



*New Zealand Emmaus Community*

## *Special Interest Articles:*

- A word from the Lay Director
- 2007 calendar is out now
- How do we sponsor and encourage pilgrims to experience Emmaus?

## *Individual Highlights:*

Inside Story	2
Inside Story	3
Inside Story	4
Inside Story	5
Last Story	6

## Welcome

Finally a newsletter from the Emmaus Community!!

This year we are only have one walk each for men and women and the teams are under way and praying to go!

How are your sponsors? Have you been praying for the right person to sponsor? Have you approached anyone and spoken to them about the effects that Emmaus had on you???

For our new pilgrims, this is a chance to spread out the love and care to

others. To give other Christian brothers and sisters the chance of spending quality and quantity time with Christ to refresh, to be blessed and for some to be refocused on what Christ has in store for them!!

May you be blessed as you go about your day and your week. May your families know peace.

Blessings

Newsletter Editor

## Urgent Request

The next walks are  
**Men's #31** 23 - 26th August  
2 pilgrims registered

**Women's #32** 13 -16TH September  
3 pilgrims registered

We require at least 12 pilgrims for the walks any less than 10 and we make a loss on the Walks.

We need registrations from pilgrims immediately, if you have someone to sponsor please notify Janet Huddleston the Registrar ASAP.

The next Board meeting is Tuesday 28th July and it is at this meeting that a decision will be made on the viability or otherwise of the Walks for this year.

Please get your sponsorship forms filled out and returned immediately.

## Lay Directors Corner

Welcome to the Newsletter for 2007, hasn't it seemed slow with only 1 set of walks. By now the two teams have commenced their training days and the composition of both teams have been finalised. With only one set of walks there has not been the pressure up to now that we have had in previous years to complete team training before the walks. Under the capable direction of Graham and Jenny the teams are beginning to mould together to present the Walk to Emmaus to another group of men and women pilgrims. Much prayer and planning has already gone into the preparation of the teams and as this is being written the 2nd training day is looming fast.

I am sure that like me you still have vivid memories of your Walk as a pilgrim and many of you have been privileged to experience the walk by serving on team or being part of the support team that enables the program to run efficiently. What better way of sharing those memories of what the walk to Emmaus did for you personally is there than to share and encourage someone else to experience anew Gods grace and love in their lives. The only way that we can do this is to sponsor pilgrims! Yes folks it is time to seriously consider now who you are approaching to sponsor to go on the next walks. Sponsorship details are available on the Website and I encourage you all to give consideration to sponsoring someone for the next sets of walks this year.

Men's walk August 23-26

Women's walk September 13-16

Let us try to fill these walks with as many pilgrims as possible.

In this newsletter you will see a Calendar for the remainder of this year.

I encourage you to try to attend the events to encourage each other and to welcome the pilgrims to the Auckland Emmaus Community. It has been pleasing to have visitors from overseas at our gatherings and we have had contact from some recent immigrants to New Zealand who have completed their walk while in their home countries.

Last weekend Carol and I attended the Australian Secretariat meeting in Melbourne it was a packed weekend at which we experienced the love and hospitality of our brothers and sisters across the Tasman. The meeting is a time of encouragement and sharing of ideas on how others grapple with similar problems to us. No folks we are not unique in experiencing difficulties in running the Walk to Emmaus. Across the Tasman communities experience low numbers of pilgrims, difficulties finding team members, lack of Spiritual Directors. All communities grapple with how to include reunion groups and are looking at other ways of over coming this weakness in the program. I would venture to suggest that for many of us who are already in existing home groups that we could include many aspects of the reunion group concept and use it as a way to encourage others to experience the Walk to Emmaus.

along with considering who you will sponsor as pilgrims there is another vital aspect of the walk to Emmaus that I would encourage each one of you to participate in from now and till the closing of this years walks. That is the prayer ministry - each walk has a prayer director but the praying should not be left up to them and the team alone. The community can bring before God all aspects of the walk in special prayer slots, this is one aspect that I think we could improve on and make use of the opportunity that God gives us reach out to our fellow Christians.

Finally to all of you, if you have a desire to serve The Emmaus community have you considered joining the Board, we have several vacancies and are calling for nominations now. Please prayerfully consider whether you would be able to help in this capacity and if you are let one of the Board members know as soon as possible.

Blessings in the Name of Christ  
Lloyd Rigby  
Community Lay director  
de Colores

## Spiritual Director

If each grain of sand on  
the seashore was  
numbered  
And the sum labeled  
**"Chosen by God,"**  
They'd still be numbers.

Salvation comes from  
personal selection.

God doesn't count us;  
**God calls us by name.**  
Arithmetic is not His  
focus.

*Source Unknown.*

Greetings everyone,

Last year our EMMAUS Reunion group of three women went on a couple of overnight retreats. These were very special times for all of us. We have the organisation sorted - the two ordained women provide the meals and the lay woman acts as Spiritual Director. The theme for our second event was based around Light houses and as we were staying at a beach the imagery was easy to find. One of the "pearls" our director shared with us is in the box to the left.

Isn't that an awesome thought? Imagine running a handful of sand through your hands – and trying to

count each individual grain – and then reflect that God not only takes account of each person but calls them by name – calls *you* by name, calls *me* by name.

Every now and then I go back to re-examine the call God has on my life and ask again what it is that God is calling me to today – has the call changed? Are there new directions that God wants me to be going in? What now Lord? And this knowledge that God does in fact call me by name sustains me in that questioning.

Right now I believe that God is calling men and women to be on the EMMAUS teams for later in the year – is He calling you? Right now I believe that

God is calling men and women to come as pilgrims on those same walks. Are you seeking God's guidance to know who you could be sponsoring?

Remember God has called the prospective pilgrims by name but He may need your prayers and your invitation to them for them to actually attend.

Praise God that we follow such an awesome God, a God who knows us by name and who treasures our relationship with Him.

Blessings

Marion Peterson,  
Community Spiritual  
Director.

### *Post Script:*

*When Cathy sent the draft version of the newsletter out earlier this week I read my contribution with some surprise and also awe! Surprise because I had sent it in several months ago and had forgotten the content. Awe because it was such a timely reminder for me in my present circumstances. This is because I have been on sick leave now for several weeks and have decided that I need to take early retirement. This has been an unexpected development and I have struggled to come to terms with the implications of the decision. And one of the key questions in that struggle is indeed "what call does God have on my life now that I cannot continue in ministry as I have understood it until now?" I wrote the original reflection as an encouragement to others and now I find myself encouraged - what a surprising God we serve!*

## Constitutional Change

It is desirable to avoid having a change of officers and board members when the Community is planning or having Walks.

An amendment to the Constitution, Section 3 Clause A, that changes the date of the Annual General Meeting will assist in avoiding this clash. The Board would like to propose the following change (to

be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting):

*An Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than 31<sup>st</sup> August 31<sup>st</sup> Octobers each year...*

Our constitution states that the terms of Office for Board members begins from the close of AGM, except for Officers (Chairperson,

Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer) who are elected at the Board's first meeting after the AGM for a period of three years effective with the close of that Board meeting.

Changing the date we hold our Annual General Meeting will mean that the Lay Director continues in Office until the end of the

November/December Board meeting thus avoiding any potential clash with Walks.

If you object to this change please advise the secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007.

## Calender

<b>Board Calendar 2007</b>			
<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Who</u>
<b>June</b>			
Saturday 16	Training Day 2	Zion Hill	
Tuesday 19	Board Meeting		
<b>July</b>			
Saturday 28	Training Day 3	Meadowlands	Lloyd
	Gathering - Team Commissioning		
Tuesday 31	Board meeting		
<b>August</b>			
23-26	Men's Walk #31 Candlelighting Closing		
<b>September</b>			
13-16	Women's Walk #32 Candlelighting Closing		
Tuesday 18	Board meeting		
<b>October</b>			
Saturday 13	4th Day Gathering	Zion Hill	Jenny
Tuesday 23	Board meeting		
<b>December</b>			
Tuesday 4	Board meeting		

---

*"The future is something which everyone reaches at 60 minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is"*  
-CS Lewis-

## Next Walks

Are coming up fast:

Men's Walk

23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> August

Chosen Valley

Women's Walk

13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September

Chosen Valley

---

*"We may run, walk, stumble, drive, or fly, but let us never lose sight of the reason for the journey, or miss a chance to see a rainbow on the way."*

*-Anon-*

## Sponsoring

Sponsoring is actually "recommending" someone to attend Emmaus. Sponsors are NOT obliged to pay for the pilgrims.

It's about encouraging someone to attend a weekend with God and that the cost of the

Diary in now for Candlelighting and Closings!

Do you remember the blessings they were to you? That strangers, people you didn't know and whom didn't know you would get together to pray for you and give you a walkway of love with

candles! It's our opportunity to again do this for others.

weekend is a great investment into their own spiritual life.

If you know that the \$150 cost will be too much for someone then please put a little note on their application form so that we can see about any help financially for them.

More information on sponsoring is available on our website

[www.walktoemmaus.org.nz](http://www.walktoemmaus.org.nz)

## Walk #30's version of De Colores! *(Written by our LD & ALD's)*

Hey Dolores  
We have come to be part  
Of this gath-er-ing at  
Chosen Valley  
Hey Dolores  
Somehow we think that  
the pilgrims  
think that we are all crazy  
Hey Dolores  
But we are quite  
determined to  
Prove to them that they  
are wrong

But despite all our best  
efforts we don't  
Make much headway cos  
we're a disorganized  
bunch (x2)

Hey Dolores  
We arrived at Emmaus all  
bright-eyed  
And ready for action  
Hey Dolores  
But we lost the essential  
and lip-smacking  
Colourful lippy  
Hey Dolores  
So we ran around  
searching our bags  
And got into a tizz

Hey Dolores and so must  
our lips be  
Of every bright colour so  
they don't get dry  
(x2)

Hey Dolores  
It is six in the morning  
The cellphone is ringing to  
wake us  
Hey Dolores  
We jump out of bed  
And the door hit's Sue's  
head for a greeting  
Hey Dolores  
We all open our eyes  
Grab the bell and then off  
we do fly

Hey Dolores the program  
must run  
Or we'll get into trouble  
from you know who  
(x2)

Hey Dolores  
We are slaves of the  
programme Emmaus  
Because he has willed it  
Lay directors  
Making sure that the  
pilgrims are happy and  
learning their lessons  
When the bell rings  
They come running and  
then are singing with all  
of their hearts

But they really are  
waiting for mealtimes  
The food is so yummy  
and served up by men  
(x2)

## Saturday Night at Emmaus

Kitchen Co-ordinator:  
Belinda van Gruting

What a blessed time the kitchen crew had during the last 2 walks! Thank you to each person serving at the meals, those providing agape through baking, as well as the decoration team for Saturday's formal dinner.



The men were so impressed with the Harley's --- thanks go to Jim for organising this, too. The women were stunned when they entered the room on Saturday --- and the servers looked so handsome in their bow-ties and suspenders!



I have been so blessed by all your help and support in the kitchen and look forward to next year's walks.

De Colores!

## AGM – Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> October at Zion Hill Methodist Church starting at 5.30pm with a potluck tea. Followed by a Gathering!

### Board Elections

Our Auckland Emmaus Community consists of **fifteen election members and the Community Spiritual Director**. Persons on the Board are elected by Community members for three year terms.

**The make-up of our Board after the last election looks like the table below.**

**Community Spiritual Director:** Marion Peterson

Those members elected in 2004 are now due to stand down. Board members are able to put themselves up for re-election (however it is desirable that this is the exception rather than the rule so as to allow new leaders into these positions). No more than a maximum of two three-year terms are to be served consecutively.

For our 2007 elections we need at least **eight members** to fill the five 2004 positions

and three of the 2005 positions.

The following community members have pray-fully considered their commitment to Emmaus and have put themselves forward for election:

1. Cliff Bent
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Board members are representatives of our community and to that

end we would be grateful if you could email the secretary to confirm your support or any concerns you may have regarding these nominations for the 2007 – 2010 period.

Email the secretary at”  
jhgand5@xrea.co.nz

Elected 2004	Elected 2005	Elected 2006
Janet Huddleston (Registrar) Sylvie Naidoo Cathy Sosoli Kerry Radford Prakash Naidoo	Peter White • Edward Cupido • Linda Jamieson ** Belinda Van Gruting Jenny Goodwin (Secretary)	Rae Radford Winston Penn Robert Hemp Lloyd Rigby (Lay Director) Mike Older Carol Robinson ***

• Resigned during year

\*\* Resigning at 2007 AGM

\*\*\* Continued on as Treasurer as role not filled during 2006 / 2007

**Company Name****AGM and Board Nominations**

Zion Hill Methodist Church is the venue for our 4th day talks after this year's walks.

We will be combining our AGM and 4th day talks at this gathering running from 5:30 till 8pm.

We need volunteers for the Board for the next year. We have a number of vacancies for positions on the Board due to some members retiring after many years service and some people are not seeking renomination.

If you have a desire to become more actively involved in the Emmaus movement please speak to Lloyd or any Board member ASAP.

We need nominations for these positions before the Board meeting if Possible.

*Winter Exercise program...*

Take one Weetbix. Take an Aero chocolate bar.  
Crumble the Aero over the Weetbix.  
Voila !

**AEROBIX !*****About Emmaus...***

*The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion. The "Emmaus community," made up of those who have attended an Emmaus weekend, support the 72-hour experience with a prayer vigil, by preparing and serving meals, and other acts of love and self-giving. The Emmaus Walk typically begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday evening. Men and women attend separate weekends.*