



e-mmaus news

September 2009

Auckland Community

Bula, Namaste, Bon jour, Goeie Dag, Talofa lava, Good Day, Kia Ora

Warm greetings to all of you, not just in the Auckland community but also as far as sunny Nelson, crispy Christchurch, pleasant Palmerston North, tricky Taranaki, Tauranga!

Spring is in the air and I sincerely pray that you are all feeling it deep down in your spiritual bones. It's a season of new beginnings, new growth and generally a feeling of lightness. Let us throw off our heaviness and put on our beautiful, colourful garments. Let us join nature and sing and praise God for the new season of blessings and opportunities.

As an Emmaus community we have a special partnership in the Gospel. We know that He, who began a good work in us, will carry it on to completion. (Phil: 6) So, let's leave the wintry heaviness behind and press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenwards in Christ Jesus. (Phil.3: 14)

Some of us are already enjoying the (spiritual) bloom of our spring garden, but it's not too late for those who were waiting for warmer weather to get out and get ready for the summer garden. The pruning in our lives can be painful, but just remember we will be able to bear better fruit (of the Spirit).

So, whether you are busy with pruning, weeding, ploughing, sowing or harvesting of your (spiritual) garden, it's never too late. Our heavenly Father is the Master Gardener and through his Holy Spirit He will reveal how we should take care of our garden.

Last but not least, a huge thank you to all those Emmazing people who contributed items for our Spring Newsletter.

De Colores

Bernadette Paulse

Newsletter Editor



Community Lay Director's Message

Our Community Lay Director compares the success of our Walks with **cars**.

When you were given your Emmaus cross you were told, "Christ is counting on you," and you replied, "And I am counting on Christ."

How does a weekend happen? Basically it is like **a car....**

A car has many parts and for the car to go it needs all the parts to be in working order.

For the Walk to Emmaus to continue to run in New Zealand, the Board needs your help just the way that Christ is counting on you.

The WTE Board makes a decision to run walks at least 12 months in advance and from then on the planning starts. The Lay Directors and Spiritual Directors are approached. A team selection committee helps with the selection of names of people who can be approached for the various roles on the teams. If selected you would be expected to go to training days where you would learn more about the role you have been chosen to serve in. Being on team is not the only way you can serve the Emmaus community. There are many other ways you can serve.

Sponsoring a Pilgrim

Now is the time to pray about and approach a pilgrim. We need at least **20** pilgrims per walk. Please do NOT wait until the last minute. Pilgrims need to be told in **ADVANCE** that they need:

- ❖ To arrive at the camp on Thursday afternoon between 6-7pm.
- ❖ Time off from work on the Friday.
- ❖ To pay for their own accommodation.
- ❖ Stay at the venue the **entire weekend**.

Some churches sponsor their pilgrims, but most do not. As a reunion group, think of ways how to help pilgrims attending the walks.

Bring your pilgrim to the venue on the Thursday night, make his/her bed and make sure you introduce him/her to other members of the community. Once your pilgrim is settled, you join other members of the community and the Prayer Directors in the prayer room to hang up his/her cross and pray for them.

Prayer Vigil

Sign up online for the prayer vigil throughout the weekend. To register your slot, go to <http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetComm.html> and select the Auckland Emmaus Community. Then select your time-slot(s) and sign up – it gives you all the instructions you need. Or, if you don't have Internet access, please contact the relevant Prayer Director (see below).

Serving at meals

Men will be approached to serve meals at the Ladies' Walk and the ladies will be approached to serve meals at the Men's Walk. Please diarise the upcoming walks and consider assisting our new kitchen co-ordinator, Jane Jones or just email her to volunteer your service. chajane@paradise.net.nz

Agape

Another way of sharing Gods love is to provide Agape for the walks. Those are the wonderful little gifts you have received during the three days. Use your imagination; think about something special, a special moment on your walk and see if you can make something to share with future pilgrims.

Other forms of agape that are appreciated on the walks are home baking for morning, afternoon tea and supper. All these things help to keep the cost of the walks down. You can also provide snacks for the table for pilgrims to nibble on. It might not seem much but it all adds up to the total experience.



Now lets get back to that car

What sort of car would you rather have? A dirty, rusty, heap or a sleek, shiny model with all the bells and whistles? What sort of Walk would you like our future pilgrims to experience?

The last two walks have shown me that God is a faithful God. He never lets us down he will always come through for us. We are on a journey of faith and by God's grace we will run its course. God calls us to be his hands and feet, His salt and light to the world. If we had cancelled those walks we would have been a failure for God. The WTE works in a wonderful unseen way. We may never see the fruits of our labour but we can feel God's spirit surround us as we share God's love and grace with others.

What are you going to do to ensure the next two sets of walks are successful?

There is always something to do to keep the car on the road. Are you prepared to help me keep the car clean and serviced for God? To keep the Christ light of love shining brightly?

De Colores
Lloyd Rigby



Serious diary entries

Community Gathering

Saturday, 19 September 2009
East City Wesleyan Church
6pm



Men's Walk 39

Lay Director: **Leon Roberson**
Spiritual Director: **Mike Yates**
Prayer Directors: **Winston Penn, Clifford Bent**
Date: **Thursday, 15 October – Sunday 18 October 2009**
Venue: **Motu Moana, Blockhouse Bay**
Candle lighting: **Saturday, 17 October 2009**
Venue: **St Peter's Onehunga**
Time: **8:45pm**
Closing: **Sunday, 18 October 2009**
Venue: **Motu Moana, Blockhouse Bay**

Women's Walk 40

Lay Director: **Kris Telfor**
Spiritual Director: **Becky Rennel**
Prayer Director: **Janet Lepine**
Date: **Thursday, 12 November – 15 November 2009**
Venue: **Motu Moana, Blockhouse Bay**
Candle lighting: **Saturday, 14 November 2009**
Venue: **St Peter's Onehunga**
Time: **8:45pm**
Closing: **Sunday, 15 November 2009**
Venue: **Motu Muana Blockhouse Bay**

Fourth Day Gathering

Saturday, 28 November 2009
Crossroads Methodist Church
Papakura

5.30pm **Training days for these walks are well underway and we ask that you keep the Lay Directors and their teams in your prayers.**

A passion for young people

Young people love to belong; they are constantly searching for their identity, their passion and their meaning. Social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and Bebo are the definitive example of just how much they want to be heard and noticed. They have opinions and questions that are freely expressed on the Internet for the whole world to read and comment on. As a Church we should take note of these opinions and questions, we need to create an environment in our churches where young people can feel free to ask the tough questions, where it can be handled with care and discussed in a safe environment.

“Young people, like young birds, require wise adults who can show them the way and teach them the practices Jesus uses to draw their passion into His. They need loving and nurturing adults that will transform them into bearers of God’s grace”.¹

I am passionate about young people, and I am passionate about seeing young people who grasp the meaning of the Gospel and God’s amazing love for them. I’m sure many of you would agree with me that at times youth can be one of the most challenging ministries in church but at the same time also one of the most rewarding. And for better or for worse they look up at us for guidance and direction.

“Adolescents follow footprints better than blueprints...Following where they lead, adolescents longing for something “to die for” discover traces of divine fidelity, ecstasy, and intimacy in the Christian community, where the passion of God still echoes in humble acts of witness that call us to the cross.”¹

So be encouraged today that you will always have something to contribute to the young people in your church and that you can be a vessel of God’s amazing grace by meeting a young person where they are at in life, showing an interest, sharing some of your wisdom, and most of all by constantly reminding them of God’s great love for them.

¹ *Kenda Creasy Dean, Practicing Passion: Youth and the quest for a passionate Church, 2006.*

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Sent in by Este Smit

Keeping up with the youth

Este Smit has helped her mum, Rykie Smit, to create a Facebook page for the Emmaus Community. This is a page for Community members only.

True Emmaus 4th Day News

A group of 12 amazing young people and 4 adults from Crossroads Methodist Church in Papakura are travelling to Korolailai Village in Suva, Fiji during the 2 weeks September school holidays.

They will be painting the church building and perform other jobs needed. The local primary and high schools will be visited where they will have combined Youth Services and devotions during school assemblies. They will also donate books and computers to the library as well as engage the local youth in a lot of youth workshops.

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Sam and Ruth Solvalu

New beginnings...

It is almost 4 months since I left all my family and my 'family' including my son and aging parents in Auckland to start a new life in Nelson.

It has not been an easy move emotionally, physically but yes was very easy spiritually. I have been quite ecumenical, so I worship with the Methodists on Sunday mornings, with the Baptists on Sunday evenings and on Thursdays attend a home group with the Anglicans (hosted by the Baty's who were Wesleyans in Auckland) so what have I missed?

In addition to my 12-14 hour day at College, I work closely with the Pacifica Community at Nelson/Tasman level. Very rewarding and makes me feel I am at home when I am with this group. I have met a group of very faithful Christians at work. They are a real strength for me. A good number of staff at the College is friendly and very warm, they provide me with the purpose to belong and have shared with me their love and appreciation.

I have just bought a place for myself and will shift into my new home during the September holidays. My Lord has been very gracious and faithful to me. He has opened many doors and I can only count my blessing. Everyday I remind myself that Jesus can give you back what life's taken from you. He can restore to you the years that life has stolen (Joel 2:25)

Thank you for all your prayers and for keeping in touch.

God bless

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Laurayne Pillai Goundar

Baby news

Chloe Rose was born on Sunday 5th July at 10.20am to Katherine & David Pareanga on their 1st Wedding Anniversary. The family experienced a beautiful home birth and Baby was welcomed into this world with songs of praise in the background. Baby weighed 3.8kg.

Mum, Dad and Baby are all doing fine and Nana Magz reveling in being a grandmother.

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Margereth Grantham

Baby Dalmaine, a healthy 4.67 boy was born on the 17 July to Germaine and Dalene Oliver.

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Germaine and Dalene Oliver

Growth through study

For those of you who are studying, the year is drawing to an end and you must be busy with preparations for your exams. We wish you all the best and pray that The Holy Spirit will reveal answers to all those difficult questions. For those who are planning to study next year, good luck! We will keep you in our prayers.

"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." Proverbs 16:3

Birthdays and anniversaries

Once again, God's richest blessings on your milestones.

This is the day the LORD has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24

Bereavement

Our sincere condolences accompany this newsletter to those community members who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

"Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him". 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

Prayer Requests

As an Emmaus Community we should uphold our brothers and sisters who are going through a difficult time.

- Residency
- Studies
- Teenagers
- Sickness
- Unemployment
- Loneliness
- Pilgrims
- Teams 39 and 40
- Church Leaders
- Christian action in the work place

Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12 New International Version Bible

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