

G.R.A.C.E. News



Volume 4, Issue 6

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

June 2004

Dear Family of Believers;

As you may or may not be aware of, a short time ago, we here in the **G.R.A.C.E.** Emmaus Community were privileged to have a visit from our Regional **UPPER ROOM** Representative, **Carlene Alderman**. Carlene is assigned by the **UPPER ROOM** to oversee the **Five State Area** of Emmaus Communities, with which we are a part of. She has vast amounts of Emmaus Model knowledge and has seen many communities and how they conduct their Walks and how their boards lead their Communities. During her visit, we (the board), broke bread together and shared with each other about how we do things, and how they should be done. She stated she was quite impressed with all of **OUR** procedures and advancements to conduct **OUR** Walks the way the **UPPER ROOM** recommends and commended the **past** and **present** boards for working so diligently to keep **OUR** Community to the level that it is. She then shared with your board members and those interested community members the next day in a seminar that was quite informational to many of us, and a great time was had by all who attended.

But, there is always room for improvements to procedures and finding ways to allow the Community more opportunities to serve and be involved with each Walk. Since we have been discussing and praying over these upcoming improvements and procedural changes in board meetings since February, we feel we are ready to implement them for our upcoming Fall

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What kind of Christian are you? You say that's strange -- I'm a born-again Christian, isn't that the only kind? Yes, but there are also certain types of Christians just as each of us has a different personality. Let's look at just a few.

There's the Mousse Christian. Sometime, somewhere we've all had a mousse dessert. It's generally lots of fluff, pretty tasty and not much substance. Some Christians are like that. They go to church to have a good time, but they aren't really involved in the serious part of church. They like the fluff but aren't involved in the substance.

There's the Professor Christian. You've all heard stories of absent-minded professors who can explain all about the inarticulate phantasmagoric flux and the inscrutable transcendental, but they can't change a light bulb. The Professor Christians are like that. They have everything nailed down. They can recite all

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The **June**
G.R.A.C.E.
Gathering
Will be at
1st UMC, Athens,
Thursday, June 10th, 2004 @
7:00P.M.
See the website at
www.gracemmaus.org
For maps and more info.

Walks, the **Men's Walk No. 30** (Sept. 30 – Oct. 3, 2004), led by **Garry Mount** as the LD and the **Women's Walk No. 31** (Oct. 7 - 10, 2004), **Nancy Burgdorf** will be the LD's leading the **Conference Room Teams**. I will try to explain these changes to you, and hopefully everyone will see the need for these changes and attempt to help out where they feel led.

Many of the issues and procedures that Carlene discussed, **OUR** community has already employed in the preparation for, and in the conduct of our Walks. However, a major change that the board has been discussing and come to agreement about is the structure and focus for the Emmaus Walk Teams.

Starting with Walks #30 and #31, we will have two distinct teams involved in each walk. One team is the **Conference Room Team (CRT)** that is comprised of the Walk Lay Director (**LD**), Spiritual Director (**SD**), Assistant Lay Directors (**ALD**), Assistant Spiritual Directors (**ASD**), Table Leaders (**TL**), Assistant Table Leaders (**ATL**), Musicians (**M**), and the Board Representative (**BR**).

The second team is the **Servant Team**. This team is led by a Servant Team Leader (**STL**), and its members perform all the functions previously handled by Aytzers/Angels, including the chapel. The **LD** and **STL** will work closely to insure a successful walk experience for our Pilgrims. The **Servant Team** can be staffed by individual community members and/or Reunion Groups. For the upcoming walks, we are trying some new methods of participation on the **Servant Team**. Some of these may involve staying the full length of the walk weekend to work the team, as we have always done before, some may be working a set number of days of the weekend, and/or having a specific assignment that individuals or reunion groups would be responsible to provide their time to fulfill. The responsibility for coordinating all the Servant Team actions and roles belongs to the **STL**. For the upcoming walks, **Tom Hays** (Walk #30) and **Sandee Perdue** (Walk #31) will provide leadership for these new positions.

A significant change for the **Servant Team** is that this group will only meet with the **Conference Room Team** for part of the first team training meeting in preparation for the Walks. They will then separate and have a **Servant Team** training session. There are no other joint team meetings required (the **STL** and the **Servant Team** members

will decide if they need any additional meetings for their team). Of course, the **Conference Room Team** will have the usual number of scheduled meetings prior to the Walk in order to learn more about roles/responsibilities, for spiritual bonding, and to preview Walk talks. **Conference Room Team members are required to attend all of their scheduled team meetings.**

Another one of the new requirements for working on one of **OUR** Communities Walk Teams involves the team member's involvement and participation in their Reunion/Accountability Groups. Our Emmaus community has always strongly advocated that only through participation in Reunion/Accountability Groups are we held accountable for strengthening and growing our walk with Jesus Christ. From this point forward, in order to participate as an Inside Team Member of a **CRT** member you **must** be an active member of a Reunion/Accountability Groups. To participate on the **Servant Team**, it is **recommended** that you be an active reunion or accountability group member. This active stance taken by the Upper Room, and agreed to by the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus board, is intended so that each member of our community is focused on a continued deepening and strengthening relationship with Jesus Christ.

If you are contacted about working on a Walk, you may be contacted by one of two people, depending on the job they will be asking you to do, (the **LD** for the Conference Room Team OR the **STL** for the Servant Team). Our blessed growth as an Emmaus Community increases the importance of every member completing and sending to our GRACE registrar interest and information sheets about your desire to participate on either Walk team (Conference Room Team or the Servant Team).

As we continue to prepare for the upcoming Walks, please be aware of the changes being implemented. Pray unceasingly for the Walks, the teams, the pilgrims, and for guidance by the Holy Spirit in all our efforts. Your prayers are the foundation that all Walks are built upon. Please continue to sponsor pilgrims and fulfill the sponsor's role with enthusiasm and dedication. In order to have an informed Emmaus Community, the GRACE Emmaus board will continue to provide you with details and information about changes that are impacting the Walk to Emmaus model.

DeColores

Bill Burgdorf

Assistant Community Lay Director

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENT: JUNE 5TH

PLACE: **FIRST UMC, CORSICANA**

TIME: **10:00 A.M.**

Michael Unit Kairos Advisory Board Meeting

SPECIAL EVENT: JUNE 10TH

PLACE: **1ST UMC, ATHENS**

TIME: **7:00 P.M.**

Monthly gathering in Athens 225 Lovers Lane, Athens

Come on out and Worship our Lord.

SPECIAL EVENT: JUNE 17TH

PLACE: **MARVIN UMC, TYLER**

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

Monthly G.R.A.C.E. Board Meeting.

SPECIAL EVENT: JULY 1ST

PLACE: WEBSITE AT WWW.GRACEMMAUS.ORG

TIME: IN HIS TIME

Monthly G.R.A.C.E. News for July will be posted.

SPECIAL EVENT: SEPT. 30TH – OCT. 3RD

PLACE: **CAMP GILMONT**

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

G.R.A.C.E. MEN'S WALK NO. 30 BEGINS THURSDAY
SEPT. 30TH.

SPECIAL EVENT: OCT. 7TH – 10TH

PLACE: **CAMP GILMONT**

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

G.R.A.C.E. WOMEN'S WALK NO. 31 BEGINS THURSDAY
OCT. 7TH.



the theories and doctrines. They have all the prophecies totally figured out, but their neighbor could be starving and they wouldn't know it because they are too busy reading between all the lines of Scripture trying to help God explain what they apparently think He couldn't do on His own.

*Then there is the **Practical Christian**. They aren't so concerned about every nuance of theoretical doctrine, but they are concerned about how every Scripture they read will apply to their life each day and make them a better representative of Jesus Christ to everyone they meet. They want a Christianity that is effective "Where the rubber meets the road." **They want a Christianity that works. So do I - how about you?***

James 2:17** "So you see, it isn't enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn't show itself by good deeds is no faith at all -- it is dead and useless." **We need to put feet on our faith. Our faith needs to be strong enough to put us to work. Let's be practical Christians.

New International Spiritual Director

We welcome the Reverend Dr. Víctor Pérez as the new International Spiritual Director for The Walk to Emmaus and for Chrysalis, effective February 1, 2004. He comes to the position with a rich and diverse background. After 16 years in the banking industry and active participation in the United Methodist Church, Víctor answered God's call to ordained ministry. After graduation from seminary he was an effective pastor in his native country of Puerto Rico. In 1987 he was invited to serve on The General Board of Discipleship in administration and leadership development. Víctor returned to Puerto Rico in 1999 as vice president of the Seminario Evangelico. During that time, he was active in both Emmaus and Chrysalis, serving as Spiritual Director for both Emmaus and Chrysalis communities in Puerto Rico. Víctor has broad international experience and he has a passion for spiritual formation and leadership development. Please hold Víctor in your prayers as he begins his work with Emmaus and Chrysalis Community Spiritual Directors. (From Winter/Spring 2004 Edition of the International Emmaus Newsletter)

Sponsorship

The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus lists three aspects of good sponsorship:

1. It is “the first act of agape” before a Walk ever begins.
2. It under girds the whole weekend “with sacrificial love on behalf of each Pilgrim.”
3. It is the foundation for a healthy, effective Emmaus Movement, which results in the renewal of the church.

Thus, **Sponsorship offers** an opportunity for spiritual revitalization to individual Christians who then serve as vessels of renewal in their home, congregation, workplace, community, and the world. Wise sponsorship builds up the Body of Christ. **Sponsorship** is the act of re-experiencing The Walk to Emmaus with the person whom God has laid on your heart. **Sponsorship** is one of the most important aspects of The Walk to Emmaus. Do not take its responsibilities lightly or carry them out casually or haphazardly. **Sponsorship** requires extensive prayer, diligent thought, and careful planning before the Walk and follow-through afterwards. Remember this focus as you consider **Sponsorship**. Viewing The Walk to Emmaus as a hospital to cure psychological, social and even spiritual ills will weaken the community. Emmaus is for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in the church and everyday environments for Christ's sake. Emmaus is designed to give pilgrims the skills needed for leadership and invites them to make the commitment needed to build up the church for the sake of Jesus Christ. Its purposes are to deepen the faith of individuals, to increase the faith of congregations, and to bring Christianity to the World.

G.R.A.C.E. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: How do I apply to serve on a Team, either Conference Room Team or Servant Team?

A: Fill out the application at the end of this newsletter, and mail it to the address on the bottom of the application.

Q: Can my Reunion Group help on the Servant Team?

A: Certainly, that's what the heart beat of Emmaus is, servanthood to those we don't know (**AGAPE LOVE**).

Q: Will Camp Gilmont still be cooking our meals or will we have a Cook Team also?

A: Camp Gilmont will still be serving our meals to the CRT and the Pilgrims, the Servant Team that stays at

Consider these three principles:

Prayer

Praying is the first step in sponsorship. When we **Sponsorship -- the First Act of Agape** starts praying, we commit the process to God. We release to God our control, our desires, and our expectations. As we spend this time in prayer, we need to empty ourselves of self to be filled with God's instruction, God's timing, and God's person for us to sponsor.

Openness to God

Our openness to God enables us to become God's instruments in furthering divine will through The Walk to Emmaus. Being open to God includes having our eyes open to see God at work. Being open to God means we listen. Time and time again, the scriptures admonish us to listen to God and God's instructions. Our openness to God allows us to receive God's instruction - even when the instruction does not conform to our expectations. Our openness to God sensitizes us as to how God wants to renew and revitalize the church using all the aspects (sponsorship included) of the Emmaus experience.

Calling by Name

Another aspect of sponsorship is calling individuals by name. God called people by name - Noah, Abram (Abraham), Samuel, Moses, and others. Jesus also called individuals, and he called each person by name. In the Gospels we read of Jesus' calling the twelve disciples by name. Nowhere in the Gospels do we read of Jesus issuing a general call for volunteers. As sponsors, we need to follow the scriptural principles of praying, being open to God, and then calling people by name to attend The Walk to Emmaus. Remember, The Walk to Emmaus is not for everyone. Be certain that the individual you invite is right for Emmaus and that Emmaus is right for that individual. Are you ready to be a praying, discerning, committed sponsor?

the camp and those that come to the camp to help out will have to let the **STL** at least a week before the walk so that they can make arrangements for the meal schedule for the Servant Team.

Q: What can my Reunion Group do?

A: The best area of service for your Reunion Group would be on Thursday Eve., by helping with the Camp Setup and seeing that the Pilgrims luggage is stowed in their rooms, so that their Sponsor may devote full attention to their Pilgrim. And on Sunday afternoon. By helping with the Conference Room teardown and seeing that the Pilgrims luggage makes it back to their Sponsors, and helping the Trailer Coordinator. To properly load the Trailer, and get the Cafeteria, Agape Room, Chapel, and Conf. room cleaned.

BOARD MEMBERS AND CONTACT INFO.

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G.R.A.C.E. Board Member, Asst.
Treasurer, Babe Chick Training
Garry Mount
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G.R.A.C.E. Asst. Music Director: Vacant

G.R.A.C.E. CONFERENCE ROOM / SERVANT TEAM APPLICATION SHEET

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE (____) _____ WORK PHONE (____) _____ EMAIL _____

SEX (M/F) _____ AGE _____ MARRIED/SINGLE _____ LAY _____ MINISTER / SEM. STUDENT _____

CHURCH AND DENOMINATION _____

My Original Walk was No. _____ at _____ Table _____ Year _____

Fourth Day Reunion Group Information

I attend my REUNION GROUP at _____ Day _____ Time _____

I am not part of a Reunion Group, and would like to join one; it would be convenient for me to meet in the geographic area of _____

I would like to meet on: MON _____ TUE _____ WED _____ THUR _____ FRI _____ SAT _____ SUN _____

Time I could meet: EARLY MORNING _____ DURING THE DAY _____ LUNCH _____ EVENING _____

Please take a moment to fill in the following information where applicable. This information is used by all Walk Lay Director/Servant Team Leaders in the team formation process.

MUSIC: I can play the following musical instruments: _____

I can: sing solo _____ small ensemble _____ group _____ lead singing _____

Other entertainment _____

COMMITTEE SUPPORT: I would be willing to

- _____ Serve on one of the standing committees
- _____ Serve on a sub-committee or an *ad hoc* committee
- _____ Serve on the board and chair a committee

In the past, I have served on the following committee's _____

SERVE ON A TEAM: I like to would serve on an Emmaus _____ and / or Servant _____ team(s).

- _____ I could serve as a lay person
- _____ I could serve as a clergy person
- _____ I would consider giving one of the talks
- _____ I would like to lead music
- _____ Other: _____

I have served on Walks in the following support areas (please indicate the Community, number and date (if possible) e.g., GRACE #25, 2003.)

Lead Aytzer/Angel: _____ **Aytzer/Angel:** _____

Lead Chapel Aytzer/Angel: _____ **Chapel Aytzer/Angel:** _____

I have served on Walks in the following conference room areas (please indicate the Community, number and date (if possible) e.g., GRACE #25, 2003.)

Asst. Table Leader: _____ **Table Leader:** _____

Asst Lay Director: _____ **Lay Director:** _____

Asst. Spiritual Director: _____ **Spiritual Director:** _____

Asst Music Director: _____ **Music Director:** _____

I have given the following Emmaus Talks (please indicate the number of times for each talk):

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| _____ Priorities | _____ Priesthood of All Believers | _____ Prevenient Grace |
| _____ Life in Piety | _____ Growth through Study | _____ Justifying Grace |
| _____ Christian Action | _____ Discipleship | _____ Means of Grace |
| _____ Changing Our World | _____ Body of Christ | _____ Obstacles to Grace |
| _____ Perseverance | _____ Fourth Day | _____ Sanctifying Grace |

Please return to:

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community
Attn: Team Selection Committee/Registrar
P.O. Box 44
Judson, TX. 75660-0044