

EMMAUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2022

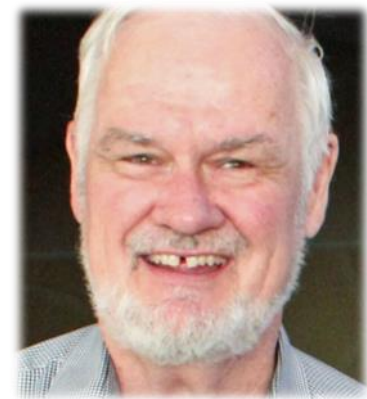
Greetings to All in this joyous Advent and Christmas season.

It has been another challenging year as Covid19 still lingers, however some of our communities held successful Emmaus Walks, Chrysalis and Face to Face events and gatherings during the year while others have events planned for the coming years. Despite some ongoing restrictions such as masks in some venues, pilgrims have been enthusiastically sharing, as always, their wonderful experiences of God's grace at closing ceremonies and in their fourth days.

For four years, the Darling Downs community and the National Board have been preparing for a National Conference at Toowoomba and at the end of next March it will finally be happening (God willing!). Hess "Doc" Hall from the Upper Room is planning to be there. Doc will have lots to share on existing Emmaus programs and

ways to re-energise our people and communities as the effects of Covid ease, as well as new initiatives including Village Encounters including Village Encounters. It is a virtual event with some similarities to the Emmaus Walk; but held entirely on-line using "Zoom" technology. It will be of particular interest to people in remote areas and other parts of Australia where there is not an active Emmaus Ministries community nearby.

We have recently welcomed Peter O'Loghlin from Brisbane South to the National Board as our secretary. Leanne Close from SE Qld Chrysalis has also joined us as National Chrysalis Coordinator. In early 2023, Mostyn Krollig from Adelaide will be the new National News-



letter Coordinator, in an off-board support capacity.

At the next National Conference, Treasurer-elect Norm Evers from Riverina will step into the National Treasurer position as Ruth Slater retires after a number of years dedicated service. We are still looking for a National Lay Director-elect and an Information, Communications and Technology Coordinator for 2023 and beyond.

A blessed and holy Christmas and new year to you, your communities and your families.

De Colores,

Phil Jennings



CHRISTINE ROSE

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

“His love for each one of us is giving us hope...”

Ephesians 1:11-12 (The Message)

‘It is in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.’

As the Christmas season looms before us I am reminded of our Lord and Saviour, His love for each one of us is giving us hope, peace and fulfilment. I asked myself the question ‘What is glorious living and am I truly living in the abundance of God’s grace and love?’

I think glorious living is you and I living with ease, with happiness, with joy, relaxing and enjoying, glorious living is not just getting by; it is overcoming every challenge winning over every trial, turning every test into a testimony.... God’s design for our lives is to live gloriously, with abundant freedom!

We were born into a royal family.... this is abundant living; it may be

time for us to realize just how much God loves and has provided for us.

Eph 1:18 (The Message Bible) God’s design is that ‘our eyes are focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life.’

I am thoroughly convinced that God loves and because he loves me and He loves you, I know that during times of struggle, trials, and challenges you and I will know His strength for our weaknesses.

Ephesians 3: 7 – 9 (The Message)

Paul had a passion for people to see what he saw about the covenant relationship with God about God’s love – he says ‘this is my life’s work, helping people understand’ – one of the primary purposes in our ministry is to tell people God believes in them and they are winners! why, because God loves them.

Living The rest of your life for God in His abundance will require a



change of priorities, your schedule, your relationships, and everything else. It will sometimes mean choosing a difficult path instead of an easy one. But you can be assured that God’s love is your strength for all your tomorrows.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour remember He came to save and give you abundant life, rejoice my friends and again I say to you all Rejoice!

In God’s Love and Grace
Christine Rose

Emmaus Ministries University

The apostle Paul wrote to the evangelist Timothy, ‘Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth’ (2 Timothy 2:15).

I recall encouraging us all to continue studying the Word of God whenever and wherever we can. More recently I have been conscious of the great need for us to continue our study of the ministries within the Emmaus Communities. To equip ourselves to be better servants of this amazing programme of service and fulfil its mandate of ‘equipping the saints for service’.

It is a real privilege to serve our precious Lord in such a programme that brings people into a renewed relationship with Jesus and gives them hope and fulfilment for their future journey with Christ.

Therefore, I encourage you to use this link and fulfil the training that is offered to us freely from the Upper Room. You will be blessed as I was.

<https://emmausministriesuniversity.upperroom.org/>

PETER O'LOGHLIN NATIONAL SECRETARY

“The Best Part”

What was the best part of your pilgrim Emmaus Walk?

Was it a fresh understanding of how the different aspects of the grace of God fitted together? Or new inspiration into how we live in response to that grace? Was it the joy of seeing another table laden with goodies at afternoon tea time – after you had been eating all weekend? Or the look of love on the rows of candlelit faces smiling at you on Saturday night? Was it the little gifts of agape – and the realisation of the agape love that went into making them? Or for men, perhaps it was the joy of the no-longer-forbidden anticipation of what your wife would experience next weekend.

“For those of you who have sponsored others, there were even greater joys.”

Can you remember the look of surprise and delight on the faces of your pilgrims when they spotted you in the candlelight line-up? Their fumbling attempts to describe at the Closing ceremony the indescribable days they have just experienced? Their heartfelt expressions in the car on the way home of thanks for sponsoring them?

For you who have experienced these latter joys there is no need to remind you to sponsor others.

I am sure you already have a list of prospects, and are planning when to visit them and invite them to the best three days of their lives.

But for others ... now is the time to show your love for Christ and for His people by sharing with them

the blessings you have experienced. Why would they not want the deeper enriching experience of how greatly God loves them – just as you love them, on His behalf?

A couple of tips for sponsoring:

Include Christians who love the Lord deeply, as well as those who need a stronger assurance of His love; those who are “on top of the world” as well as those who are struggling.

Include your pastor or minister and other church workers. So often they are taken for granted; but those who are constantly giving out need an opportunity to receive and be refreshed as well.

Don't just grab someone over a cuppa after church. Make an appointment to go and visit them, so you can explain to husband and wife together. It's not fair to explain the Walk to your friend and then expect them to be able to explain it to their spouse!

Come to the next Gathering and pick up a couple of application forms, and some of the other documentation about sponsoring and helping. Or ask the Registrar of your Community to email you one.

Get in early! Deposits have to be paid for the conference centre, and team training starts a couple of months before the Walk does, so if there are not enough enrolments before the Walk to make it viable the Board may have to cancel it. Of course, you can still sponsor someone right up till 2 weeks before the Walk, but why wait till the last moment and risk the Walk being cancelled because you didn't



get the application in early?

Everything we have said about Emmaus Walks applies equally well for Face to Face Encounters (for the over-60's) and to Chrysalis Flights (for 18 to 25's) – although both of these age groups are welcome on an Emmaus Walk also.

Ask the Lord to which He would have you sponsor your friends.

Who pays for the event? Technically it is the pilgrim's responsibility, although many sponsors choose either to pay in full or to share the cost with their pilgrim. But there is no obligation to do so. And if both your sponsor and you might struggle with the cost, ask your Community Lay Director if there is any way the Community can help. Don't be shy. We don't want anybody to miss out because a mere trifle in God's sight like money!

And we don't want anybody to miss out because nobody thought to sponsor them!

Decolores

Peter O'Loughlin



RUTH SLATER
NATIONAL TREASURER

“Thankyou and farewell ”

Well, my time as the Treasurer on the National Emmaus Board is coming to an end in April next year at the National Conference.

First, I would like to say thank you for all the Emmaus & Chrysalis Communities who have encouraged me over the past years.

I have truly enjoyed my time on the Board serving you, & even though it was a real learning experience in the beginning, as I had not worked in this area since the 60's no Computers etc. only Pen, Pencil & Ledger Book, not even an Adding Machine. I must say I love learning new things & it was a real challenge leaning one Programme & then having to learn another, I cannot say I know all about Excel, but I have gleaned what I needed.



The gentleman replacing me on the Board is Norm Evers, he is part of the Riverina Emmaus Community, I know, he knows soooooo much more than I do when it comes to Excel so you are in very safe hands.

I have loved working with the people on the Board & will miss them very much.

So, if you are asked if you would like to be on the National Board, I can recommend it thoroughly, not only will you be serving the Communities you will make lovely friends as I have.

Love, De Colores & Fly with Christ
Ruth Slater



Community Finances

Can you please check if your community has paid for their Insurance, Supplies you have ordered, The Gift & Pilgrim Levies if you have had a Walk, Flight or Face to Face Encounter this year, or last year.

All payments due by the end of the year, 2022, please.



THANK YOU.



Emmaus Ministries News

Village Encounter Experience

Can you imagine a virtual walk that still has the impact of a cloistered environment? Can you picture an ALD from South Africa, Table Leaders from Zimbabwe, Great Briton, Australia, a ASD from Australia, an IT Technician from the Philippines all joining together with our brothers & sisters from the US for an Encounter with Jesus over three weeks. Now add Pilgrims from Kenya and USA, and a multitude of times Zones, all relying on technology. No, we relied on our amazing God.

Four members from Western Sydney Emmaus had the privilege to participate in such an event. And yes, the terminology changed. It was emphasised that it was not an Emmaus Walk, but a new and different offering in the suite of Emmaus's Ministries. We not only participated, but contributed to the ongoing development of this amazing program.

So, what is it all about? We saw the benefits as:

- Not limited to a geographical area
- Not limited to local Team Members or potential Pilgrims
- A modernising and perhaps a more relevant equivalent Emmaus Walk concept that met the current environment.
- Significant resource savings and certainly savings in expenses compared to a cloistered environment.

- A joint Men's and Women's program, that integrated both genders (Separate discussions in Chat Rooms)
- Teams were a proportional mix of genders which in effect halved the numbers required for an equivalent separate male and female walks
- The fundamental Emmaus Program was retained, but run over 3 Friday evenings, Saturday Mornings time periods with an Orientation session on the First Thursday evening. 15 Talks were presented in 10 minute segments.

Western Sydney in planning to conduct a Village Encounter soon. We will keep you informed.



Michael Edwards (CLD) and Rev Amelia Koh-Butler (CSD) Commissioning Andrew Alder (LL) and Rev Ann Perrin (SL) for Australia's first Village Encounter

Western Sydney Community 30th Anniversary

What a time of Celebration! Uplifting, Inspiring Rejoicing in what our Lord has done through Emmaus. As we have looked back, we have had 97 Walks, plus Chrysalis flights, Going Forth days, and countless Pilgrims who have been impact by the movement of the Spirit.



There has indeed been a Spirit self-sacrifice, joyous servanthood and the joy of seeing changes in our lives.



of

Some of the feelings that were shared included:

The Emmaus experience was dynamic and life changing.

Worship and music were amazing- several different band and singers.

The Interdenominational aspect was inspiring- interacting with people from different churches and walks of life.

There was a wonderful feeling of love during the Walk, of God with us and togetherness.

God indeed is good; His grace is sufficient and His love holds no bounds.

Community Notices!

Position Vacant

National ICT Coordinator:

Traditionally called webmaster, this role is to coordinate all National Information, Communication and Technology requirements.

Including, but not limited to:

National and Community Websites

Google Workspace accounts

Prerequisites:

Experience with **Joomla** CMS (*see below*) or equivalent experience in other CMS types.

Experience with Google Workspace.

Handover training and ongoing support available.



For more details including a job description please contact:

Peter O'Loghlin (National Secretary):

secretary@emmaus.org.au

What in the World is Joomla?

If your answer is “Never heard of it!”, skip to the last paragraph of this article. But if you know the answer, you may be just the person we’re looking for!

Alan Carlyle knows what Joomla is. In fact, for the last few years he has been using it to develop and maintain the [Emmaus Ministries Australia websites](#). But the time has come for him to step down and hand over to ... we are not sure whom. **Could it be you?**

If you have a heart to serve the Lord and the Emmaus Ministries community through the use of your technical skills, would you consider the call for nominations to the position of National ICT Coordinator in this newsletter? The position will be filled (we hope!) by election at the national conference at the end of March next year, and Alan has offered to provide training, assistance and support to the brave soul who fills the position. If this is you, we would love to hear from you. And if you’re not sure, feel free to badger Alan with questions about the role. You can contact him through the website or by email on webmaster@emmaus.org.au.

Oh, and if you have just skipped to here from the top of this article, Wikipedia says “**Joomla** ([/ˈdʒuːm.lɑː/](#)), also spelled **Joomla!** (with an exclamation mark) and sometimes abbreviated as **J!**, is a [free and open-source content management system](#) (CMS) for publishing [web content](#) on [websites](#).”



Upcoming Events!



2023 National Secretariat Toowoomba, QLD

Dates: 31st March—2nd April 2023

Meeting information will be provided once meeting details confirmed.



We would love to hear from you!

Remember how you found encouragement on your Emmaus journey,
why not share and encourage others with it.

- Please include your name, and a photo would be great, but optional.
- When and where was your Emmaus Ministries event? (and your community.)
- Please share the way the event impacted your life.
- Growth in Piety – how you are further opening yourself to God?
- Growth through Study – what you have been reading/studying recently that has contributed to your ongoing spiritual formation in significant ways?
- Growth through Christian Action – What ministries you are involved with and how they are impacting your world?
- Please share any book(s) or writing(s) that you have published.
- Tell us about your hope for the future.

Please send all stories to: newsletter@emmaus.org.au

National Board Nominations

The Emmaus Australia Secretariat is the governing body of Emmaus Ministries in Australia and consists of two representatives of each community, plus National Board members. It meets once a year, in the national conference normally held in April or May. The Emmaus Australia National Board (EANB) is the executive arm of the Secretariat and handles the month-by-month business of the movement on behalf of the Secretariat. Officers generally serve for a three year period.

The Emmaus National Board is now seeking nominations for the following positions starting 2023:

◆ National Lay Director (NLD) Elect

for a three year term to take office in 2023, and attend National Board Meetings (Zoom) and understudy the respective role for a period of time.

It is preferable that nominees have held similar positions in an Emmaus Community. They must have given their consent and, nominations must be endorsed by the Board of their own Community.

Nomination Forms have been emailed to community CLDs, CSDs and Secretaries and are also available on the National Website:

[Nomination Forms](#)

For further information please contact:

Phil Jennings (National Lay Director):

nld@emmaus.org.au or,

Peter O'Loghlin (National Secretary):

secretary@emmaus.org.au

Nominations should be sent to the National Secretary, at secretary@emmaus.org.au.

Please prayerfully consider how you may be involved in this important service to Emmaus Ministries in Australia.



Community Connections



<https://emmaus.org.au>



<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianWalkToEmmaus/>

Click on any hyperlink or button for direct access.