



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM®

Emmaus Western Sydney Newsletter

September 2014

October Walks

Registration numbers for the women's October Walk has exceeded the minimum registration number and will proceed as planned.

Importantly there is still time to sponsor additional pilgrims, so if you know someone who has shown some interest, now is a perfect time to sponsor them.

Let's concentrate on making Walk 90 an outstanding success.

Unfortunately sponsorship for the Men's walk was lower than expected necessitating the Walk's postponement.

Planning Meeting Outcomes

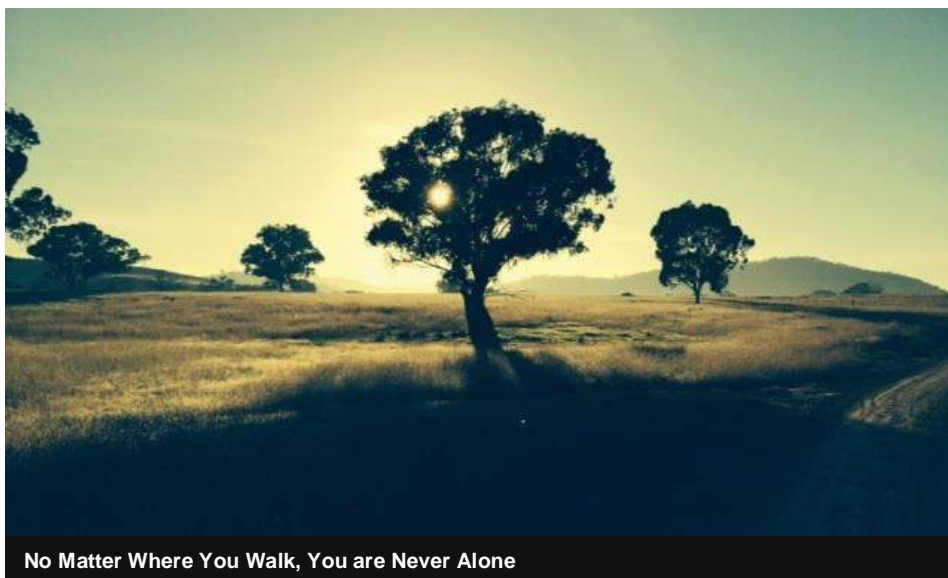
From the planning meeting held in July and the online survey the team developed a comprehensive report which summarised the findings and provided a directional outline which was delivered to the Board at the last Board meeting. The report outlined recommendations for three key areas for moving forward.

The Board acting on these recommendation formed three sub-subcommittees to assess these three issues and make recommendations to the Board of actions that need to be taken. The committees are as follows;

- Engagement
- Sponsorship
- Promotion

Key Reflections

"Emmaus is not a three day walk but a fourth day movement that encourages pilgrims to become disciples of Christ who return to their church and play a more active role in ministry"



No Matter Where You Walk, You are Never Alone

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Planning Meeting!

On July 5th 35 members of the Emmaus community gathered at Richmond Uniting Church to discuss how we can reignite the passion for Emmaus.

Seated in groups of 4-6, the participants discussed three key areas – Sponsorship, Engagement and Promotion.

What is working, what's not and ideas for improvement were discussed across the four hours with lots of valuable input provided by all.

At the end of day, each group chose the top three ideas/suggestions they believed would make a difference. These were then weighted to identify the top three /four ideas from the collective.

Below are the summaries of these three areas, with the top three/four highlighted.

These ideas will be used as the bases for the development of an action plan to be submitted to the Board by the three subcommittees looking at Engagement, Sponsorship and Promotion.

Weighted Top 3 - Engagement

Stay connected/in touch	60	20	10	90
Personal relationship		20		20
Working with Table Group	30	20	10	60
Know who you sponsor	30	20		50
Looking after Pilgrim		20		20
Group Sponsorship	60		10	70
Need to make gatherings special		20	10	30
Engage with Pilgrim pre and post	30			30
Hospitality			10	10

Next Steps

- Create sub committees to address three key areas – engagement, sponsorship and promotion.
- Led by Board member – solicit members at Gatherings
- Use top answers as priorities for committee– can bring other suggestions to table.
- Develop a plan including timings and costs for presentation to Board – December 2014.

Weighted Top 3 - Sponsorship

Sponsor Booklet online		20		20
Community members able to answer questions on sponsorship			10	10
Sponsor need to be involved in own churches	180		10	190
Have a checklist – how to ask, what to do afterwards		60	10	70
Sponsoring is a journey not a function			40	40
Give leaflets to potential sponsors		20		20
Ensure pilgrims understand the confidentiality around the walk – they are safe	30			30
Letters about quality not quantity		40	10	50

Weighted Top 3 - Promotion

Use social media - YouTube	30			30
103.2 Interviews. Gatherings promoted on community noticeboard	60	20	10	90
Testimonies Booklet		20		20
Regular Facebook Updates	30		20	50
Member business card, space for name		20		20
Updated brochure		20		20
Helping with cost of materials			10	10
Promotional material, revamp and de-USA	30	20	20	70
Material free at gatherings		20		20
Emmaus roadshow			10	10
Group speakers, create talk(s) with PowerPoint etc.	30			30

Points to Ponder (Re-Ignite the Passion)

- Perhaps reunion groups can be encouraged to have a set of Emmaus books and over the coming months review their contents.
- The outcome of Emmaus is people alive for Christ and becoming leaders in their own church. This signals a successful Walk. How can we measure this and see this as our fruit?

From the Community Prayer Director

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem.

¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

Luke 24:13-16

Once again we are approaching a Walk, Women's Walk #90. The team had a great time of training and fellowship last Saturday and has been challenged to keep in touch during an extended time of formation which is offering more opportunities than usual to get to know each other prior to turning their attention to the pilgrims. As usual, people feel that they are being stretched and are relying heavily on our mighty God to see them through.

Whether we recognise it or not, God has given each of us gifts to use in His service. The devotional "Moments of Peace in the Presence of God" puts it this way:

Each one of you is unique and irreplaceable in the eyes of God. And you have been given talents and abilities that are yours alone. The key to achieving satisfaction and success with your talents is to place them always at the service of God. You should ask for his direction and pray for his guidance so you may use your gifts fruitfully and fully in his eyes.

God has a plan for you, and he has equipped you for your journey. Your responsibility is to seek his will for you and to allow him to perfect and refine your talents and abilities until they are functioning as God intended them to function. It is then that you can be sure he will bless the work of your hands.

Have you spent time with God, asking him to let you know what his plan for you is – and listening for his answer?

There will be many opportunities to serve God in Emmaus in the coming months:

Praying – in your regular prayer time as well as on the 72-hour Prayer Vigil

Serving in the kitchen – look for the roster at the Gathering

Helping set up and/or pack away at Gatherings and the Walk

Helping a Board member with their portfolio. (Why not offer to help out instead of waiting to be asked – that would really uplift and encourage the Board!)

Which of these will you use to glorify God?

Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us,

And establish the work of our hands for us;

Yes, establish the work of our hands. (Psalm 90:17 NKJV)

De Colores

Pat Kinnear

Community Prayer Director

From the Community Lay Director

Becoming a Person of Excellence

- One of the most important priorities is to do whatever we do as well as we can
- Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better
- Believe in the best ... have a goal for the best,
 - never be satisfied with less than your best,
 - try your best, and in the long run things will turn out for the best
- Striving for perfection is the greatest stopper there is.
 - It's your excuse to yourself for not doing anything.
 - Instead, strive for excellence, doing your best
- We must overcome the notion that we must be regular.
 - It robs you of the chance to be extraordinary and leads you to the mediocre

Joyce Meyer once said, "Excellent people exceed expectations." In other words, they go the extra mile, they do more than is asked, and they take extra steps to ensure the highest quality. If people were to describe your work, would excellence come to mind or simply mediocrity? Meyer declared that "You can run into mediocrity accidentally but you have to purpose to be excellent." Thus, exercising minimal effort will lead to a mediocre performance at best, but really going above and beyond the call of duty takes a conscious effort.

Colossians 3:17 says, "Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus . . ." and later Paul writes, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward" (Colossians 3:23-24).

Therefore, we are called to strive for excellence in order to be the best testimony for the Lord that we can be. Non-Christians are watching to see what kind of a difference Jesus is making in your life, and you can point others to Him by being diligent in your tasks and being above reproach in your ethics.

Daniel exemplified this spirit during his service as a highly regarded administrator in a secular environment. The Scripture says that "he distinguished himself among the administrators . . . because of his exceptional qualities" so much so that "they could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent" (Daniel 6:3-4).

Excellence does not necessarily mean the absence of mistakes, but it does mean the presence of faith and determination. To be excellent at whatever God has called you to do, you must first ask for His strength to accomplish the task and then, secondly, His endurance to complete it. Daniel was met with obstacles in his endeavour to serve the Lord wholeheartedly, but he remained steadfast to the course of action he believed the Lord set for him to take.

You must also recognize that there is a difference between striving to be perfect versus endeavouring to be excellent. Achieving perfection is an impossible task because it never makes allowances for errors or missteps. Consequently, condemnation and discouragement often follow one's pursuit of perfection because these unrealistic expectations lead to feelings of worthlessness and a sense of inadequacy.

A person who strives for excellence doesn't give up when he makes mistakes, and he doesn't avoid tasks for fear of failure. Helen Keller once wrote, "Be of good cheer. Do not think of today's failures but of the success that may come tomorrow. You have set yourselves a difficult task, but you will succeed if you persevere; and you will find joy in overcoming obstacles. Remember, no effort we make to attain something beautiful is ever lost."

The true goal of excellence is to do the best you can with what you have at every moment. Jim Elliot once said, "Wherever you are--be all there." Make it your ambition to live out your gifts and talents to the fullest. Andrew Carnegie said that "An average person puts only 25% of their energy and ability into their work. The world takes its hat off to those who put more than 50% capacity in, The world stands on its head to those few and far between souls who devote 100%."

Ask the Lord today to help you walk excellently before Him in speech and in service so that you may be more effective in your ministry to others. Who knows--people may even stand on their heads in amazement at what they see!

De Colores
William Harper
Community Lay Director

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.

Some Point to get you Thinking

There has been a lot of talk about the reunion groups and their role in our fourth day movement. Survey results suggest numbers are declining and new pilgrims fail to engage. It has been suggested;

- The name should change to something like Connect Groups
- Groups should be formed from Walks, tables or churches
- Meetings should focus on prayerful support for the members of the group
- Church Groups could develop congregational lists of potential pilgrims

Similarly Sponsoring could;

- A connect group could sponsor rather than an individual
- Sponsoring activities could be shared by members of the group
- Others members of the group could support in other ways
- Walk fees could be paid for by small contributions from each member of a group

Similarly attendance at candle lighting, gatherings and closing ceremonies and rosters could;

- Increase exponentially if a group sponsored
- Increase the experience for all pilgrims
- Rejuvenate the Emmaus Spirit in each of us
- Encourage us to bring God's people home

How Can you Help Re-Ignite the Passion

If you have sponsored someone on an Emmaus Walk ring them up and invite them to the next;

- Candle Lighting
- Closing Ceremony

These events have the capacity to change the lives of pilgrims and the number of people who attend certainly makes a difference.

If your church has a group of people who have been on an Emmaus Walk, get together and make a list of all the people the group knows have not been on a Walk yet, then;

- Share a copy of the list with members of the group
- Offer Prayer for guidance regarding who to approach and who in the group should approach them
- Pray for Emmaus and for God's guidance in re-igniting the Emmaus flame
- Get together as a group once a month and offer prayers in support of each in areas of hardship or need

Talk to a Board member and ask how you can assist by;

- Becoming a member of a sub-committee
- Becoming a Board member
- Playing a more active role in Emmaus
- Make your desire to serve and your gifts known to that Board member

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 at robertmcanderson@onthemark.com.au 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.

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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