

GRACE FOR TODAY

June, 2015
Volume 18, Issue 1

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[Upcoming Walks](#)

Men’s Walk # 74
Camp Gilmont - Gilmer
October 1-4, 2015
Mike Johnston

Women’s Walk # 75
Camp Gilmont - Gilmer
October 8-11, 2015
Diana Frachiseur

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www.graceemmaus.com



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Preventient Grace
-Susan Smith, GRACE Walk 53

I love to share stories of preventient grace. One of my favorite Emmaus Talks is Preventient Grace. God working in lives before He is acknowledged but none the less working. I often think of it as working without our permission- God doesn’t need our permission to work in our lives. He has been working in our lives from our “borning cry” and He will continue to work in our lives until our last breath.

Just this morning in church my heart was again warmed by God. The granddaughter of one of our members prayed to God before she came to church this morning. A prayer that her friends would be at church. In many churches that would be no big deal – in our church, the children are grandchildren of members so they only come every once in a while with their grandparents, we are never sure which ones may be with us when. Today just happened to

be one of those days when her friends were there. A little girl’s prayer answered- an event in preventient grace for the young girl an understanding of being a piece of spiritual journey the preventient grace stage for our grandchildren. How often we forget that God uses us in the spiritual journey of those around us. I admit I am guilty of the wanting to do more right now to move the spiritual journey of those I love along on my timeline rather than God’s. Yet I of all people know, God’s timing can take years, decades even but each experience ties into each experience as God weaves us together with each other and with Him. How easy it is to think “I am not doing enough,” limiting God to our standards. I have learned through experience over the years God always gives us enough- He can do nothing less. It is His purposes that are served not yours and not mine.

I love when God calls me to share Him through Emmaus Walks and I have learned to accept the periods of time when God has other plans in mind that have me sit on the sidelines. We never know when our piece of the puzzle is to be put together with someone else’s piece to complete God’s plan.

I hope each and every one of you is open to God’s calling you to contribute to our GRACE Emmaus walks and will also consider how God may have you contribute to either Kairos Inside or Kairos Outside weekends in our area. Though some times on the weekends we think we don’t have enough people, enough agape or

whatever, we always have enough. Sometimes when it seems we don't have enough it is a lesson for us to call out to others to listen for God's call so they may answer "Here I am Lord – send Me"

Decolores!



**A Special Thank You
From Burton Love, LD Walk
72**

Some of you may have noticed that the article covering Walk 72 which appeared in the May Newsletter did not contain any reference to the Table Leaders and Assistant Table Leaders. I mentioned most of the team components but not the TL's and ATL's. I thought they deserved a separate article. We all know that the Body of Christ has many components and they are all important but we also know that the people who have the most contact and therefore the most impact on the pilgrims are the TL's and ATL's.

The Walk 72 TL and ATL group was indeed unique. Dan Mathews, Board Representative

for Walk 72 reported that out of all the Walks he has participated in (a bunch), this group was the most effective at implementing effective table dynamics. Without question, working together as teams and bonding as Christian Brothers happened very quickly for the table groups. As Dan pointed out to the Board, the credit for this excellent work goes to the TL's and ATL's themselves as well as to Dr. Mac Walling who handled table dynamics training. I was really proud to serve with Table Leaders: David Bagley, David Barnard (replacement for Tommy Ferguson), Steve Morton, Sam Palomaria, Chuck Reed, and Brett Walker as well as Assistant Table Leaders: Jason Boyce, Ken Braswell, Chuck Demaree, Jerry Fowler, Mike Hodgson, and Gil Maroney. It is one thing to hear the information but it is quite special to also uniformly put it into action.

My sincere thanks goes to a special group who made Walk 72 "the best Walk ever".



**June Gathering
-Brett Walker, Gathering
Coordinator**

The May Gathering was a success! We had forty folks and the group donated nearly \$700 to help our friends in Van as they continue to recover from

the tornado. Mike Johnston gave a stirring 4th Day Talk centered around the happenings in Van since the tornado came through. They will need our help and prayers for weeks and months to come, so let's remember all the residents there.

The next Gathering will be at Van FUMC on Saturday, June 13. In spite of all the difficulties they've had the last few weeks, Mike and Karol have graciously offered to keep it as previously scheduled. It is at 12 Noon, Potluck lunch. Worship and Communion at 1 P.M. If you haven't been to Van since the tornado came through, you will be shocked at the devastation and quickly see why they will need a lot of help for an extended period of time.

2015 Gathering Schedule

June 13th Van FUMC
12noon Potluck

July 18th Gladewater FUMC
12noon Potluck

August 15th Ore City FUMC
12noon Bring Dessert only

September 12th Canton FUMC
12noon Potluck

October 3rd & 10th Camp Gilmont
8:00pm Candlelight

November 7th Lane's Chapel UMC
4pm Babe Chick
5pm Potluck
6pm Worship

December 5th Hallsville FUMC
11:00am Potluck Brunch



Fourth Day Spotlight

Ann Conner, Central Texas Conference, Walk #92

In January 1993, I attended Walk #92 in the Central Texas Conference at Glen Lake Camp in Glen Rose and sat at the table of Mary. From these dates you can see I have had many fourth days. During this time God has opened many areas of service.

I did not arrive at the walk full of eagerness or excitement. Apprehension and dread were more accurate emotions. My sponsor was my eighteen year old daughter. I was doing this “weekend” because she wanted me to and I didn’t want to disappoint her. Actually, I had put her off many times and had run out of excuses.

So on a cold January day I walked into a room full of women where I knew no one. Three days later I left warmed by God’s love shown to me by an amazing team and had a table of new best friends. I also had a fire in me to share God’s love with others.

The Saturday night Candlelight was an awesome display of God’s love. Since my daughter was part of the team and she was the only person I knew who had attended a Walk, not a single person was there just for me. However, to me every single one of them was there for me!

Isn’t that the way we should think of Candlelight? Sure we are excited to see the radiant faces of those from our communities or the pilgrim we

sponsored but we come to Candlelight not just for them, but for every pilgrim.

Since then I have worked numerous Walks, Chrysalis weekends, Epiphany teams and served on the Central Texas Emmaus Board. I also became more active in my local church and community.

I am telling you this NOT to show how much I have done, but to show how much God has done. I would have never done any of this on my own. The Walk to Emmaus showed me; “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:13

I didn’t think I had anything worth saying in a talk. I didn’t think I had enough experience or Bible knowledge to lead a table. I didn’t think I knew enough about how a Walk worked to be on the outside team. None of that mattered, because God had things for me to say in a talk, and God gave me words and actions to lead a table and God put people in my path to teach me how the outside team works.

I have met so many wonderful Christians, both lay and clergy, who have inspired me and showed me the many colors of God’s love. For many years I was the only person in my small church who had attended an Emmaus walk. However, that didn’t matter because there was an entire Emmaus community of support.

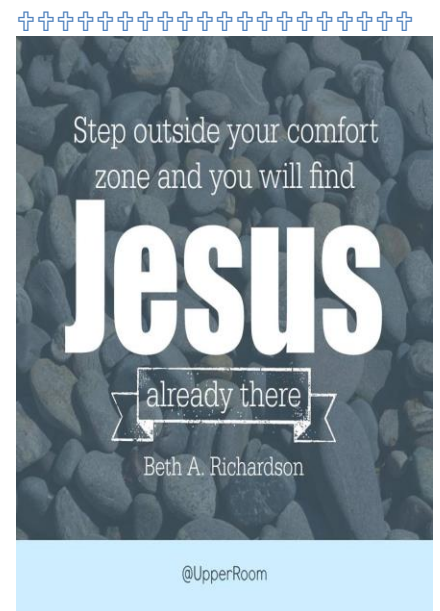
When I moved to Palestine I thought I was through with Emmaus. I boxed up all my

Emmaus “stuff” and put it in storage. However, I kept getting little nudges. Then the door opened for me to sponsor two friends. Then we had a reunion group. Then I thought I will just put in my application to work on a team and see what happens. Nothing happened. Then I thought well I will just send it again. Well, I got a call to work a walk as a table leader. That meant giving a talk! What had I done! Since then I have worked two walks in this community.

Be willing to serve on the Grace Emmaus Board when asked.

Be a sponsor.

I encourage you to step out in faith. Complete an application to work a Walk and be willing to serve where you are asked to serve because that is where God wants you. Put aside your fear, anxiety, pride and self will. In other words, “Let go and let God.”



Fourth Day Spotlight

Herb Marlow, GRACE Walk 62

Journey to Emmaus

When I first followed John Norman, my Walk sponsor, into the large room at Camp Gilmont, I wondered what I had let myself in for. There were so many other things I'd rather be doing at that moment. After all, I had been a Christian for many years, and I was already as spiritual as I could be – wasn't I?

I was not really apprehensive, and I had determined to, with God's help, see the weekend through, but I was not all that excited about it, and I had no idea what would happen. And then, as the Thursday evening events began to unfold, ending in a great chapel service, God's peace settled down in my mind and spirit, and I was suddenly happy to be where I was. The words: "Don't anticipate!" began to make sense, and I decided I would just live in the moment.

Friday was a good day, a full day, and I began to get a sense of the message of the interlocking talks. It was very restful to know that I had no other responsibility than to listen and interact with the men at my table. Everything was done for us: what a way to live! And then came Saturday and the "Dying Moments" communion. Something happened to me at that service in the outdoor chapel. Something that I'm sure has happened to many, if not all, who have taken part in that very special event. I suddenly saw

myself as God sees me, stripped of all titles, accomplishments, pretensions and facades, having no defense to His righteousness, not wanting any. The Holy Spirit was so heavy around me and in me that I could only cry out to the Lord, and cry out I did.

The rest of that day and the next day I was a changed person, not for my benefit but for God's.

The sun was brighter, the wind more soothing, my brothers more acceptable, and I began to shed the superior attitude that I had arrived with. The Holy Spirit was ever present, and I basked in His light.

When Sunday evening came, like many pilgrims, I didn't want the Walk to end. Here's the good news – it has not ended! Every day since that special time in October 2012, is a Fourth Day. I have been privileged to be a part of the team at two subsequent Walks, and that has reinforced the ongoing Fourth Day spirit.

Thank you, John Norman, for sponsoring me. Thank you Walk #62 team for your hard work and faithful examples, and G.R.A.C.E. Community for everything. Thank you Mike Johnston for continuing to encourage me with the words: "It's going to get even better!" every time I saw you that weekend.

Thank God I answered His call and went on the Walk to Emmaus. The journey continues...

God bless,
Herb Marlow



Walk Sponsors

Please pray about being a sponsor for the Fall Walks. Pilgrim applications can be found on the GRACE website, www.graceemmaus.com



Newsletter Articles

GRACE welcomes newsletter articles submitted by community members. If you have something in mind please email Janis at jjohns519@gmail.com



Agape Gifts

When is the best time to make agape gifts? Right now is a perfect time! The Fall Walks will be here before we know it! Check out Pinterest for ideas. Search "agape gifts" or "palanca." There are many 4th Dayers on Pinterest.



Bank Draft

Did you know that there is a small but consistent group of Fourth-Dayers who have an automatic draft offering set up for the continuation of financial support for our Walks? YOU can join that group with as little as \$5 being drafted monthly for the GRACE Community. These small monthly offerings go a great distance in covering the overages that accompany keeping our walk costs low for the pilgrims, as well as covering those costs of insurance and registrations and such that allow our community to stay legal and compliant. There is a bank draft on the last page of this newsletter.



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GRACE EMMAUS

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 donate \$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: _____

Email Address: _____

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 # _____

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