

# Grace For Today

June, 2006  
Volume 6, Issue 6

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

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Next

Gathering

Thursday

June 8<sup>th</sup>

At

7:00PM,

1<sup>st</sup> UMC,

Gladewater

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

## Greetings and Blessings GRACE Community!

In last month's edition, you read about how we are facing some financial difficulties. This month I would like to share a little of the

information that the Board has looked at in regards to how much the Walks actually cost per person.

### Meals:

Breakfast \$5.75 x 3=	<b>\$17.25</b>
Lunch \$6.25 x 3=	<b>\$18.75</b>
Supper \$6.75 x 3=	<b>\$20.25</b>

### Housing:

\$20 per night x 3=	<b>\$60.00</b>
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Upper Room Fees: @ \$10 per Pilgrim=	<b>\$10.00</b>
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LD Team Prep Allowance Expense (\$350.00/36)=	<b>\$9.72</b>
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Misc. Expenses Est. @ \$200.00/36=	<b>\$5.55</b>
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Reunion Cards @\$0.10 per Pilgrim=	<b>\$1.10</b>
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Walk Crosses @\$3.50 per Pilgrim=	<b>\$3.50</b>
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Pilgrim Candles @ \$1.50 per Pilgrim=	<b>\$1.50</b>
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Name Tags @ \$2.50 per Pilgrim=	<b>\$2.50</b>
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Pilgrim's Guide @ \$1.20 per Pilgrim=	<b>\$1.20</b>
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Trailer Restocking Allowance Est @ approx. \$230.25/36	<b>\$6.40</b>
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**Very Basic Cost per Pilgrim= \$156.72**

The Basic cost for the team is approx. **\$116.25** per team member and they pay the full **\$130.00** fee. Add in the costs of the 5 Clergy and and the Board Rep who attend for free that would be  $116.25 \times 6 / 36 =$  **\$19.38** added to the basic cost of the pilgrim's \$156.72 brings the cost up to **\$176.10** if you subtract the difference of what the Team pays (avg. inside team of 16)  $\$130.00 \times 16 = \$2080.00$  from  $\$116.25 \times 16 = \$1860.00$  you get \$220.00 divide that by the number of Pilgrim's at 36 and you get a **savings** of approx. **\$6.10** that brings **the approximate cost of each Pilgrim to approximately \$170.00**. That is providing that we have full weekends of 36 Pilgrims on each walk. If you have weekends where we are dramatically short of Pilgrim's the cost really skyrocket and

become prohibitively costly to the community.

If you take the Team fees of  $\$130.00 \times 16 =$  **\$2080.00 plus** the income from a full complement of Pilgrim's  $\$130.00 \times 36 =$  **\$4680.00** that gives us a **total income** of approximately **\$6760.00** for the weekend. Then deduct the cost of the pilgrim's  $\$170.00 \times 36 =$  **\$6120.00** and the cost of the team of  $116.25 \times 16 =$  **\$1860.00** then the approximate **costs for the weekend are \$7980.00**. If you deduct the income from the costs the **communities' loss for the weekends are approximately \$1220.00** per weekend. That is taking into account that everyone can pay their fee and also remember that any Pilgrim's that are Clergy can go for 1/2 price.

As you can see from the numbers, at the current fee of \$130.00 we are losing money on each weekend. In addition you have the costs for the Servant Team that vary as to how many are on it and the length of time they are there. The Gathering offerings have helped, but we are losing at every weekend and the cushion we had built up from the fund raising Golf Tournament several years ago is deteriorating rapidly, we cannot continue to run the Walks at a deficit. In addition we have operating costs, newsletter mail outs, website, trailer costs, etc. The Fall Walks will remain at \$130, but you can expect a price increase for 2007. Your Board members are currently investigating some options to help to keep the cost increase to a minimum. If anyone would like to step up and offer suggestions or be on a committee to find ways to raise monies to help offset the costs please contact me. Thank you all for your prayerful support of our GRACE Community and your Board of Directors

**Your servant in Christ,  
Bob Meyers**

**GRACE Emmaus Community Lay  
Director**



## Boy's Epiphany No. 8 at CRTC

I am asking for your prayers for the upcoming Epiphany in July at Corsicana. It will be number 8. Just a few short years ago it was number #1 and the lives of hundreds of young boys and girls have been touched by the Master's hand through the Epiphany Ministry. What a blessing it is for Sandee and I to be a part in the work He is doing in these precious children's lives. Each of the boys and girls incarcerated at Corsicana has a story. Their lives are very different than most of ours, praise God. The children all have one thing in common. No love! No parents to give them attention and guidance, no mentors to give them direction, only friends who are just like them, street smart and God broke.

Please take a few minutes to read the story below of a boy and his dad that was sent to me. If only the children at Texas Youth Commission Schools (Youth Prisons) had the love they shared.

Original Two choices - What would you do? You make the choice! My question to all of you is: Would you have made the same choice?

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves learning disabled children, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended.

After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question:

"He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?" The audience was stilled by the query. The father continued. "I believe that when a child like Shay, physically and mentally handicapped comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes, in the way other people treat that child."

Then he told the following story: One day Shay and his father walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?" Shay's father knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but the father also understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a very much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps.

Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked if Shay could play, not expecting much. The boy looked around for guidance and a few boys nodded approval, why not? So he took matters into his own hands and said. "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning." Shay struggled over to the team's bench put on a team shirt with a broad smile and his father had a small tear in his eye and warmth in his heart. The boys saw the father's joy at his son being accepted. In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still

behind by three. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat. At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball. However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing the other team putting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least be able to make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher. The game would now be over, but the pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the head of the first baseman, out of reach of all team mates. Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling. "Shay, run to first! Run to first!" Never in his life had Shay ever ran that far

but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled. Everyone yelled. "Run to second, run to second!" Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to second base. By the time Shay rounded second base, the right fielder had the ball, the smallest guy on their team, who had a chance to be the hero for his team for the first time. He could have thrown the ball to the second-baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions and he too threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head. Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him had circled all the bases and were waiting at home. All were screaming, "Shay, Shay, Shay, all the Way Shay." Shay reached third base, the opposing shortstop ran to help him and turned him in the direction of home base, and shouted, "Run to home! Shay, run to home" As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams and those watching were on their feet were screaming, "Shay, run home!" Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the "grand slam" and won the game for his team.

"That day," said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "The boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world." Shay didn't make it to another summer but died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making his father so happy and coming home and seeing

his mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!

**"Anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf welcomes me..."**  
**Luke 9:48**



As in the story there was a team that decided to take a stand and do something special for a child that never had the opportunity. The team for the Boy's Epiphany No. 8 is now forming and volunteers are needed, would you like to be a part of a team to make a difference in a child's life. The mission of Epiphany Ministry of Texas is to facilitate change in the lives of young men and women incarcerated in Juvenile Justice Facilities. God's Love is manifested through a three day short course in Christianity very much like the Walk to Emmaus and an on-going follow-up process to those incarcerated youth known as "Stars." If you would like to become involved you can download a Team Application at

<http://www.crtc.homestead.com/>

and send it to Tom Perdue, the address is on the application.

**DeColores,  
Tom Perdue  
G.R.A.C.E. Walk No. 1  
Lay Director Boys No. 8**

**Chrysalis Flight —  
Summer 2006**

Did you ask what is Chrysalis? Well let me tell you. Remember your Walk to Emmaus. Chrysalis is the youth version of the Walk to Emmaus. It is designed for 2 age groups. The most popular group is for High School. Ages 15yrs to 18yrs old and have completed the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. There is also a Chrysalis weekend that is called "Journey" for college age students. In the

North East Texas Community the Chrysalis program is offered for High School with one table being set aside for Journey (College age) Participants.

The 15 talks are not the same talks as on the Walk to Emmaus but similar. The breakdowns for these talks include 5 youth talks, 5 adult talks and 5 clergy talks. Two of the adult talks are about relationships and how we deal with those. One is called "The Marriage Talk" both husband and wife gives this talk together and the other is called "The Single Talk".

Dying moments is set in the sanctuary on Friday night following the youth talk based on the Prodigal Son story. The youth relates his/her story to one of the brothers in the Prodigal Story.

Currently GRACE does not offer a Chrysalis Flight. We have supported many of our youth in NET Emmaus and ET Emmaus. The Flights this summer for NET Emmaus are scheduled for July. Girls Flight is July 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> AND Boys Flight will be July 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are available on-line at [www.netemmaus.org](http://www.netemmaus.org).

If you have any questions feel free to e-mail or call Teresa Elliott (903) 570-5233 or [tgelliott@cox.net](mailto:tgelliott@cox.net)