

September, 2008 Volume 8, Issue 7

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

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

DI RECTIONS ARE AVAI LABLE ON THE GRACEMMAUS.ORG WEBSITE LI STED ABOVE!!

> G.R.A.C.E. <u>REGISTRAR</u> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>(C)</sup>, 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? However, there are other markers for spiritual growth I offer. Bishop J.C. Riley suggests the following:

- 1. More aware of sin (especially those of the heart that no one else sees)
- 2. Stronger faith (believing in the unseen God and His promises in spite of what our physical eyes see)
- 3. Brighter hope (saying no to despair and temporary depression)
- 4. Extension of my ability to love and show grace (remember, most of us need love the most when our actions are offensive)
- 5. Suffer well (since we all struggle, how well do we struggle?)

On this last note, consider three options as we face suffering:

- 1. Becoming a victim in our conversation and attitude
- 2. Becoming a dominator or denier
- 3. Suffering quietly and waiting, trusting our blessed unseen Lord and His mercy

May our Lord continue to equip you and our community for spiritual formation and not just filling walks. So, who in your relationships can you pray about inviting to a walk? Even if they say no to the Emmaus walk, how can you encourage them in their journey with Jesus?

#### **DeColores!**

LOVE ALWAYS WINS. TOM HAYGOOD 903.570.9306 የተዮዮዮዮዮዮዮዮዮዮዮዮዮዮዮዮዮዮ

#### WALK #47 UPDATE

THANKS! THANKS! THANKS to FUMC Lindale for hosting our meetings. The strangest coincidences have occurred at the first two meetings .... the "talks" appear to match the "walks" of our speakers! Early indications suggest that the "Holy Spirit" is with Walk #47. It's really awesome!!! Please continue to pray for our team and a full cadre of pilgrims. Special thanks to the Creative Christians at FUMC Gladewater for offering to make the worship book covers. DeColores, Bill <{ {><

# AGAPENOTE

MEMORY CAP TIME! Remember the little surges of joy when you were on your walk and found unexpected items of agape -- just for you? Men and Women walks are FAST approaching -- Women's 2nd weekend in October and Men's 3rd weekend in October. If you've been intending to create agape, now is the time to get around to it. Your creations are needed and wanted!

Also needed <u>BIG TIME</u> are the Emmaus yarn name tag necklaces (also known as lanyards). The women's walk has just enough but the men's walk have none. If you know how to crochet, get your needle and stitch away. (I intend to try and see if I even remember how to make that single stitch.) Regardless, if you have a knack for crocheting, your efforts are VERY MUCH NEEDED. If we wind up with an overabundance, the necklaces will just be used on future walks. Thanking you in advance. Laquita Showen

#### ቀቀቀቀቀቀቀቀቀቀቀቀቀቀቀቀ Reunion Groups

Are you looking for a reunion group? Are you looking for a way to let people know about a reunion group? If you answered yes to either of these questions, I encourage you to visit our web site. www.gracemmaus.org and click on the Reunion Groups link. Here you can find the latest information that we have on all the reunion groups in the community. Also at our web site, in the bottom left corner, there is a link where you can update your reunion group information and let us know about any new reunion groups. We will update the web site with new information as we receive it. So check back often! Whether you are looking for a reunion group or adding information about a new one, let www.gracemmaus.org be the place to find it. **2008 Gatherings** 

#### <u>October 11 & 18</u> (Saturday) CANDLELIGHT at Camp Gilmont Gilmer 8pm

<u>November 8</u> (Saturday) GRAND ULTREYA at Lanes Chapel United Methodist Church 5pm Babe Chick Meeting, 6pm Potluck Dinner, 7pm Gathering

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**GATHERINGS**: This Board fully agrees that the objective of Emmaus is to strengthen the local Church through the empowerment of disciples and the raising up of fresh leadership in the congregation. At a recent Board training session we were asked "Is this Board walk driven or 4<sup>th</sup> day driven"? Our goal should always be on building community, but that having been said, we love each one of you and would like to see you as often as possible. That's why we sponsor 8 Gatherings each year plus the 4 Gatherings we conduct at Candlelight services. Lately the attendance at our Gatherings has been less than what we had hoped for. Those of us on the Board have spent a lot of time discussing why and what can we do to resolve the Gathering attendance issue. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a ballot concerning Gatherings. The Board decided to ask the community to tell us what you want to do with Gatherings. Won't you tell us how you feel on this issue? You can vote at the same time as you do for the new Board members now through November. We truly want your input and we hope to see you at a Gathering soon!

Ray Carden- ACLD

#### BOARD NOTES:

Ever wonder how decisions are made for the community? Would you like to



have a voice? The fall election for new board members is right around the corner. Being on the board is a great place to serve our Lord Jesus Christ! <u>Interested?</u> Call Brent Hooser 903-939-9528 or 903-521-7367

# 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>TH</sup> 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**

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## **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 #	