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Alabama Emmaus Community News

The Grapevine

September 2020

Community Humble Servants

Terrie Alexander
Lay Director

Gary Formby
Spiritual Director

Teresa Holderfield
Asst. Lay Director

John Simmons
Asst. Spiritual Director

Angel Rait
Community Coordinator

Jim Sims
Treasurer

Donna Ambrosius
Debra Baker
Linda Case
Karen Cotton
Tami Glenn
Teresa Holderfield
Sherry Lockhart
Dianna McQueen
Jackie Mize
Brian Moore
Randy Nelson
Kay Parker-Phillips
Jaime Rickert
Deanna Shotts
Melanie Skillman
Paul Webb
Board Representatives

Patricia Bush
Literature

Bob Manney
Supplies

Bruce Parris
Community Agape

Dan Bell
Name Tags

God's arms welcome us all

By **TERRIE ALEXANDER**
Lay Director

Dear Alabama Emmaus Family,
I have been thinking of and praying for you and our Emmaus Community. I miss our gathering during our usual walk weekends that we have postponed for this year.

I was blessed while reading the daily devotion from the *Upper Room Disciplines* that explained about the Palaver Tree which is usually a large tree with spreading branches to shelter and shade those who gather below it, making it a tree central to village life in different parts of Africa. It can be a fig tree, an acacia tree, or a baobab tree. This tree is a place where those who gather to

listen, discuss, and resolve problems know that the top priority is continuing the community life united in peace.

This is a reminder to me that just like this tree, God's outstretched, sheltering arms welcome us as we gather in his Spirit and reach out through this time of postponing.

May we practice small, unconditional welcome (Cluster Groups) until we gather as one united community. I'm thankful for the many creative ways that our Alabama Emmaus Clusters continue to gather during this time of social distancing.

DeColores!

Terrie Alexander

Alabama Emmaus Community Lay Director

Take what we are given with grace

By **GARY FORMBY**
Spiritual Director

It happened again this week while I was listening to a song by Don Henley which he recorded while apart from The Eagles, his original band in the 70's. You know about this. You are listening to a song or podcast, radio broadcast or TV show and suddenly, a phrase comes along worthy of pondering for a moment.

That's what happened to me this week while listening to *For My Wedding*. The line was, "to want what I have, to take what I'm given with grace, for this I pray on my wedding day."

Though the context for these lyrics was a prayer for his marriage on his wedding day, Henley reminded me of the prayer

I have for my life in these days, "to want what I have, to take what I'm given with grace."

While living an unfinished life in an unfinished world with both joy and sadness, I nevertheless reflect on it often now, almost every day, the blessings of life, the many experiences I've had, the people, the love and forgiveness, my relationship to God.

Sometimes it's my failures and regrets that grab my attention, all I have missed and gotten wrong. In these days my heart goes out to those struggling in ways I will never know, so often with such grace!

All this together is what God and I have to work with today, all that is right/wrong with me and you and our world. As

we work, we long for peace.

If you find yourself longing for a kind of peace with yourself, God and others, "to want what you have, to take what you're given with grace," you will discover we have an ancient companion.

As you know the Apostle Paul was in prison when he shared in his letter to the Philippians these words:

... I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Phil 4:11-13)

IMPORTANT NOTICE...

All 2020 Walks have been postponed until 2021.
Please see the listing on Page 2 for a
TENTATIVE schedule at this time.

Our connections remain unchanged

By ANGEL RAIT
Community Coordinator

I recently returned from Indiana after spending a few days visiting with my GRANDson. Because of the pandemic, I had not seen him since Christmas. The minute we ran into each other's arms, all the months and miles disappeared.

Immediately he wanted to show me how he could ride his bike without training wheels. He wanted to show me his special place at the creek where we can find minnows and crawdads. We climbed trees that were islands to keep us safe from the sharks, of course he climbed higher than I did! We even made time to watch "The Lion Guard" on Disney, and later took the animals outside and played with them in a puddle in the driveway.

It was a wonderful time with my GRANDson. It was different from previous visits but good nonetheless.

He had the same bike, but without training wheels. And boy was he fast!! We rode together all through the neighborhood, and when I felt totally lost, he guided us back home.

What a weird feeling it was being led home by a child! His special place at the creek was different from the past one in Georgia. This one was under a train trestle, actually a little spooky, but perfect for little boys. He reached in that water for treasures (pieces of claws off of crawdads, feathers, clams, a deceased horsefly, and minnows) and held them out for me to put in a bag to take home.

He climbed trees without help and was so brave to go higher than ever. Even the Lion Guard was different from the past. Kion was no longer a baby lion, but more of a "teenage" lion with a deeper voice.

We did all the things we used to do, but they were different. And I enjoyed them just as much, maybe even more, than when he was a toddler. Jack cannot and will not remain a little boy. He is growing up and will one day be a teenager. I will always be excited to go visit Jack, and we will continue to do things together, but differently. But the one thing that will never change is that he will always be my same GRANDson and I will always love being with him.

I am telling you all this because it reminds me of Emmaus. Cluster groups are now meeting, some differently, but it's the same people meeting together. Reunion groups are the same way. Because of the circumstances in our current world, we are finding different ways of doing things, different but still good. When Walks begin again, they will also have differences too, perhaps some we cannot see at the moment, but it will still be Emmaus.

DeColores! Angel Rait, sjc #173

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TENTATIVE 2021 Schedule

WALK	DATE	GENDER
494	Feb 4-7	W
495	Mar 4-7	M
496	Apr 8-11	W
497	May 20-23	M
498	Jun 17-20	W
499	Jul 15-18	W
500	Aug 12-15	M
501	Aug 26-29	W
502	Sep 9-12	W
503	Oct 14-17	M



Praying for You

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to members of the Emmaus Community and their families in the loss of loved ones.

To **Debra Cornelius (67)** in the loss of her father and to **Margaret Billingsley (77)** in the loss of her husband, **Tom Billingsley (78)**

To the family of **Paula Warnes (30)**

To **Reba Miller (95)** in the loss of her husband, **Glenn Miller (94)**