



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM

1996 -2020

Celebrating Over Twenty Years in Western Australia.

Perth Emmaus Community Newsletter – DECEMBER 2020



COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

JULIE MARSHALL

Greetings to you all in Perth Emmaus! This 'unprecedented' year of 2020 is rapidly drawing to a close and it's time for some reflection.

While we were disappointed that we couldn't hold our Walks this year, we can be thankful that God protected us here in the West from the horrible effects of Covid19 that other parts of the world and the eastern part of Australia experienced.

Hopefully those of us who have relatives and friends in the east are being reunited where possible for at least part of the Christmas season. Failing that we can appreciate the marvels of modern technology which allow us to stay connected if not within physical touch. I am sure we have all benefitted from these advances in a way we may not have done before this year. For some it was a steep learning curve.

Thank you to all those faithful people who planned and presented the Gatherings this year, both virtual and face to face. It was a pleasure to be involved and to witness the creativity of you all. My personal thanks to the Board members, too, who persisted in their tasks as they were able. I look forward to our first Gathering for 2021 which will be held on February 13th at Billabong Uniting Church.

What does the new year hold for Perth Emmaus? We are trusting God to show us the way clear to hold Walks #67 and #68. We are assured that all necessary steps have been taken to make the campsite Covid19 safe and will make some adjustments of our own to further improve the safety of all participants.

As I said at the last Gathering let us step boldly and confidently into the task of preparation, particularly with regards to sponsorship of those persons whom God is placing on our hearts to invite. Banish fear from our minds and trust God to keep everyone safe and free to enjoy the blessings we all experienced on our own Walk to Emmaus.

I pray you all have a blessed, joyful and peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year.

de Colores

Julie Marshall

Becoming into the likeness of Christ.

One of the values that is important to the philosophy of the Walk to Emmaus is the desire to grow into the likeness of Christ. This is something every Pilgrim is encouraged to pursue in their Fourth Days. It is considered important because focusing on the likeness of Christ revolutionises and matures our lives—it changes and develops us into authentic disciples of Jesus. Our lives are transfigured, and our actions revolutionised.

In the monasteries centuries past, the monks believed that if they meditated on the Crucifix, the marks of the nails would eventually be replicated on their hands and feet and the scars of the thorns would appear on their forehead. And although this seems quite fanciful to us, there is an element of spiritual truth in the practice. It is much the same as the tradition of holding the cross (with its image of the Christ figure) on an Emmaus Walk. Gazing by faith upon this tangible evidence—this representation of God's love—the lines of Christ's beauty gives us confidence in his presence. His peace is printed on our hearts and we are being transformed into his image.

Paul said, *"...all of us who are Christians have no veils on our faces, but reflect like mirrors the glory of the Lord. We are transfigured by the Spirit of the Lord in ever-increasing splendour into his own image."* (2 Cor. 3: 18. J.B. Phillips NT.)

In the word of God, we see the image of Christ—the word acts like a mirror. If we continuously read it, earnestly hold on to it, and apply it to our lives, it will effectively change our lives, transforming us over time, so that we reflect his likeness. This transformation is the work of the Holy Spirit through God's Sanctifying Grace. Our Fourth Day quest is to remain in the word and to meditate on the beauty of the One who is the Word, Christ Jesus our Lord.

When we sit in front of a modern camera, our likeness is digitally captured and stored on a Secure Digital (SD) card or some other electronic storage device. When we sit before Christ, and ponder his word, *we become the camera*—and Christ's image is being imprinted on our heart, transforming us into his likeness.

De Colores.

John Whaley
Community Spiritual Director

Based on ideas from J. B. Phillips New Testament and In Green Pastures, *"The Transforming Look"*.

EMMAUS WEBSITE

Did you know that Emmaus has a website once more? You may have visited the previous <http://www.perth.emmaus.org.au/> and found it to be no longer available. However the good news is, we now have a new website up and running once more, where you can get all the information you need about Emmaus. Visit [mail.logicaldevelopments.com.au/pec](mailto:logicaldevelopments.com.au/pec) to see the new site. This is a just a temporary placeholder, while the new and improved permanent site is being developed. Thanks to Paul and Caroline Mulroney for all their work creating and developing the site.

REUNION GROUPS

PEEL PILGRIMS

2020 has been a good year for us as a small reunion group, meeting most often on the last Sunday of the month, at 2pm at 22 Murdoch, Drive in Singleton. We welcomed two new members in Adrian and Margaret Smith during the year, and we were the hosts for the September Perth Emmaus Gathering.

The NEXT GATHERING will be held on SATURDAY 13th FEBURARY 2021 from 7pm at The Billabong Uniting Church, 40 Liffey Street, Canning Vale

The PEEL PILGRIM REUNION GROUP will be your hosts for the evening.

PLEASE COME and NOT ONLY GIVE US SOME SUPPORT but also START THE YEAR WELL.

De Colores

Eric and Joy Loughton

Joining and participating in a reunion group is a great way to stay connected within the Emmaus community. At the moment there are four reunion groups active across the metropolitan area:

- Willetton Warriors – covering the southern suburbs
- Joondalup Joybells - covering the northern suburbs (Darren – 0404 751 981)
- Hillbillies - covering the eastern suburbs (Heather – 0408 565 315)
- Peel Pilgrims - covering the far southern suburbs (Joy – 0408 675 163)

If you would like some help starting a new group in your area please contact Neal Leggo (0421 747 870), the reunion groups coordinator on the board.

PRAYER DIRECTOR's for LADIES WALK 68

Eric and I would like to send all of the Team for walk 68, AND to ALL of the Perth Emmaus Community a 'HEARTY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you that you still want the Perth Emmaus Community to keep on keeping on, to be alert to your will, and to stand firm and not to be fooled by the things of the world. For we know that you are in control, and the enemy will continue to be held back, until the time is right, in your eyes. Meanwhile help us to be strong and courageous, and to walk in faith and not by sight into the new year and beyond

Thank you Lord for having us in your work, may we be diligent and obedient, so that we can bless you and others as well.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

De Colores and Blessings
Joy and Eric Loughton.

The Board has approved our calendar of events and activities for next year. We are kicking off 2021 with a Gathering on Saturday night **13th February** at The Billabong Uniting Church, 40 Liffey Street, Canning Vale

Start times for Gatherings will generally be 7:00pm (following a successful trial of starting half an hour earlier through this year). There may be some changes forced on us by circumstances beyond our control (like COVID outbreaks!) so bear with us.

Please add these dates to your calendar (digital or traditional) – we would love to see you there! Venues will be added in the next newsletter – once bookings are confirmed.

2021 GATHERINGS

Month	Day	Date	Time	Event
February	Sat	13-Feb-21	7.00pm	Gathering
March	Sat	06-Mar-21	7.00pm	Gathering (& Walk orientation prior)
March	Sat	27-Mar-21	8am	Training 1 – Walk teams
April	Sat	17-Apr-21	8am	Training 2 – Walk teams
April	Sat	24-Apr-21	7.00pm	Gathering
May	Sat	29-May-21	8.00pm	Candlelighting Men's Walk
May	Sun	30-May-21	3.30pm	Closing Gathering Men's Walk
June	Sun	06-Jun-21	8.00pm	Candlelighting Women's Walk
June	Mon	07-Jun-21	3.30pm	Closing Gathering Women's Walk
June/July	Sat	26-Jun-21	6pm	Gathering
August	Sat	21-Aug-21	7.00pm	Gathering
September	Sat	18-Sep-21	7.00pm	Gathering
October	Sat	16-Oct-21	7.00pm	Gathering
November	Sat	20-Nov-21	7.00pm	Gathering

MEN'S LAY DIRECTOR

NEAL LEGGO

Ever since our CLD wrote on 18 March to advise the Community that the walks for 2020 were cancelled, our prayers since have been for the COVID-19 virus to be brought under control.

We are very blessed in WA that we have been spared the worst of it, and the end of the pandemic is in sight. With the Board committing to putting on Walks next year, the community can now start preparing to be a part of it and bring rich blessing to be poured out on a new group of Pilgrims.

As Lay Director for the Men's Walk, cancellation was a substantial disappointment after all the time put into preparing a Team. Turning to Scripture and prayer is a great way to turn around such feelings, and look toward future opportunities to serve our Lord. This has allowed me to volunteer to serve as Lay Director for the Men's Walk of 2021 - which will be held on the last weekend of May at Advent Park.

Many of the 2020 team have indicated to me that they will, or probably would, be able to serve on team again, if and when the event was rescheduled; however with new circumstances others will not. Given all the uncertainty of the last 9 months, I have not been active in team selection to date. But that changes now!

Please pray for myself and the selection committee as we look to form a new team over the next 3 months, ready for training which will commence in March. Also pray for the heart of those who are asked that they will be both available, and feel called, to serve on team. And pray for a great flood of Pilgrims in 2021 - who can be lead on the Emmaus journey towards a wonderful Fourth day.

WOMEN'S LAY DIRECTOR

CATHY O'DEA

Most of the women who agreed to be a part of the 2020 Walk have made themselves available in 2021. The WhatsApp communication has kept us in touch with a few members able to catch up with one another personally during what has been an extraordinary year.

Over summer, with restrictions lifted across Australia, families will be able to reunite. This is such a blessing. Let us hope and pray that the Covid virus situation will remain under control and that a successful and safe vaccine will be available to all Australians in 2021.

This year has taught us many things and afforded us time for reflection and awareness of our Lord's closeness and love. So much seems to fade into insignificance when we are faced with some of the things we have experienced this year because of Covid 19.

Please join the women of the 2020-21 Ladies Walk team in prayer as membership is reviewed and finalised.

Please pray too for the Board as they consider walks and the logistics that need to be implemented in light of changes needed for health and safety reasons.

As an Emmaus community, let us pray that the walks can go ahead so that pilgrims can experience through grace, a new revelation of what it means to be a child of God.

My name is Joy Loughton, and I come to this role with the hope of having the support of the community, to do a great job. I wish to thank Heather Haggerty for her great organization abilities and leaving the role in good order. Also to her support workers, trusting that they will continue to back me up, by showing me their sewing and crocheting abilities among other things, as they have Heather.

Now as we approach 2021, and the May Walks, let us all be encouraged and delight in the Lord's work, even more than before. In harder times He shows us our weaknesses and provides the strength for us to endure. Hence, I ask you ALL to spend a little time in

- **Prayer** for the Community's health, wellbeing, eagerness and willing servanthood: The Board and their roles.
- **Thinking about your availability** – before the Lord as you wait on Him, knowing that he has you in Emmaus to be used for His glory and purpose.

As the requests are made from time to time, PLEASE put your talents to good use to assist the various board members to fulfil their roles, so that we all together, can moved forward to the next year's walks with confidence and faithfulness.

As the AGAPE director on the Perth Board, I would like to say two things:

1. To the Reunion Groups who make Agape, I will be in touch with your leader in the New Year, to hear of your plans of what agape pieces you may be thinking of making for the year's walks. If you are having a leader change, please inform me.
2. To any small groups or individuals who make Agape, PLEASE be in touch WITH ME, as to what you are planning to accomplish for the Walk's agape pieces.

Also

3. SPONSORSHIP – is an act of Agape (I think), and of servanthood as well. * PRAY for guidance as to WHO the Lord wants you to invite, as you source an Application form and information about what the Pilgrim will need to know about the weekend walk. Educate yourselves to your sponsor roles, and how you an bless them.
4. FINALLY : PILGRIM's are ESSENTIAL, for a successful Walk.
 SPONSOR's are ESSENTIAL for a successful Walk.
 TEAM's are ESSENTIAL, for a successful Walk.
 SUPPORT CREWS are ESSENTIAL for successful Walks.
 The BOARD roles are ESSENTIAL for successful Walks.
 AGAPE are little 'God Hugs' ESSENTIAL for successful Walks.

De Colores

Joy Loughton.

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