

# BRISBANE NORTH COAST EMMAUS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

July 2020

## Supporting each other Through this Covid-19 Environment

Remember the three (3) things that are important to stay safe  
in this Covid-19 Environment

Wash your HANDS

Cough and Sneeze into the CROOK of your ELBOW

Keep the Social Distancing

Foremost in each day put Our Lord First in all things

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

***When you receive this Newsletter should you know of someone who  
would like to receive it and at present is not PLEASE PASS IT ON***

***De Colores***



## ***From our Community Lay Director***

*Hello everyone*

*Another month has passed when we have not been able to get together and I know I am still missing being able to get together with the Emmaus community. My prayer is that you are all keeping well and staying safe through this time of isolation and able to connect with other members of the community in your area and share God's blessing with them.*

*The executive had a Zoom meeting at the end of June month to discuss what we would be able to do this year as well as other things.*

*We discussed the following.*

1. **Walks/Encounters** - It has been decided, because of the limitations of COVID-19, that all Walks/Encounters will be postponed until 2021. When things get back to the new normal, we will look at when campsites can be booked and training can be done.
2. **MailChimp** – Free vs Paid version. It was decided that we would go to the paid version even though our finances are not being replenished as we are not having gatherings and walks/encounters at the moment. Since the meeting, we have found the cost for MailChimp is not as simple as we expected and further investigation is needed before going ahead with the paid version. If anyone has experience with MailChimp and can give us some advice it would be appreciated.
3. **Website** – Things are now starting to progress with the new website and when it is operational we will let you know.
4. **Database** – New database is now operational.
5. **Positions vacant** – Please pray that these position get filled shortly.
  - a. Secretary
  - b. Gatherings Co-ordinator
  - c. Website Co-ordinator
  - d. Newsletter Co-ordinator (to help Margaret Niethé)

If anyone is interested in taking on one of these roles or can think of anyone you believe would be willing to consider one of these roles I would love to hear from you.

*Please pray for the executive as we seek God's guidance as we wait for the restrictions to be lifted. We will keep you informed as to when we can gather together as a community again.*

### ***2 Corinthians 4:18 - Living Bible***

*So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.*

*May God's blessing, peace and protection always be with you*

**De Colores** **Paul**



## ***From our Community Spiritual Director***

Life has been different for all of us, some more than for others, over these months of the Coronavirus pandemic. It's not over yet but for some of us in Australia, life is getting back to a more normal routines. We continue to pray for other states of Australia for whom things are far from ideal.

What have you missed? What has been most difficult for you?

What have you appreciated about this time? What are you thankful for?

Some things we take for granted until they are taken away and when they are returned to us we have a whole new sense of appreciation.

For some of us, we are returning back to worshipping together after some months. It won't be the same as before as we sit apart from each other but at least we can now sing and talk to one another after worship as long as we are 1.5 metres apart. Make sure you wear your hearing aids!

Some of you may have to wait much longer before your church family can resume worship together. We are not sure yet when our monthly Emmaus Community Gatherings can resume.

How will it feel to be back? I know many are looking forward to that. It affirms the depth of the fellowship we share together with our brothers and sisters, and the strength and nurture we receive each week from growing and worshipping together as the Body of Christ. Please pray for our Emmaus Community during these days of separation that God will hold us together in that closely knit 'weave' that is an important value for us.

I was thinking about how God's people must have felt when they returned from forced exile in Babylon to Jerusalem.

In the days of Jeremiah, the Lord said, "The children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God... [\[Jeremiah 50:4,5\]](#)

David also experienced joy when he went to worship God in the sanctuary. "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go unto the house of the LORD." [\[Psalm 122:1 English Revised Version\]](#)

We may experience a wide range of feelings we go back to church but there is that "presence" of the Lord where two or three gather in his name which is some how more than when we worship alone! May God give you joy as you worship and honour our Lord.

May God's peace be within you, around you and upon you as you reach out to others in the name of Christ.

**De Colores**

**Jenny**

# ***This month we here from our Community Face to Face Co-ordinator***

## ***Karren McDermott***

As many of you would be aware, our Brisbane North Coast Emmaus community added "Face To Face" to its umbrella of ministries a couple of years ago and we've now held three encounters. This ministry is aimed at the older members of our faith communities, for those who are retired or for physical or care responsibility reasons are unable to participate in one of our well known Walks.

At the closing ceremony when the pilgrims on a Walk are asked to share with the wider community what they intend to do in their Fourth Days I'm often surprised by the answers. Often the ideas or plans are unique and unexpected but certainly no less valid. The closing ceremony at "Face to Face" has been a very pleasingly, predictable experience with the pilgrims mostly commenting, that "they aren't on the scrap heap yet", or that "they can still be useful by doing.....", or that "they can still help their grandchildren", "or pray for others". It's such a positive experience for the team, for our older pilgrims and for our community to hear this.

About eighteen months ago an elderly member of my worship community invited me for a coffee. I didn't know her and was a little apprehensive as to what we would talk about. She started the conversation by sharing with me a little about her life.

She and her husband and teenage sons had lived in Sydney but for quite some time had felt that God was calling them to move to country Queensland to a "land of milk and honey". After much prayer and contemplation they did a holiday trip around the state and decided on a probable location. They moved, put the boys into the local high school and on their final day of unpacking decided that as a treat they'd go to a local cafe and enjoy a celebratory lunch. On walking through the door they were amazed to see above the counter of the cafe a large, wooden sign announcing, "The Land of Milk and Honey". This was confirmation!!

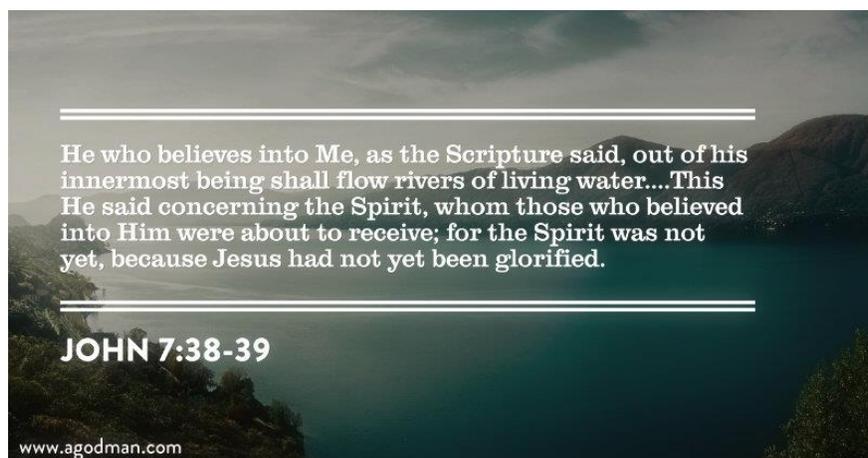
After the boys had been in school for several months, a teacher there complemented this lady on the way that she interacted with her sons and asked her if she would be interested in hosting a weekly afternoon tea with some other mums, whom he had in mind, who could benefit from her parenting strategies and she said, YES.

This group of ladies met each week for tea and scones. Gradually, over time, this parenting group changed its focus from teenage boys and became a bible study group. Eventually, after even more time, all seven ladies, including the hostess, enrolled in more formal courses through Trinity Bible College in Sydney. The ladies continued their tea and scones on Thursdays giving each other support and fellowship throughout their studies and eventually all graduated with various qualifications. The graduates then each went off and formed their own individual bible study groups!!

My friend smiled and to conclude her story said, "The town was well covered by God".

She then gave me this advice, " Karren, when you're asked to do something then always say yes because you never know where it may lead or how it may advance the kingdom of God."

I relate this story to you to encourage you to always say yes and to encourage you to value the importance of the older members of our faith communities. They are full of such wonderful experiences and can pass on to us such valuable advice and encouragement to help us in our own faith journeys.



### *This month we here from a Community member and his journey in the Fourth Day*

Hello Brisbane North Coast Emmaus community. My name is **Gary Nicholls** and I am currently the community Treasurer.

I completed my Emmaus walk at Alex Park from 17 – 20/10/2002. Walk 42 this was led by Don Scott (Lay Director) and Ray Nutley (Spiritual Director). I was on the table of John. A lot has happened in the last 18 years as I have been led by God in serving him.

Who would have thought that I would be Lay Director, community registrar and treasurer when I started this journey back in 2002; but as the bible says 'In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path'.

We had the opportunity to travel to Uganda in January 2009 to build a classroom for Watoto Children's Home. I remember the day we were leaving Brisbane how apprehensive I was about going to this foreign country. What was going to happen to us? I need not have been concerned as God's protection was with us. We were blessed as much as the people we met and helped. Needless to say we were eager to return in 2011 when we built a teachers house.

May I encourage each one of you to listen to God when He prompts you to do something for Him.. Don't say I'm too busy or I can't do that. I have found that when you say yes, God gives you the ability to serve Him in ways you never even thought of.

May you all be blessed in your Fourth Days as you serve Him..

**De Colores**

**Gary**



**Remember** (we can still prepare for support of our community)



**The bank details for General Donations. Also, bank details for donations to provide Agape gifts of– flowers, Communion Elements etc.**

**General Donations**

**BSB: 334-040**

**A/c No: 000 0553 890 883**

**Agape Donations**

**BSB : 334-040**

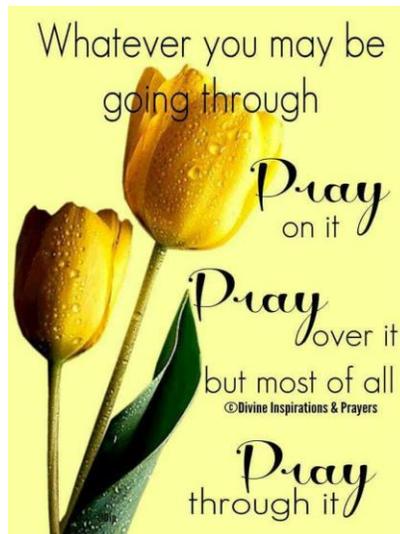
**A/c No: 000 0554 465 053**

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

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

**email: [pmnieth@hotmail.com](mailto:pmnieth@hotmail.com) or**

**phone: 0416 070 852**



**Please use the Prayer Points below to jump start your Prayer time...** Supplied by Jenny Sims (CSD)

## **20 Prayers to Pray During This Pandemic**

1. For the sick and infected: God, heal and help. Sustain bodies and spirits. Contain the spread of infection.
2. For our vulnerable populations: God, protect our elderly and those suffering from chronic disease. Provide for the poor, especially the uninsured.
3. For the young and the strong: God, give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading this disease. Inspire them to help.
4. For our local, state, and federal governments: God, help our elected officials as they allocate the necessary resources for combating this pandemic. Help them to provide more tests.
5. For our scientific community, leading the charge to understand the disease and communicate its gravity: God, give them knowledge, wisdom, and a persuasive voice.
6. For the media, committed to providing up-to-date information: God, help them to communicate with appropriate seriousness without causing panic.
7. For consumers of media, looking to be well-informed: God, help us find the most helpful local information to equip us to be good neighbours. Keep us from anxiety and panic, and enable us to implement the recommended strategies, even at a cost to ourselves.
8. For those with mental health challenges who feel isolated, anxious, and helpless: God, provide them every necessary support.
9. For the homeless, unable to practice the protocols of social distancing in the shelter system: Protect them from disease, and provide isolation shelters in every city.
10. For international travellers stuck in foreign countries: God, help them return home safely and quickly.
11. For Christian missionaries throughout the world, especially in areas with high rates of infection: God, provide them with words of hope, and equip them to love and serve those around them.
12. For workers in a variety of industries facing layoffs and financial hardship: God, keep them from panic, and inspire your church to generously support them.
13. For families with young children at home for the foreseeable future: God, help mothers and fathers to partner together creatively for the care and flourishing of their children. For single mothers and fathers, grow their networks of support.
14. For parents who cannot stay home from work but must find care for their children: God, present them with creative solutions.
15. For those in need of regular therapies and treatments that must now be postponed: God, help them to stay patient and positive.

16. For business leaders making difficult decisions that affect the lives of their employees: God, give these women and men wisdom, and help them to lead self-sacrificially.

17. For pastors and church leaders faced with the challenges of social distancing: God, help them to creatively imagine how to pastor their congregants and love their cities well.

18. For college and university students, whose courses of study are changing, whose placements are cancelled, whose graduation is uncertain: God, show them that while life is uncertain, their trust is in you.

19. For Christians in every neighbourhood, community, and city: May your Holy Spirit inspire us to pray, to give, to love, to serve, and to proclaim the gospel, that the name of Jesus Christ might be glorified around the world.

20. For frontline health care workers, we thank you for their vocational call to serve us. We also pray:

- God, keep them safe and healthy. Keep their families safe and healthy.
- God, help them to be knowledgeable about the diagnosis and treatment of this disease, as well as the changing protocols.
- God, help them to stay clear-minded in the midst of the surrounding panic.
- God, deliver them from anxiety for their own loved ones (aging parents, children, spouses, roommates).
- God, give them compassion for every patient in their care.
- God, provide for them financially, especially if they fall ill and are unable to work.
- God, help Christians in health care to exhibit extraordinary peace, so that many would ask about the reason for their hope. Give them opportunities to proclaim the gospel.

God, we trust that you are good and do good.. Teach us to be your faithful people in this time of global crisis. Help us to follow in the footsteps of our faithful shepherd, Jesus, who laid down his life for the sake of love. Glorify his name as you equip us with everything needed for doing your will. Amen.

*Jen Pollock Michel is the author of [Teach Us to Want](#), [Keeping Place](#), and [Surprised by Paradox](#). She lives with her husband and their five children in Toronto. This piece was adapted from her recent [blog](#).*

## **God Bless You as you Stay Home with Him**



***A stormy Sky over the Dead Sea***