



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM®

Emmaus Western Sydney Newsletter

April 2014

Welcome to our new Newsletter Format

We are changing our Newsletter format because we want our community to be more actively involved with the newsletter by reading it and sharing it with others in an effort to promote our objective; "To encourage Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being a servant of all."

This new format is intended to be an encouragement to past sponsors and to many who have not yet sponsored a friend. We hope the life changing experiences of the pilgrims we interview will convince us all, that we can make a difference as long as we make an effort to sponsor.

An Interview with David Walk 90

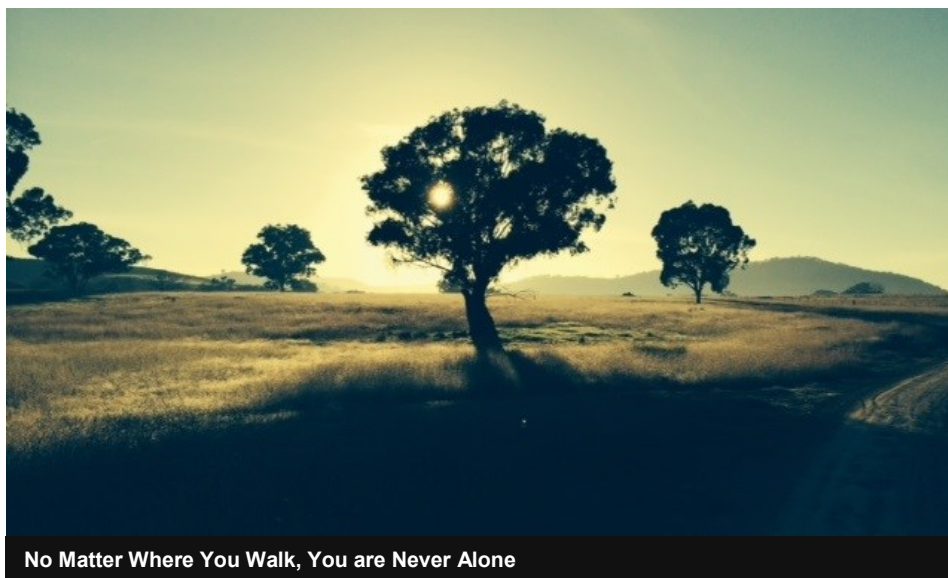
Did you go to Emmaus with any expectations?

I suppose I went with an open mind but deep, deep down wanted to find the key (if that's the right word) that would open my eyes and more importantly my heart. BUT from the start I always thought I was not worthy in God's eyes.

Why would he want to chose me? Why would he want to take notice of me?....I was unworthy and to be honest, not in a good space with myself and Him!!

"I went to Emmaus with an understanding that this was going to be a weekend where I would have to "work" at my faith (if I really, truly had any!!), rather than just turning up and going to Church on a Sunday. "

- David C



No Matter Where You Walk, You are Never Alone

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And in the Morning

PRAYER VIGIL

You Can Make a Difference

The local Emmaus community provides prayer support for the entire Walk, the pilgrims, and the team by organising and filling a 72-Hour Prayer Vigil. With the Prayer Chapel Coordinator's encouragement, community members sign up on a chart for half-hour time slots during the Emmaus weekend.

The Prayer Vigil chart gives pilgrims a tangible sign of the loving support of many on their behalf, especially when they see the names of persons who have pledged to interrupt their schedules or to get up at various hours of the night to pray for them.

Was there one "ah ha" moments during the walk that has had a significant impact on you?

The walk did change my faith but it was clear that there was a lot of personal baggage that I had to own up to, had to face in real terms and it was the clear love from all that turned the tide for me.

All of the Emmaus community who made the agape had no idea of who I was. Had no understanding of my limited relationship with God. Had only love and messages of support. So in the end, I realised that I was not really alone.

When I stood in front of the cross that day and threw my bit of paper into that bowl believing that my sins would be forgiven was my turning point. My real belief that I was not alone. Perhaps I could let go of the past, stop beating myself up, trust someone who had the power and authority to make me a better man, give me a strong well to draw from without feeling guilty.

Can you share one of those moment with our readers?

When we went for our special walk Saturday night up to the other hall, seeing several people from my church **really brought home that fact that "others cared"**.

One person in particular was going through such a bad time with her father. To me, **what right did I have to be the person that I was.**

I thought about my wife and daughter **but it was my son and the relationship that I had with him that brought me home! I could either keep going the way that I was or trust in God and put my life in his hands.** I just had to believe.....that was it!!

Has the relationship you have with others changed?

My relationship with my whole family is better, with my son, it is improving with time. This still remains a WIP but starts from a much more positive base than where I was before.

Would I sponsor someone else?

Absolutely. I fully believe my wife would benefit greatly from her own Emmaus walk. All I can say is "watch her space" if she gets the opportunity to share this walk with others and watch her become stronger out the other side!!!

When was the last time you went to a gathering.

The next one is the 3rd of May at Christ Church Anglican Blacktown.

Hope to see you there.

I Need Your Help!

There are a thousand stories to be told, life changing experiences to be shared and each of you know someone just like David who can help us change the world, one life at a time!

Update From Our Community Lay Director

I hope you all had a nice break over Christmas and New Year and are rested ready for a new and exciting 2014.

A little bit about me were have I been and what have I been doing the last six years or so. After I stepped down from Community Lay Director I was appointed National Lay Director this was another big learning curve for me as I wasn't just a fellow CLD anymore I was to lead all my peers and that was scary and to lead the Nat Board and to work as a team.

God gave me a vision of what he wanted me to do in those three years so I shared it with my Board and they all worked with me to achieve it. One thing we needed to do was to come back to the original intent of Emmaus "back to basics" was my pet theme, hence why you guys think we have changed things! No we haven't we are now doing thing the right way from the Handbook. Another big job we took on was to make the 3 day schedule Australian and it took 2 years to do so after authorisation from the Upper Room and we are using it to-day.

I then stepped down from NLD to take on Regional Rep for Asia Pacific which includes Australia, Fiji, N.Z, Philippines, Malaysia and coming up PNG. Of course now also CLD of WS, Yes, I am a busy man but I have a great Board that will do their job well, I also have an accountability/prayer group for support.

I know the Board has already been working hard this year with changeover of rols and new members on the board. I have set a few challenges for them as individual rols and as a team and they have taken them on with expectance and enthusiasm, as a Board we are looking to do things right, be proactive and lead WS community into an exciting place to be where others will say I want to be part of that.

This year I intend to feed the community as much information I can about Emmaus, what we do and why we do it that way from the Handbook and other manuals I want our community to be an informed community not doing it because we told to but because we know why it's done that way. I want to keep this short so I will sign off now.

De Colores

Bill Harper

Community Lay Director

Feedback

We love feedback and suggestions. So if you have any ideas for updating our community please contact us.

I Need Your Help!

We all do from time to time, so please don't be afraid to let us know how as a community we can be praying for you.

From Our Community Prayer Director

When do you pray?

First thing in the morning? When you go to bed? Or do you decide to pray at a particular time and then, when that time is eaten up by the pressures of the day, give up and tell yourself that you'll do it "tomorrow"? I think that many of us fall into that latter category, so I would like to encourage you with an article I have been reading entitled "Being a Blessing", by the author Wesley Duewel in "Touch the World Through Prayer", which was included in the devotional reader "Come Boldly – Timeless Daily Encouragements on Prayer". The article reads (in part):

As a Christian, you should go through life blessing others. You can bring streams of blessing, refreshment and encouragement wherever you go just by punctuating your days with unceasing prayer for others. As time and opportunity permit, you should bless in every possible way as many as you can (Galatians 6:10). Your presence should always be a blessing. But this will be most true if you are faithfully asking for God's blessing on all [those] about you. You can find opportunities to fill your day with prayers of blessing if you are observant.

If you are a regular "pray-er", please continue – we all need your blessings. But if you can't quite make that regular time, please pray whenever you find a spare moment – on the train, in the car (eyes open, please), in the shower (after all, God made us *au naturel*), walking down the street (open those eyes again), waiting for the doctor, in the queue at the checkout. God just loves to hear from you and get that line of communication going. You never know what/who he might put in your path.

And don't forget to pray for our Walks. The teams have started training and the blessings from your prayers are most appreciated. Both team and pilgrims also need your prayers on the weekend. Make sure you sign up for our Prayer Vigils – why not get right into "blessing mode" and sign up for several slots. And, of course, you can pray at any time over the weekend, even if it's not your scheduled time – Extra Blessing! And the middle of the night – BLESSING, BLESSING! The Prayer Vigils will be available at the Gathering – get in now to avoid the rush. Or you can email me at pdkinnear@gmail.com or phone 0414-375494 to reserve a space.

De Colores

Pat Kinnear

Community Prayer Director

Thank You Pat

The Board of Directors wanted to express their thanks and gratitude for the service Pat Kinnear has provided the Western Sydney Emmaus Community as our past Community Lay Director.

Social Media Update

If you have not yet visited our page on Facebook I encourage you to take the time to like our page and any of the posts we post on this site.

While our newsletter has a communication purpose so does our Facebook page.

Starting from next month there will be regular snippets posted on this site aimed at keeping you informed as to what is happening in our community including photographs (without tags) from our gatherings, board meetings and special training days.

So, if you have something you think will be of value then please send it to me and I will ensure all appropriate content is posted on the site.

Comments are welcomed but we ask they be focused on the purpose behind the Walk to Emmaus.

Links

[Reunion Groups](#)

[Forms](#)

[Kitchen Corner](#)

[Agape](#)

[Rosters](#)

[Gatherings](#)

[Facebook](#)

Isaiah 2: 3



Many peoples will come and say, "Come let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

Board of Directors

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