

# G.R.A.C.E. News

Grace  
For  
Today

March, 2007  
Volume 7, Issue 3

G.R.A.C.E. Website  
[www.gracemmaus.org](http://www.gracemmaus.org)

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## Next Gathering

Thursday

March 8<sup>th</sup>

@ 7:00PM,

First UMC,

Jacksonville

G.R.A.C.E. REGISTRAR  
P.O. Box 132212  
Tyler TX.  
75713-2212

DECOLORES

Dear G.R.A.C.E.

## IN MARCH OF 2003 MY LIFE CHANGED

For many years I professed to be a Christian, attended Church, taught a Sunday School class, volunteered for projects, contributed money, and led an ethical life. I thought I was doing all the right things, but as I look back on this time I was playing a role, that of a lukewarm Christian, without a personal relationship with my Lord. Was I in for a rude awakening!

A friend at my Church invited me to a Christian weekend, **Walk to Emmaus**. So I went to Camp Gilmont and my eyes, just as the two men on the Emmaus road, were opened to the reality of God's love thru His Son Jesus. After Candlelight on Saturday night (what a beautiful and touching ceremony) I spent some time in the chapel and asked a close friend to pray for me, that I could come to realize God's perfect love in my life. Since then I haven't looked back, and my faith has taken me to many places I never planned to go, to sleep on the floor at four U M ARMY camps and to a maximum security prison outside Tennessee Colony, TX. You see that same friend challenged me to expand my faith by volunteering for the Kairos Prison Ministry. And I did, not knowing what a blessing I would receive from the men in white of the Michael Unit. Why do I tell you all this? Because God chose to show me His Love thru a group of Emmaus volunteers and challenged me to do the same. Jesus said that we should take up our cross and follow Him. Whoever loses his life for Christ will surely find it. And I have found mine.

Ray Carden  
Emmaus Board member

*You, O Lord, keep my lamp  
burning; my God turns my  
darkness into light.  
Psalm 18:28 (NIV)*

## ARE YOU RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

As announced at the January Gathering, we know that many of our Pilgrims have had a change in their Email address recently. If you are not receiving (and wish to do so) the newsletter and prayer request emails, please update your email address with **TOM PERDUE** at the email address shown in our GRACE Board Listing! There will also be a sign-up sheet at each gathering to gather legible new and corrected information for our groups.

**If you prefer to have a paper copy of the newsletter, please visit the book / information table at any Gathering and pick one up.**

## March Gathering

The March Gathering of the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus community is to be held at First United Methodist Church, Jacksonville. We will gather for Praise and Worship, food and fellowship. Please join us on Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Childcare will be provided.

**"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)**

Come to the gathering at First UMC, Jacksonville, and encourage one another, and our upcoming Lay Directors, as the days of our Spring Walks are approaching.

## **WANTED: YOUR PRAYERS!!**

I'd like to Thank You all in advance for your prayerful sponsorship for the men and women who will encounter our Lord Jesus Christ in a new and exciting way at Disciples Crossing(Athens)in just a few short weeks. PLEASE be in constant prayer for these Pilgrims of Men's Walk #40 and Women'sWalk #41 as well as the Team Members and especially the Walk Lay Directors as they prepare their hearts and minds to be used mightily for GOD! You can sign up for the prayer vigil online at <http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetComm.phtml>

Scroll down to Greater Rose Area Community of Emmaus and click on

the Men's or Women's Walk dates. Afterwards, pick a time slot, then click on sign up and fill in the blanks. If you don't have internet access or if you just prefer to talk with a person, you can sign up for a time by calling me @ 903.312.1501 and I will get you signed up!

**DeColores!**

**Donna Swenson**

[swensonhome@aol.com](mailto:swensonhome@aol.com)

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## KAIROS #30 AT THE MICHAEL UNIT

We would ask that you pray for the team that the Lord has assembled to carry the message of our Lord and Savior into the prison unit on April 12-15. The team has been formed and three meetings held when you read this. You can access all information about our mission thru our website at

<http://www.michaelunit.org> We need your prayers, your cookies (recipes available on web), and your financial support. It costs us around \$12,000 to conduct a weekend and we depend on the support of our community and volunteers for that money. Donations can be sent to our weekend leader, Terry Beck P O Box 952 Palestine, TX. 75802. If your Church is interested we do a prayer chain (similar to the Emmaus prayer chain) that we use to make a chain with and display in our meeting place during the weekend. Contact **Terry Beck** at [the-bopper@earthlink.net](mailto:the-bopper@earthlink.net) to obtain a copy.

We are all prospecting for men's souls, some free world and some imprisoned.

## A NEED TO KNOW

The G.R.A.C.E. would like to make sure the information we have on each of our 4<sup>th</sup> dayers is correct. When you move or change e-mail or phone numbers we would like to make sure we have that

information to be able to send you information about the community. This will only take a few minutes by going to the web site [www.gracemmaus.org](http://www.gracemmaus.org) and fill out the form called information update.

4<sup>th</sup> dayers that have moved to this community from another community can send in their information and we can put you on the G.R.A.C.E. list so you can receive the newsletters and other information about gatherings.

This information will be submitted automatically to

[registrar@gracemmaus.org](mailto:registrar@gracemmaus.org)

DeColores, David Barnes

Registrar

## Treasurer

Essentially the treasurer keeps track of all the monies of the Community. This includes sending deposits for each Walk; paying bills; working closely with the LDs to ensure that they have money to purchase Walk items needed; working with LDs and the Board Registrar to ensure all Walk Team and Pilgrim fees are paid; keeping up with the WalMart card and getting it to the right person prior to the Walk; working with the Board member in charge of the book table during the Walk weekend; after a Walk, contacting the camp director to make sure their body counts and our counts are the same, paying Upper Room \$10/pilgrim fees; collecting all Gathering offerings; locating and paying the Gathering babysitter; keeping up with 2 trailer licenses, the music, and post office box renewals; balancing bank statement each month; entering and maintaining the monthly bank draft duties; presenting a report each month at the Board meeting; and preparing a tax return each year.

Occasionally, this job also includes "gentle, nicely put" nagging in order to receive receipts from people (needed for tax purposes and audits) and when deposits come through on a bank statement and there is no clue as to who made the deposit or what it is for (team vs pilgrims). Overall, it's an interesting and, at times, challenging job. Over the past year, I have gained much respect for the Board members

who are currently serving, and have served, on the G.R.A.C.E. Board.

Laquita Showen, Treasurer

G.R.A.C.E Walk # 1

Oct. 2000

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## BANK DRAFT INFO

The bank draft authorization, voted on by the GRACE Board in 2006, is up and running and hopefully collecting monies even as you read this article. Brian McCabe, Walk 38 LD, was invaluable in setting up this system. The Board encourages you to consider giving in this manner.

You may be thinking "Well, I'm not going to do that!" or "I want control of my money", etc... To be honest, I had some of the same feelings and thoughts – but after considerable thought and prayer, I felt convinced to try it; especially since I was going to be encouraging people to sign up for the same. Even \$1 a month adds up. It is very easy and safe.

You complete the form (provided on the last page of this newsletter and available at Gatherings) with the necessary information or attach a voided check. The amount donated will show on your bank statement as "Tyler Emmaus Community." **You can stop the transaction at any time simply by written notification.** (It can even be stopped for a month or two, and then resumed.) Currently there are three participants within our community. Please consider this alternative, especially if you do not make it to Gatherings. This will help each of us with consistent giving to our community.

The last Emmaus Walk costs were \$161 per Pilgrim and \$156 per Pilgrim, respectively – and the GRACE community only charges \$150 per Pilgrim. In our efforts to keep our community strong and continue our commitment, we humbly ask that you prayerfully consider where your involvement is needed.

*The costs are high and the financial need great, but the reward is simply priceless.*

Thank you,  
Laquita Showen  
Treasurer

**Community Calendar for 2007**

**March 8** Gathering 1<sup>st</sup> UMC,  
Jacksonville – 7 p.m

**March 15** Board Meeting at Marvin  
UMC – 7 p.m.

**April 21** Candlelight at Disciple’s  
Crossing, Athens – 8 p.m.

**April 28** Candlelight at Disciple’s  
Crossing, Athens – 8 p.m.

**May 12** Gathering 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church,  
Mineola – Covered Dish and Gathering at  
NOON

**May 17** Board Meeting at Marvin UMC  
– 7 p.m.

**June 14** Gathering Lindale UMC – 7p.m.

**June 21** Board Meeting at Marvin UMC  
– 7 p.m.

**July NO GATHERING; NO BOARD  
MEETING**

**August 11** Gathering St. Marks UMC,  
Marshall NOON meal bring vegetable  
dish or dessert (Meats provided)

**August 16** Board Meeting at Marvin  
UMC – 7 p.m.

**September 13** Gathering Crossroads  
Community, Longview – 7 p.m.

**September 20** Board Meeting at  
Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.

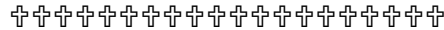
**October 13** Candlelight at Camp  
Gilmont, Gilmer–8 p.m.

**October 18** Candlelight at Camp  
Gilmont, Gilmer–8 p.m.

**November 10** Grand Ultreya at St.  
Lukes UMC Kilgore at NOON

**November 15** Board Meeting at  
Marvin UMC – 7 p.m.

**December NO GATHERING; NO  
BOARD MEETING**



**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? Our goal is to one day provide enough scholarships so that we can help those that cannot afford to go to be able to attend an Emmaus weekend.

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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 # \_\_\_\_\_