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|  | Journey to Damascus  Houston Community Newsletter |
|  | Spring 2023 |
| **In This Issue:**   * *A Message from the Board President* * *Committee Volunteers Needed* * *Treva Gallup and JTD #211* * *Mike Main and JTD #214* * *Finance Overview* * *Houston Reunion Groups* * *2023 Golf Tournament* * *JTD Merchandise*   **Board of Directors:**  **Bill Ewing, Jr., Past President**  **Princess Helin, President  Shawn Royer, Vice President**  **Brenda Tolbert, Treasurer  Susan Norman, Secretary**  **Randy Bame, Member**  **Gerald Blackwell, Member  Kevin Clark, Member**  **Eric Gallup, Member  Rachelle Vento, Member**  **Joy Hunt, Member**  **Spiritual Advisors:**  **Deacon Tom Whited**  **MaryClare Cullen**  **Board of Trustees:**  **Cindy Ramirez**  **Ed Strempel**  **Charley Green**    **Upcoming Journey Weekends**  Women’s JTD #211 **May 4 - 7, 2023**  Men’s JTD #214  **August 3 – 6, 2023**  Women’s JTD #217 **October 19 - 22, 2023**  **Come with open hearts and empty hands. As we focus on our common Christian beliefs while still respecting our differences, we may be gradually and slowly working our way toward truly being one in Christ.**  All journey weekends will be held at:  **Camp Lone Star Pines**  **22610 Tuwa Rd. Tomball, TX 77375**  Registration forms for Pilgrims and Team can be found at  [**https://Houstonjtd.com/registration**](https://Houstonjtd.com/registration) | A Message from the Board President **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  Dear JTD Community,  I hope your new year has gotten off to a great start!  I’d like to share a little background about me. I attended JTD #183 in 2018 at Our Lady of Lourdes. It was the best journey ever! That’s where I found *peace*. I grew up ecumenical. I was born into a Buddhist Chinese family living in a Muslim country of Indonesia; learned a lot about Buddhism and Muslim religions and customs. I went to a Protestant school from Pre-K to 6th grade, where I was taught to memorize verses in the Bible; then to a Catholic Junior High School where I attended catechism classes and was baptized at age 13; then I went to a Protestant High School. I currently attend and serve in the choir at St. Cyril of Alexandria, where I have been for 22 years and part of that time, I also attended an Indonesian Baptist church and was a song leader for ten years so I could visit with my Indonesian friends and community. Having an ecumenical upbringing came full circle when I attended the Journey in 2018 which I believe was all part of God’s plan. I am enjoying my time with JTD and feel blessed to serve as President of the Board of Directors for 2023.  As many of you know, the Houston Journey to Damascus is back in full swing with four spiritually blessed JTD weekends in 2022 and the most recent Men’s JTD weekend in January 2023. We welcome the new members of our community who joined these weekends of spiritual renewal and hope that you can serve in our upcoming journeys. There are many ways to help and serve. One important one is to reach out and invite others to a JTD weekend. And if you are not able to commit to a 3-day weekend, we would love for men and women to serve at the Agape dinners and attend Candlelight service on Saturday evening and Closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon. We have two Women’s JTD weekends this year, one on May 4 – 7, 2023 and another on Oct 19 – 22, 2023 and two Men’s JTD weekends on August 3 -6, 2023 and on January 19-22, 2024. Please reach out to the Lay Director’s listed in the newsletter about serving on a weekend, whether as an Angel/Cha or on the outside team.  I'd like to share with you a couple of goals the board has set and will be working on this year. We are holding strategy meetings to discuss the growth of JTD by creating a plan on growing the community with outreach efforts, doing more fundraisers, and along with that sharing a report of our finances with you. Our goals are to raise money to defray the costs of holding four journeys per year. If you have ideas on the above efforts you would like to share or be involved in, please contact any of the board members or email us at houstonjtd@gmail.com.  I pray for a healthy and prosperous year in 2023 for everyone. I would also like to remember our friends and family members who departed in 2022. Let’s pray for the repose of their souls and for the families to be given strength, comfort, peace, and trust in Jesus. I leave you with one of my favorite quotes from the bible and hope it encourages you: *“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11*  De Colores,  Princess Helin  President of the Board of Directors  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Do you have a passion for the JTD mission and enjoy interacting with others?**  If so, the JTD Board of Directors is seeking community members interested in serving on several committees including:   * + - * + *Finance*         + *Web Administration*         + *Document Manager* * *Public Relations/Marketing*   + - * + *Fundraising*   Committees are open to all JTD community members.  If interested, please contact:  Cindy Ramirez: [cinram0424@gmail.com](mailto:cinram0424@gmail.com)    **Women’s JTD #211**  **May 4 – 7, 2023**  Hello JTD Community,    My name is Treva Gallup and I will be the Lay Director for the upcoming Women’s Journey.  It was a long a hard decision for me to make. I guess you could say that this Journey was planned and put on paper in 2018 for me to lead in 2019 but my fear of failure or not being as good as everyone else knocked me down and a battle began.  “God is within her; she will not fall”.   Psalm 46:5  This is a verse that defines strength in hard circumstances, the source is not of this earth. Part of a song that worships God for His strength and protection, "God is with her she will not fall" is meant to give all glory to God. The prose which inspired Martin Luther's hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." is a song of hope which encourages and reminds God's people to place their confidence in Him amidst a threatening and dangerous world.  Because of this verse, I found my strength once again. I’m ready now more than ever to lead beautiful strong women on their journey to finding Christ and the strength he has for each and every one of them.  This special weekend of strength and team building will be May 4 - 7, 2023 at Camp Lone Start Pines in Tomball, TX.  Please pray over how you might help and feel free to contact me for more information at:  [Onlyntx8@yahoo.com](mailto:Onlyntx8@yahoo.com) or call me @ (832) 797-9527.    We have opens spots for pilgrims for the weekend. We encourage you to share your experience with others and pray about who God my lay on your heart to bring to Christ. Please log on to the newly designed JTD website at [www.houstonjtd.com](http://www.houstonjtd.com/) to access the Pilgrim, Sponsor, and Team applications. We also ask for your prayers as we continue to plan the next few months.  We need everyone to attend Candlelight on Saturday, May 6th. Please fill the conference room with loving faces of God. Let our pilgrims know that they are loved.    Gentlemen, you can also help by attending to serve dinner to the ladies on Saturday, May 6th at 5pm. Please contact Eric Gallup at [*tccsuper01@yahoo.com*](mailto:tccsuper01@yahoo.com)*or* call him at (832) 253-4766 if you would like to serve.    De Colores! |
| A picture containing mountain, sky, nature, outdoor  Description automatically generated | **MEN’S JTD #214**  **August 3-6, 2023**  ***“I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.” Isaiah 44:22***    Dear Journey Community,    My name is Michael Main, and my Pilgrim Journey was #107 in August 2012.  I sat at the table of St. Stephen, which was one of seven tables. It’s been a while since we’ve had seven tables of pilgrims at a men’s journey, and I’d love for us to get there again. All of us have been so affected by our Journey weekend, and many of us continue to be impacted in our fourth day, let’s share that with those around us.  My lay director was Mark Gorman, and his scripture, “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His faithful love endures forever,” from Psalm 118:1 NLV, is a reminder to me that God is always faithful to us. When I was asked to be lay director for Journey #214, it was time for me to be faithful to Him and say yes.  I’m asking all of you out there, men and women to be faithful to Him when you year this call. Men, I am currently recruiting team for the August Journey, and would love to have you join us. Please contact me by phone or text at (832) 444-1728 or by email at [mike.j.main@gmail.com](mailto:mike.j.main@gmail.com) and let me know you’re ready to answer the call. If you are one of the many wonderful women in our community, I need your help too. I would appreciate any pilgrims you could sponsor, men who need a Journey weekend, even if they think that they don’t. And I’ll need women to volunteer to help with the Saturday night dinner. I know you’ll come through, you always answer His call. For the men and women that can’t serve, or don’t have a pilgrim, please, come to Candlelight, and get on the prayer list for the pilgrims. Service comes in many forms, and everyone can find a way to participate. I thank you in advance for all your support.    Our team meetings will be held from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Chapelwood United Methodist Church 11140 Greenbay St., Houston, TX 77024.  We’ll have an hour of fellowship before each meeting. Our remaining meeting dates are May 6, and June 3 and July 1.  If you have Pilgrims you would like to register, please guide them to our website at [www.houstonjtd.com](http://www.houstonjtd.com/) under the Retreats Registration tab and Men’s JTD #214 to register and pay online; or call or text me at (832) 444-1728 or email [mike.j.main@gmail.com](mailto:mike.j.main@gmail.com). Below are the direct links for registering pilgrims, team, and sponsors.  Pilgrim Reg Form: <https://jtd.breezechms.com/form/PilgrimApp214>  Sponsor Reg Form: <https://jtd.breezechms.com/form/SponsorFormJTD214>  Team Reg Form: <https://jtd.breezechms.com/form/TeamApplication214>   De Colores!  **FINANCE NEWS**  The price for goods and services is rising in every aspect of our lives. And so, it is the same at Camp Lone Star Pines (CLS) and JTD expenses. We have outlined below the estimated expenses and average cost per Journey for awareness and transparency. At the end of the year, we will have actuals that we can then report and budget from.  ***Rental (lodging and food)***  CLS retreat center costs are increasing throughout 2023 and will increase by 7% in 2024, from $217 per person in Jan 2023 to $265 per person in Jan 2024; that covers the food and lodging for three nights.  We are committed at CLS for 50 people for each Journey weekend. That ensures that we have the entire facility. If we have less than 50 total team and pilgrims, we are still committed to pay for 50 people.  Currently the cost of CLS is approximately $16,000 per year at 50 people per JTD. That relates to lodging and meals plus overhead & expenses. We collect approximately between $4,000 and $5,000 per JTD in registration, green agape, community and Board scholarships and donations. Therefore, the shortfall is approximately $19,500 per year. Please note that some JTD weekends bring in a little more.  ***Expenses***  The operating costs of JTD weekends have increased. Overhead such as insurance, storage rental, subscriptions to capture our finances for audit/tax purposes, database to capture and record our weekend attendance, web admin tools, music license, etc. are approximately $19,000 per year. This number is included in the overhead & expenses mentioned in the above paragraph.  ***Registration Fee***  The cost per person for food and lodging at CLS in May 2023 is $230 per person and will increase to $244 in Aug and $247 in Oct. In January 2024 the cost per person will be $265. The Board agreed to implement a two-step increase on the registration fee by $25 in 2022 and 2023. The registration fee of $250 will be effective on the Aug 2023 weekend.  *Note: to see current details of the costs and expenses please email us at: houstonjtd.com*  ***2022 Fundraisers***  The annual JTD Golf Tournament is our biggest fundraiser. In 2022 the golf tournament, earned $12,000 profit. We also sponsored a Ballpark fundraiser held at Constellation Field in June which earned $1,500. JTD Merchandise (T-shirts, caps, tumblers) sold in 2022 earned $1,200. The grand total from those fundraiser efforts for 2022 was $14,700.  ***2023 Fundraisers***  The Board is committed to hosting several fundraisers to offset the expenses that continue to rise each year. Be on the lookout for more information coming soon! Please contact Shawn Royer or Randy Bame to volunteer on this important committee or if you have ideas to share.  ***Recurring Donation***  As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, JTD relies on the generous donations from the community.  To support JTD by recurring donation you can pay online via credit card at [houstonjtd.com](http://houstonjtd.com/) at the link <https://www.houstonjtd.com/donate-to-jtd>. Next go to ‘Donate to JTD’ and enter a weekly, monthly, yearly, or one-time amount. If you prefer to make your donation by check please email us at houstonjtd.com.  We thank our generous donors in 2022 and hope that we can have your continued support in 2023.  ***Company Matching***  Many companies provide matching of your donations to a charity or non-profit. Please be sure to check with your company and request a match form. You may contact a board member for the JTD Tax ID as your company match will usually require it.  ***PILGRIMS***  **The most important piece to this pie is PILGRIMS! To continue this ministry that is so needed during these trying times we need the community to be intentional in inviting and sponsoring pilgrims. Should you need help on how to share what JTD is about please reach out to a board member who can provide brochures, details to go in church bulletins, etc.**  **Connect with your brothers and sisters in Christ**  **and keep the JTD fire going by joining**  **a Houston reunion group near you:**  ***Please call/e-mail the reunion group contact before attending a group for the first time***  **Men’s Reunion Groups**  **Dixie Farm Boys** Mondays, 6:00 PM Contact: Matt Hoffman, 713-819-2297, [mhof1100@aol.com](mailto:mhof1100@aol.com)  Location: Gateway Community Church, 760 Clear Lake City Blvd., Webster  **STRIVE!** Tuesdays, 6:00 AM Contact: Brad Whitt, 713-469-1565, [brad.t.whitt@gmail.com](mailto:brad.t.whitt@gmail.com) Location: Panera Bread, 26003 NW Freeway, Cypress  **SEASoned Warriors** Every other Wednesday, 7:00 PM Contact: Greg Bedell, [gjbedell@mdanderson.org](mailto:gjbedell@mdanderson.org) Location: Willie's Grill & Icehouse, 7092 Hwy 6 North (FM 529 & Hwy 6) Houston  **Men’s Reunion Groups contd.**  **Walking Tall** Fridays, 6:00 AM via Zoom Call Contact: Tom Stallings, 281-450-8101, [tom@tomstallings.com](mailto:tom@tomstallings.com)  **Mama's Boys** Fridays, 8:00 AM Contact: Mike Main, 832-444-1728, [mike.j.main@gmail.com](mailto:mike.j.main@gmail.com) Location: Buffalo Grille, 1301 S. Voss Road (S. Voss & Woodway) Houston  **Blurry Eyed Boys** Saturdays, 7:00 AM Contact: Tim Cullen, 281-948-1417, [tpcullen@windstream.net](mailto:tpcullen@windstream.net)  Location: La Madeleine, 2675 Town Center Blvd., Sugar Land  **Gravy Spoon Disciples** Saturdays, 7:00 AM Contact: Eric Gallup, 832-253-4766, [tccsuper01@yahoo.com](mailto:tccsuper01@yahoo.com)  Location: Cracker Barrel, 14765 North Freeway (I-45 and Airtex) Houston  **Women’s Reunion Groups**  **SEAS Sisters** Mondays, 11:30 AM Contact: Denise Dreyling, 281-855-7745, [denise@thoede.com](mailto:denise@thoede.com) Location: Romeros, Hwy 6 & Longenbaugh, Houston  **Sisters with a Purpose** 2nd & 4th Monday, 1:00 PM Contact: Shay Christopherson, 281-799-2002, [christopherson.shay@gmail.com](mailto:christopherson.shay@gmail.com) Location: Jason's Deli, 529/Hwy6, Houston  **His Honeys** Every other Saturdays, 9:00 AM Contact: Pam Gonzalez, 713-854-6587, [furnituregirlpam@gmail.com](mailto:furnituregirlpam@gmail.com) Location: Black Walnut, The Vintage Park, 10623 Louetta Rd., Houston  **The Breakfast Club** Thursdays, 6:00 AM Contact: Toni Weyand. 281-731-6883, [toniweyand@gmail.com](mailto:toniweyand@gmail.com) Location: Dennys's, 1422 Highway 6, Sugar Land  **Sophia Sisters** Every other Saturday, 8:00 AM Contact: MaryClare Cullen, 713-480-7511, [clarecullen@windstream.net](mailto:clarecullen@windstream.net)  Location: La Madeleine, 2675 Town Center Blvd, Sugar Land  **Grace Girls** 3rd Tuesday of the month, 6:00 PM Contact: Rachelle Vento, 713-851-0364, [rachelle.vento@gmail.com](mailto:rachelle.vento@gmail.com) Location: La Fiesta, 11623 Katy Freeway, Houston    **Mary Martha** 2nd & 4th Saturday, 11:00 AM Contact: Agnes Fernandes, 281-933-3721, [agnesffernasdes@gmail.com](mailto:agnesffernasdes@gmail.com)  Location: Panera Bread, 7041 FM1960 East, Atascosita  **Bay Area Blessed Sisters** 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 PM Contact: Sherry Metcalf, 832-643-9689, [sherry\_metcalf@yahoo.com](mailto:sherry_metcalf@yahoo.com)  Location: La Madeleine, 929 Bay Area Blvd, Webster  **SAVE THE DATE!**  **Houston JTD Annual Golf Tournament, Breakfast, Lunch and Silent Auction**  **Thursday, September 28**  **8:00 a.m.**  **Tour 18**  **3102 FM 1960 East**  **Humble, Tx 77388**  Player registration $150  Hole Sponsor $250  (Hole sponsors can promote company on their holes)  Title Sponsorship $2,500  (Title sponsor donor will have company logo  embroidered on four 1st prize golf bags and two free registration tickets)  Exciting contests including ‘Longest Drive’, ‘Closest to Pin’,  ‘Team of Four Scramble’ and a putting competition.  Player registration:  <https://jtd.breezechms.com/form/2023GolfRegistration>  Sponsorship:  <https://jtd.breezechms.com/form/2023GolfSponsorship>  Silent Auction Donation:  <https://jtd.breezechms.com/form/SA2023>  Visitor’s Meal Ticket for the Day:  https://jtd.breezechms.com/form/VisitorMealTicket2023  To volunteer to help the day of the tournament, contact:  Randy Bame @ [randy.bame@yahoo.com](mailto:randy.bame@yahoo.com)  **Be an ambassador for Houston JTD**  **with fun JTD merchandise**  **We have the following items available for purchase:**  **To purchase these items, please visit the**  **link below on our JTD Houston website**  [Merchandise | Houston Jtd](https://www.houstonjtd.com/merchandise)  Cap   |  | | --- | |  | |