



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

Devotional from our Spiritual Director

July, 2009
Volume 9, Issue 7

G.R.A.C.E. Website
www.gracemaus.org

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NEXT QUARTERLY GATHERING!

August 15th,
Pollard UMC Sponsor
training 11 am; Pot Luck
Lunch- 12 noon; Worship
to follow at 1:15 pm

G.R.A.C.E. REGISTRAR
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I was thirteen and I knew I had been called by God to share the Gospel. I wondered, “what does that mean?” I went to an SMU event for youth that felt called to serve the church. We went to one room with a gigantic swimming pool and I thought, “OK, I can do this it’s just like camp.” We walked to the student center and I thought, “lots of people, it must be fun.” We walked to the lecture halls and I thought – “boring!” Then we went to the library and I said – “I will never read all these books, besides, why do I need to read history? I am about the future not the past!”

All I needed were the Gospels, good Ol’ Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I could relate to Jesus complaining about those phylacteries and Tassels. I didn’t need any of that. I’ll spend my time doing and leave the reading to others. I mean after all, God will inspire me if I need to know.

Then Vietnam and my conflict over “Thou Shall not Kill” and a job where I had to work on Sundays -- “Remember the Sabbath and keep it Holy” caused me grief. How was I supposed to deal with this? I waited, and waited, and waited ... no inspiration. All of the time I waited I thought, “How have other people dealt with this dilemma? What do others think?” I went to the library, “WHAT! The library, I can’t believe I am here.”

That is when I discovered, Growth Through Study. It was reading others’ struggles that I discovered I was not on an island. It was hearing the voices of the past giving light to the present. It was finding out that the path was well worn and I didn’t need to clear the way all by myself. It was discovering that like conversation with others today could be had with those of the past.

It was in that process of Growth Through Study that I discovered who I was and that there were others like me. It was in reading that I discovered the Body of Christ was more than the people at church. It was in reading that I discovered a new way to live.

In a book called Dangerous Wonders by Michael Yaconelli on page 64, he tells a story by Bill Harley about a girl called Tracy. Tracy had “coke-bottle glasses and hearing aids on each ear. She ran in a loping, carefree way, with one leg pulling after the other, one arm windmilling wildly in the air.” (It is a story worth the purchase price of the book.) Tracy never hit the ball in T-Ball until the last game of the season and she “smoked it right up the middle.” With all the commotion, surprise, cheering and yelling, Tracy rounded third headed for the game winning run. (You really need to read the story.)

On her way to home Tracy discovered a “twelve-year-old, geriatric mutt” with its tongue hung out and its tail wagging to be more important

than a home run. Wow, with tears in my eyes I realized that I had run for home far too many times and missed what was really important in life. I discovered a little Growth Through Study that day. How about you? Read anything that changed your life?

DeColores,
David Mays
Community Spiritual Director.



A note from your Community Lay Director:

Since the last newsletter we have celebrated two local Gatherings in the community. On 6/13 the community was in Alba/Golden at the Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church #2 and on 6/27 we were in Payne Springs at the Payne Springs United Methodist Church. We had a great time in both places with a great turnout of local people along with a few from outside the area. We want to encourage you to consider sponsoring a local Gathering in your area. They can be a lot of fun and a great opportunity for the Emmaus folks to get together. Be sure to let us know when you plan one as your board has promised to send a representative (we can't let you have all the fun).

Do you have your pilgrim selected to sponsor for the fall walks? Not only is it not too early it's now time to be planning for your sponsoree. Remember to pray about your choice and personally ask them to attend. An e-mail or a phone call is not the appropriate way to ask.

Our community is busy getting ready for a **Chrysalis Flight in Tyler on 7/30-8/1 at Pollard UMC**, and the **Fall walks to be held at Camp Gilmont**. Team meetings are currently in progress now for Chrysalis and will be starting soon for the Emmaus Walks. Please be in prayer for the team members and the pilgrims that the Lord will select to attend. Be sure to remember **Chrysalis Candlelight at 8 PM on Friday 7/31 and Closing on 8/1 at 4 PM**. Try to make one or both of these events to support your Chrysalis/Emmaus Community.

On Saturday 7/18 Carleen Alderman, the Emmaus coordinator for our area, has kindly consented to conduct a 3 hour training session for future Weekend Lay Director candidates. If you have served as an ALD for one or two walks you should consider attending this session. Please let me hear from you so we can get your registered. It's a great opportunity that probably will not be repeated soon.

Last month I asked you to contact one of us on the board if you were interested in serving your community by becoming a board member. Thus far we have zero responses. **We will need 5 dedicated servants to replace the 5 who are leaving the board in December.** Wouldn't you like to serve your Lord and your community by giving of your time and talents as a board member?

Speaking of serving, we are soon to have two critical openings in our community. Robin Gillian is to complete her board service in December. What makes this critical is that she serves as treasurer for our community. We need someone with a knowledge of Microsoft Access software, and someone willing to serve on the board. If you possess that unique combination of abilities the Lord is looking for you to serve as a board member. The other is that Ted/Pam Weaver, our registrars, will be retiring from that job after the fall walks are complete. If you have knowledge of Access Software and are willing to serve we need to know. For the last several years the registrar position has been filled by a non-board member so board election is not an issue.

Hope to see you at our next gathering at Pollard in Tyler on 8/15. Sponsor training at 11 AM, meal at noon and worship at 1 PM. Mike Breedlove will be our 4th Day speaker and will share with us about his African mission trip and how Emmaus led him there

De Colores, Ray Carden

2009 Gatherings

We will hold 2 more QUARTERLY gatherings centralized in Tyler on a Saturday as a Pot Luck for the full community.

August 15th----- Pollard UMC, Sponsor's Training @ 11:00, Pot Luck @ 12 noon & Worship @ 1:15 p.m.
November 21st---- Grace Community Church, Babe Chick @ 11:00; Pot Luck @ 12 noon; Worship @ 1:15 p.m.;

GATHERING ALERT:

Two additional centralized Gatherings remain on the calendar for 2009.

August 15th Pollard UMC; Sponsor training 11 am; Pot Luck lunch- 12 noon; Worship 1:15 pm

Nov. 21st Grace Community Church; Babe Chick training 11 am; Pot Luck lunch- 12 noon; Worship 1:15 pm

If you need an update on the criteria and/or you would like to explore hosting a Gathering, please contact Burton Love Burtonlove@embarqmail.com 903 425 3864 or any of the other Emmaus Board members. We will be happy to help with the planning and preparation for these LOCAL Gatherings. July, Sept., or Dec. would be great times to schedule local Gatherings.

[Be sure to check the Gracemmaus web site (www.gracemmaus.org) for additional directions and any updates on these Gatherings.]

GATHERING NEWS

Our sincere **thanks** go to the folks of **Pilgrim's Rest #2 Baptist Church in Alba** for hosting a Gathering on Saturday June 13th and particularly Joy Parker, Gracemmaus Board Member, for making the arrangements. Ray Carden, Community Lay Director handled the announcements and introductions with his usual grace and style. Rev. Jim Pickens provided excellent spiritual guidance for this Gathering. Geoge Assaf, Gracemmaus Board Member provided an inspirational Fourth Day talk. Bob and Lee Ann Meyers provided the music and did a great job as always.

The **Fisherman's Reunion Group of Payne Springs UMC** hosted a local Gathering on Saturday June 27 with approximately 50 people in attendance. Food and fellowship were great. Ray Carden, Community Lay Director, handled the announcements and introductions. Just back from Wyoming, Former Community Spiritual Leader, Rev. David Diller, provided spiritual

Emmaus can sponsor a youth on Chrysalis. So if you have teenage girls at home and/or in your church sign them up!!

Our weekends are much like the walks in that we have candlelight, letters, banquet. So mark your calendars. Here are dates to remember:

Team Meetings left to go are: July 10th & 11th AND July 18th.

The weekend IS AT Pollard UMC in Tyler : July 30th (Thursday); July 31st (Friday) and August 1st (Saturday)... this is important to note because candle light will be on Friday night @ 8 p.m. we need you all there. Don't think someone else will go so your covered. Last year we had just a handful of people and then at closing we had more team members than guest!!! Closing will be at 4 p.m. on Saturday afternoon....So MARK YOUR CALENDARS to attend both. You do not have to sponsor someone to come to either event. Please let these youth know your AGAPE LOVE for them.

3. **The prayer vigil is set up on-line.** Please go and start picking your times. Sign up early and get the best spots... Today we had our first person to sign up.

4. **We will need AGAPE.** There is no bed agape because the team and caterpillars share the gym. Let us re-state that... there is bed agape but you need more than just for the caterpillars so they are not wondering why they have stuff and team does not. If we have a full flight we would have 36 caterpillars and 12 team leaders, 3 music, 4 ALDs, the LD, the BR and the Clergy.... so is 62 people. Meaning we need **62 items of agape** so it would not matter if it goes to the conference room, beds, or dinner.

5. **We will also need people, reunion groups to provide meals** for the weekend. Gayle Robinson is the Food Coordinator so make contact with her if you are able to assist in this area. robinson0214@gmail.com

6. **Snacks** - we will need snacks for the weekend. Dr. Pepper, Coke, Water, Juice; The kids love homemade snacks if at all possible, also fresh fruit.

I am sure that I have left something off the list so you will hear from me again before our weekend arrives.

Love you all

DeColores and Fly with Christ,
Teresa Elliott
Chrysalis Steering Committee Chairman

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If you have a desire to see the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community to be able to further the ministry of God through the Walk to Emmaus program and would wish to make a automatic monthly **tax deductible** donation through your bank account, prayerfully consider filling out the form below and mail it back to

GRACE EMMAUS

Treasurer

P.O. Box 132212

Tyler TX.

75713-2212

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.

DeColores

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

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 # _____

Email Address: _____

Return to:

GRACE EMMAUS

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