

# Grace for Today

G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community Newsletter  
September 2024

*Our next Walks are soon...*  
*Do you have a Pilgrim to sponsor?*  
*Pray about it!*

## *Coming Events*

### *Fall Walks at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer*

-Men's Walk #106, September 26-29,  
-Women's Walk #107, October 3-6,  
-For both Walks on Saturday: Agape Dinner  
Servers arrive at 4; for Gathering, Worship,  
and Candlelight, gate opens around 7:30,  
Gathering & Worship at 8:00, Candlelight at  
9:00.

*Sat, Oct 19, Gathering, Mineola Methodist  
Church* - Babe Chick Training at 4:00 PM,  
Potluck at 5pm, with Worship immediately  
following.

MAY I NEVER  
FORGET ON  
MY BEST DAY,  
THAT I STILL  
NEED GOD AS  
DESPERATELY  
AS I DID ON  
MY WORST.



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*Find More on the G.R.A.C.E. Website:*

[www.graceemmaus.com](http://www.graceemmaus.com)

## Community Lay Director's Corner

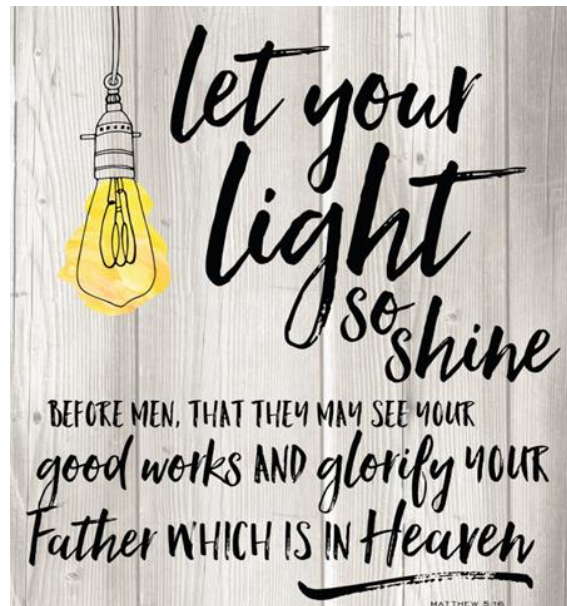
Dear GRACE Community,

Please pray for our Country and Leaders.

What a blessing it was to see each of you who attended our August Gathering at Bar None Cowboy Church in Tatum. Special thanks to Jim Gorrel and the wonderful folks hosting us for their warm hospitality.

Fall Walk 106 and 107 Lay Directors, Rick Rundquist and Liz Webb, have finished their second Team Training and will have the final Team Training on September 14 at St Luke's Methodist Church in Kilgore. The anticipation, excitement, and thrill of the Team is building. Can you feel it?

GRACE Community, NOW IS THE TIME to contact and follow up with the people in your circle of influence that God has put on your heart to approach about attending the Fall Walks. Now is the time to put love into action and invite them to be a Pilgrim. Their response is not our responsibility. God only asks for our obedience. He can open closed doors. What may seem impossible to us is nothing for our almighty God.



Please pray for each one of these Pilgrims as well as the Teams. Please go to [www.GRACEEmmaus.com](http://www.GRACEEmmaus.com) and select the Prayer Vigil tab to sign up and pray for the Walks.

I look forward to seeing each of you at our September 28th Gathering, Worship, and Candlelight at Camp Gilmont. The gate will open about 7:30 pm and the Gathering will begin promptly at 8 pm.

DeColores  
John Webb  
Community Lay Director

"Let it shine!"

## **Begin each day listening to God**

Remember how exciting it was to work your first Walk? Or if you haven't worked a walk, think about a time you did something new for God. You're a little scared and nervous, but you know you're serving God and that he's with you. Those times are easier to surrender and let God take control. But in your daily activities, the things we're more comfortable with, we tend to rely on ourselves and forget to surrender.

Begin each day listening to God and seeking him. Be obedient, pray, spend time with God daily and surrender to him. He will lead us to a life we could never imagine or achieve on our own! A life of abundance.

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:31

Sandra Grasch  
Assistant Community Lay Director



## **How to help with the Fall Walks**

- **Fall Walks at Camp Gilmont in Gilmer**

Men's Walk #106, September 26-29, 2024

Women's Walk #107, October 3-6, 2024

Schedule of events during each Walk -

**Thursday:** Sponsors, please have Pilgrims arrive promptly at 7 pm and stay for Sponsors' Hour after Sendoff.

**Saturday:** Servers for the Agape dinner arrive at 4 pm.

**Saturday:** For Gathering, Worship, and Candlelight, gate opens around 7:30, Gathering & Worship at 8:00, Candlelight at 9:00.

**Sunday:** Sponsors pick up Pilgrim's belongings at 3:30, Closing begins at 4 pm.

- **Pray, Pray, Pray for our Walks!**

- **Sponsor a Pilgrim!** The Teams have been selected and preparations are being done. Do you know someone you would like to share this amazing experience with? Prayerfully consider asking them to attend a walk. Pilgrim information is found on our website [www.GRACEEmmaus.com](http://www.GRACEEmmaus.com) -> Applications tab -> Pilgrim Application.

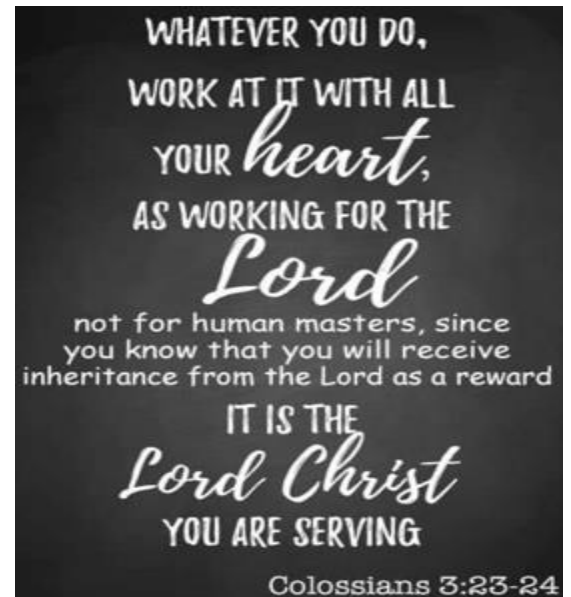
- **Start making agape gifts for men and women!** Recommended number of identical pieces of agape for each Walk (you can add the name of your Reunion Group and city to the Agape, but please do not put the name of your church):

- Agape for Everyone – 72
- Dining Room Agape – 64
- Bed Agape – 36

Feel free to make as many sets as you would like! It's not too early to start! We will also need lanyards for nametags and crosses, and decorated place mats. Contact Nancy Edwards ([ne52055@aol.com](mailto:ne52055@aol.com)) for more information.

- **Do you have a Golf Cart or Mule we could borrow for one or both Walks?** Contact one of the Walk Lay Directors, Rick Rundquist ([roundtwig01@gmail.com](mailto:roundtwig01@gmail.com)) or Liz Webb ([lizw3bb@gmail.com](mailto:lizw3bb@gmail.com)), if you can help.
- **Consider being a server for the Agape Dinner on Saturday evening of each Walk.** Women will serve for the Men's Walk on Saturday evening. Men will serve for the Women's Walk on Saturday evening. All you need are black pants, a white shirt, and a willing heart! Contact Nancy Edwards ([ne52055@aol.com](mailto:ne52055@aol.com)) for more information.

**Mark your calendar to attend the Gathering and Candlelight for each Walk.**





## **Before The Sowing**

Mathew 13: 3-8 tells us about the farmer sowing seeds. The parable tells of seeds falling on the path, rocky places, among the thorns and on good soil. Those on good soil produced a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Jesus frequently used references to farmers, fields and their products as they were easily understood points of reference in that day. The term for farmer in the Bible is husbandman. A husbandman is a plowman, a man of the soil, a tiller of ground. For grain to be grown, the ground must first be plowed. These ancient plows were made of two wooden beams, joined T-fashion, and usually pulled by two oxen. At times, each farmer, using his own equipment and oxen, working together, plowed all the fields of the village. The growing of grain began with this plowing in the fall, followed by the sowing of seeds and a harvest later.

Today, we understand this parable is speaking of the spreading and receiving of the Gospel message. Even though many of us no longer farm agriculturally, as Christians, we are still all farmers. In the Emmaus community, our "crop" is returning Pilgrims to their home churches better equipped and willing to serve. In order to do this, we must be a husbandman, a tiller of ground so seeds can be sowed, and a crop harvested. How do we act as a plowman?

For our village to be successful in raising our crop, like the farmer, we must plow the fields before the seeds can be sown. The act of plowing (recruiting and inviting Pilgrims) allows the seeds to be sown (the experience of the Walk) and a bountiful crop (the entire 4<sup>th</sup> Day) to be realized.

It is fall, time for the crop to be planted. Will you participate in this new crop? Now is planting time. The Walk 106 Team has diligently been preparing and is ready to sow the seeds. The ground needs many a husbandman to plow so the sowing can begin.



DeColores!  
Rick Rundquist  
Walk #106 Lay Director  
***"Taste and See That the Lord Is Good"***  
***Psalm 34:8***

## **For Such A Time As This**

I was having a conversation with a friend recently and she made the comment that, "Everything that happens is part of God's plan." God definitely has a plan. But not everything that happens is part of His plan. He doesn't intend for there to be crimes against children, human trafficking, murder of innocents. We serve a just and loving God. But there is evil. And God knows which we will choose.

In the book of Joshua Chapter 2 there is a prostitute named Rahab who hid the Jewish spies sent to scout the land God promised them. Rahab recognized the mighty power of God, and she had a choice. She chose to help the Jews. A prostitute spared the lives of the spies that would deliver God's people from the wilderness to the land He promised them.

Rahab could have declined this opportunity. The same way we make choices every day, Rahab could have been too busy for this task that was dropped on her doorstep. But she had wisdom enough to see the Lord working and oh, how she was blessed. She and her family were spared when the Israelites took the land she lived in.

But so much more than that! Rahab wouldn't know or live to see the Son of Man walk on earth, but through her would come the One who would offer us eternal salvation. Through Rahab's obedience, she is listed as only one of 5 women in the Book of Matthew as being in the lineage of Jesus. What a blessing that flowed from her obedience!

God has appointed us to this place during this time. He has a plan, and it will not be thwarted. His way will come to pass regardless of our choices. But He is giving us the opportunity to be faithful and obedient. So, the next time God knocks on the heart strings of your soul or allows you to see Him working and tugs on your wisdom to be a part, be obedient.

Time and space are drawing to a close on the opportunity to sponsor a Pilgrim for the Fall Walks. Indecision in itself is a choice. Not to decide is to decide not to. Will we reach out to someone the Lord has placed in our heart? Will we make a commitment to approach the one whose heart the Lord is working on?

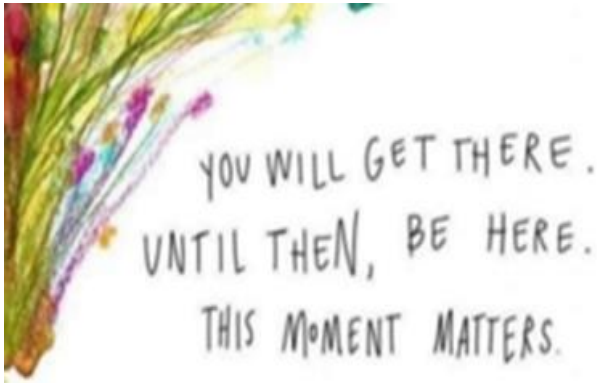
We cannot thwart God's plan only our opportunity to be part of His plan. We can choose to not return to Emmaus Gatherings, not sponsor Pilgrims, not get involved in Reunion groups, and not serve on future Emmaus Walks.

God will use someone else. But our 4th Day is calling us to step up! Who knows, perhaps we are here for such a time as this.

To God be the glory!  
Liz Webb  
Walk 107 Lay Director



## Molded by the hands of God



She handed me a blue jar of Play-Doh and a red jar of Play-Doh and said “Although Play-Doh does not appear in the Bible, in Jeremiah 18 in the Hebrew Scriptures, God is like a potter whose deep desire is to mold and shape his beloved children — as one molds clay on a potter’s wheel or Play-Doh in one’s hands — into the beautiful creations they were intended to be.”

She kept gently kneading the Play-Doh as she said “Whether we are talking about God reshaping a people, a community of faith or us as individuals, our tendency is to resist or even avoid being reshaped, because reshaping takes time and may cause us to feel uncomfortable for a while. We will also most certainly end up changed as a result of being reshaped, which means that what once worked for us may no longer work and what once fit may no longer fit. The good news, however, is that when God does the work of reshaping, God does so with loving hands, firmly but gently, patiently taking the time necessary to do it right. The God who formed us at the start, knitting us together in our mother’s womb and making us fearfully and wonderfully, does not squeeze us until we cringe or pound us into shape. God molds us with painstaking care — that is, if we will allow God to do so.”

And then she sang in that beautiful, sweet voice 🎵 “Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou art the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.”

She held up the wad of Play-Doh in her hand, and it was now the most beautiful purple color. And she looked me in the eyes and said, “May we welcome the opportunity to be Play-Doh in God’s hands so that we might become the beautiful creations God intended for us to be, and in so doing, become a people with the patience to help others become their best selves as well.”

Her Facebook cover said “You will get there. Until then, be here. This moment matters.” She was always present to everyone everywhere. And now she hears, “Well done, my good and faithful servant.” I will miss Pastor Susan Smith more than you can imagine. She touched my heart in a very big way. She ministered to me at a time when I needed it deeply. G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus was blessed by her.



Charlene Burton  
In Loving Memory of  
Pastor Susan Smith

## **Words For Reflection from the Emmaus Ministries**

We are living in critical times where tolerance and peace are scarce. People all over the world are experiencing turbulent situations due to elections, war, denominational decisions, and countless other factors.

As members of the Emmaus Ministries, we are called to focus on our aim to renew Christian disciples and strengthen local churches. This is achieved by inspiring, challenging, and equipping local church members for Christian action — in our homes, churches, workplaces, and communities.

So, how can we accomplish our mission during difficult times? Ephesians 4:1-6, 25-32; 5:1-2 offer us good advice. These Bible verses offer a series of practical exhortations emphasizing how a believer should behave daily.

As we experience challenges, let us remember to be humble, gentle, patient, bearing with one another in love; make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace, speak truthfully, do not sin if we are angry, do not steal, share with those in need. Stop all dirty talk and being bitter, angry, and mad at others. Do not yell, curse, or be rude. Instead, be kind and merciful and forgive others.



Let's do as God does and let love be our guide.

iDe Colores!  
Lilia Ramirez  
on behalf of The Upper Room Emmaus  
Ministries staff  
July 2024



## **How You Meet God**

Have you ever noticed how in the scriptures men are always going up into the mountains to commune with the Lord? Yet in the scriptures we hardly ever hear of women going to the mountains. But we know why - right? Because the women were too busy keeping life going; they couldn't abandon babies, meals, homes, fires, gardens, and a thousand responsibilities to make the climb into the mountains!

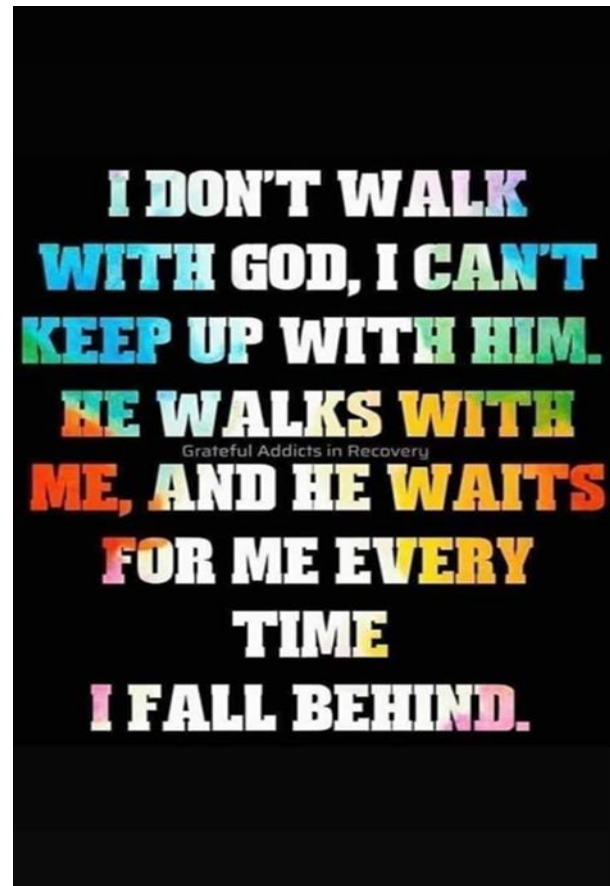
I was talking to a friend the other day, saying that as modern woman I feel like I'm never "free" enough from my responsibilities, never in a quiet enough space I want with God. Her response floored me, "That is why God comes to women. Men have to climb the mountain to meet God, but God comes to women wherever they are."

I have been pondering on her words for weeks and have searched my scriptures to see if what she said is true. God does indeed come to women where they are, when they are doing their ordinary, everyday work. He meets them at the well where they draw water for their families, in their homes, in their kitchens, in their gardens. He comes to them as they sit beside sickbeds, as they give birth care for the elderly, and perform necessary mourning and burial rites. Even at the empty tomb, Mary was the first to witness Christ's resurrection. She was there because she was doing the womanly chore of properly preparing Christ's body for burial. In these seemingly mundane and ordinary tasks, these women of the scriptures found themselves face to face with divinity.

So if, like me, you ever start to bemoan the fact that you don't have as much time to spend in the mountains with God as you would like, remember, God comes to women. He knows where we are and the burdens we carry. He sees us, and if we open our eyes and our hearts, we will see Him, even in the most ordinary places and in the most ordinary things.

He lives. And he's using a time such as this to speak to women around the world.

Author Unknown



## *Despite, Not Because*

Give thanks in all circumstances. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

I have often heard it said that God will never give us more than we can handle. Yet, there are times in our lives when this is simply not true, and such statements ring hollow. Perhaps the biblical passages that are used to promote this idea have been misinterpreted.

For example, 1 Corinthians 10:13 is a verse commonly cited, but it is about temptation rather than suffering. Passages like 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 and James 1:2 tell us to rejoice always. But being told to rejoice when we have lost a loved one or are facing a life altering health diagnosis can seem cruel. The command to rejoice in our suffering, however, is about rejoicing in Jesus *despite our circumstances, not because of our circumstances*. What a difference that understanding can make when trials come! It is much easier to rejoice in Jesus and what he has done for us than to rejoice in the difficulties we face. Understanding these passages will better lift us up in difficult circumstances to God, who is with us every step of the way, offering hope, joy, and encouragement in the midst of life's most troublesome times.

Is your gaze focused on God or your circumstances?

*Heavenly, Father, thank you for being with us in our suffering. Help us to rejoice in you despite our circumstances, not because of them. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*



Dennis Gage  
Community Book Table  
Reprinted from  
The Upper Room Daily Devotional

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## **SUPPORT FOR THE GRACE EMMAUS COMMUNITY**

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 donating \$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.

De Colores

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 in 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 #: \_\_\_\_\_

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