

Grace For Today

January, 2012
Volume 12, Issue 01

G.R.A.C.E. Website
www.gracemmaus.org

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**Men's Walk #60
Disciples Crossing
March 15-18, 2012**

**Women's Walk #61
Disciples Crossing
April 19-22, 2012**

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DEAR G.R.A.C.E.,

**Community Lay Director
January, 2012**

Happy New Year!

I'm Jo Anne Skeen from Palestine! I went on G.R.A.C.E. Walk #39 at Camp Gilmont, sat at the Table of Rachel. Gene and I attend Grace UMC in Palestine and worship where ever we are.

This is my third year to serve on the G.R.A.C.E. Board and I am honored to serve this year as the Community Lay Director.

By now you've had time to make New Year's resolutions and break them! The first of the year seems like a good time to break old habits and start new ones, get projects finished and new ones started and set goals for the New Year. One year I made a list of goals to accomplish throughout the New Year. I, of course, soon lost the list! But sometime during the next year, I found that list. I was amazed at how many of my goals I had actually done (the usual ones like losing weight and excising more were not on that list!!!) Just writing those goals down put them in my mind and I never completely forgot them.

So with that in mind, I would like to write down the goals I have for this New Year. The first one is an old one. Let's continue to have a Gathering every month. The Gatherings are scattered all over East Texas. That gives everyone a chance to make at least one Gathering!

The second goal is to continue the great intentional Walk Team training started last year. The more we understand our roles the better the chance each Walk will be "the best one ever"!

The third goal is to become a community that is not just Walk driven, but Fourth Day driven. It's easy to get enthused about sponsoring a Pilgrim and working the Walks. Not so much about attending Gatherings,

reunion groups, serving our churches and other Fourth Day responsibilities. The Walk is important and I believe lives are changed, but the Fourth Day is where that change makes a difference not only in our lives but in the lives of others.

One area where we need to stay enthused is reunion groups. Reunions groups are so important to helping new pilgrims stay in touch and accountable. Be in a Reunion Group. Bring new pilgrims to it or start new ones. Do whatever it takes to remain accountable to each other in order to keep our priorities straight. If you would, please check out the Reunion Group page on our website. Check to see if your Reunion Group is listed and if the information is correct. (If you see one listed there you know is no longer meeting, please let the Board know.)

There will be more about becoming a Fourth Day and Walk driven community in future newsletters.

These are just a few goals I have in mind for the New Year. What are yours? Write them down, share them, do them!!!

DeColores!

Jo Anne Skeen

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FOURTH DAY MISSION

Many Emmaus Communities are focused on presenting The Walk to Emmaus as they should be. The Walk to Emmaus has been a highlight of many of our religious lives. However, what is the most difficult part of any program? Follow-up...For the Emmaus movement, the Fourth Day is our follow up. It is the way we attempt to keep the emphasis on Christ, sharing his word and his missions after we have been on our Walk. It makes sense for us to begin to focus on how we can provide better support for our Fourth Days and bring balance to the Emmaus movement.

I'm sure that many of you have ideas about how we might support Fourth Days in more meaningful ways. It

would be very helpful for you to let your thoughts be known to the GRACE Emmaus Board. As the former CLD for GRACE, I would be happy to hear from any of you who would like to share ideas. I will put them together for presentation to the Board burtonlove@embarqmail.com

Have a blessed New Year!

Burton Love

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But they that wait upon the LORD...



...shall renew their strength
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GATHERING NEWS

At the last board meeting of 2011, I was chosen to be the Gatherings Coordinator for 2012, taking over from George Asaaf.

Our first gathering of 2012 will be **Saturday, January 21st** at Van FUMC, (326 W. Main Street, Van, Texas 75790) at 4:00 pm for sponsorship training, 4:30 pm for fellowship, 5:00 pm for dinner, worship at 6:00 pm.

Other gatherings planned so far will be the candlelight ceremonies for the Men's Walk #60 on March 17th at Disciples Crossing and the Women's Walk #61 on April 21st, also at Disciple's Crossing. We are working on a Gathering for February in Hallsville, but that is not yet confirmed.

If your church would like to host a Gathering in 2012, please contact me.

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HELLO! GOODBYE!

As the New Year starts, the G.R.A.C.E. Board says hello to its newest board members: CJ Cox, David McPherson, Pat Moser, Kayla Hamm, and Carol Derieux. This is an exciting group with new members to the Community and experienced members. I look forward to working with each of you this next year.

We also must say good bye to dear friends who are retiring from the Board after three years: Patti Jones, Judy Hawn, George Assaf, and Tom Perdue. You will be missed. Burton Love was not left off the list. He is hanging around for another year!

The G.R.A.C.E. Board members serve for three years. It is a working Board in that each person has responsibilities he/she oversees. New members are selected each year from a list of nominees selected by the Board. The election is held in the Fall and everyone in the community has the opportunity to vote. If you would like to serve, let CJ Cox or me know.

Jo Anne Skeen

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LAY DIRECTORS FOR UPCOMING WALKS

Men's Walk #60
Disciples Crossing
 March 15-18, 2012

Lay Director: **John Norman**

Women's Walk #61
Disciples Crossing
 April 19-22, 2012

Lay Director: **Kathy Kapka**

Don't forget – beginning in October 2011, the Walk Fee was increased from \$150 to \$155. Please make sure, as a sponsor, you communicate this change.

SPONSORSHIP

The most important job in Emmaus is sponsorship. You can share with others the joy you experienced on your Walk! Please prayerfully

consider sponsoring someone on the up-coming Walks.

What: Good sponsorship builds up the body of Christ. Sponsors should recruit strong church members to strengthen the local church.

Who: Please sponsor someone who is already on a pilgrimage, who is willing to grow and move forward in their journey of faith, who knows God can make and, is making, a difference in their life. Please sponsor someone who is considerate of others, who listens more than they speak. Please sponsor someone who is well respected among church members, dependable, faithful in attendance, genuine, with a servant-heart. Please sponsor someone who is searching for a place to serve.

Why: Sponsorship is one of the most important functions in Emmaus. Good sponsors help prepare Pilgrims for a great Walk experience. Sponsoring someone on a Walk to Emmaus is a great blessing.

How: Take a list of names to God in prayer. Leave them with God. Let God reveal a name. Then ask. Together you and the Pilgrim complete a Pilgrim Application. Please see link below. For more information on sponsorship, please go to: <http://www.GRACEMMAUS.org>. Please do not let cost keep someone from attending a Walk to Emmaus. G.R.A.C.E. can assist with the registration fee for anyone needing financial assistance.

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KAIROS #40 AT THE MICHAEL UNIT



God's Special Time

WOW!!! What an awesome GOD we serve!!! THIS Spring is the 20TH ANNIVERSARY of the Kairos Prison Ministry in the MICHAEL UNIT. We would ask that you pray for the team that the Lord has assembled and is still assembling, to carry the message of our Lord and Savior into the Michael unit on **April 12-15, 2012.** The team has been forming and we are still needing more volunteers. Our **FIRST** meeting will be at **Lanes Chapel UMC, Tyler on**

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 15th of the month.

Thank you for your continued support of our Emmaus community.

DeColores

PLEASE COMPLETE THE INFORMATION BELOW:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____