



e-mmaus news

New Zealand Emmaus Community

Dec 2007

Welcome

We're at the end of another year and next year is our 10th anniversary of having Emmaus in New Zealand. Doesn't time fly!!!

We are looking for helpers to put this newsletter together for next year, Are you interested? Do you have god ideas that you would like to share? Please let me know so that we can get in touch.

This Christmas may you and your family share in the blessings of Jesus, the most worthy, most holy lamb that was given to us. Regardless of whether we feel we deserve the forgiveness and new life that Christ gives us, God thinks we deserve it!!!

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

Blessings

Newsletter Editor

Special Welcome

to our two new board members:

Graham Jones & Clifford Bent

Treasurer is still up for grabs.

Is this something that God is calling you to?? Please let us know.

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.

Lay Directors Report

Walks in 2007

Since the last AGM there have been 2 walks completed, both were hugely successful and we thank Graham Older and Jenny Goodwin for their leadership in directing these walks. Along with the lay directors all the team members both Spiritual and Lay people played their part in making the "Walk to Emmaus experience" a very special and significant event in the lives of 27 pilgrims. We are about to prepare for the first set of walks in 2008 in the next few weeks.

The Emmaus Board

The Board has continued to meet regularly this year although next year will see an increased level of activity for Board members as we will be running 2 sets of walks again. I wish to thank the members of the Board who loyally and sacrificially give up their time to attend to Emmaus activities. We are indebted to board members who open their homes for the meetings and for the hospitality shown to others. This year we have run the Board meetings with reduced numbers which has put an extra load on people; we are continually looking for people to serve on the Board in various roles. We currently need a treasurer and several more members. We have only 2 nominations so far for the Board. I wish to thank Clifford Bent and Charles Jones for offering to join the Board this coming year.

Gatherings

Gatherings have been attended over the year and in general have been well supported except for the first one at Red beach. Perhaps this is a symptom of having only one set of walks for the year. The numbers increased at each gathering and the Closing for the Women's Walk #32 was exceptionally well attended. It is encouraging to see sponsors bringing pilgrims to gatherings.

Community Involvement

The Community has supported the walk to Emmaus throughout the year in other ways and without this support at various activities we would not be able to successfully run the walks. Candle lighting and closing ceremonies have been particularly significant events and many reunion groups have provided some amazing agape.

Secretariat Meeting

This meeting was held in Melbourne this year and I was privileged to be able to attend. At this meeting I was able to make contact with the Australian Community and continue the networking and cooperation that we receive from our aussie brothers and sisters in Christ. Again we have signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the upper room Fellowship that we will follow the guidelines set out in the manual.

Cost of the walks

Due to increasing fees and expenses we had to increase the fees to \$150.00 for 2007 and 2008 this may have to be reviewed again for the 2009 walks.

Acknowledgements

Over the past year we have been privileged to be hosted by many churches and supported by many people. We acknowledge the significant help we receive from Zion Hill Methodist Church, Cross roads Methodist Church and Meadowlands Methodist Community Church and the Chosen Valley Christian Camp for the fine facilities as well as their warm hospitality. Before i finish I am indebted to all the Board members for their support of me in my role and for the help that they have given me this past year.

God Bless, Yours in Christ

Lloyd Rigby

Community Lay Director

Spiritual Directors Report

November 16th.

A few weeks ago I was in Wellington at an event organised by our National Church to honour those ministers who have retired/are retiring this year. Each retiree was given a beautiful, hand crafted, miniature anchor stone or punga. We were told that *“this miniature punga is symbolic of arriving at a significant point in time, undertaking an important journey and the anchoring of a relationship.”* The gift now sits on the table at home and it continues to “speak” to me about the journey to retirement that I have been on this year. The sense of being anchored in my relationship with God is particularly important as I continue to question my future directions.

Symbols and “markers” have always played an important part in people’s relationships with God. We hear numbers of time in the Old Testament that people erected an altar or a cairn of stones to mark where an important event had occurred. Jesus understood the importance of “Jacob’s well” when he sat and talked with the Samaritan woman. He understood our need to have visual reminders to jog our memories about our events in our lives and also to give us the opportunity to explain the significance of the symbol to others who see it.

I know that the EMMAUS walk has been hugely significant in many people’s lives. Do you have some symbolic reminder around your house or office that can remind you of that time? It could be your EMMAUS cross hanging on a notice board or wall or a piece of agape that you particularly liked sitting on a side board or the corner of your desk. When we are having a difficult or dry time with the Lord (and most of us have these at some time or other) it is good to be able to reach out physically and mentally to that “marker” and to reclaim and give thanks for the experience in order to strengthen our resolve to continue the journey.

Another purpose for having that symbol or marker where it can be seen is that it invites comments from those who see it and can be a valuable way of leading into sharing your testimony or inviting someone to consider going on the next walk.

As we come into the hectic Christmas period:

*May the Blessing
Of God
Be on your heart
And on your home
And on all those you love*

Love from Marion.



Artist Filipe Tohi has created a fascinating work for the Coastal Walkway. Anchor Stone is on the eastern end of a bridge across the Huatoki Stream on the Coastal Walkway, near the Wind Wand. New Plymouth

Kitchen Co-ordinator Report



The recent Men's' and Women's walks were a blast! I am convinced that each and every team member and pilgrim were blessed by the friendly, helpful and efficient kitchen crew.

A big thank you to each Emmaus member providing agape through home baking. A massive thanks go to all the helpers serving meals, cleaning up and setting tables.

My sincere thanks to those helping with setting up and getting ready for the special Saturday evening dinners. For the men's walk, our theme was "Deep sea diving and fishing". Thanks to Damian Forsyth for lending me his gear. The women were spoilt with bubbles! John Smythe was relieved when I said, "Only 50 balloons to be blown up this time, John!"

Bradley Hamilton saved the day with his skills and followed Linda Jamieson's instructions carefully. Lesley Hamilton can now be assured - Bradley knows how to drape curtains!

Kitchen duties are fun and there is no preparation time needed. So, if you are at all interested in helping at the next walks next year, please e-mail me or leave a message on my voicemail at home. Home-baking is much appreciated by the team and pilgrims, so please let me know if you can provide home-baking, as well.



Until next time!

De Colores

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He shall be called....
What do you call Him?