

Grace For Today

July 2004

Volume 4, Issue 7

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G.R.A.C.E. EMMAUS

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G.R.A.C.E. Registrar
P.O. Box 44
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G.R.A.C.E. News

DeColores

G.R.A.C.E.
EMMAUS

NO GATHERING in July

Next Gathering

August 12th

FUMC – Lindale

Upcoming Chrysalis Flights

N.E.T. Area

Boy's Flight #20

July 16 - 18, 2004

Central Christian Church,
 Texarkana

Tommy Earl Burton,
 Lay Director

Girl's Flight #21

July 23 - 24, 2004

1st UMC,

Sulphur Springs

Cathy Long, Lay Director

Application forms are available on-line at

www.netemmaus.org

E.T.E. Area

Girls Flight

July 29-Aug. 1

Hill Top

Boys Flight

Aug. 5-8

Hill Top

Application forms are available on-line at

www.etemmaus.org

What if we had no Churches?

Tom Perdue

It's exciting to be in a country where there's the opportunity to focus on the spiritual life that is so much a part of our Christian faith. The Walk to Emmaus shows us that, with in our weekend with our Risen Lord, and on our Fourth Day walk after the weekend, our Lord reveals what our true communal life, fellowship and service with our Lord really means. But — What if we had no Churches? What if there were no houses of worship? What if they all disappeared overnight? We would have a world that would be dominated by politics and economics, by government and the market: The one side representing the state as our collective selves, the other for our individual pursuits seeking the satisfaction of our own desires; the one seizing and sowing of power, and the other developing and dispensing our own greed and wealth.

World politics and economics have dominated our society, but they have not addressed the problems that continue within each of us. As depicted early in many of the stories of the Bible: the self-centered and idolatrous desires of Adam and Eve, the murderous violence of Cain, the competitive rivalry and jealousy of all of Joseph's brothers, the madness of King Saul, and so on throughout time, to the present moral and social breakdown of

Jesus Loves You

*the family structure and of our own personal relationships and our pervasive sense of loneliness and despair. Without our houses of worship would we be where we are, yes, but without a doubt, a whole lot worse. For if the World's politics and economics have their way. They're all about our self-seeking and competitive generation of power and wealth. They are about things which the more we share, the less we possess. The more we give, the less we have. Not everything is like that. The more friendship I share, the more friends I have. The more I give, the more I possess. Our Churches mind you not the physical buildings, but the Body of Christ generates a newness in faith and revitalizes life; they do not divide and conquer but multiply and create. They are communities of faith, about friendship, love, learning, and moral influence gained by the virtue of sharing and by loving one another as Christ so loved us. Our hometown churches are communities where our Lord can heal these wounds opened by politics and economics. Our hometown churches are built on giving respect and love. Our Emmaus Community exists to encourage **our hometown Churches** to make homes for our giving, our respect, and our love.*

More about Progressive Servanthood

Tom Perdue

Progressive Servanthood...well what does that mean? As we have said many times in most of our literature and most of our scripts, the true purpose of the Walk to Emmaus is for the

development and edifying of Christian leaders. Development is a journey not a destination. The walk itself exposes the Pilgrim to the best the Team has to offer and if nothing else happens the Pilgrim comes home equipped for the journey of leadership. Many persons want to do more in the Emmaus movement however, and the walk opens that door for service.

Getting involved means first of all answering the call for service on an "Outside Team". These are known by many names such as 4th Day team, Kitchen team, Angel/Aytzers team, and many other variations. In the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community we have designated our "Outside Team" as the **Servant Team**. Servant Team members can serve either on site at Camp Gilmont, for the whole weekend, or in various support roles offsite and coming and going to the camp as the needs arise. These team members will be serving anonymously and without any recognition.

They will take the weekend pictures, set up chairs and tables, pray for Pilgrims and Team, bring in and setup the Agape snack tables and many other things. The Outside Servant Team Leaders for the next two walks are Tom Hayes for the men's walk and Sandee Perdue for the women's walk.

Applications for both servant Teams are at the bottom of this newsletter.

It is strongly suggested by the Upper Room, that first year Pilgrims, serve on the servant Team first. That way they can get some experience and feel for all that it takes to put on a

weekend, and serve on a team. But in our community we also allow some first year Pilgrims to also serve on the Conference Room Team as Assistant Table Leaders.

Conference Room Team.

Conference Room Team service starts with service as an Assistant Table Leader for at least one time, Table Leader twice, Assistant Lay Director three times then Lay Director. Now considering that ideally you should not serve more than once a year this process could take eight to nine years. Some of the other factors are that it is considered best to have one third of the team "experienced", one third relatively new and one third first time servers, and that is spread over each position.

There are approximately 21 positions on a Conference Room Team, and 16 are lay positions. When you consider that they funnel into 6 positions as Assistant Table Leaders, 6 Table Leaders, and 3 Assistant Lay Directors, and the Lay Director it becomes amazing. Now, as most of you know these are guidelines. And they are just that... "Guidelines". In the real world there are many variables that may disrupt or cause variances in this plan. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact anyone on the board.

Luke 22

²⁶But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. ²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

Being as this is the July issue and we have the freedom to print what we want in this country I feel this is very appropriate at this time...the Editor.

Pledge of Allegiance

In light of the recent appeals court ruling in California, with respect to the Pledge of Allegiance, the following recollection from Senator John McCain is very appropriate:

"The Pledge of Allegiance"- Senator John McCain

As you may know, I spent five and one half years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. In the early years of our imprisonment, the NVA kept us in solitary confinement or two or three to a cell. In 1971 the NVA moved us from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 men to a room.

This was, as you can imagine, a wonderful change and was a direct result of the efforts of millions of Americans on behalf of a few hundred POWs 10,000 miles from home.

One of the men who moved into my room was a young man named Mike Christian. Mike came from a small town near Selma, Alabama. He didn't wear a pair of shoes until he was 13 years old. At 17, he enlisted in the US Navy. He later earned a commission by going to Officer Training School. Then he became a Naval Flight Officer and was shot down and captured in 1967. Mike had a keen and deep appreciation of the opportunities this country and our military provide for people who want to work and want to succeed.

As part of the change in treatment, the Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other items of clothing.

Mike got himself a bamboo needle. Over a period of a couple of months, he created an American flag and sewed on the inside of his shirt.

Every afternoon, before we had a bowl of soup, we would hang Mike's shirt on the wall of the cell and say the Pledge of Allegiance.

I know the Pledge of Allegiance may not seem the most important part of our day now, but I can assure you that in that stark cell it was indeed the most important and meaningful event.

One day the Vietnamese searched our cell, as they did periodically, and discovered Mike's shirt with the flag sewn inside, and removed him and his shirt.

That evening they returned, opened the door of the cell, and for the benefit of all of us, beat Mike Christian severely for the next couple of hours. Then, they opened the door of the cell and threw him in. We cleaned him up as well as we could..

The cell in which we lived had a concrete slab in the middle on which we slept. Four naked light bulbs hung in each corner of the room. As I said, we tried to clean up Mike as well as we could. After the excitement died down, I looked in the corner of the room, and sitting there beneath that dim light bulb with a piece of red cloth, another shirt and his bamboo needle, was my friend, Mike Christian. He was sitting there with his eyes almost shut from the beating he had received, making another American flag. He was not making the flag because it made Mike Christian feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how important it was to us to be able to Pledge our allegiance to our flag and country.

So the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, you must never forget the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world.

You must remember our duty, our honor, and our country.

***"I pledge allegiance to the flag
Of the United States of America
And to the Republic
For which it stands,
One nation under GOD, indivisible,
With liberty and justice for all."***

Where is Bill Gates?

In 2050 A.D. Bill Gates died in a car accident. He found himself in Purgatory being sized up by God...

"Well, Bill, I'm really confused on this call. I'm not sure whether to send you to Heaven or Hell. After all, you enormously helped society by putting a computer in almost every home in the world, and yet you created that ghastly Windows ME. So I'm going to do something I've never done before. In your case, I'm going to let you decide where you want to go!"

Bill replied, "Well, thanks, God. What's the difference between the two?"

God said, "I'm willing to let you visit both places briefly if it will help you make a decision."

"Fine, but where should I go first?"

God said, "I'm going to leave that up to you."

Bill said, "OK, then, let's try Hell first."

So Bill went to Hell. It was a beautiful, clean, sandy beach with clear waters. There were thousands of beautiful women running around, playing in the water, laughing and frolicking about. The sun was shining, the temperature was perfect. Bill was very pleased.

"This is great!" he told God. "If this is Hell, I REALLY want to see Heaven!"

"Fine," said God, and off they went. Heaven was a high place in the clouds, with angels drifting about playing harps and singing. It was nice but not as enticing as Hell.

Bill thought for a quick minute and rendered his decision. "Hmm, I think I prefer Hell" he told God.

"Fine," retorted God, "as you desire."

So Bill Gates went to Hell.

Two weeks later, God decided to check up on the late billionaire to see how he was doing in Hell. When God arrived in Hell, he found Bill shackled to a wall, screaming amongst the hot flames in a dark cave. He was being burned and tortured by demons.

"How's everything going, Bill?" God asked.

Bill responded -- his voice full of anguish and disappointment, "This is awful, and this is not what I expected. I can't believe this happened. What happened to that other place with the beaches and the beautiful women playing in the water?"

God smiled and said,

"That was the screen saver."

"SPONSORSHIP" HOW DO WE SPONSOR? "The Basic 10"

1. Pray for the person's openness to God's call to discipleship, not for how to get him or her to go on a Walk.
2. Make an appointment with the person or couple for the

purpose of discussing their participation in Emmaus.

3. Extend an invitation. Invite them to attend for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ, not just a weekend to go on. Share your faith; explain the basic elements of the Walk, its purpose and also its follow-up dimensions which help us live in grace for the rest of our lives. Have the attitude that you are giving them a wonderful gift rather than that they need to go.

4. Ask them to make a commitment by filling out the registration, medical and emergency contact forms. If the person is married, speak with both partners and encourage them with an equal commitment by both spouses.

5. Continue to pray, prepare agape letters, and enlist the support of their pastor.

6. Support the Walk through your prayers during the 72-hour Prayer Vigil and your presence at Send-Off, Sponsor's Hour, Candlelight and Closing.

7. Encourage the pilgrim in his or her Fourth Day involvement.

8. Help the pilgrim re-enter their church and consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm.

9. Inform the pilgrim of how he or she can serve the Emmaus Community and future Walks.

10. Help the pilgrim sponsor others.

Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the Pilgrims, for the Emmaus Community and for the Church. It is a selfless demonstration of agape love. It is making oneself an instrument of Preventive Grace.



Are you connected to a Reunion Group YET?

Do you want to start a new one, or would you like to become a member of one?

We welcome you to the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community and want to help you to be connected and continue on your exciting journey with the Emmaus experience. In a Reunion Group, you will continue to experience renewal and enthusiasm just like when you took your walk.

A few simple steps will help you:

You can start your own Emmaus Reunion Group. Usually those at your table that you have established some relationships will help you come together as a team. Simply follow the guidelines laid out on the "SERVICE CARD" given you in your fourth day packet. If you have questions or need help contact me.

Ask your Table Leader or Assistant Table Leader to help you start your own group.

Contact me and we (the Reunion Group Committee) will assist you. I can be reached at TPerdue@cox-internet.com

Congratulations on a great start and we look forward to seeing the wonderful growth and renewal God will continue to bring into your life.

DeColores:

Tom Perdue

G.R.A.C.E. Walk No. 1

IF YOU ARE IN AN EMMAUS REUNION GROUP!

We are asking for this information again because my listing may still be incorrect on the website. It has been corrected now thru the first mailing and we need this additional information to help everyone get connected to the G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community. These are exciting times and you don't want to miss all the fun!

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP IN FOUR AREAS:

1. First, We need an accurate up-to-date list of ALL ACTIVE Reunion Groups. We need to know:

- When and where do you meet?
- How Often and how Long?
- Contact Person for the group, Name, Telephone #, and E-Mail.
- Name of Group (optional)
- Do you allow new members to join?

2. Second, if you have attended an Emmaus Weekend and are not currently in an Emmaus Reunion Group, please consider continuing your pilgrimage with Emmaus. Send your personal information to us and we will help you to get connected to an Active Reunion Group.

3. Third, We need volunteers who have experience starting or LEADING an Emmaus Reunion Group and would like to help start a new group or assist someone else in starting an Emmaus Reunion Group.

4. Finally, We need volunteers to help with this committee to organize, compile, contact, call, suggest, teach, and develop, this program to help reduce recidivism (*people leaving the Emmaus Community*). Our Goal is to get all the Emmaus Reunion Groups, active, energized and mobilized.

5. Please contact me by phone (903) 526-3504 and/or send me a note at

TPerdue@cox-internet.com

Thank you for your cooperation and participation in G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Community.

Please detach here and mail to:

G.R.A.C.E. NEWSLETTER
PO Box 132212
Tyler, TX. 75717-2212

Because of the expense of mailing the newsletters, we are asking that if you live outside the GRACE community area, you notify us if you want to continue to receive the newsletter. The GRACE Community generally runs from Athens to Longview and from Henderson/Jacksonville to Mt. Pleasant. If you think you are on the edge of this area or are completely outside, please fill out this form and mail it to the Editor and let him know your intentions.

If you would prefer to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please send an e-mail to Tom Perdue at TPerdue@cox-internet.com

If you are moving, please give us plenty of advance notice to help us keep our postage costs down.

Name: _____

OLD street address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ ZIP: _____

NEW ADDRESS:

Street: _____

City: _____ State: ____ ZIP: _____

New telephone: _____

New Email: _____

If your church would like to hold a gathering, Please detach here and mail to:

Gathering Wishes

G.R.A.C.E. Community Lay Director
PO Box 44
Judson, TX. 75660-0044

With the following information:

Contact Person's Name: _____

Contact Person's Address: _____

Contact Person's Area Code & Phone: (_____) _____

Contact Person's E-mail: _____

Church's Name & Address: _____

Directions to the Church: _____

Dates desired (Gatherings are generally the second Thursday of the month:

G.R.A.C.E. Men's Outside Servant Team Application

Contact Information

Individuals or Reunion Groups information here. (If Reunion Group, please list names of members to be involved).

Name:	
Street Address:	
City, ST, ZIP:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
Cell Phone:	
E-Mail Address:	

Availability

During which hours are you available for Servant Team assignments?

<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 2:00PM thru Sunday 6:00PM - (\$130.00)	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday–Saturday 1:00PM - 2:00PM ***
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <u>ONLY</u> 2:00PM - 10:00PM (\$8.00 Dinner Only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat.–Sun. 1:00PM - 6:00PM ***
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Evening <u>ONLY</u> 6:00PM - 10:00PM (No Meal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <u>ONLY</u> 2:00PM – 6:00 PM (No Meals)
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday–Friday 2:00PM - 2:00PM ***	*** One Night Lodging & 3 Meals for \$45.00

Previous Walk Experience

Summarize your previous Walk experience. (Walk No., Date, Position or Assignment).

--

Person to Notify in Case of Emergency

Any Specific Medical Needs:	
Name:	
Street Address:	
City, ST, ZIP:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
E-Mail Address:	

Agreement and Signature

By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted as a volunteer, I will be financially responsible for any housing and meals for the times I serve.

Signature:	
Date:	

Mail to Outside Team Leader (OTL): Tom Hays – 2604 Fleetwood – Longview, TX. 75605

G.R.A.C.E. Women's Outside Servant Team Application

Contact Information	
Individuals or Reunion Groups information here. (If Reunion Group, please list names of members to be involved).	
Name:	
Street Address:	
City, ST, ZIP:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
Cell Phone:	
E-Mail Address:	

Availability	
During which hours are you available for Servant Team assignments?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday 2:00PM thru Sunday 6:00PM - (\$130.00)	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday–Saturday 1:00PM - 2:00PM ***
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday <u>ONLY</u> 2:00PM - 10:00PM (\$8.00 Dinner Only)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat.–Sun. 1:00PM - 6:00PM ***
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Evening <u>ONLY</u> 6:00PM - 10:00PM (No Meal)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday <u>ONLY</u> 2:00PM – 6:00 PM (No Meals)
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday–Friday 2:00PM - 2:00PM ***	*** One Night Lodging & 3 Meals for \$45.00

Previous Walk Experience
Summarize your previous Walk experience. (Walk No., Date, Position or Assignment).

Person to Notify in Case of Emergency	
Any Specific Medical Needs:	
Name:	
Street Address:	
City, ST, ZIP:	
Home Phone:	
Work Phone:	
E-Mail Address:	

Agreement and Signature	
By submitting this application, I affirm that the facts set forth in it are true and complete. I understand that if I am accepted as a volunteer, I will be financially responsible for any housing and meals for the times I serve.	
Signature:	
Date:	

Mail to Outside Team Leader (OTL): Sandee Perdue 3449 Iberville Tyler, TX. 75701