

JOURNEY TO DAMASCUS

June Newsletter

Message from the Board

Greetings Journey to Damascus Community!!

This newsletter is long overdue, and the Board of Directors apologizes for not getting something out sooner. So much has happened and things have been changing so fast that the we (the Board of Directors) discuss issues and before we can get the information out to you, things change.

Having said that, please keep in mind that the information we share with you today in the newsletter can and most likely will change over the next several months and we may have to modify things to accommodate our local and federal regulations on gatherings. Please follow local and federal guidelines as well as consider your personal situation if you have any doubt about what the best thing for you is to do during this pandemic.

As a community, we want to move forward in faith for our future Journey to Damascus Weekends. Please continue to pray for our community and its members as well as The Board of Directors to be obedient to God and His will for our community.

The Board of Directors continues to meet monthly via Zoom to discuss all matters brought to us as individuals as well as the Board as a whole. Please feel free to reach out to any of us anytime if you have questions about what is going on during this pandemic or anytime. We are your elected representatives and we pray for guidance and direction from God to make the best decisions with the information we have at the time. You have chosen and trusted each of us to do this job and we are blessed to have your confidence and faith to do what God calls us to do on behalf of this community. We are always happy to talk with members of the community about what we discuss.

The last few months have been difficult for all of us and we appreciate your patience while we worked out the difficulties of how to meet, what discussions were of highest priority and what decisions needed to be made. None of the decisions that we have made were taken lightly, there was much prayer, discussion, and more discussion and prayer before we came to the exceedingly difficult decision to postpone any of the weekends. The Board is hopeful that by the end of the year we will know more about what next year will look like and if we will need to make modifications to the Journey logistics in light of Covid 19. Please continue to pray for our community,

SAVE THE DATES!

All of the weekends have been moved to 2021 and these are the dates we have scheduled with Pax Christi:

2021 Weekends

**Corpus Christi
Men's
March 4 - 7**

**Corpus Christi
Women's
April 22 - 25**

**Corpus Christi
Men's
June 17 - 20**

**Corpus Christi
Women's
July 22 - 25**

**Corpus Christi
Men's
September 16 - 19**

each of you are in our prayers, we pray for your safety and God's grace upon all of us today and every day.

God Bless,
The Board of Directors
J2damascus@yahoo.com
General mailbox for JTD Board of Directors

Website & Pilgrim/Team Applications

All of the active pilgrim and team applications will be rolled over to 2021, unless otherwise specified, for the same weekends next year. The Website will be updated soon with the new 2021 dates, so go out and start fishing for men and women!

Check the website for those new applications as well as an amazing face lift! Our Webmaster has been working hard to make some long overdue improvements and updates to the website and it is going to be AMAZING!!!

Community Events

Golf Tournament this year on Sept 26 starting at 9am.

18 team limit - get your teams together!

We will be accepting donations for hole sponsors and other prizes. If you are interested, please contact Daniel Bluntzer or one of the Board members at J2damascus@yahoo.com.

You can send contributions to:
Daniel Bluntzer
PO Box 1266
Robstown, Tx 78380

Community candlelight and annual gathering.

Fall time frame TBD

We are all longing for our community, and as soon as we can work out the logistics we will be putting something together for those in the community that would like to get together in a safe manner while observing social distancing and all of the safety measures necessary. Stay tuned!

**Corpus Christi
Women's
October 21 - 24**

**2021 Weekends
JTD - Austin**

Check back for more
information!



Contact Us

**Corpus Christi
Journey to Damascus
PO Box 948
Corpus Christi, TX 78403
j2damascus@yahoo.com**

Updates from the Lay Directors

Shane Beckwith

JTD #197

"Who do you say that I am?" Luke 9:20

I am a grateful believer in Jesus Christ and I am.....the Lay Director for JTD #197 that was originally scheduled for March 26-29. We finished our final team meeting on March 7th and were eager to go into battle for Christ when the upswing of the Covid-19 pandemic began locally, causing the weekend to be postponed, of which the board had our full support. Although the pause button has been pushed, this unified team is intact and, when God calls us to action, we will answer in resounding accord, "Here I am Lord". Until then, I encourage everyone to stay active in your reunion groups, whether via video conference, in person or whatever means works for your group. During these turbulent times, let us dwell on the reality of who we are in Christ Jesus – wholly redeemed and immeasurably loved!

Marivel Garza, Lay Director

JTD #198

The Lord will hold you in His Hand for all to see - A Splendid Crown for the King of Kings. -Isaiah 62:3

Completed five team meetings, had one left to complete all meetings.

The weekend of April 16 -19th we had a Virtual JTD #198 for all team members. The agendas for the weekend consisted of one hour for the four nights and we rekindled our own personal weekends. Complete with Icebreaker, nametags, a video, the use of our prayer books, music team, prodigal son scripture and mediation, table assignment remembrance, talks, Damascus experience, dying moments, candlelight, closing.

I have also sent a small "love note" to all the pilgrims and waiting list just to let them know I was praying for them during this time of uncertainty. I sent those out the weekend the JTD was supposed to take place. I have received several response cards back from some of the pilgrims. Which I have responded back to by text. Because those women have reached out to me asking for support and prayer. There has been four of them.

I plan to have an "afterglow" through zoom the week of 7/13. I know it is late, but the Covid-19 has really done my family in.

Agape List – Full

Prayer List – Lack 22 slots

Reunion Groups

--the Antidote to an Aching Soul

To say things have been more than a little weird since March is a huge understatement. As our communities, state and country try to get back on their feet again, this is a glimpse of hope to a weary JTD Community.

As of now, restaurants and other venues are allowing 50% occupancy (at the time I am writing this). While the Board of Directors has the utmost concern for your safety and wellbeing in mind, Reunion Groups are now starting to meet again in person with whatever safety protocols you feel are needed to protect yourself and loved ones from contracting the corona virus -- hand sanitizing, fist bumps instead of hugging, social spacing at your table, wearing masks, etc.

Consider using a virtual meeting platform like Zoom, Go to Webinar or WebEx, or a smartphone app that allows group chat functions in lieu of in-person meetings. However, if your Reunion Group decides it is in their best interest to meet again in person, your Board does not want to stand in the way of allowing the fellowship, discipleship and love that come from these moments with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We need each other now more than ever to make it through the trials and tribulations we are enduring daily.

If for some reason, one of your Reunion Group members becomes sick, please take all necessary precautions to monitor their health and yours, and self-quarantine for 14 days. Also, please notify us so we can keep a record of any such exposures. The Board of Directors and the 4th Day Committee also want to hear about what has worked well for your Reunion Groups during these trying times so we can share it with everyone as a best practice.

Remember: Christ is Counting on YOU!

Some Words from the Wise

Brought to you this month by Rev. Billy Storms

John 13:35: "the world will be able to recognize you as my disciples when they see the love you have for each other." Those words of Jesus always challenge my brand of Christianity. I was raised to believe that it was the closely held doctrines of my tradition that earmarked my identity as a Christian. Imagine the wonderful journey with the Journey that constantly reminds me of just how true Jesus is in describing the hallmark of Christianity. The family of faith that I've walked with, prayed with, worshipped with and served with are known to my heart because of the heart that Jesus has created in us who call Him Lord.

In my tradition, we facetiously observe that wherever you find two Baptists, you'll find three opinions. The distinctive ways that we differing Christian traditions act out our love for God could not be any more different. Yet, because of the love that Christ has given us for Him and His work, I find a unity that allows me the freedom to watch Christ transform lives. Celebrating the gift of transformation I get to watch on Journeys and in reunion groups is not in anyway dependent on what's in my head. Having achieved a Ph.D. in philosophy, I know more deeply than I can express that I meet my Lord in the brothers and sisters I engage on these experiences. You constantly remind me that the evidence of God in this world is YOU and the fellowship we share because He loves us and has and is redeeming us. We don't ever need to think alike when His love is so present in our hearts. In fact, John 13:34 says, "a new commandment I give to you. You are to love one another as I have loved you." He died for us to make that real. I pray that we'll continue to live to make it real to this broken world we occupy.

Blessings on each of you, my beloved brothers and sisters.

Billy Storms

Agape Appeal

GOAL

Due to an increase in food and lodging costs over the last few years, the Annual Agape Appeal will be used to off-set these increased expenses for the Team and Pilgrims.

The Annual Agape Appeal's goal is to:

- Never turn anyone away by making the weekend affordable for **ALL**.
- Provide a sustainable, annual fund to insure the continuation of JTD for **ALL**.

The intent of this appeal is to assist those who need monetary support in order to attend this Christian weekend. No one should be turned away due to financial need.

By joining our resources, we can insure JTD's continuation for friends, family and strangers.

AGAPE DONATION

Suggested donations:

- \$5.00 each month
- \$60.00 Annually
- \$30.00 Semi-annually
- \$15.00 Quarterly
- \$100.00 Husband and wife

Or... Whatever you can GIVE

It's not about how **MUCH** each one can give.

It's about how **MANY** will give.

Only \$5.00 a month folks!

UNITY

With God all things are possible.
And by uniting together, we can change the world!

Please sign up for the JTD News Letter at:
www.journeytodamascus.org
All the information on how to send your Annual Agape Appeal will be available.

Please make checks Payable to Journey to Damascus and write **JTD Appeal** in note section of check. Please include your name, address, email address and phone number.

You may send it to **JTD Appeal**, P.O. Box 948, Corpus Christi, TX 78403.

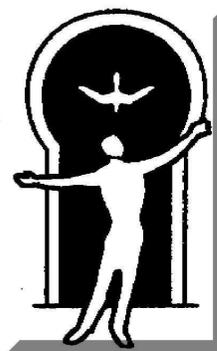
Please help spread this opportunity by word of mouth or social media to encourage **all** the JTD community members to participate in this appeal.

De Colores

[Click here to view the PDF version of Annual Agape Appeal](#)

Sr. Angela Murdaugh Scholarship Fund

We are also very pleased to announce the establishment of the Sister Angela Murdaugh Scholarship Fund. The goal is to be able to pay the weekend fee for one pilgrim per JTD weekend from this scholarship. To raise money to fund this endeavor we are selling JTD car emblems. The cost of the emblems is \$15 for one and \$25 for two. We should have the car emblems for sale before candlelight services and at the Sunday weekend closings. If you would like to order emblems for your Reunion group or to sell at your team meetings please contact Dale Hernandez at dale_hernandez@yahoo.com



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