



From our Community

Lay Director

Hello everyone

Welcome to 2021!

As we all know, 2020 was not a good time for our Emmaus family and the wider community. I pray that you have been kept safe and well since March when everything fell apart. We were unable to hold the walks that were planned for May 2020 and a Face to Face we had just started planning for early in the year when the COVID bombshell hit. Gatherings were put on hold but we were able to hold two Zoom gathering late in the year, but I look forward to catching up in person on the 13th of February.

Yes, we will be holding our first gathering on the 13th at our usual venue at the Morayfield Community Uniting Church at 5.30pm. It will be great to meet again as a community. We will also be looking at when we are able to hold Walks & F2F Encounters again. Other options of how these can be run are being investigated by The Upper Room and the Emmaus Australia. We will keep you informed as more details are received.

Due to the COVID restrictions placed on us we were not able to hold our annual elections for the board positions and there are a number of positions which are vacant and need to be filled. To keep the board operating effectively, this needs to be rectified as soon as possible. Could everyone earnestly pray for the board and that the positions will be filled by the right people. None of the positions are onerous and those who were in those positions will advise you what the position entails. As you are praying, please listen to what God is saying to you and if he is asking you to fill one of those positions.

Looking forward to having a great year as the Emmaus Community.

Paul Fletcher

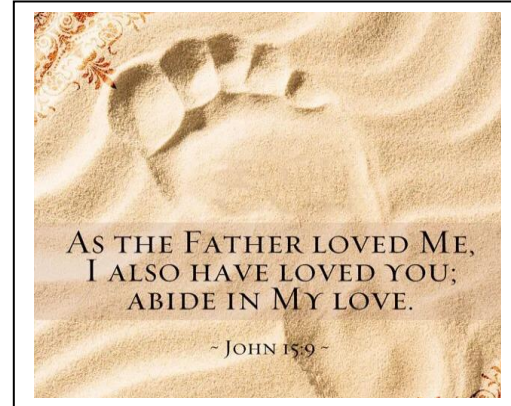
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From our Community Spiritual Director



A refreshing message of love and hope for the New Year.

Happy New Year to all of you – members of the Brisbane North Coast Emmaus Community.



The last time I wrote in the October Newsletter, I asked “Are you o.k.?” I can ask that again? Are you o.k.? How are you travelling as a disciple of Jesus, a child of God? Have you lost the way a little in 2020? Are you back on track following the way of Jesus in 2021? [The first disciples were called “*followers of the Way*”. Acts 22:4, 24:14]

I’m sure we all pray that 2021 is a better year for all of us, for the whole world, than 2020! Turning the page of the calendar to 2021 is starting on a fresh page, a clean start, a new start, leaving the past behind, but that may not be easy for some of you. Perhaps the impact of last year continues in your life day after day, but the New Year reminds us that we look forward with hope even as we remember the struggles of last year. God is with us and God has a plan – plan for good and not for evil.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, **plans to give you hope and a future.**” (NIV Jeremiah 29:11)

What is God’s plan for us? Ultimately it is our call to be God’s people, part of God’s covenant family through our relationship with God in Christ. God loves us with an everlasting love, an unconditional love, a faithful and enduring love, and as God’s people we are called to respond to that love with our whole being.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ [Mark 12:30]

This is our priority! We were born in the image of God, born for relationship with God first of all, but we get side tracked, taking exits or following a different path which takes us away from our first and most important priority! At least I do!!!

Back in my teens and early adulthood, the emphasis in Christian teaching was about commitment to Jesus as Saviour and living to serve. I wanted to serve God wholeheartedly. That was the focus and priority of my life. I slowly began to realize that my relationship with God was more important. I know that I had not experienced God's love in a deeply personal way. That happened for me at my own Emmaus Walk in 1992. Since then, I have understood what Jesus meant when he said to his disciples,

“I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.” [John 15:15 NIV]

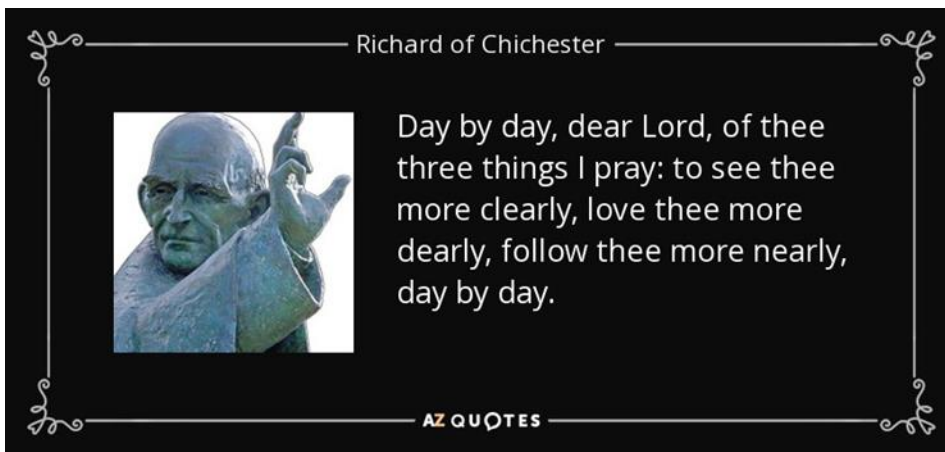
How can we serve if we do not know what the Father wants! I served as best I could, using my gifts and energy without any deep sense of knowing what the Father wanted. My relationship was more distant because I saw myself primarily as a “servant”! When we understand that we are no longer ‘servants’ but friends, our serving comes from a whole different motivation. We are inspired and energized and filled by God's amazing close and overwhelming love for us and our deep and wholehearted love for God.

Let's open all the windows and doors of our hearts afresh this year, that we might know the love that God has for us, a deeply personal love, and that we might grow our love for God day by day this year. That is the best basis for all that God calls us to be and to do! We are motivated by the love of God, not a servant's duty to the master!

A reading for you: John 15 [NIV]

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. 11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. 12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I

have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.



A song for you: *Oh, the overwhelming, never-ending, reckless love of God* - Cory Ashbury <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc6SSHuZvQE>

God bless you and keep you in His love throughout 2021.

De Colores!

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Jenny Sims



Music

Music is vital to Emmaus Walks, Face to Face Encounters as well as our Gatherings

I am looking for people who can play music and lead worship. Please let me know if you like to lead singing, play the piano or other accompanying instrument; this can be for a Walk and Encounter or for a gathering.

Leanne Close Music Co-ordinator

'Phone 0414 768 329

From the Board

**Next Board meeting February 13th @ 3.30pm Board Members @ Morayfield Uniting Church,
& 4.30pm Co-ordinators**

Board of Directors as at 2020

Board Executive		Mobile Home		Email
Community Lay Director (CLD)	Paul Fletcher	0438 747 287	3205 3819	pthf452@bigpond.net.au
Community Spiritual Director (CSD)	Jenny Sims	0406 477 547		jenny.a.sims@gmail.com
Secretary	Currently Vacant			
Treasurer	Gary Nicholls	0491 160 321	3886 5242	Gary.nicholls54@gmail.com
Registrar	Rebecca Fletcher	0418 742 931		registerbrisbanenthcoastemmaus@gmail.com
Past CLD	Andrew Krosch	0411 889 955	3882 5814	am@krosch.com.au
Past CSD	Margaret Niethe	0416 070 852		pmniethe@hotmail.com
CLD Elect/Walk Co-ordinator	Michelle Krosch	0401 428 271		am@krosch.com.au
Face To Face Coordinator	Karren McDermott	0423767496	38692665	email_karren@yahoo.com

Co-ordinators

Prayer Coordinator	Margaret Niethe	0416 070 852		pmniethe@hotmail.com
Supplies Coordinator	David Close	0419 021 308	3204 4256	dlclose87@iinet.net.au
Music Coordinator	Leanne Close	0414 768 329		leanec2405@gmail.com
Dining Room Coordinator	Wayne Morrison	0400 474 122		nellek8@hotmail.com
	Janelle Morrison	0410 641 377		
Agape Coordinator	Currently Vacant			
Gatherings Coordinator	Ian Riding	0408 450 539	5497 8190	bri32614@bigpond.net.au
Website Coordinator	Paul Fletcher	0438 747 287	3205 3819	pthf452@bigpond.net.au
Newsletter Coordinator	Margaret Niethe	0416 070 852		pmniethe@hotmail.com

POSITIONS CURRENTLY VACANT as well as Positions that will become Vacant
need your careful and fervent prayer.

POSITIONS SOON TO BE VACANT

Gatherings Coordinator

Website Coordinator

Newsletter Coordinator



***Updates on this new and thus far fulfilling part of our ministry
will soon be with us.***

Queries should be directed to Face to Face Co-ordinator

Karren McDermott - 0423767496



Don't forget



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

General Donations

BSB: 334-040

Walk Agape Donations

BSB: 334-040

A/c No: 000 0553 890 883

A/c No: 000 0554 465 053

For any prayer needs that you would like to share with the Emmaus Community,

Contact our Prayer Co-ordinator - Margaret Niethe

email: pmniethe@hotmail.com

phone: 0416 070 852



CALENDAR EVENTS 2021

Date	Time	Place	Comments
13 February 2021	5.30 pm	Morayfield Uniting Church 12-16 Weier Rd, Morayfield	Gathering
13 March 2021	5.30 pm	Morayfield Uniting Church 12-16 Weier Rd, Morayfield	Gathering
10 April 2021	5.30 pm	Morayfield Uniting Church 12-16 Weier Rd, Morayfield	Gathering
8 May 2021	5.30 pm	Morayfield Uniting Church 12-16 Weier Rd, Morayfield	Gathering
12 June 2021	5.30 pm	Morayfield Uniting Church 12-16 Weier Rd, Morayfield	Gathering
10 July 2021	5.30 pm	Morayfield Uniting Church 12-16 Weier Rd, Morayfield	Gathering
14 August 2021	5.30 pm	Morayfield Uniting Church 12-16 Weier Rd, Morayfield	Gathering
11 September 2021	5.30 pm	Morayfield Uniting Church 12-16 Weier Rd, Morayfield	Gathering
9 October 2021	5.30 pm	Morayfield Uniting Church 12-16 Weier Rd, Morayfield	Gathering
13 November 2021	5.30 pm	Morayfield Uniting Church 12-16 Weier Rd, Morayfield	Gathering

REMEMBER BE COVID SAFE as you ATTEND

all GATHERINGS and EMMAUS EVENTS

Maintain Social Distancing

Beannacht: a blessing for the New Year

by **John O'Donohue**



**On the day when
The weight deadens
On your shoulders
And you stumble,
May the clay dance
To balance you.**

**And when your eyes
Freeze behind
The grey window
And the ghost of loss
Gets into you,
May a flock of colours,
Indigo, red, green
And azure blue,
Come to awaken in you
A meadow of delight.**

**When the canvas frays
In the currach of thought
And a stain of ocean
Blackens beneath you,
May there come across the waters
A path of yellow moonlight
To bring you safely home.**

**May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
May the clarity of light be yours,
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.**

**And so may a slow
Wind work these words
Of love around you,
An invisible cloak
To mind your life.**

**"A New Year Blessing"
Benedictus (To Bless The Space Between Us)**



From: Benedictus: A Book of Blessings
by John O'Donohue
Transworld Publishers, Bungay, Suffolk, UK, 2007