 quickly approaching, spiritual attacks will be at an all-time high. A gentle reminder for myself, as well as you, is that we must remember to guard ourselves from the flaming arrows of the Enemy. His goal is to distract us from the themes of God's grace and what it means to be the church. His main goal is to Kill, Steal, and Destroy and you better believe he will do what he must to cause discord.

As well as guarding ourselves, let us also keep our eyes fixed on God, give Grace to each other and walk in Love. We show our pilgrims Agape love, but do we show Agape love to each other as well? It is so easy to get consumed with making sure everything is perfect and that everything is in place for these Walks, that we could so easily lose sight of this. Being unkind to our Brothers and Sisters who work these Walks should not ever be an issue, but sometimes can be.

With each Walk tensions can run high. There are stress-inducing complications, obstacles, detours, you name it – if it can go wrong, it usually does. However, when these issues arise, let us remember to be kind to each other and show love. I'm stepping on my own toes here, but thought we could all use this gentle reminder. We are the ones setting the examples of Christian discipleship, Love and what it means to be the church. And always remember that people are watching.



1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Anonymous Contributor

Always Choose Love

Devotions

I recently came across a devotional in my Bible App that seemed to be written for me. Most of the times my prayers consist of items that are important but I don't think I always consider to true, unlimited power of prayer to an unlimited God. Just thought I would share this devotional on Wild Prayers to help us remember, our God does not have human limitations. Feel free to bring it all to the table.

YOUR PRAYER NEEDS TO BE BIGGER THAN YOU

Our prayers are often, a product of our limiting life experiences. In contrast to this, God expects us to pray His size and not our size. When our prayer is bigger than us, God's answer will exceed even that big, wild, and audacious prayer.

The incident of Jesus feeding the 5000 offers us life lessons on God-sized prayer:

Every problem is an invitation for a wild God-sized prayer:

Each of our problems can be viewed as seeds for great miracles in our lives if we choose to water them with God-sized prayers. The disciples looked at the hungry masses and panicked because of their lack of resources. But God looks at every weakness and inadequacy as an opportunity to reveal His greatest glory. Today, if you are faced with lack or inadequacy, you are God's perfect candidate for a miracle.

God will wait on you to bring the problem to Him

Jesus knew about the situation way before the apostles mentioned it to Him, but He waited for them to bring the matter to His notice. In this incident, the disciples made three mistakes.

- They delayed in bringing the problem to Jesus
- They tried to send the hungry masses away and thereby evade the problem
- They worried about the humongous amount of resources required to meet the need

While they were busy worrying, procrastinating, and brainstorming, Jesus was patiently waiting for them to bring the problem to Him.

(Continued on next page)



"Every day we live is a priceless gift of God, loaded with possibilities to learn something new, to gain fresh insights."

- Dale Evans Rogers, actress and singer

Devotions (continued)

Let not your worldly wisdom limit God:

Philip said to Jesus, "It would take more than half a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" This was Philip operating from his own experience and knowledge. Many times, when we operate in our own worldly wisdom, we focus on the impossibility of the situation and forget about God's glorious power that was manifest in the past. God loves it when we do not lean on our own understanding and trust him like a child.

Give thanks in advance:

Jesus lifted the little food in His hands and offered thanks to the Father. This act of gratitude unleashed the riches of God's glory. Our gratitude has the power to open doors to miracles.

Praying God size does not make sense, it makes miracles. God specializes in things that are humanly impossible. If you ever use the word "impossible," listen for a laugh from heaven!

Reflection time:

1. What are the problems that you have delayed from bringing to God's notice?
2. What are those situations that you are trying to evade?
3. Write down a God-sized prayer that can change the most impossible situation in your life.

Have a little chat about all that you have written down with God.

Brad Burton



The Lord is his people's strength; he is a fortress of protection for his anointed one.

—Psalm 28:8 (The Daily Life Bible)

THE REFINER'S FIRE

The story is told of a group of women that met for Bible study. While studying in the book of Malachi, chapter three, they came across verse three which says: "He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." This verse puzzled the women and they wondered how this statement applied to the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out more about the process of refining silver, and to get back to the group at their next Bible study.

The following week, the woman called up a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him while at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest, beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith work, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire, where the flames were the hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot, then she thought again about the verse, that "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the entire time the silver was being refined. The man answered yes, that not only did he have to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on it the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left even a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "But how do you know when the silver is fully refined?"

He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy--when I see my image in it."

Kevin Abney



"He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver." Malachai 3:3

GRACE Emmaus Community Board of Directors 2023

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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 #: _____

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