



**BRISBANE NORTH COAST
EMMAUS COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER
May 2020**

**Coming Together in this
Covid-19 Environment**

This month we have encouragement from our
Community Directors

LAY DIRECTOR - Paul Fletcher
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR - Jenny Sims

While cannot meet as a community
we can be together as we care and
pray for one another

De Colores



From our Community Lay Director

As you read this, I pray that you are all well and coping with this self-isolation we find ourselves in. Don't forget that if you need prayer then you have an opportunity to send a request to brisbanenorthcoastemmaus@gmail.com or direct to our Prayer Co-ordinator - Margaret Niethe, email: pmniethe@hotmail.com, which can then be sent out the community who would love to support you in prayer.

It would appear that it may still be a few months before we will be able to gather together at Morayfield as a community and celebrate together but there are still opportunities to support each other in prayer. Look back over the walks or an encounter you have been on and pray for those who were on those walks and encounters with you. This may be a time when you can send through a word of encouragement to those who you spent time with on your Emmaus experience. A letter, an email or phone call may be just what that person needs at that moment to remind them that we are all special in God's sight.

As the isolation goes on, the committee will investigate what options we have to get the walks back under way once the restrictions have been lifted. Continue to uplift the Walk Lay Directors, David & Anitta and their teams in your prayer as they wait for the resumption of their walks.

Keep safe and always remember that God is in control and we can trust in Him in all situations. God bless.

De Colores

Paul Fletcher



From our Community Spiritual Director

We missed the April newsletter when everything suddenly shut down. We did manage *The Expo* which I think was worthwhile. A big thank you to all who were part of the planning and those who did such a great job setting up their stalls, connecting with people and sharing what is involved with different roles in our community. I enjoyed it. How about you?

We were about to commission our team for the May Walks on the Saturday before Easter and then we all went into retreat mode. Some may have been disappointed. A bit of an anti-climax as team had been working on talks and preparing for their role on team!

STAY HOME!

How are you faring with 'staying home' and keeping up social distancing? My sister says she is like a caged lion. She wants to get out. She is the extroverted one. I have enjoyed staying at home not having so many 'appointments' and trips to the supermarket. I love the quiet and the time to potter round in the garden, catch up on jobs, read, paint and generally slow down. Time to linger over reading the Scriptures and praying! Time to know that I am 'at home' with God...

What's *home* mean to you? It means different things to different people of course. It's where we live but so much more. We 'come home' to a place where we belong, our space that is familiar, comfortable, where we feel secure and loved. For some people it is not a secure place and far from comfortable, where even basic needs for food, shelter are lacking, and where physical and emotional abuse made it far from being safe.

When Jesus was aware of his impending death, he spoke to his troubled and confused disciples about home. From “the Message” John 14:1-3

“Don’t let this throw you. You trust God, don’t you? Trust me. There is plenty of room for you in my Father’s home. If that weren’t so, would I have told you that I’m on my way to get a room ready for you? And if I’m on my way to get your room ready, I’ll come back and get you so you can live where I live.

We are children of God, family of God. Our fundamental place is at home with God. That is the place where we are forever secure and loved. Reflect on that for a few minutes...

Jesus continued to reassure his disciples. He says he will send them another Comforter.

The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be ^[c] in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. (John 14: 17-20 NIV)

Later, after the resurrection, Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (Comforter!) John 20:22

He says to us, I want you to ‘live where I live.’ There’s a place for you! The heart of our faith is the belief that God calls us to be at home in God’s house, not just in the hereafter, but now. Jesus called it ‘life it in all its fullness.’ (John 10:10)

May God bless you in this time with a new awareness of the presence of Jesus by his Spirit, not just with you, but within you day by day, moment by moment. May you find your identity, your sense of belonging and security in him. I pray that you may know that you are ‘at home’ with the Father in the truest and most real sense.

The Peace of the Lord be with you and within you.

Jenny Sims [Community Spiritual Director]



Don't forget (we can still prepare to support our community)



The bank details for General Donations just in case you missed the Gathering and would like to contribute. Also, bank details for donations to provide Agape gifts of- flowers, rainbow cake, Ice-cream & toppings, Communion Elements etc.

General Donations

BSB: 334-040

A/c No: 000 0553 890 883

Walk Agape Donations

BSB : 334-040

A/c No: 000 0554 465 053

In this time of extended separation, let us all be mindful that our God hears our prayers, the same as always.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea ... —*Psalm 46:1-2 (NIV)*

Loving Jesus, you are compassionate to those in need and heal the sick in body and mind. Look kindly on those who are fearful at this time. Help us all to put away all thoughts and actions that separate us from you and from one another. Give us grace to live our lives confident in your promise that you are with us always. Lord Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to care for the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. Amen.

For any prayer needs that you wish to share with the Emmaus Community, please contact our Prayer Co-ordinator, Margaret Nieth

email: pmnieth@hotmail.com or

phone: 0416 070 852



God Bless You as you Stay Home with Him