



April -2021

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Walk to Emmaus Movement
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Fall Walks

Men's Walk #94, Sept 23-26
Women's Walk #95, Sept 30- Oct 3
Both Walks At Camp Gilmont

Gatherings

Saturday May 15th @ Camp
Gilmont. Details will be shared
as they are made available. Covid-19
protocols will still be in place

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

www.graceemmaus.com

A WORD FROM COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Greetings to all the Grace Emmaus brothers and sisters. I am very excited to see us slowly get back to a normal pace in our life. Numbers are trending the right way and I think we have a very good opportunity to have our fall walk. With that being said I encourage you to prayerfully consider who you know that might make a good pilgrim for walks 94 and 95. Since it has been over a year since we have had a walk I expect both 94 and 95 to be full. Get your applications in as soon as possible to guarantee your pilgrim a spot for the walk.

Going without gatherings and many reunion groups not meeting due to Covid 19 it's easy to get out of the habit of participating in our community events. We are starting back, and I hope you will make the effort to attend and bring at least one other person with you. It's easy to think of all the other things in your life to distract you from the chance to gather with your Emmaus brothers and sisters but I have never walked away from a gathering or reunion group meeting thinking "that was a waste of time". What better way to remind you of that special weekend you spent and the chance to share it with someone you know by sponsoring them on a walk or inviting them to a reunion meeting or gathering.

Make sure to look regularly at our web site (www.graceemmaus.com). We post events and walk dates along with contact information for all of our board members. It also has a video you can show prospective pilgrims about our walks.

Look forward to seeing you soon!

John Crow



Saved by Grace

"It is by grace you have been saved."

A timely reminder that we should always be conscious of. My heart falls whenever I come across Christians who are caught up in their own pride, believing that their righteousness within their personal capacity is the reason why they have received salvation. One of the biggest mistakes you could ever make, as a Christian, is to think that you are able to justify yourselves according to your own works. There is a reason why Jesus had to come to earth. No matter how many times man had tried to fulfill the standards of the Law, they could not do it. They could not be righteous on their own. Every time they tried to, sin would interfere and their actions would be rendered ineffective.

God didn't wait for us to show signs of perfection before He sent his son, Jesus Christ to the earth. No. When man was drowning in their sin, as far away from God as possible, Christ came to the earth. When human beings were nothing but dead souls walking, Jesus Christ came to the earth. He was not moved by what He saw. The state of man did not make him shout in hopeless angst.

Jesus knew what He was coming to face. He knew that He would encounter ignorance. He knew that He would encounter people who would not understand anything He was saying. He knew that He was going to be beaten, mocked, and scorned. He knew that He was going to be crucified on the cross.

Jesus knew all of this but it did not stop Him from fulfilling God's will. Even in Gethsemane, where He wept as He thought of what He was about to face, Jesus rose up and chose to continue with the mission.

He knew that the fate of mankind was dependent on His sacrifice and He counted us worth the pain. God saw us as worth sacrificing His Son, for our sake. We did nothing to merit it. We did nothing to deserve it. We deserved the damnation that was headed our way, but God didn't focus on that.

He focused on saving us so that we could be reconciled to Him. We, as His children, and He as our Father.

Prayer:

That is what it means to be saved by Grace. We did not deserve any of the Father's love, but He gave it to us anyway because He loved- and still loves-us that much.



The word agape was used by early Christians to refer to the self-sacrificing love of God for humanity and the reciprocating love toward God and among one another. In simple terms, agape means love, as in the love of God. In the Emmaus Movement, agape acts are special acts of prayer, sacrifice and expressions of Christian love on behalf of a Pilgrim by another Christian.

Sponsorship of another pilgrim is the ultimate act of agape since by prayerfully seeking God's guidance and through self-sacrifice, you are able to bless another individual with the experience of three days in His presence. Agape letters from other communities and the 72 hour prayer vigil are introduced on Friday afternoon and illustrate God's love for everyone through community prayer and sacrifice. On Saturday, the pilgrims become increasingly aware of table agape which is the same for everyone but shows up as a gift for each person, reflecting the fact that God loves us all the same but cares for each of us individually. On Sunday afternoon, the personal agape letters from family and friends communicate God's love for each pilgrim in personal ways that are unique through relationships.

You are encouraged to participate fully in the 72 hour prayer vigil. You and your Reunion Groups are encouraged to make or purchase gifts of agape for our walks. You just have to have a loving spirit and a desire to express Christian love. There is no limit to the type or amount of gifts you can make and it can be anything that pertains to God's love, the healing grace He offers us, how to be His servants, etc.

There are no minimums nor special labeling requirements for agape. If you would like to make Agape for the entire conference room team and all of the pilgrims, 80 items are required for each walk. When making individual table agape, you may want to attach a label with a particular scripture or simple phrase associated with your gift. These gifts are to actually represent God's love and therefore we should remain as anonymous servants. Mark your package of items to indicate if they are for the Men's Walk or Women's Walk, especially if they are brought at the same time. If you have questions, please contact Charlene Burton at 903-920-6677 or cburtonlindale@gmail.com.

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsoring a pilgrim probably is the last thing you have on your mind. We are bombarded by new cases of coronavirus, increased unemployment and unrest in this country which is terrifying. The core values of this country are under attack. Christians and people of faith are under attack.

We all have so many questions about where we are going and when will this stop. I am sure some of you are wondering why this is happening?

One answer is to make our voices heard and to hold on to our faith and each other. To say we have to keep our hearts and minds focused on God seems to be a simplistic solution; an easy fix. What does God want from us? He wants us to persevere against great odds.

No battle is won without cost. The more valuable the prize the more costly the effort to achieve it. Romans 5:3-5 “Not only so, but we must also glory in our suffering, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character; and character hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who he has given us”.

We need each other more than ever. Think about what your Emmaus Walk meant to you. Did it help lift you up? Were you renewed and strengthened in your faith? Hold out your hand to a friend and offer them the opportunity to journey with Jesus on a walk to Emmaus.

Give someone hope and offer this journey to them.

**De Colores,
Laura Resler
Sponsorship**



From the G.R.A.C.E. treasurer

Thanks to the generosity of the G.R.A.C.E. community, donations continue to come in regularly each month by the ACH, personal checks, and at monthly gatherings. Every dollar received goes back into the community to continue to spread the life changing experiences that an Emmaus weekend can deliver. Donated funds can also be used for pilgrim and team member scholarships, updating equipment, and the general fund of our community. Thank you, for your continued support of our Emmaus community.

Treasurer, Chad Bearden

EMMAUS GATHERINGS

Won't you consider hosting a WALK TO EMMAUS GATHERING at Your home church? We are asking for EMMAUS GROUPS to volunteer to welcome the G.R.A.C.E. Community to their home churches for Gatherings to include Fellowship, Worship and the sharing of a Meal. Please give prayerful Consideration to hosting us at your church. We generally meet on the 3rd Saturday of the month, beginning at noon and ending by 2:30pm. If interested, please contact Rick Rundquist at 903 569-4421 or richardrundquist@cebridge.net.

DeColores, Richard Rundquis



<https://www.upperroom.org/newsletters>

Stay Connected

Sign up to receive newsletters and updates from The Upper Room.

Newsletters Upper Room Daily Reflections (Daily) - Words of wisdom and faith found in the pages of Upper Room Books. From the Center (Monthly, 1st Tuesday) - A monthly email newsletter from The Upper Room with resources for your soul care as a spiritual leader.

Academy Bulletin (Monthly) - Updates, news, and special reflections exclusively for The

Academy for Spiritual Formation participants, faculty, and leaders. Emmaus eNews (Every

Other Month) - Get the latest news and tips for your fourth day journey. Especially for leaders

and participants in Emmaus Ministries, including the Walk to Emmaus, Face to Face, and

Chrysalis. Upper Room Recommends (Weekly, Thursday) - A weekly email for those seeking

resources for spiritual formation and prayer. The email contains excerpts from Upper Room

authors, plus book and online resource suggestions for small groups, congregational studies,

and individual spiritual growth. My Quiet Spaces (Quarterly) - A quarterly newsletter for women

seeking inspiration, tools, and support to deepen their walk with God. Rising Generations (Every

Other Month) - Whether you're a church leader or parent, this bimonthly newsletter provides tips

and tools for ministry with Children, Youth & Young Adults.



A REMINDER OF WALK FEES: STARTING IN 2021

Pilgrim: \$195.00

All others: \$195.00

Deposit : \$75.00

Chad Bearden, Treasurer



The Upper Room, part of United Methodist Discipleship Ministries, began the three-day ecumenical spiritual-renewal retreats in 1978. The self-supporting ministry grew out of the Catholic Cursillo movement, and took the name Walk to Emmaus in 1981. The goal of Walk to Emmaus is to equip church members for Christian action. Following the three-day experience, participants are joined in small groups to support each other in their ongoing walk with Christ. The movement also includes the [Chrysalis](#) program for youth, the [Face to Face](#) program for adults 60 and older, and the [Journey to the Table](#) program for adults 18 to 35.

G.R.A.C.E. BOARD ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2021

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COMMITTEES

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GRACE EMMANUS 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 #: _____
Transit/ABA #: _____

MAIL INFORMATION TO:

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