



# A WIN/WIN CHOICE

By Tommy Ferguson, Walk # 60

Each spring as we humans pause to assess our lives, we realize that we have moved one year closer to the end of our days, as we know it, on this beautiful planet that God provided for us to live, work, and plan on. For some, leaving this planet will be a blessing, and for some, it will be a sorrowful time. Even though life can be difficult here on earth, life can be disagreeable to us, and life can be wonderful if we "stop to smell the roses."

For followers of the Christ, life should be great with the expectation of getting greater in the future. God created a most beautiful, majestic place for his sheep here on earth, particularly in spring. This old earth renews itself each spring, in spite of the damage done by humans in the other seasons. Scientists tell us that if the earth were left alone for one-thousand years after the last human exits, it would completely rejuvenate to almost original shape. Oh, there might be some pieces of granite with inscriptions left for a few hundred more years, no one knows for sure but God. At any rate, there would be little traces that humans ever occupied the planet.

Each spring, as an avid lover of nature, I enjoy spending the quiet of the warm afternoons looking at the tree leaves and other spring plants as they blossom, leave, and grow. The leaves sprout from a bud on the limbs and grow from nickel size to dollar size in a week. The wild flowers that bloom on our highway right-of-ways are a pleasure to watch as the Indian Paint Brush grow and get thicker on the ground and the Crimson Clover heads add a scarlet blanket of color. Later on the Indian Blanket (or Fire Wheel) comes out,

and we imagine that God is just "showing off" as he creates these paintings for us to enjoy. The Dogwood with all their symbolism blossom to add a taste of purity (in white) to our world. The warm, southern, breeze in the White Oak (to borrow from Don Williams' song) and our beautiful pines give off a heavenly fragrance and enhance their growth by moving to and fro. Speaking of fragrances, the Wild Hedge, Swamp Myrtle, and Honey Suckle cannot be matched by man.

Like snowflakes (and human beings) God made everything unique; each blossom, each leaf, each plant, (though similar) are completely individual and different in some way. How could anyone be bored in the spring with all of God's creation to behold?

As beautiful, as majestic, and as awe-inspiring as the earth is, God has planned a more wonderful place for those who are "In Christ." That is the secret to a win/win choice. As sad as it is to leave this wonderful planet, we will have a more wonderful place to go when we leave all this pasture. So, how could God's sheep fail to win with the earth to live on and God's house to go to later? We can lose only if we are not "In Christ."

Some years ago, someone wrote and sang a song which talked of "Stopping and smelling the roses"; the depth of that one phrase goes deep into our Christian souls. It tells us that we should appreciate what God does for us in any season, although the spring is more obvious.

Since I have lived most of my life (except college, military, and employment) in this beautiful part of Texas, springs are cherished most by me; the simple things have come to be the most valuable in my life.

These are just a few thoughts and descriptions that bring great pleasure; look for more and you will receive.



Now that Walks 68 & 69 are in the books, as your community treasurer, I would like to encourage the fourth day community to participate in the automatic deposit program (ACH). Currently we have nineteen people that donate between \$5 and \$100 each month. This is the simplest way to help the GRACE community with a monthly donation. Each month on the 15<sup>th</sup> I draft your bank account for the donation amount you have specified. The form is attached to this newsletter. Fill it out, attach a VOIDed check and send it to me. I will take that to Southside bank and they will set up the ACH. And you can cancel at any time by emailing me or whoever the treasurer is at the time. Even a \$5.00 per month donation will be helpful, especially if we get several people enrolled.

David McPherson



It's never too early to begin to put aside your used Christian books for donation on the Walks! We have had such a great response to offering both new and gently used books. Thanks to each of you who have committed to providing those books you no longer need! If you would like to donate books for the upcoming walks, they can be given to any board member for transport to the walks in October. Thank you so much for continuing to support the pilgrims that God will be sending to us this Fall.

In Christ,  
Robin Gillian



Do you want to work on a Walk?  
Go to the website and apply NOW.  
There are places for service on the  
outside team as well as  
conference room teams.



CALLING ALL SPONSORS !!  
Please get those applications in for  
your pilgrims. Make sure all  
signatures are on the form and a  
deposit is sent with the application  
to hold a spot.



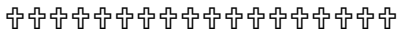
Disciple Crossing Walks for  
Spring of 2015 will be held:

Men: March 12-15  
TBA

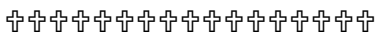
Women: March 19-22  
TBA



Team selections are being made  
for the fall walks in Gilmer.  
Please be in prayer for James Cox  
and Lanett Moser as team  
formation begins.



Did you know there are  
opportunities to pray for other  
Emmaus walks in the USA?  
Check and pray for them as well.



**2014 BOARD MEMBERS**

**Lay Director:**  
[Mac Young](#)  
Home: 903-451-2804  
Cell: 214-282-7593

**Assistant Lay Director:**  
[Mark Bewley](#)  
Cell: 903-522-0782

**Spiritual Director:**  
[Rev. Doug Smith](#)  
903-968-3833

**Assistant Spiritual Director:**  
[Richard Luna](#)  
903-597-2571

**Secretary:**  
[Karol Johnston](#)  
Cell: 903-521-0236

**Treasurer:**  
[David McPherson](#)  
Home: 903-316-4272

**Music Coordinator:**  
[Mac Walling](#)  
Work: 903-885-9803

**COMMITTEES**  
(Board Member is chair of  
designated committee)

**Agape (gift – banquet -  
afterglow):**  
[Carol Derieux](#)  
903-445-0295

**Agape (wall letters, etc.):**  
[Janis Johns](#)  
Cell: 817-714-8208

**Babe Chick Training:**  
[Bubba DeBerry](#)  
Cell: 903-256-7080

**Book Table (Scroll  
consignments):**  
[Robin Gillian](#)  
Cell: 903-574-0829

**Community Trailer:**  
[Chuck Reed](#)  
Home: 903-845-8128  
Cell: 903-918-4196

**Gathering Coordinator:**  
[Shawn Heatherly](#)  
Home: 903-297-3005

**Newsletter Editor:**  
[Karol Johnston](#)  
Home: 903-963-7313  
Cell: 903-521-0236

**Prayer Vigil:**  
[Janis Johns](#)  
Cell: 817-714-8208

**Publication Coordinator:**  
[Babby Carroll](#)  
Home: 903-983-3841  
Cell: 903-424-1641

**Sponsorship Training:**  
[Jim Buchanan](#)  
Home: 903-930-2360

**Team Selection-Board  
Nominations:**  
[Mark Bewley](#)  
Home: 903-451-2804  
Cell: 214-282-7593

**Walk Crosses/Dove  
Nametags:**  
[Elizabeth Minor](#)  
Home: 903-657-8112  
Cell: 903-720-1740

**Reunion Groups:**  
[Tommy Ferguson](#)  
Cell: 903-256-7296

**Non- Board (no restriction)  
Positions**

**Registrar:**  
[Jim & Betty Buchanan](#)  
Home: 903-938-1421  
Cell Jim: 903-930-2360  
Cell Betty: 903-930-2678

**Webmaster:**  
[Mark Bewley](#)  
Cell: 903-522-0782

**Ex-Officio:**  
[Cindy Hooser](#)

## 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 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 # \_\_\_\_\_