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NEXT CANDLELIGHT GATHERINGS!

March 7 & March 14
Disciples Crossing,
Athens
Saturday, 8pm

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

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

Devotional from our Spiritual Director *"Reckless Abandon"*

Wonder if the Father ever thought, "Am I being reckless in abandoning my own dearly beloved son to die for sinners?" You say, No! He knew it was worth it. Yes, probably, but why did the Lord say to Abraham (Genesis 22), "Now I know..."

Could the Father be asking us to let go of what we think is security and trust him with reckless abandon? More fully entering into His Kingdom living where we don't have to understand and control? Truly letting Him be in control?

With the above in mind, I challenge you to desire to become a Walk Lay Director. One of the main purposes of the Walk to Emmaus is to develop leaders in the Kingdom. Probably one of the best ways I know of is servant leadership through Emmaus. Should you become a walk director, it is not "your walk." In fact, as you give your talks (not given one yet? How about this coming fall?), remember it is never YOUR talk, it is the body of Christ's and His. It is our privilege to serve the King of Kings and His body.

So, how about desiring a noble task as I Timothy 3:1 says? And, yes, work with our community and board to allow iron to sharpen iron. Be willing to be questioned so that you become more effective. Oh, being questioned is never fun. But, I didn't think it was about that kind of fun anyway. I thought it was about reckless abandon like on a roller coaster. Someday I may get back on one!

Who have YOU signed up to sponsor for a spring walk? There is still time, you know.

LOVE ALWAYS WINS.
TOM HAYGOOD

903.570.9306

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*Changing of the guard:
New and "old" board
members*

← DRIVING DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE [GRACEMMAUS.ORG](http://www.GRACEMMAUS.ORG) WEBSITE

Greetings from the Community Lay Director

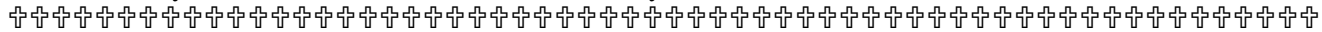
As you read this newsletter we will be getting ready to host the first of two Walks at Disciple Crossing outside Athens. Mens Walk is March 5-8, and Womens Walk on March 12-15. We are trusting in God and depending on you to locate the pilgrims to fill these Walks. We made the decision as a board not to cancel any Walks due to lack of participation. But I would be remiss if I didn't tell you of our need for pilgrims. We need you to search out the proper pilgrims in your Church and gently persuade them to attend a Walk. We also need you to check the GRACE Community website at www.gracemmaus.org and sign up for the two 72 hour prayer clocks for the two Walks. There are many spaces available for your prayers.

We had an outstanding local area Gathering in Marshall at St. Marks UMC on Thursday 2/12 attended by 24 people including two 4th Dayers at their first Gathering. Good food, fellowship and worship. David Mays reminded the group that this was 10 more than the first Gathering of the GRACE Community in 1996 in Tyler, and he challenged them to become leaders in the community. Our thanks go out to Pat Owens and his people for sponsoring this Gathering. If you wish to do the same please contact Burton Love at the address shown for him in this newsletter. He can fill you in on all you need to know to get started.

Our next Gathering will be at the Candlelight service at 8 PM on March 7 and again on March 14 at Disciple Crossing. See the website for directions to the camp. Remember how special this service was to you on your Walk. Come make it special for our new pilgrims. I do hope we will see you there.

We'll have the new Worship Booklets just released by the Upper Room. Bring a few dollars extra to pick up copy for yourself and we will all be "on the same page."

Lastly, I want to join with the rest of the Board in wishing the very best for Tom Haygood who is stepping down as our Community Spiritual Director after these two Walks. He has served the Community with love and grace and has been a pillar of strength to all of us on the Board (and especially to your new CLD). Tom and Nan are two special people to our community. We want to also thank him for recruiting our new SD, David Mays. David brings a spirit and enthusiasm to our community like none before. Thanks, Tom, for all you have meant to us.



Something to Prayerfully Consider?

It has been brought to the Boards attention that some of our Reunion groups are not following the suggested Emmaus model for their content. You know the one I mean; Closest to Christ, Call to Discipleship, Discipleship denied, Prayers for special needs and Thanksgiving. Perhaps you have drifted away from the model as your group has matured, and now it seems more meaningful to discuss Church business or politics. You should be reminded that we instruct our Walk pilgrims about Reunion groups using the Emmaus model and that is what they are expecting when they join your existing Reunion group. So what do they think when they find otherwise? While we can't control the content of your group discussions we would be remiss in not reminding you of how it should be done. Pray about it and let God decide for you. Ray Carden



From the Men's Walk Lay Director:

As I write this article, God's Awesome Team for Men's Walk #48 is preparing for their final and 3rd team meeting at FUMC Athens. Thanks to the wonderful host churches, Fairwood UMC, Lindale FUMC, and FUMC Athens (2 meetings) The accommodations have been comfortable and welcoming, lending excellent environments for team building. The team is excited and anxious to serve the Pilgrims that God has tapped to go on His Walk. We are confident, however, that He has others tapped for Walk 48 that have yet to register. Sponsors need to step forward and assist them in getting their applications in immediately. Thank you for your prayers and support. DeColores!

Dan Matthews
Walk 48 Lay Director

GOD'S TEAM, WALK 48

GOD'S PILGRIMS, WALK 48

WLD	Dan Matthews
ALD	Bill Durr
ALD	Jimmy McGonagill
ALD	Mike Minor
WSD	Jarratt Major
ASD	Ricky Ricks
ASD	Richard Luna
ASD	Jack Matkins
ASD	Gary White
TL	David Barnard
TL	Burton Love
TL	David McPherson
TL	Tom Perdue
TL	Michael Prince
TL	Tim West
ATL	Billy Bass
ATL	Ken Braswell
ATL	Scott Howard
ATL	Josh Jarvis

ATL	Dewey Williams
ATL	Mike Mart
WMD	Loren Lykins
AMD	Andy Christopher
AMD	Randy Skiles
STD	Chuck Reed
ST	Jay Edwards
ST	Gene Skeen Jr.
ST	John Sims
STMC	George Assaf
STMC	Frank Copeland
STMC	Tommy Morrison
BdRp	Brent Hooser

Brandon Russell	First Christian, Athens
John Dawson	Payne Springs UMC
Ted Scarborough	FUMC, Longview
Chris Callaway	FUMC, Gilmer
Shannon Murphey	Green Acres Baptist
Jonathan Canion	Green Acres Baptist
Jeff Pratt	Green Acres Baptist
Harold Rash	First Presbyterian, Athens
Rusty Honeycutt	Lanes Chapel UMC
Larry Lipscomb	Tyler
Bryan Jeanes	FUMC Hawkins
Fred Bommarito	FUMC Mineola
Charles Demaree	Starrville UMC
Ron Breshears	Starrville UMC
Frank Hall	FUMC Athens
Russell Keaton	Fairfield

Grace and Peace. DeColores, Dan Matthews



From the Women's Walk Lay Director

Please Pray for our Team members--Women's Walk #49

Dear Community,

We are at the end of our Pre-Walk meetings. God has blessed our training sessions more than any of us could have imagined. He, I believe, has great things in store for the Team and the Pilgrims of Walk #49! I know that each of you have been praying because those prayers have been felt by the Team and by the way the Pilgrims have started to get their applications in. There are still a couple of things that I would like to ask of our awesome Emmaus community, though.

First, please join us in prayer for these upcoming Walks (#48 and #49). Don't forget to sign up for the Prayer Clock at www.3dayol.com. Remember what it was like to look at that prayer clock on your Walk and seeing those names of people praying for YOU and they didn't even KNOW you?? That is such an amazing feeling to know that God (through these strangers) loves you that much.

Second, I want to let your know that if you have some time during either of the Walks #48 or #49 to come to the camp and help, it would be appreciated. Many times we feel that if we aren't on the "official" Team, we are not needed or we would just be in the way. That's not true! The "hands and feet of God" can be used to set up the camp before the Walk, serve at the Agape dinner, participate in Sponsor's hour (even if you don't have a Pilgrim), Candlelight or Closing, tearing down the camp after the Walks and most of all to pray, pray, pray! It can only be done with help from all of us working together. Thank you so much for your support and love!.

DeColores,
Patti Jones

Please pray for our Team members--Women's Walk #49

LD	Patti Jones	FUMC Athens	TL	Peggy Rhodes	Grace Community
ALD	Judy Hawn	FUMC Athens	TL	Sandy Collins	Golden UMC
ALD	Cindy Hooser	Green Acres Baptist Church	TL	Becky Hanks	FUMC Athens
ALD	Kathy Kapka	Pollard Methodist, Tyler	TL	JoAnne Skeen	Grace Methodist
BR	Laquita Showen	Fairwood Methodist, Tyler	TL	Teresa Elliot	Lanes Chapel UMC
SD	Mike Cline	FUMC Troup	TL	Toyia Urbaniak	Beckville UMC
ASD	Kim Hagedorn	Beckville UMC	ATL	Mary Dale Skiles	First Baptist
ASD	Jack Matkin	FUMC Athens	ATL	Kim Johnson	Home Fellowship
ASD	Bill Holda	McCary's Chapel	ATL	Scotti Wood	McCary's Chapel
ASD	Bill Hauck	First Christian, Athens	ATL	Kathy Mecklin	Payne Springs UMC
MD	Sue Cross	Pollard Methodist, Tyler	ATL	Berita Morse	FUMC Gilmer
AMD	Pam Martin	Pollard Methodist, Tyler	ATL	Rae Parrish	FUMC Athens
AMD	Nan Haygood	Grace Methodist, Palestine			



Prayer Vigil for Walks #48 & #49

Walks #48 and #49 are no longer an idea, they are now a reality. The Walks are no longer months away, nor weeks, but now days away. If you have not

signed up for a time on the 72 hour prayer vigils for these walks, please consider doing so now.

There are many excuses we can give:

- *"I'm working a Walk"*: sign up to pray for the Walk you are not working.
- *"I'm so busy"*: Pray where you are whether it be traveling in your car, at your lunch break, or getting up 30 minutes early.
- *"I don't know what to pray for"*: There is an optional, very helpful, and very specific prayer vigil guide that you can print from the GRACE website.
- *"I can't pray for 30 minutes"*: By the time you pray for each pilgrim, 30 minutes will be over.

Don't we usually find a way to do what we really think is important? Don't you believe praying for Pilgrims and Team Members of Walk 48 and 49 is worthy of your time? Please sign up to pray today! Go to www.gracemmaus.org and click on the "sign up for prayer vigils." Prayer agape is powerful agape!!
Judy Hawn



Suggestion for Snack Table during Walks:

At our recent board training session it was pointed out to us that we should have healthier foods on the table: more fruit/veggies, raisins, nuts, and less candy. So if you plan to donate for our snack table (and we hope you do) please remember to keep it healthy. The objective is to fill the pilgrims with the Holy Spirit and not worthless calories and weight gain. Thanks for all you do!



2009 Gatherings

We will hold 3 more quarterly gatherings centralized in Tyler on a Saturday as a Pot Luck for the full community.

April 18th----- **Lanes Chapel UMC;** Babe Chick @ 11:00; Pot Luck @ 12 noon; Worship @ 1:15 p.m.
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.;

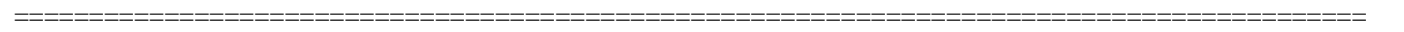
[Be sure to check the web site (www.gracemmaus.org) for any updates to locations and dates.]

GRACEMMAUS GATHERING NEWS 2009

GATHERINGS followed by **CANDLELIGHT SERVICES:**

Saturday March 7 (Men's walk) Disciples Crossing, Hwy 31 East of Athens, Texas 8PM

Saturday March 17(Women's Walk) Disciples Crossing Hwy 31 East of Athens, Texas 8PM



MORE GATHERING NEWS !

Our sincere thanks go to Pat Owens who coordinated our first local area Gathering at St. Marks United Methodist Church Marshall, Texas on Feb. 12th. 23 community members and one visitor took advantage of this opportunity to come together in the Marshall/Longview area. Community Spiritual Director David Mays presided over worship while Rick Long provided the 4th Day Speaker's message. Ray Carden, Community Lay Director, provided information on GRACEmmaus Community activities. Pat

Owens is still interested in helping with additional locally produced Gatherings for the Marshall/Longview area. If you would like to help, contact Pat at PLO00@hotmail.com

We are still looking forward to other areas, reunion groups and/or churches expressing interest in sponsoring local area Gatherings. These Gatherings are open to the entire community. However, we are praying that more local community members will be able to participate without having to travel long distances. The criteria for putting on these Gatherings is not complicated. The basics are as follows: Provide a place for the Gathering (most churches have adequate facilities); Identify a 4th day speaker to provide a 10-15 minute witness outlining the impact of Emmaus on their life; have qualified clergy available to administer communion; assure the presence of a GRACEmmaus board member to provide Community information and collect a love offering for the Community; allow sufficient time to announce the Gathering by e-mail and Community newsletter, provide childcare (not required but certainly advantageous) 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. May, June and July would be great times to schedule local Gatherings.

GRACE Board for 2009

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Babe Chick Training

William "Bill" Durr

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Gathering Coordinator

Burton Love

burtonlove@embarqmail.com

903-425-3864 (h)

BANQUET

We need people to help with the Agape Dinner on Saturday Evening at both walks. If you are interested in helping serve banquet, set up begins at 4pm or if you just want to help serve then be there by 5pm. Wear black (or dark) pants and a white shirt. (Women may wear a skirt; sorry men). No name tags are worn at this event. ***Remember that if you have a spouse and/or you are a sponsor of a pilgrim you are not to serve at banquet.*** The men serve the women and the women serve the men.

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: _____

Tyler Emmaus Community
DBH: **GRACE Emmaus Community**
P.O. Box 132212
Tyler, TX 75713-2212

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