

Grace For Today

September, 2008
Volume 8, Issue 7

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

Inside this Issue

- 1 COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR'S ARTICLE, SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S ARTICLE
- 2 WALK 47 (MEN'S) UPDATE, BOARD NOTES, AGAPE, REUNION GROUPS, SCHEDULE & GATHERING ARTICLE, BOARD NOTES
- 3 GATHERING BALLOT
- 4 BOARD LISTING, BANK DRAFT INFORMATION & FORM

NEXT
GATHERING
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY
CHURCH, LONGVIEW
WORSHIP AT 7PM
YA'LL COME!!

DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON THE GRACEMMAUS.ORG WEBSITE LISTED ABOVE!!

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

DEAR G.R.A.C.E.

Walk Driven OR Fourth Day Driven???

What are we? What should we be?

By the time you read this article school will be back in session for most school districts. It is amazing to me how fast summer can go by. We have been busily working this summer as we prepared for the first (and BEST!) Chrysalis Flight, with only one weekend off and then beginning the fall walk team meetings.

On Saturday, August the 16th the Board Training for GRACE Community with Carleen Alderman was held. I am not sure why I was reluctant to have this training session; I would say that I was even dreading it. I knew that our community would be reviewed but I didn't want to be told that we were not doing things right. I was never excited to go to my personal annual review at work either, although generally that turns out to be good. I always get anxious right before I walk in the door.

To my surprise, our training meeting was very uplifting. It was affirming to hear about all the things that GRACE is doing well and it was even refreshing to hear suggestions for improvements on areas that we are struggling with.

One of the points that came forth from the meeting was our response (or lack of) when asked if we (the community) were Walk Driven or 4th Day Driven. During the past several years we have worked really hard to hold the "Walks" to the best of our ability and as closely to the manual model as we could. After discussion we all agreed that we are a "Walk Driven Community". The Walk(s) only last for 72 hours – one very special weekend - but our 4th Day is every day we live after we have gone on our Walk. Perhaps we really should be focused on our "Fourth Day" as a community. Our challenge now is to continue to hold our walks to the best of our ability and to start to build our

community so that we can proudly say we are a "Fourth Day Driven Community".

The board is reviewing the final report from the trainer and will assess how we can best make some changes that need to occur to stay with the intent of the walk and to grow us closer as a community in our 4th days. Our trainer told us that there are 4 basic questions to assist us in any of our decisions as a board.

1. Will it Glorify God?
2. Will it move the pilgrim closer to God?
3. Is it to glorify someone on the team and not God?
4. Will it distract the pilgrim from receiving the intended message?

No matter the question, every decision made should be based on our answer to these 4 questions. The board must make the best decisions we can and then stand by our decision as a group. Each walk is the Walk of the Community, not a person's walk; they don't belong to the Lay Director – all Walks are to glorify God and belong only to Him.

If you have stayed with me until the end of this article I thank you. There was a lot of information to cover. I would also like to thank each of the board members for the job they are doing. It is with their direction and the community support and help that GRACE had such a wonderful review. Don't get me wrong, we do have areas for improvement and we will be working to make those better. THANK YOU for your support of this community. I love all of my Brothers and Sisters in Christ within the GRACE Community.

DeColores and Fly with Christ.
Teresa Elliott
Community Lay Director

From the Spiritual Directors Desk

As we (hopefully) grow spiritually, does our size increase? No ☺, I'm not talking about belt size. Well, yes, if our community is being spiritually formed, if we are fourth day driven and not walk driven, then our community will increase in size, Right?

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 ALL 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 Board for 2008

Community Lay Director

Teresa Elliot

tgelliott@suddenlink.net

903-570-5233 (h)

Assistant Lay Director

Ray 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)

Micheal May

mdecmay@embarqmail.com

903-894-7290 (h)

Laquita Showen

jimshowen@aol.com

903-566-0733 (h)

William "Bill" Durr

903-586-1720 (h)

John Teegarden

john58@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)

Donna Swenson

Swensonhome@aol.com

903-312-1501 (c)

Harold Starkey

hjstarkey@suddenlink.net

903-939-8252 (h)

Chrysalis Steering Committee

Leah Huffstetter

Leah_belle@hotmail.com

903-509-1218 (h)

903-360-1017(c)

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: _____

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 # _____