

## *New Zealand Emmaus Community*

### *Greetings to all you Emmazing Servants of the Lord*

*First of all congratulations to Andrew Stoddard and Lupe Smythe, our Lay Directors for the first set of Men's and Women's Walks of 2008. I am sure the Teams of Walks 33 and 34 will agree that your calm leadership and inner strength made their duty to serve the pilgrims a breeze. All your preparation and prayers, the support of the board and the wider community, the Prayer Vigil, the "behind the scenes" activities (as mentioned in the first letter), Candle Lighting and Closing ceremonies, made these Walks a memorable, overwhelming and Emmazing experience for the Pilgrims.*

*The success of the Walks is God's answer to prayer. His Angels rejoice when they are the silent witnesses to God's hands and feet here on earth. A special comment has to be made about the fabulous way in which His word comes alive through all the interesting agape. A huge thank you to all the reunion groups who allow the Holy Spirit to guide them in creating these amazing gifts of unconditional love. Lastly, to all the wonderful speakers who, through their obedience and openness to the same Holy Spirit, have touched the hearts of many pilgrims and team members. Through their honest and authentic sharing, they became the instruments through which God our Father could reach the pilgrims.*

*De Colores*

*Bernadette Paulse*

*Newsletter Editor*

### **Community Lay Director : Lloyd Rigby**

*Once again like every other walk the first two Walks have had its unique features and problems, but in the end did it matter! NO! For Andrew, Lupe and their teams have run two successful walks and from the reports that I have had, the aims and objectives of the Walk to Emmaus have been achieved...that of **moving Men and Women closer to God in their own personal lives.***

*On behalf of the Auckland Emmaus Community I want to congratulate the Lay Directors and their teams and wish you well along with the Pilgrims in your walk with God in your Fourth Day journeys.*

*We need to acknowledge the support that we receive from the Chosen Valley Christian Camp. Without the support of their Board and the wonderful staff, who make it so easy for us to operate, these weekends would not been the same. They provide a magnificent venue; great food and the staff are so supportive of the programme for the weekend.*

It is now my privilege to announce that **Men's Walk #35** is planned for 16- - 19<sup>th</sup> October 2008 and the **Lay Director** will be **Robert Hemp**.

**Women's Walk #36** is planned for 6-9 November 2008 and the Lay Director will be Rykie Smit.

**Kitchen Co-ordinator: Belinda Van Gruting**

*Oops, she's done it again! What would the Walks be without a talented lady like Belinda? There is no end to her special Saturday surprises! From the horse's own mouth...*

*A very special thanks go to all the Emmaus members helping in the kitchen during the last two Emmaus walks. You are all truly Emmazing! Thanks to all those providing agape through home baking – it does make a huge difference to all those who suffer from starvation! Yeah right!*

*The Saturday dinners were a hit! The men's theme was the Outdoors, as Andrew is an outdoor person. We had a Thar keeping watch over the boys while they feasted on their special dinner. They all looked very handsome in their red bow ties!*

*A special mention goes to Vosa who kindly provided the lava-lavas for the Saturday night dinner at the Women's walk. She also made Lupe's special lollies-lei. The men looked stunning in their lava-lavas and each lady got given a flax flower and a flower lei. Thanks go to Allan Oliver who learnt a new skill and helped weaving flowers on Friday. A big thank you goes to Linda Jamieson who came in especially on Saturday afternoon to help with getting the dining room ready. Sylvie provided the tapa-cloths and within a few minutes the scene was set for "Tonga!"*

*The entertainment by Clive Rinqest and Paul Toschi was hilarious and everybody had a blast including Clive and Paul! I also have to mention those who so kindly go back to Chosen Valley after Candle lighting to help serve the banana splits supper-Rae, Sylvie, Prakash, Cliff and Clive.*

*I have had so many pilgrims and team members come up to me to say what a difference the kitchen crew makes and I would like each of you to know how much your kindness, smiles and serving hearts are valued.*

*If anybody is interested in helping in the kitchen at the next two walks, please e-mail me ( [HYPERLINK "mailto:komani@xtra.co.nz"](mailto:komani@xtra.co.nz) [komani@xtra.co.nz](mailto:komani@xtra.co.nz)). There is ABSOLUTELY no preparation time needed and it is lots of FUN!*

*The beautiful photos say it all!!*



### **Reunion Groups**

*For all our new and not so new members, I have included a list of some of the Reunion groups. In our next newsletter there will be more information about these and other groups. If your Reunion group has any interesting activities we would like to hear from you as well as the days and times when you meet. These groups will also be **visible** at the 4th day Gathering on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June.*

**Papakura Deers:** Sylvie Naidoo

**Drury Pukekos:** Prakash Naidoo

**Howick Heartbeats:** Ruth Boswell

**Manurewa/Takanini Marigolds:** TBA

**Elim Enrichers:** Kim Hemp

**Shore Thing:** Megan Whitehouse

**Meadowlands Magi:** TBA

**Silverdale Seekers:** Jenny Goodwin

**East City Sons:** TBA

**Royal Oak:** Tina and Paul Toschi

**Te Kauwhata:** Derek and Ina Kruger

**Taranaki Treasures:** Erice Stannard

### **Birthdays:**

*Congratulations to the following people who celebrated their birthdays since the last newsletter. It's always a great blessing when your birthday happens during the weekend of the Walk, because the team members make sure that the Happy Birthday song is sung at ALL the meals!!*

*Andrew Stoddard*

*Lynn Smith*

*John Smythe*

### **Anniversaries** *Still going strong...*

*Andrew and Pamela Stoddard (2 years)*

*Clive and Sibil Rinquest (29 years)*

### **Emmazing contributions**

*A brand new lectern*

*Two brand new meal prayer boards*

*Obedience to the Holy Spirit always produces outstanding works of art or acts of kindness. The Emmaus Community is blessed to have spiritually talented and challenged members!! Has the Holy Spirit prompted you to do something ODD? We would like to feature it in our next newsletter.*

### **Upcoming Events**

*4<sup>th</sup> Day Gathering: Crossroads Methodist Church, Papakura.*

*Time: 5:30 Pot luck!!*

***Bring the whole family!! Reunion groups-an item (2minutes)!! Or Agape Communion service!!***

### **In the next newsletter**

*More about the Lay Directors*

*A message from the Spiritual Directors*

*4<sup>th</sup> Day Gathering*

*Reunion Groups - contacts and meeting days*

*Please forward any interesting activities, birthdays and anniversaries to me.*

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### **De Colores**

