



Western Sydney Community Newsletter

From the Word of God:

2 Corinthians 9:6

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

Galatians 6:9

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.



Don't judge your life by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you've sown.

Anon.

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OUR MOST EXCITING YEAR YET!

In 2013 we are going to do things that we've never done before!

Are you excited – or does that scare you? It means that we're going to be relying on God more than we've ever done – and I picture God going "Wow! I'll be hearing from Western Sydney so often, we'll have the best relationship ever by the end of the year." Isn't that a great thought? So what **are** we doing?

3-5 May: Hosting the Emmaus and Chrysalis National Conferences (i.e. the AGM). The LD and SD from every Emmaus Community will be attending, along with Chrysalis Representatives. They are meeting at Merroo and I hope that you will consider helping with:

Transport – picking people up from Sydney airport on Friday 3rd and/or returning them to the airport on Sunday 5th. There may also be a requirement to pick up and return people to Richmond station. Please contact me if you can help.

Setting up the conference areas (contact: Terry Boddy)

Serving meals (contact: Jenine Mendezona).

The May Gathering will be held at Merroo on Saturday 4th May and I'm looking forward to a **HUGE** attendance of Western Sydney Emmaus and Chrysalis people.

11-14 July: Chrysalis Flights 39 and 40. This is a first for our Community after having taken on the role of mentoring Community for Sydney Regional Chrysalis. Both Flights are being conducted on the same weekend at Merroo Centre 3. Please pray about who you might sponsor. An information brochure will be available soon.

11-14 and 18-21 October: Walks 88 and 89. Get ready to sponsor for these Walks – maybe that will be a "first" for you – or being on Team – or serving in the Kitchen. So many opportunities to step out of your comfort zone and rely on God!

And don't forget Gatherings on the first Saturday of every month – will this be the year that you attend every one? I'm looking forward to seeing you.

Love and De Colores
Pat Kinnear
Community Lay Director

GATHERINGS

Thank you for the warm welcome onto the Emmaus Board.

I would like to outline the Gatherings Program for 2013 which is as follows:

A "gathering with a difference" will be held on 2nd march and you don't want to miss it. Could you bring a dessert to be shared and wear your colours please?

We are also hosting the National Secretariat Conference in May at Merroo.

This year our Gatherings will have a theme to them and they are as follows:

- Feb 2: Blacktown, **"Celebrate and Arise"**
- Mar 2: Blacktown, (Gathering with a difference) **"Christ our Hope"**
- Apr 6: Blacktown, **"Priorities"**
- May 4: Merroo, Emmaus Secretariat – **"Unity"**
- Jun 1: Blacktown, TBA
- Jul 6: Richmond, Chrysalis Team Commissioning **"New Life in Christ"**
- Aug 3: Blacktown, TBA
- Sep 7: Gathering with a difference— theme & venue TBA
- Oct 5: Blacktown, Walks 88 & 89 Team Commissioning - **"He is Lord"**
- Nov 2: Richmond, Welcome BBQ for new Pilgrims **"Growing in Christ in our 4th days"**
- Dec 7: Richmond, Christmas Party **"Come and Adore Him"**

I am hoping to establish a sub-committee to help organise Gatherings. I want to involve some community members and am currently looking for suitable candidates.

In conclusion any suggestions or offers of help you can give will be gratefully received.

God's Blessings and guidance on us for 2013.

Gary Morris

Gatherings Director

FINANCE

Financial statement for the month of January 2013

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Emmaus General Account | \$ 2,496.25 |
| Emmaus Investment Account | \$ 3,360.12 |
| WSE Account Balance | <u>\$ 5,856.37</u> |
| Chrysalis Account Balance | \$ 2,072.49 |

CLD's Note:

The past two years have seen us break even (approximately), for two reasons: the success of Going Fourth and the generosity of donors to both Walk and general costs (such as venue hire (for gatherings and training), insurance (public liability and property), registration (trailer), CCLI copyright and fees for both National and International Emmaus). Gathering and Candlelighting income was well below budget. This year there is no Going Fourth and Gathering income in May will go to Merroo for site fees and in July to Chrysalis, so our income will fall dramatically.

The Board has budgeted for a deficit in the general budget of at least \$1000 in 2013, including a reduction in Gathering income. Should the abovementioned donations reduce, the deficit will increase. The Walk budgets both show a small surplus but this could change, depending on numbers and (agape) donations. Copies of the budgets are available at Gatherings for your perusal.

Please be aware that for every community member who visits Merroo on a flight or walk weekend, Merroo charges us \$10. This is less than many other sites and is actually an agreed benefit to us, as they are entitled to charge us for **every visit** rather than every visitor. If you are able, please make an appropriate donation at candlelightings to assist us with this cost.

The Chrysalis bank balance is only used for Chrysalis expenditure.

We thank you in advance for your continuing generous support in 2013.



"Money, money, money Must be funny
In the rich man's world
Money, money, money Always sunny
In the rich man's world
Aha-ahaaa

All the things I could do If I had a little money
It's a rich man's world"
..... ABBA

REUNION GROUPS



Have you ever said the words "thank you" to someone and felt that it didn't even touch the sides of how you really feel??? That's how I felt when I started to write

this article ~ you see, I wanted to start off by saying "thank you" to a handful of people, and they are those who lead our Reunion Groups, but when I thought of how selflessly they run these groups every month without much recognition, probably little thanks and with no pay, I felt a mere "thank you" was just not significant enough!!! Yes, their rewards will be in Heaven, but I don't think it would hurt to shout out a huge "thank you" to them while we are still all together on this earth, so, to everyone who leads a Reunion Group, we thank you for your tireless efforts, for doing it in love, and for serving our great God in the ways He has chosen you to.

For our new Pilgrims, I'd like to let you know just how important Reunion Groups are ~ it is a place where you will be welcomed with the love of God, and the love and friendship of others in the group ~ you will be accepted for who you are without any expectations placed on you, and without judgement, or criticism ~ you will be supported, encouraged, listened to and best of all, prayed for in a safe place ~ you can be completely yourself, laugh with others, cry with others (and believe me, there is much of both laughing and crying that happens in a group, just ask Sandra Smith!!!) and share anything and everything with people who you know will respect your privacy and confidentiality ~ remember when you were told that "everything that's said on a Walk stays on the Walk"??? ~ well it works exactly the same way in a Reunion Group ~ "what's said in the group, stays in the group", so can I encourage you to join a group, if you haven't already done so, and see for yourself just how special these groups can be ~ you can ask anyone within the Emmaus Community about the groups they are in, or even how you can join one, or come and have a chat to me at any of the Gatherings throughout the year ~ you will also find on page 5 of this newsletter the locations and the contact details of the leaders of each group ~ you will be sure to find one close to you.

Till next time, take care and be blessed to be a blessing!!!

Lynne Le Franc
Reunion Group Director

UNWRAP THE GIFT INSIDE YOU

by Sheri Rose Shepherd

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!"
— **2 Corinthians 9:15**

There is something about a pretty package wrapped in a beautiful ribbon that puts a smile on our face. It adds an element of surprise to our day as we wonder what's inside the gift. Is it something we want or need? Is the Gift something we asked for?

Our God gave us two gifts that we cannot live without. He gave us His only Son which offers the gift of eternal life to all who receive it. The manger scene is extraordinary in every way. However, we will never know the true value of this treasured moment when heaven came down to earth, if we don't open up and receive Jesus into our hearts.

But the giving does not stop there.

The Second gift is the gift our God placed inside of us the moment we took our first breath. It is our personal gifting and talents that were designed to bring great Joy to Him and those around us. Many times we want to return our God-given gift because we can't see their true value or meaning in us and it isn't until we give it away or use it for God's Glory that we can truly see the beauty and effect our gift can have.

You are His treasure and you have a precious gift that is ready to be opened.

I pray that you would unwrap all that the Lord is waiting to watch you open. Invite the Holy Spirit to give you creative ways to share the gifts that cost nothing but bring blessings and Joy to those around you.

His Love Letter to You

My Beloved Child,
I have placed a gift inside your soul that will bring you great joy and purpose. It's hidden behind dreams waiting to be pursued; swallowed up by daily distractions and drowned out by disappointment. When you are ready to open your heart to me and receive from your heavenly Father, I will unwrap the hopes and dreams and reveal what I have been waiting to give you for such a long time! So don't be afraid to believe that I am the Giver of every good and perfect gift and the gift I offer you is everlasting, priceless and can never be taken from you.

Love,

Your Gift-giving Lord

"God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

— **1 Peter 4:10**

THE POWER OF PRAYER

RICHARD GILFILLAN

Who am I?

"Have you ever asked yourself this question?
Can I conceal myself for evermore?
Must I lie?
How can I ever face my fellow men?
How can I ever face myself again?
 Who am I? There's that question again!!!
My soul belongs to God, I know.....He gave me hope
when hope was gone,
He gave me strength to journey on.....
 Who am I? Who am I? Who am I?"

These words are from 'Les Miserablés' sung by ex-prisoner Jean Valjean (Prisoner 24601), who, after breaking parole has been hunted for decades by the ruthless policeman Javert, and thinks he is on the brink of being discovered by him.

Putting the movie aside for a moment (by the way, I love this movie), have you ever asked yourself about your identity in Christ?

Who am I in Christ? One of the best ways to defeat the enemy's influence is to declare who you are in Christ. Make it part of your prayer time each day, or a morning declaration, or at any time you feel under attack.

Here are a few examples (others can be found in Freedom in Christ, (c) 2006 by Neil Anderson).

I am God's Child (John 1:12)
 I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
 I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child (Ephesians 1:3-8)
 I am complete in Christ (Colossians 2: 9-10)
 I am free from condemnation (Romans 8:1-2)
 I am a citizen of Heaven (Philippians 3:20)
 I can find grace and mercy in time of need (Hebrews 4:16)
 I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me (1 John 5:18)
 I am God's temple (1 Corinthians 3:16)
 I am God's co-worker (2 Corinthians 6:1)
 I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13)

Can I encourage you to make these declarations out loud as you pray?

Who am I? Who am I? I am ————— (insert your name here), a child of the King of Kings and part of His royal family; a citizen of heaven and a warrior in the battle.

Be blessed as you pray and intercede for others and declare your identity in Christ.

In my role as Community Prayer Director I have the enormous privilege of co-ordinating the prayer network for Western Sydney Emmaus and Sydney Regional Chrysalis. This means that people can send in prayer requests to me which will then be posted to the members of our prayer network who will pray into the matter. Another thrill I have is praying through the prayer vigils for Australian and overseas walks, Chrysalis flights and Kairos weekends.

In review, 2012 saw once again nearly 200 faithful prayer warriors joining forces to pray and intercede for our community members. Just in the last half year of 2012 alone, over 120 different prayer requests were offered up by the community – such as surgery, grief and loss, relationships / family matters, engagements / weddings / anniversaries, medical tests, employment, spiritual warfare, travel / safety, cancers and just general life struggles.

About 30% of these requests have been sent out to the community as an update and/or praise point – Hallelujah! These are only the praise points that I receive – so please keep them coming – they greatly encourage the community.

For example, we have seen great answers to prayer for:

- ✓ employment after months without work,
- ✓ tests for melanoma that come back clear,
- ✓ successful surgery and subsequent recovery,
- ✓ safe birth of babies (even if premature – gaining strength),
- ✓ ultrasounds and X Rays showing no issues and
- ✓ a father discharged home from hospital with home care of the same language group.

Amazing works of God indeed. Be encouraged! Your prayers are making a difference.
 Thank you!

If you want to send through a prayer request / praise point, join the prayer network or take part in the Emmaus Walk and Chrysalis Flight Prayer Vigils please email me through the website www.emmaus.org.au which will automatically onforward it to gilfillanr@bigpond.com

De Colores
Richard Gilfillan



Gatherings' Roster **Group Leaders**

Have you checked the Roster?

[Click](#) Here:

- ✓ Can attend?
 - ⇒ Please bring milk.
- ✓ Can't attend?
 - ⇒ swap with another group
 - ⇒ advise Director
- ✓ Details incorrect?
 - ⇒ advise Director

Your Reunion Group Director for 2013 is
Lynne LeFranc

DATES TO REMEMBER

Gatherings

| | | |
|----------|---------------------|---------|
| Feb 2nd | Mar 2nd, | Apr 6th |
| May 4th, | Jun 1st, | Jul 6th |
| Aug 3rd, | Sep 7th | Oct 6th |
| Nov 2nd, | Dec 7th (Christmas) | |

Nat. Secretariat: 3 — 5 May
Incl. Mega Gathering 4 May

Chrysalis Flights: 11—14 July

Emmaus Walks:
Men's Walk 88 10—13 Oct
Ladies' Walk 89 17— 20 Oct

Because Life is Better in Community

REUNION GROUPS

| GROUP NAME | CONTACT | PHONE/ EMAIL |
|---|--|---|
| Blue Mountain Mistrals 7.30pm last Monday every other month | Helen Drew 30 Sunland Cres, Mt Riverview | 02 4739-3224 mailto:helen@helendrew.com.au |
| Currency Creekers Meets 1st Saturday of Month 3pm | Suzanne McKane, 42 Mitchell Drive, Glossodia | 4576 6848. mailto:rsmckane@optusnet.com.au |
| Emu Eagles Meet 2nd Tuesday of Month 7.30pm | Keith Stubbs | mailto:k.c.stubbs@optusnet.com.au |
| Glenhaven Ravens Agape only | Helen McGrath 15 Batavia Pl, Baulkham Hills | 02 9674-5659 mailto:helen@jigsaw.com.au |
| Kurrajong Bellbirds Agape only | Jo Prunty 20 Dabage Pl Kurrajong Heights | 02 4767 7152 mailto:pruntyfamily@hotmail.com |
| Macarthur Razorbacks Monthly 2nd Saturday pm | Peter & Gerie Watson 9 Old Hume Highway, Camden | 02 4655-6135 mailto:geriewatson@gmail.com |
| Rainbow Rivers Monthly 3rd Saturday | Kathryn Smith 27 Livingston Ave. Dharruk | 0409 368891 mailto:kathryn.smith1960@yahoo.com.au |
| Western Wildflowers Meet 2nd Saturday of the Month for Breakfast 8am Venue changes | Allan Farrey 39 Fleurs St, Minchinbury | 02 9675-3590 mailto:afarrey@bigpond.net.au |
| Western Wombats Meet last Wednesday of the Month 7.30pm | Jenine Mendezona 68 Richmond Rd, Cambridge Park | 02 4721-1393 mailto:jeninemendezona@optusnet.com.au |
| Chrysalis' Glad Rap Meet 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm | Adrian & Rose Harriott 90 Lennox street, Richmond 2753 | 0401 347 078 mailto:arharriott@gmail.com |

*Please remember when making agape, that you include the Bible reference.
Please contact our Agape Director, Rosemary King, if you need assistance, ideas, etc.*

Walks, Flights and Airports

The Upper Room:

FAA (Federal Airports Association)

The Upper Room Model:

FAA Flight Plan

Board of Directors:

Airline

Conference Room Team:

Cockpit and cabin crew

Behind the Scenes Coordinator:

Tower

Board Rep:

Black Box

Behind the Scenes Servants:

Ground crew

Conference Room:

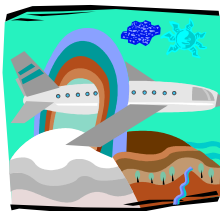
Airplane

Pilgrims/Caterpillars:

Passengers; all are first class

Sponsor:

Person who drops you off at the airport and picks you up



- ✓ The entire Flight Crew is fully trained.
- ✓ All training is done the same way following standard policies.
- ✓ Behind the Scenes takes care of all passenger needs; luggage, food, aircraft – before, during and after the flight (at take-off, during flight and at landing).
- ✓ When the door is closed, the flight (weekend) starts and the plane is cloistered – no relationship with ground crew.
- ✓ Flight Crew must follow model (FAA rules).
- ✓ Only flight crew takes care of passengers during the flight.
- ✓ All passenger needs are taken care of by Flight Crew.
- ✓ Everyone is asked to turn off their cell phones for the entire flight.
- ✓ Passengers will catch the flight which best suits their travelling requirements.
- ✓ Airline (Board) can cancel flight if there are too few passengers.
- ✓ The Holy spirit is the Holy Spirit.



Music/Entertainment

Greetings Emmaus family.

A short plea for help. If you would like to help out with the sound mixing or the overhead (I.T), training can be provided.



If you would love to play in the band, and/or lead worship, we need to hear from you.

If enough people volunteer to help, then you would only have to be on roster once or twice in a year; enabling you to come to the other gatherings, sit back and enjoy.

Please See me at the next gathering.

De Colores

Liz Bates



Chrysalis

Sponsorship and our Young People.



Where are our young people and are they ready for tomorrow's world NOW? Is God in their lives through all of this?

Chrysalis is about bringing their relationship with Christ into focus in spite of all the world's distractions and mischief. On their flight with Christ, they are given time to meet Him on their terms with their questions in a way that is real to them. They do this with other young people asking similar questions and with a team that is both young and no so young, who want to show them Christ's 'hands and feet'.

If you know a young adult, 17 to 24 who wants to know Christ more, then prayerfully consider sponsoring them for Flights 39 and 40 being held in July at Merroo.

Fly with Christ!

Pete Smith

www.westernsydneyemmaus.org.au/sydney-regional-chrysalis

registrar@westernsydneyemmaus.org.au



THE PURPOSE OF EMMAUS

The purpose of Emmaus is the renewal of the Church as the body of the risen Christ in the world, through the renewal of church members as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ.

Emmaus expands participants' spiritual lives, deepens their discipleship, and rekindles their gifts as Christian leaders in their churches and communities. These aims are accomplished not only during the three-day Emmaus Walk, but also through participation in group reunions and community Gatherings, sponsorship and support of Walks, and service on teams.

Persons whose spiritual lives are renewed and strengthened through Emmaus are called to share the grace they receive in their community and to be leavening influences in their local churches. The purpose of Emmaus is not fully realised during the three days of the event itself, but, rather, in the Fourth Day.

The above extract was taken from the Australian Emmaus primary site. For full details, visit www.emmaus.org.au

We're on the web:

National Emmaus:

www.emmaus.org.au

Western Sydney Emmaus:

www.westernsydney.emmaus.org.au

We are also on Facebook.

Sydney Regional Chrysalis

www.facebook.com/sydneyregionalchrysalis

International Emmaus:

www.upperroom.org

**GOD
DOES NOT CALL
THE QUALIFIED,
HE QUALIFIES THE
CALLED.**

2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Com. Lay Director | Pat Kinnear |
| Spiritual Director: | T.B.A. |
| Secretary: | Laraine Monaghan |
| Treasurer: | Mark Creighton |
| Prayer : | Richard Gilfillan |
| Gatherings: | Gary Morris |
| IT: | Steve McGrath |
| Music: | Liz Bates |
| Reunion Groups: | Lynne Le Franc |
| Newsletter: | Sandra Smith |
| Agape: | Rosemary King |
| Facilities: | Terry Boddy |
| Kitchen: | Jenine Mendezona |
| Registrar: | Russell McKane |
| Training: | Bill Harper |
| Chrysalis Director | Peter Smith |

From the Editor

If you would like to see something in particular addressed in this publication, or if you have an article you would like to submit, please contact the Editor via our web address. All articles are thankfully received, but the Editor reserves the right to discard any item submitted if not deemed suitable, or edit any article printed in this publication.

Please address ALL correspondence to:

**The Secretary,
Western Sydney Emmaus,
PO Box 423,
St Marys NSW 1790**