

# Grace For Today

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G.R.A.C.E. Website  
[www.gracemmaus.org](http://www.gracemmaus.org)

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**GATHERING!**

January 17, 2009

12 noon

Fairwood UMC, Tyler

**YA'LL COME!!**

DIRECTIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON  
THE [GRACEMMAUS.ORG](http://GRACEMMAUS.ORG) WEBSITE

**G.R.A.C.E. REGISTRAR  
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Tyler TX.  
75713-2212**

## **DEAR G.R.A.C.E.**

This holiday season is almost always filled with joy and sadness, right? Isn't that the world our Savior came into? Even the swaddling clothes our precious Baby was wrapped in were typically used to wrap bodies for burial. And, yes, remember King Herod's decree to murder male babies? Any action out of fear is cruel. Even when we do not know. Perfect love casts out fear.

Perfect love is our gift this season. And we get to give the gift away. Perfect love of accepting our brothers and sisters where they are. Perfect love of honesty. Perfect love of facing our shortcomings and not living in denial. Perfect love of grieving our losses and weeping with those who weep.

This season there are many suffering. Maybe you are suffering. So, who will you turn to? Or what will you turn to? Imperfect love? ...or the only One who knows suffering more than we do and can give us perfect love.

May we give this Christmas the gift of ourselves and connect with those we would normally not touch. Touch even as Jesus did the lepers and offer healing through authenticity.

May Jesus be the reason for this season as we remember the faith of a young single teen girl who said, "Nothing is impossible with God." Luke 2

LOVE ALWAYS WINS.  
TOM HAYGOOD  
903.570.9306

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## **We Say Thank You for Teresa's Service:**

Dearest GRACE Community,  
It is hard to believe that the end of the year is here. I heard on TV today that we have 32 shopping days left until Christmas. That will be even less by the time you get this newsletter. Last year as I moved into the position of your Community Lay Director I had so many plans and hopes as I really felt that our community was struggling because gathering attendance was down and it seemed to be hard to fill our walks... What I found is that the year has been full of so many blessings and opportunities working with each of you. God is GREAT all the Time!!!

One of our major changes we will implement in 2009 is Quarterly Gatherings that are centralized with other churches, reunion groups, etc. and also holding smaller gatherings around the district. Please refer to the article below in this newsletter for more details on how the gatherings will work.

Another large success was having our first Girls Chrysalis Flight this summer. We had 9 girls who went, and the weekend was such a blessing. We are working on getting another Girls' Flight off the ground and plans for a Boy's Flight this summer.

I want to take time for a special blessing and prayer for each of your Board Members who served this year. Without them nothing would have been accomplished. This group of board members worked so hard to serve the community and always put the community's needs first over their individual wants. I was honored to work with each and everyone one of them.







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