



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM



1996 - 2023

Perth Emmaus Community Newsletter

March 2023

Welcome to 2023!

Welcome everyone to our first newsletter for the year 2023, may this year be the year we put our Lord and Saviour front and centre in our lives, by always praying 'yet not I, but through Christ in me.'

GATHERING DATES

*Come – Sing – Listen –
Share – Fellowship –
Reunite*

*The following
Gatherings are at
South Perth Uniting
5 Sandgate St
(corner Angelo St)
South Perth.*

MARCH

Sat. 25th at 7pm

APRIL

Sat. 22nd 7pm

MAY

Sat. 27th 7pm

As we all know our Ladies Lay Director for this year's Walk in September is Sonia McNicol as this was announced at the closing of last year's Ladies Walk.

We were unable to announce the Men's Walk Lay Director then, but God has answered our prayer for a Men's Walk Lay Director in Neal Leggo, I pray that the time of gathering their team's together may be a truly Blessed journey in their lives.

The Team selection Team has met, and the LD's are now inviting people to be on their Team.

So, I would like to suggest that every Emmaus person be prayerfully thinking about each Walk and how you may be able to be a part of them, by being on Team, helping in the Kitchen, cleaning rooms, decorating for the Saturday night dinner, morning and afternoon tea, washing Table clothes & Tea towels, we need many helpers over the two weekends.

And most importantly we need you all to sponsor someone, as without Pilgrims we cannot hold the walks. And this is very hard on the people that miss out because there wasn't enough for the walks to go ahead.

The National Secretariat Conference is happening again this year on the 31st of March til 3rd April in Toowoomba, this will be the first on site catch up for 2 years. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend, so I will have to hear about it afterwards and bring you any news that comes out of the Conference later. There are still a few Emmaus communities within Australia, that haven't been able to hold a Walk since Covid hit, so we are truly Blessed.

They are Holding a virtual Emmaus Walk in Australia for the first time this year, so it will be very interesting to see how it goes, as they are suggesting that all Australian Emmaus Communities hold a Virtual Walk each year as well as their normal Walks.

I would love to see as many people as possible come to our gatherings each Month, to celebrate together what it has meant to be on the Walk to Emmaus, and what it has created in your fourth day Journey.

I look forward to seeing you there.

De Colores

Heather Haggerty
Community Lay Director
Perth Emmaus Community
0408565315
cld@perth.emmaus.org.au



Bringing others to Jesus: John 4: 4-42

One of the most beautiful stories of grace and acceptance is found in John's Gospel. In chapter four, we find Jesus tired from his journey sitting by the well – it was during the heat of the day and Jesus was thirsty.

Presently a woman came by, and Jesus asked her for a drink. It is such a simple request that we might not realize the significance of it. But this basic invite proved to be groundbreaking, esteem building and life changing. This simple request honored this person's value and changed her life forever.



We need to understand that in this cultural setting men did not address women (Note the disciples' reaction in Vv 27). Furthermore, this lady was a Samaritan and "Jews do not associate with Samaritans" (Vv9). And if that's not enough to persuade Jesus to keep His distance, this woman is an outcast; a person of questionable morality (Vv16-18).

Jesus abandons convention and uses the water from the well to lead into a conversation about "Living water". "People soon become thirsty again after drinking this water", He says, "But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life." (Vv13 – NLT)

As a result of Jesus supernatural ability to disclose her life story, the woman finds this living water Jesus is offering.

What is astounding is the immediate response of this woman to Jesus. Without delay she was compelled to bring others to experience the grace she had found. As a result, many Samaritans believed, not because of secondhand hearsay, but because of their own personal encounter with "the Revealer of Mysteries" (Daniel 2: 29 – NIV) which leads to faith.

One of the most important tasks in Emmaus is sponsorship (It could arguably be the most important). It is our opportunity to bring others to Jesus and to allow them to experience the grace and acceptance we have enjoyed on our Emmaus Walk. Therefore, it is something that must be taken very seriously. Prayer is the basis for the Emmaus movement and primary for the job of sponsoring Pilgrims. Ask God to reveal who He would have you invite and be prepared to do the work of a good sponsor. Who knows maybe your Pilgrim's response after finding a deeper communion with Christ on this year's walk will be, "Now we believe because we have heard him ourselves, not just because of what you told us. He is indeed the Savior of the world." (John 4: 42)

John Whaley
Spiritual Director

A Commitment to Sponsorship

“Wise sponsorship is purposeful and prayerful; unwise sponsorship is haphazard and non-discerning. Wise sponsorship eventually will produce a balanced, theologically centered movement of the Holy Spirit.

Unwise sponsorship eventually will produce a harvest that becomes more of a burden than a blessing for the church.”

Sponsorship is the most important job in Emmaus

Sponsorship is the lifeblood of our community. We all want a positive weekend to take place and the Pilgrim to start off correctly. Regardless of how you were sponsored, we all need to consider how to and whom to sponsor. We really need to focus on the important details of sponsoring a candidate to an Emmaus event.

First consideration in sponsoring is prayer; you should be in prayer for the individual that God is leading you to approach about the Walk. If married, you should be willing to sponsor both husband and wife. Sponsoring even one person in the nurturing love of the community is a time-consuming activity. Will the added burden of sponsoring another person on the same Walk compromise your ability to be a good sponsor? Perhaps you could obtain someone to co-sponsor in order that all the responsibilities of sponsorship are adequately met.

Why do we sponsor pilgrims on the walk to Emmaus?

The aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalisation to Christians who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the Body of Christ.

Who do I sponsor?

Emmaus is for active Christians and members of churches whose own renewal will mean new energy, commitment, and vision in the church and everyday environments for Christ’s sake. There are several qualities a prospective pilgrim should possess:

- First, the person should already be on a pilgrimage, willing to grow and move forward in their journey of faith.
- Second, the person should have a Christian passion. The pilgrim knows God can make and has made a difference in their life.
- Third, the person isn’t so consumed by life’s circumstances that they are unable to give full attention to the message and experience of Emmaus.

Have you considered sponsoring the following:

- church leaders (pastors and laypersons) who will bring new vision, commitment, and understanding back to their congregations and who need the renewal and grace Emmaus channels;
- dependable church members who are the quiet backbone of the church;
- less active members who need their awareness of grace rekindled and their commitments renewed;
- Christians who are hungry for “something more” and who want to grow spiritually;
- Respected laypersons and clergypersons whose participation, support, and leadership will encourage others to attend the Walk and will build a sound, balanced leadership base for the movement in the community; and
- members of diverse congregations, denominations, and ethnic groups.

Emmaus is right for many people – *but not for everyone*. The religious background or emotional condition of some people may make Emmaus an improper discipleship tool for them. Others may be unsuitable for sponsorship because of the negative effect they might have on an Emmaus weekend or the divisive influence they might bring to the church. Sponsorship requires sensitivity to these factors.

Some examples of questionable sponsorship are as follows:

- Non-Christians;
- Christians whose theology and/or practice is notably different or incompatible with the traditional theology and practice represented by The Walk to Emmaus;
- persons undergoing an emotional crisis (for example, family breakup, job loss, severe grief) or who are psychologically unstable;
- “church-hoppers” – those who always have an axe to grind against the church; persons who will use Emmaus as a tool to divide the body, to further their own theological agendas, or who will create an “Emmaus church”
- persons who are always looking for another spiritual high or another experience to help them “arrive”.

A potential sponsor need not feel like a failure if a prospect says no. Perhaps the timing is not right. Perhaps God will renew the person in another way. Remember, The Walk to Emmaus is not the way to renewal for every Christian.

How do I sponsor?

1. **Pray** for the person’s openness to God’s call to discipleship, not for how to get him or her to go on a Walk.
2. **Extend an invitation.** Invite the person to attend for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ, not just an event to go to. Share your faith; explain the basic elements of the Walk, its purpose, and follow-up dimensions, which help us live in grace for the rest of our lives. Take the attitude that you are offering the person a wonderful gift rather than that they need to go.
3. Ask the person to make a commitment by **filling out the registration form.**
4. **Continue to pray** for your prospective pilgrim. Once the pilgrim has been assigned to a Walk, begin your preparations and enlist the support of their pastor. Please make sure that all preparations for your pilgrim’s weekend are properly taken care of. Be sure you understand what forms of agape are appropriate for the weekend.
5. **Support** the Walk through your participation in the 72-Hour Prayer Vigil and your presence at Sendoff, Candlelight and Closing. Support the pilgrim’s family by house-sitting, baby-sitting, feeding pets, watering plants, or just checking in with a spouse to see if any help is needed. For this reason it is best not to sponsor more than one pilgrim or a couple at a time.
6. **Encourage** the pilgrim in his or her Fourth Day involvement. Talk to them about their weekend experience. Help the pilgrim find or start a reunion group. Take the pilgrim to the first Gathering after their Walk. You could even offer to baby-sit so your pilgrim can attend a Candlelight.
7. **Help** the pilgrim re-enter their church and consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm.
8. **Inform** the pilgrim about ways to serve the Emmaus community on future Walks, creating agape and writing letters to other pilgrims.
9. Help the pilgrim understand how to sponsor others.

What do I do now?

Seek our Lord’s guidance through prayer – who is He leading you to sponsor this year.

Get in touch if you have any questions or download the sponsorship from our website.

De Colores

Carolyn Gibbon

Perth Emmaus Board Updates

Acting Secretary Joy Loughton reporting.

On the Board, we currently have NINE active members, with two loyal members assisting in two of the board roles, one being assisting the Community Spiritual Director when absent and the other, the Prayer Vigil and the Palenca roles of Agape.

We have Karen Handley taking over the role of Team Training, and is being encouraged and developed in her new role. Like a duck to water she is!

Darren Sampson is our new Communications man. This consists of keeping the community up to date with the dates, venues and times of the various events that we have. He does this via our quarterly Newsletter, and other emails and Facebook throughout the month as is require, to inform and remind you all. Please keep information updates coming to him.

Darren Gibbon has taken over the role of Database admin man, with the challenge of updating members in the old system into the new system. Slow as a snail this maybe, but he will no doubt be as efficient as a top man can be. Guided as required by Paul Mulroneo off the board. Darren will also be able to keep our Website updated as well. Thank you Greg Corlett, for you consistent and loyal help in this area. Don't go away, what would the agape room at the walks be without you – invaluable.

The other continuing 6 board members, are faithfully continuing in the roles they had last year, all except Neal Leggo who is taking leave from the board role of Secretary and filling the role of Men's Lay Director for the September Men's Walk #71.

These remaining six members you may all know:-

Heather Haggerty in her last year as Community Lay Director.

John Whaley in possibly his last year as Community Spiritual Director (his third year now)

Cathy O'Dea – Treasurer and Registrar

Joy Loughton – Acting Secretary, Agape, Gatherings, Reunion Groups (in my last year)

Carolyn Gibbon – Walk Support and new to the Sponsorship role.

Eric Loughton – Supplies (ready to take leave of the role)

These roles often change year by year.

If you want to serve on the on the board, first talk to a board member at a gathering (a good first port of call) then ask someone to nominate you and send the nomination to the Community Lay Director (cld@perth.emmaus.org.au) or Secretary (secretary@perth.emmaus.org.au) stating your interests, abilities or lack of them!

A Plea to the Community

We have gaps in the full coverage of all the board roles.

- We have a vacancy in Music this year, due to our loyal Julie Marshall having to have time off the board. (by regulation - three years plus an optional extra three years maximum on the board then minimum one year off before re-applying) It's Julie's second time on the Board. Thank you Julie for your loyalty and willingness to serve and delight at doing so.
- Some board roles (as you can see) are doubled up with the one person. This is not a good practice to follow for too long.

Next year there will be more vacancies. **IF YOU** can see that you may be ready to fill in any role, **ask about** coming along to work with one of the people who will be leaving the board this year – then next year you won't feel like being thrown in the 'deep end' so to speak.

Another area for concern is the sparse number of Clergy to adequately fill the roles available each year. Having the same people too frequently on the walks year by year, Clergy or lay team, allows complacency to enter the scene. This also is not a good practice. PLEASE pray about sponsoring a Pastor/Minister as a Pilgrim – the way we all start in Emmaus.

De Colores

Acting Secretary, *Joy Loughton*

Perth Emmaus Reunion Groups Contact List and Information 2023

Staying accountable before others, is good discipleship. Reunion Groups help us to stay connected within the Emmaus community, especially when we miss any Gatherings.

- Each reunion group, can host one or two of the *Gatherings* each year, this assists the Board, adds variety, and is a tool for learning the Emmaus way.
If your Reunion Group is still young you may still choose to have a turn at doing this.

The reunion groups on the side of this page are active within the Perth Emmaus Community, mostly meet monthly.

Be sure not to miss out – pick up your phone and check one of these out.

Keep the Board updated if you have or wish to start a reunion Group in your area.

Hillbillies Reunion Group

We had a lovely start to the year meeting at John and Anne Steeds lovely home, and we laid out our spreadsheet for the rest of the year, Discussed which gatherings that we are leading for the year, and then our discussion for the night was each of us in turn talking about where we had experienced God in action in our lives in the last couple of weeks, it was a great time of prayer and praise to our Lord and saviour.

We meet on the first Monday of every Month except January, at 7.30pm at 12 Mustang Court, High Wycombe. Anyone who would like to join us will be very welcome.

De Colores - Heather Haggerty 0408 565 315

Peel Pilgrims Reunion Group

Our small group were the hosts for the February Gathering held on the 25th.

We commenced with a pre- gathering dinner at a nearby Chinese Restaurants together with other willing, able, and talented community members who were assisting us with the event.

Our Gathering Team for the evening – see photo.



Joy Loughton 0408 675 163

Willetton Warriors

Southern suburbs.

Julie Marshall - 0414 432 130

Meeting at

5 Corsair Drive, Willetton

Meeting on the 2nd Monday of the Month.

Joondalup Joybells

Northern suburbs.

Darren - 0404 751 981

Carolyn - 0409 901 854.

Meeting at

9 Nimrod Place, Hillarys

Meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7 to 9pm.

Hillbillies

Eastern suburbs

Heather - 0408 565 315

Meeting at John and Anne Steeds'

12 Mustang Court, High

Wycombe.

Meeting on the 1st Monday of the month, 7.30 to 9.30pm

Peel Pilgrims

Far southern suburbs

Joy and Eric – 0408 675 163

Meeting at

22 Murdoch Drive, Singleton.

Meeting on Sunday afternoons (2pm) – usually monthly.

Gatherings

COME – SING - LISTEN - SHARE – FELLOWSHIP – REUNITE

PLEASE PLACE THESE DATES ON your CALENDARS, freeing you to come to encourage others.

March Sat. 25th 7pm South Perth Uniting Church.
April Sat. 22nd 7pm South Perth Uniting Church.
May Sat. 27th 7pm South Perth Uniting Church.

South Perth Uniting Church is located at 2 Sandgate St. South Perth.

June Sat 17th 7pm Willetton Christian Church

The June Gathering is our Team Commissioning Service, with chat from 7pm followed by the service at 7:15. The Willetton Christian Church is off Collins Rd at 1-9 Gloucester Ct (corner of Porticullis Drive) Willetton.

July No Gathering – catch up with your Pilgrim or go to Training

July is a good time to touch base with your Pilgrim, encouraging them and praying for them. The Teams will be having training sessions this month.

August Sat 26th 7pm South Perth Uniting Church.

September ‘THE WALKS’ Candle-lightings and Closing Services

***PLEASE - Plan to be at least ONE of the Walk Gatherings and Stay connected**
See further information in this Newsletter.*

At our gatherings we have a times of praise and worship; Communion; being encouraged by our Fourth Day speaker; a reflection and prayer time followed by a time of fellowship over supper.

If you belong to an accountability group in your own church, please use Gatherings as your replacement Reunion Group.

The Board rep responsible Gatherings, is Joy Loughton, 08 9537 2541 ericjoy1@tpg.com.au

Prayer Vigil and Palenca

In the Assistant ‘off the board’ role is Steve Charles

Please feel free to dabble in Making a Poster (Palenca) to be sent to encourage other communities. Please send Palenca to Steve Charles (stephen.p.charles@gmail.com).

Please be in PRAYER for these coming walks, for the Walk Lay Directors Neal Leggo and Sonya McNicol and their teams; Support team; Sponsors; and the prospective PILGRIMS, **for us all** to be accepting and receptive to hearing the Lord’s voice. And for the Board and the Community’s active support and encouragement.

Come Holy Spirit Come.

Go to www.perth.emmaus.org.au to

- ADD YOUR NAME to our Prayer Vigil – PLEASE do it.
- find **Walk Application forms** and **info for Sponsors.**

Agape

I would like to encourage all the Reunion Groups to keep up their good work of providing their meaningful, useful, colourful, creative items of agape – all with a suitable **Scripture verse** and the Reunion **Group name** on the back or in smaller print on the front.

This month I would like to hear from one or two people who can use a sewing machine, to ask me “**just what is involved in sewing the letter bags**” (photo below). I can give you a simple pattern..

*To make Agape,
join a Reunion Group or:*

Boddington Agape Group

Cathy O’Dea – 0439 696 010

Meet the 1st Monday of the
month.

Willy Wags Agape Group

Nicole Sampson 0433 283 893

Southern Saints Agape Group

Ian Knight 0408 378 939.



Can YOU offer this agape gift for the next walk’s pilgrims? I’d like my current supplier to have a break.

Ask Joy Loughton - 0448 194 992

Perth Emmaus Community

If from some reason you no longer wish to receive our Newsletter, please let us know by return email.

If you have something to ask, say or be thankful for Emmaus we would love to hear about it.

If you desire to be more involved in some way, please let us know.

Throughout this newsletter we have contact numbers that you can ring or message. Please don’t be silent. Let your voice and servanthood be heard and used – for God’s glory through His work in Emmaus in our state

Perth Emmaus Community Board 2023

Community Lay Director	Heather Haggerty	0408565315	cld@perth.emmaus.org.au
Community Spiritual Director	John Whaley	0429651378	whaleez@icloud.com
Secretary (Acting)	Joy Loughton	0448194992	secretary@perth.emmaus.org.au
Treasurer/Registrar	Cathy O’Dea	0409085680	treasurer@perth.emmaus.org.au registrar@perth.emmaus.org.au
Property & Supplies	Eric Loughton	0408675163	ericjoy1@tpg.com.au
Agape/Gatherings/Reunions	Joy Loughton	0448194992	ericjoy1@tpg.com.au
Prayer Vigil/Palenca	Joy Loughton/ Steve Charles	0448194992	ericjoy1@tpg.com.au stephen.p.charles@gmail.com
Newsletter & Facebook	Darren Sampson	0403881235	darrensampson@mac.com
Database & Website	Darren Gibbon	0404751981	darren2014@hotmail.com
Team Selection & Training	Karen Handley	0449981529	karen.perthemmaus@gmail.com
Music	Vacant		
Walk Support	Carolyn Gibbon	0409901854	carolyn-2014@hotmail.com