



G.R.A.C.E. Emmaus Today

May-2021

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Walk to Emmaus Movement
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2020 Board Members
Bank Draft

Fall Walks

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

Gatherings

Saturday June 19th @ Crossroads
Canton. Potluck @12:00 followed by
Worship @ 1:00. July's Gathering will be
July 17 th @FUMC-Mineola.

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

www.graceemmaus.com



God loves to forgive. The only time in the Bible God is represented as running is in the parable of the Prodigal Son, when the father ran to meet his penitent boy. The Koran says that every man has two angels, who walk by his side all the day. One is the angel of good deeds, who records every good thing the man does, and puts it down ten times lest something may be omitted. The other is the angel of evil deeds, who keeps a record of every wrong thing the man does. At nightfall both these angels fly home to God and make their report. The angel of good deeds tells of all that has been beautiful in the man's conduct during the day, and the angel of evil deeds reports all the wrong. Then the angel of good deeds begs that the record of sins shall not be put down for seven hours. Perhaps the man will repent, confess, and be forgiven. This Mohammedan legend represents the truth about God, who is slow to anger and quick to show mercy.

The Lord your god is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto Him. - 2 Chr 30:9

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

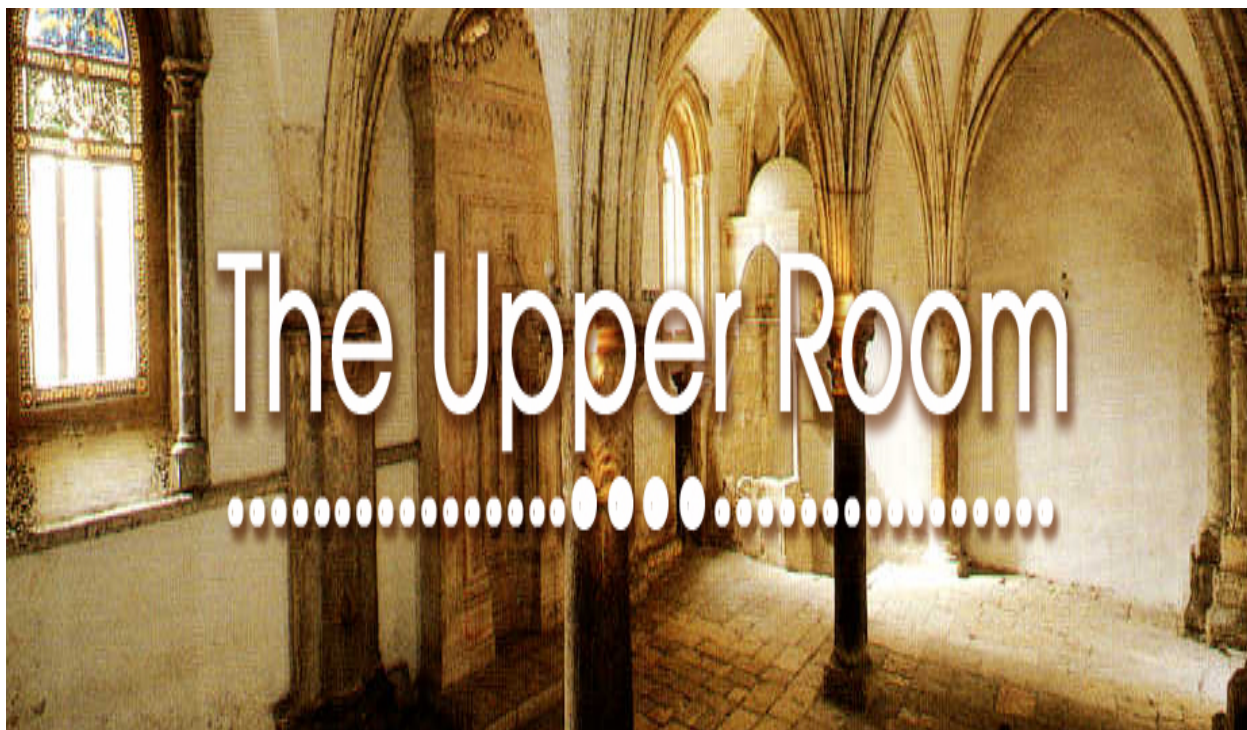
Thanks to the generosity of the G.R.A.C.E. community, donations continue to come in regularly each month by the ACH, personal checks, and at monthly gatherings. Every dollar received goes back into the community to continue to spread the life changing experiences that an Emmaus weekend can deliver. Donated 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.

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May 24,2021

Hello! It is Boni Demaree again with another sign!

If I had a dollar for every time in my life my name has been used in conjunction with the word "PUSH", I would be a very wealthy woman! It started at birth with my grandparents, 'Boni, don't push us'; did you push you sister?" It continued with my parents, "Boni stop pushing your sister! You are about to push me to the Nth degree!!" Who even knows what the Nth degree is!? My teachers, "Lineup! Stop pushing Boni!" And then there was my athletic coaches, "If you want to be a winner, Boni you have to push through the pain! Push! Push! Push!" Then my doctor, I can still hear him as I was on the delivery table, "PUUUSSH!" By the way, I was pushing for all I was worth but that kid was pushing back refusing to come out! My employers, "To succeed with this company, Boni you have to push the limits!" Little did they know, pushing limits was something I had a lot of practice at, but little ROI! I ended up right back with me, as I heard myself proclaimed to my children..."Stop trying to PUSH me ...to get that!, to do that!, to be that or to go there!" Yes! You heard me! Don't Push you sister!"

Just when I thought I had experienced the PUSH event in it's entirety...There it was, bigger than Life...God's addition to my limited definition of what it really means to PUSH through this life!

Interesting how it is the Obstacles in life that tend to instill the greatest PUSH! Call to memory a 'Walk Talk'? Thank you all for Praying Until Something Happened...As Covid Restrictions subside, Walks are in the Works! Your prayer continues to fuel and strengthen Walks #94 and #95. Please keep those prayers and pilgrims coming! Blessing and Favor.

DeColores, Boni



I am Joanna Goodwin and I attended Walk #85 at Disciples Crossing in March 2018. I returned from a deployment to Afghanistan in 2016. I experienced some not so great things while there. A friend and I chatted about the lack of easily accessible mental health care services for veterans and their families. We were burdened to help. The Lord had planted the seed of an idea. At closing we are asked what our Walk meant to us and what we are going to do with it. My answer was simple. Like Peter, it was time to get out of the boat.

Since Walk #85 God has moved in ways I could not have imagined. In August, 2019 Operation True North officially opened as a 501(c)3 to provide services. A local Psychologist I work for contracted with us to provide mental health care for veterans and their families. Since then, every Thursday evening, we have provided a free meal and support groups; one for veterans and one for their families and loved ones. In 2020, we provided over 300 individual counseling sessions.

At this time, God is calling us to step out and dare greatly for Him. In the next six months we plan to expand our services to include first responders and medical personnel and their families. We will also lease our own space so we can step fully into what God has called us.

This is a scary and exciting time for us. Please pray for us as we plan and prepare. Check out our website at Otnus.com. If you feel led to donate and partner with us at <https://www.givesendgo.com/OTNUS>.

DeColores,
Joanna



Page 1 of 4

My second book Music (For the Not-So-Rich and Famous), is about how music is a part of my life and probably yours also. This two part series is Chapter 26 and is dedicated to my Emmaus experience. So don't miss the next newsletter! By the way Lolo is now 102 and still talks about her Walk.

Thomas Mitchell Shamburger, North East Texas Walk in 1997

Chapter 26 (Part 1) Walk With Me

In my first book Inquest: Living With the Dead I write about my youthful experiences at Christian Camps. I regret not selling my own children on the concept of leaving home for a week to experience relationships and gain some Christian training in a different environment.

Formulas

"Born again," "saved," "baptized," "sanctified," "spiritual gifts," all have different meanings to different people and religions. As I became more involved in Christian activities outside the Methodist Church, I learned other faiths and denominations had their own ideas and methods to get people right with God. Often the differences are semantic and not substance. Generally speaking; Methodists say, "You can fall from grace." While the Baptist says, "Once saved always saved! And, you should be saved every three to five years." (They really do not say the italics!) There are Baptists that believe like Methodists and Methodists that believe like Baptists. We all say we believe in the Bible.

The Bible says, "Faith without works is dead." To me faith without feeling is dead. It is no wonder that when someone receives the gift of eternal life; they feel good. If they receive it or "get saved" by walking down the aisle of a church or stadium during an invitation, which becomes their saving point. They want others to experience what they experienced. It also becomes a formula:

1. You must go to church or the stadium.
2. You must feel moved.
3. You must go down the aisle during the invitation.

Some receive the gift at the lowest time of their life. Ready to give up, they pick up a Bible. When they open it, the words they need jump off the page and into their heart. The revelation is life changing. So the formula is:

1. You must reach the bottom.
2. You must open the Bible.
3. You must read.

Some hear a preacher on television, talk to a believer by calling 1-800-????, and in some strange and unexpected way there is a connection with God. It becomes a formula:

1. Turn on the faith channel television.
2. Call the number.
3. Wait for some strange and unexpected communication with God!
4. Send a donation.

Some Christians are so dedicated to feelings and formulas that they forget who they are working for. The fact is God reaches out to different people in different ways.

Many find a deeper relationship with God and a more meaningful and joyous life by escaping the regular rut of daily living. Many escape for an hour or two in church each Sunday. Others take a sabbatical for a few days, or a few years. They go somewhere to explore themselves and their relationships with people and God.

Most retreats have a formula: A set of guidelines, some rigid and others more flexible. The desired effect of most Christian retreats is that the Pilgrim, Traveler, Seeker, Star, Candidate, or Inmate will develop a closer relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. All else will fall into place.

Most Christian retreats offer a time to break away from the constraints and situations we live in and evaluate where we are and how we got there. More importantly, it may show us where we are going and if we need to make course corrections. Marriage Retreats, Bible Study Retreats, and other Christian Retreats focus on specific areas that are important to our lives.

Committing to attend a retreat is difficult. Most of us are so busy with daily living; there is no room for spiritual exploration. Finding the time to go can be difficult. It is all in priorities.

Unless there is a cruise, snow skiing, fishing or some other trip or come-on involved, most attend Christian retreats seeking something to improve life, or at least make it better. Those who find what they are looking for, return to help others.

The Walk to Emmaus

Cursillos de Cristiandad means a short course of Christianity. The Catholic "Cursillo" is the original three-day movement, and has since been licensed for use by several mainline Christian denominations, some of which have retained the trademarked "Cursillo" name while others have modified its talks/methods and given it a different name. The Walk to Emmaus or Emmaus Walk is a Protestant version of the Roman Catholic Cursillo Movement. It started in the 1960s and 1970s with the Episcopal and Lutheran Churches offering Cursillo. In 1978, The Upper Room (Part of the of the United Methodist Church) converted the Roman Catholic program into a primarily Protestant version. The Emmaus Community recognizes many of these other "walks" or "journeys."

The Invite

"De Colores," my new preacher says to me.

"You think?" I respond without a clue of what he is talking about. I have since discovered De Colores is not only the title of a song, it serves as a not-so-secret handshake of those who have experienced the three-day journey.

"You haven't been on a Walk to Emmaus?"

"Never heard of it."

"It is a three day journey, which will last for a lifetime."

"Sounds interesting. Is it some kind of retreat?" I ask.

"I can't tell you, but it is great!"

"Well now that answers all my questions."

"Well, it's not exactly a retreat. We call it an experience. I can't tell you a lot about it because I don't want to spoil the ... experience. You just have to go on one, then, you will understand."

Emmaus people are usually quick to tell you it is not a retreat. I am not sure why. I suppose because it is a one shot deal. There are Men Walks and Women Walks. It is not uncommon for half of those attending to be a mixture of Baptist, Episcopal, Church of Christ, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Catholic, and some are not committed to any particular denomination. Rarely is there someone who is not Christian or some other religion. The goal is NOT to change your denomination or convince someone to join a particular church. It is designed to make you take a look at your life.

Some attending will be well educated in the Bible, some pastors, teachers and some who think their life could not be better. Most attending will be plumbers, lawyers, welders, politicians, ditch diggers, law enforcement, bull riders and everything in between. There will be retired, unemployed, single, married, divorced and between the ages of 18 and 100. Some feel their life could not get much lower. All are equal on the walk. No one talks of work or their vocation until the closing minutes of the last day. All will walk away with something.

If there is a formula to The Walk to Emmaus it would be: All walks are the same. All walks are different. And, the last walk was the best.

Why do we call it a walk?

A long time ago, two guys were walking the dusty eight-mile road from Jerusalem to the town of Emmaus. They were somewhat disappointed, but excited, because of what had happened over the weekend. Jesus was crucified, dead and buried. They met a stranger who walked with them. He asked what was going on and they said, "Where have you been? It is all over Fox News!" (Or words to that effect) They walked and told the stranger their version of what had happened. The stranger spoke to them; starting with Moses and working his way through the prophets. When they finally realized that they had been talking to Jesus, he was gone. He left them standing there alone. We think, "How dumb could these guys be." However, I wonder, how often do we talk to Jesus, he talks to us, and we never realize it.

You do not have to be in good physical condition to go on a Walk to Emmaus. Most walks meet ADA (Americans with Disability Act) and actually the walking is usually from one room to another.

To me, The Walk to Emmaus, or the Walk, began with the challenge to get there. There was an invitation and a delay. After the third postponement, I decided going was like having children. If you wait until you are ready, you will never have any. So one Thursday, I packed my bags, waved goodbye and I became a Pilgrim on the Walk to Emmaus. Sunday I returned to a world that had not changed, but the way I looked at things changed. The way I looked at people changed. My approach to life changed.

When I packed my bags, I reluctantly left my guitar behind. I was the song leader in church. I was on the church board of directors. I attended church whenever the doors were open and thought of myself as a better than average Christian.

When I returned my guitar was waiting, I was still the song leader in church, I was on the church board of directors, and I still attend church every Sunday. I no longer classified or ranked myself, or others, in terms of what I think Christians should or should not be.

I realized that God, and others love me, simply because I am in the family of Christians. I am not loved for "who I could be", "what I could do", or even "what I have done and will do." In fact, God loves me unconditionally in spite of what I have done and will do. This is not a license to sin, but it is a license to relax. There are things in this world we cannot change, including things in ourselves and in others. At some point we either let the things that steal our joy, eat away our hope and self-worth or turn it over to God. DeColores, Thomas Shamburger

Next G.R.A.C.E. Newsletter
Chapter 26 (Part 2)
Music and the Walk to Emmaus.



We serve a faithful God. Even in the face of disappointments, we can trust Him at His word. As we begin to see the power of prayer and God's faithfulness in our lives, and in the lives of others, it becomes easier to keep our eyes on the Lord. The enemy is constantly trying to distract us and lure us away from the path the Lord has set for us. Keep your eyes on the Lord and not on the waves. He will take you through the storms safely.

God is not looking for perfect people. He is simply searching for those who will be devoted to Him. Yes, we do fail sometimes. But we get up, confess, and trust that our God has forgiven us.

What a poor indictment against our society! God is looking for faithful men and women. The body of Christ is in desperate need of faithful men and women. Men and women who trust in the Lord and are willing to follow Him and fulfill their purpose. Will you commit to being one of them?

DeColores, Ernest Rodriguez

GRACE EMMAUS 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 #: _____

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