

November,2008 Volume 8, Issue 9

G.R.A.C.E. Website www.gracemmaus.org

Inside this Issue

COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR'S

ARTICLE, SPIRITUAL

DIRECTORS REPORT, TEAM

SELECTION REMINDER

2 AGAPE NOTE, NOVEMBER DEVOTION, BOARD LISTING

BOARD BALLOT FOR 2009-2011, GATHERING BALLOT

BANK DRAFT FORM, MAILING INFORMATION

<u>NEX I</u>

GATHERING

Saturday, November 8
LANES CHAPEL UMC
TYLER, TX

Babe Chick, 5pm Potluck, 6pm Worship, 7pm

YA'LL COME!!

DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE GRACEMMAUS.ORG WEBSITE

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

DEAR G.R.A.C.E.

What awesome Walks we had in October. If you missed any of the functions, I am sorry that you were not there as it was wonderful to see God at work in so many lives. As we were at the walks David Mays gave me an article about Agape and what it is. I wanted to share a part of that with you.

We all know what Agape is – Don't we? Would you consider it souvenirs or mementos? I sometimes am not sure that the distinction between agape and mementos is clear. What makes anything agape? The answer is very easy. Agape is sacrificial. In some way it demonstrates the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us as He gave His life that we might be saved. If it is not sacrificial, it is not agape. Just because it is a wonderful gift and it is inspirational does not make it agape.

The article went on to give some examples to determine the true meaning of agape. Is prayer agape? Of coarse it is. Prayer is sacrificial and it takes your time and energy in an important and beneficial way. It takes a real and conscious effort to pray for pilgrims on the walks. In fact it is one of the most important forms of agape for the entire weekend. Speaking of which – it is time to start praying for the Spring Walks that will be in early March. Start to pray about what pilgrims GOD will be sending on these next Walks. AND start praying for our next two Lay Directors. These people will need to be covered in prayer as we all know Satan starts to try to work his way into our lives as we prepare to do the work of our Lord. The men's Lay Director is Dan Matthews and the Women's Lay Director is Patti Jones.

Another example of agape was a special bookmarker that was purchased and given out. Is that agape? This one is more difficult to answer. Just because you purchased a really nice gift to hand out does not make it agape. NOW, with that being said.... If you prayed over it and asked our Lord to use this small token of agape to send a message to the pilgrims then YES it would be agape.

You see, the intent of agape is not to make things, but to BE AN EXAMPLE of CHRIST-LIKE SERVANTHOOD. You are trying to demonstrate, your actions, and the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us; whether your items are hand made or using technology at hand these days or purchased. As long as the intent is to bring the pilgrims closer to Christ and to share his love with them IT BECOMES AGAPE.

Hope to see you at the November Gathering!!!!
DeColores and Fly with Christ

Teresa Elliott

Spiritual Director

I've heard perhaps 500 or more Emmaus testimonies at the end of the walk. Remember the two questions? I always try to listen for the impact. Was it merely a fun time with friends (I hope it was!) or was it a spiritual transformation?

In hearing the 35 ladies, overwhelmingly: Jesus transformed my life and I am more in love with him! I am ready to hear him and obey him in a deeper way! Amen!

And in what I've heard from Ben Bright and Dan Matthews, the men's walk was more of the same. Some first-time confessions of Christ! Amen! Thank you, Nancy and Bill for the servant leadership you exhibited! And thanks to the teams. We honor you, Lord Jesus for opening the eyes of so many!

Want to work on the next teams? Check out the web site and/or contact the board.

Also, I want to introduce our assistant community spiritual director, David Mays. Welcome, David! You exhibit Christ's heart and we look forward to working together for the Kingdom of God. You'll want to meet his wife, Kathy, of 36 years, right, David?

LOVE ALWAYS WINS. TOM HAYGOOD 903.570.9306

NEW TEAM SELECTION BEGINS...

Hey Fourth Day,

Ever thought about serving by working a walk? If interested, submit your application online - even if you've submitted one in the past!

Upcoming team selections for the spring walks of 09 are November 13, which is right around the corner. Working a walk is a great place to get involved in the community and serve the LORD.

In Christ,
Brent Hooser
Team Selection
†††††††††††††††††

AGAPE NOTE

"Leftover agape" (Often more individual agape is given then we have pilgrims or team) will be brought to the November Gathering. So, if interested, please go thru the pile and see if you/your reunion group want to pick it up. Many people want their remaining pieces as often the same item is made for a future walk and so vou don't have to make as much. Plus some of the agape is a bit expensive to create. If you can not make the Gathering, please have someone check for you. After this Gathering, the remaining agape pieces will go to Teresa Elliott for use in the Chrysalis program. Thanks, Laquita Showen

GRACE Board for 2008

Community Lay Director

Teresa Elliot

tgelliott@suddenlink.net 903-570-5233 (h)

Assistant Lay Director

Rav Carden

903-882-1780 (h)

903-245-9138 (c)

Raycarden287@aol.com

Spiritual Director

Tom Haygood

tomhaygood@yahoo.com

903-570-4123(c) 903-881-2663(h)

Treasurer

Robin Gillian

bobbilane@aol.com 903-894-3512 (h) Secretary

Joy Parker

bjparker859@yahoo.com 903-768-2892(h) 903-850-2893(c)

Micheal May

mdcmay@embarqmail.com 903-894-7290 (h)

Laquita Showen

jimshowen@aol.com 903-566-0733 (h)

William "Bill" Durr

903-586-1720 (h)

John Teegarden

johnt58@yahoo.com 903-451-4439 (h)

Brent Hooser

Brenth12000@yahoo.com 903-939-9528 (h) 903-521-7367 (c)

Dan Matthews

danmatt4497@hughes.net 903-338-2136 (h) 903-948-9039 (c)

Gail Meadows

agapegail@suddenlink.net 903-240-1223 (c)

John Norman

jenorman@hughes.net 214-803-4074(c)

Chrysalis Steering Committee

Leah Huffstetter

<u>Leah_belle@hotmail.com</u> 903-509-1218 (h) 903-360-1017(c)

Webmaster

Tom Perdue

tomdue@gmail.com

Registrar

Ted & Pam Weaver

November's Devotion

The kingdom of heaven. Its citizens are drunk on wonder.
Consider the case of Sarai. She is in her golden years, but God promises her a son. She gets excited. She visits the maternity shop and buys a few dresses. She plans her shower and remodels her tent ... but no son. So Sarai decides to take matters into her own hands. ("Maybe God needs me to take care of this one.")

She convinces Abram that time is

running out. ("Face it, Abe, you ain't getting any younger, either.") She commands her maid, Hagar, to go into Abram's tent and see if he needs anything. ("And I mean 'anything'!") Hagar goes in a maid. She comes out a mom. And the problems begin. Hagar is haughty. Sarai is jealous. Abram is dizzy from the dilemma. And God calls the baby boy a "wild donkey"--an appropriate name for one born out of stubbornness and destined to kick his way into history. isn't the cozy family Sarai expected. And it isn't a topic Abram and Sarai bring up very often at dinner. Finally, fourteen years later, when Abram is pushing a century of years and Sarai ninety ... when Abram has stopped listening to Sarai's advice, and Sarai has stopped giving it ... God pays them a visit and tells them they had better select a name for their new son.

Abram and Sarai have the same response: laughter. They laugh partly because it is too good to happen and partly because it might. They laugh because they have given up hope, and hope born anew is always funny before it is real. They laugh at the lunacy of it all. They laugh because that is what you do when someone says he can do the impossible. They laugh a little at God, and a lot with God--for God is laughing, too. Then, with the smile still on his face, he gets busy doing what he does best--the unbelievable.

He changes a few things--beginning with their names. Abram, the father of one, will now be Abraham, the father of a multitude. Sarai, the barren one, will now be Sarah, the mother. But their names aren't the only things God changes. He changes their minds. He changes their faith. He changes the number of their tax deductions. He changes the way they define the word impossible.

Max Lucado

Election Time

The following ballot contains the names of God's people that said they would be willing to serve if asked. They are each willing to make a three-year commitment if elected and serve our community to the best of their ability. So please take time to look over the ballot and help choose our next 5 G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Board Members.

As you mark your ballot, please remember to choose 5 names only! You may turn in your ballot by mailing it in to the address on the front of the newsletter or you may bring it to the next gathering or candlelight. Ballots will be available at all events between now and the end of the year.

Board Nominees 2009-2011

Judy Hawn (Athens)	Burton Love (Eustace)	Patti Jones (Athens)
Karen Christopher (Flint)	Diana (Frazier) Frachiseur (Troup)	George Assaf(Mineola)
Linda Truell Blevins (Tyler)	Carol Derieux (Gladewater)	Frank Copeland (Palestine)
Tom Perdue (Tyler) ++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++	++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++	፦ተተተተተተተተተ

Gatherings for G.R.A.C.E.

Ballot: Vote for your choice on how G.R.A.C.E. will implement Gatherings starting in 2009. Please vote for only one (1) of the three (3) plans.

PLAN 1

With only one clarified change, leave the Gatherings as they are. We would hold Gatherings monthly (excluding July and December) at varied Churches and Towns all over the district. The change being that we would ensure that the Gathering including the Babe Chick Trainings would be held in a more central location and/or close to the campground at which the Walks are held. We currently hold 8 gatherings a year, not including Candlelights.

PLAN 2**

We divide the Community into geographic fourths (1/4 sections) and have each area hold Gatherings at least Quarterly. The point towns would be:

Tyler / Jacksonville (hold 4 gatherings a year)
Longview / Marshall (hold 4 gatherings a year)
Mineola / Lindale(hold 4 gatherings a year)

Athens / Palestine (hold 4 gatherings a year)

We would have a minimum of 16 gatherings annually with at least 4 being close to your living area to reduce the amount of driving distance. The Babe Chick training would be held at a Tyler / Jacksonville location after each of the Walks for Fall and Spring are

completed.

PLAN 3**

We would hold 4 quarterly gatherings centralized in Tyler on a Saturday as a Pot Luck for the full community. Locally we would encourage other towns, or reunion groups, or churches to hold smaller gatherings as often as you like with the following understanding; In order to hold a gathering you would need to provide the space, a 4th day speaker, clergy, and announce/advertise the gathering in the newsletter. All would be welcome to attend but greater emphasis would be placed on advertising for local attendance.

**PLEASE NOTE: THE BOARD WOULD EXPECT THAT <u>ALL</u> LOCAL GATHERINGS WOULD FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES SET OUT FOR EMMAUS GATHERINGS TO INCLUDE A 4TH DAY TALK, MUSICIANS, AND QUALIFIED CLERGY TO CONDUCT THE ACCOMPANYING COMMUNION. FURTHER INFORMATION AND TRAINING WILL BE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES AS OR IF WE PROCEED IN THAT MANNER.

Please Cast Your Vote: (Circle the Plan of Choice)
PLAN 1 PLAN 2 PLAN 3

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**

PRSRT STD US Postage Paid Tyler, TX Permit No.120