



EMMAUS MINISTRIES AUSTRALIA NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2021



Greetings in the Name of our Lord

Much has happened across the country over the last months. The pandemic has taken many twists and turns and the early gains seem to have faded in the distance. However, one thing remains certain and that is the message we eagerly share. Many of the conversations that I have had with our communities have been both frustration and hope. Some walks have again been postponed whilst others have been able to go along – even with facemasks.

We pause to remember Maureen Jennings: a great warrior for her Lord. I looked forward to meeting with her because of her positive attitude and wonderful choice of words. Maureen took on many roles and many places and we can only give thanks for her life and contributions.

The National Newsletter will now be prepared by Alan and Tanya Carlyle. They will also begin up-

dating our Facebook page and other communications. We thank them for stepping up at this time. They will be looking for regular contributions such as (a) reports on events, (b) fourth day stories and (c) Community happenings.

A model for fourth day stories from the Upper Room is shown on Page 6 of this newsletter.

You do not have to include all the suggestions – but about a page or two will be sufficient.

We would like to include one of the fourth day stories in each Newsletter and with your permissions submit them to the Upper Room for use in their Newsletter.

I am looking forward to our time together in September. An agenda will be distributed shortly.

Based on feedback from communities, the 30th of October 2021 (and 12th February 2022) are proposed for National Gatherings)



It is time for some of us to move on and allow a new fresh eyes and minds lead Emmaus in Australia.

Please consider nominating someone for the upcoming national positions.

Please continue to pray for your communities and each other as we head through the last half of 2021 – another year of challenge.

De Colores,

David Nivala

National Lay Director



2021 National Secretariat Zoom Meeting

Saturday 18th September, 3pm – 5pm EST

[See Page 7 for details](#)

BRUCE CORNISH NATIONAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Greetings, sisters and brothers in Christ,

I write this from my home in Townsville where we have been blessedly spared much of the Covid lockdown and isolation concerns. I am very aware that many who are seeing this have been, and probably still are, in very challenging lockdown circumstances, especially in Sydney and other parts of NSW and Melbourne. It continues to be an unsettling and scary time. There is hope that as vaccination numbers continue to increase there will be less need for snap lockdowns etc. The news bulletins and the political leaders seem to be putting their complete hope and trust in those vaccination rates. While I fully support everyone getting vaccinated ASAP my trust is not in the needle but in the Lord.

What does it mean to say (and act) in putting our trust in the Lord?

I digress here to honour one who put her trust in the Lord. As many of you may well know, Maureen Jennings went to be with her Lord and Saviour on Friday 6th August. The first time I met the bubbly, full of life, enthusiastic and positive Maureen was at the National Secretariate meeting in Adelaide where she and Phil were the chief organizers and where I was elected as NSD elect. They did a great job.

At the time Maureen was open about her cancer journey and determined to live life to the full.

Since then, we have connected from time to time through the National Board gatherings/meetings although those have been limited in the past 18 months to phone or Zoom meetings. Maureen loved

her Lord and loved Emmaus.

Maureen lived out her trust in the Lord for all to see.

Our love and prayers go to Phil and their family at this time as they continue to work through their grief journey.

Back to the question of what it means to put our trust in the Lord.

Last year a study group I was a part of studied the Max Lucado book "Facing your Giants" It is based on the story of David and Goliath. It was a very good and very helpful study. I recommend it. It is available both in hard copy and as an e-book.

In the study Max helped us to answer the question I put above. To put that another way, what are the "Giants" you are facing at the moment and how can we trust the Lord in that?

Amongst the lessons he included a number of pithy, thoughtful sayings that have stuck in my mind. Here are three of them.

"Rush your giants with a God saturated soul"

"Giants We must face them, yet we need not face them alone."

"Focus on giants you stumble. Focus on God – your giants tumble"

As you will be aware, we are planning a national zoom gathering on September 18th from 3 to 5pm EST. During that time, we will have the opportunity to share together how God has continued to help us face the "Giants" that we have been experiencing. We will also have the opportunity to encourage each other both personally and in



our communities. It has been great to hear, in response to my email late last month, how God has been answering people's prayers and to have the opportunity to pray for and encourage each other.

Keep sharing with each other.

We are NOT alone.

As I write this reflection, in addition to the ever-changing COVID 19 challenges in many states, our TV screens are also filled with the tragic and desperate situation unfolding in Afghanistan for many Afghan people. We pray that there would be a peaceful way forward for those who want to leave, and that the Taliban would allow that to occur. Please make this a matter of prayer.

Friends, as you continue to face our Giants and put our trust in God may you know His peace, comfort and encouragement.

De Colores,

Love and Prayers

Bruce Cornish

Vale Maureen Jennings

(16/6/1957 – 6/8/2021)

It is with immense sadness that the Emmaus Australia National Board and the Adelaide Emmaus Ministries Community announce the passing of Maureen Jennings, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Maureen was a pilgrim on Top End Emmaus (Darwin) Walk 2 in 1999. From there she became part of the steering committee which formed the Top End community, later becoming its Community Lay Director.

In 2005, Maureen and her husband Phil moved to Adelaide and it was not long before Maureen joined the Adelaide Emmaus Board. She was on team for several walks and was Lay Director of Adelaide Walk 66 before becoming the Community Lay Director. As Maureen completed her theological studies and became an aged care chaplain, she transitioned into spiritual director roles on Emmaus walks.

Maureen was also a valued member of the National Board for a number of years, serving as its secretary and more recently as newsletter coordinator. She attended many National conferences and enjoyed the numerous friendships made there.

Maureen described herself as an “Emmaus Junkie”. She was loved for her larger-than-life



character, caring and compassionate nature, her passion for the bright colours of the rainbow and her prolific production of agape gifts, including knitted beanies and socks.

One of her final tasks in Emmaus was presenting a talk entitled “Coping in Tough Times” to the Face to Face Encounter in Moonta SA in March 2021, shortly after she learnt that her cancer had become terminal. Her tremendous life-long courage and determination to honour her God’s calling on her life were truly evident on that day.

We continue to uphold in prayer Maureen’s husband Phil, who is our current National Secretary, as well as their children Andrew, Rachel and their families.

De Colores.



**THEREFORE, SINCE WE HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED THROUGH FAITH,
WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,**

ROMANS 5:1

Emmaus Ministries News



Chrysalis SE Queensland

On the weekend of the 24th August 2021, South East Queensland Chrysalis ran the amended version of the Chrysalis program for the second time ever and the first Chrysalis flight by any South East Queensland Emmaus community since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Flights #69 and Flight #70.

The amended program trims the regular 3 day schedule, down to two and a bit days.

The program at 4.45 on the Friday afternoon, with two talks, the new Ideals talk and Prodigal, occurring after dinner on the first and the second after supper, with the reconciliation service following, with the day ending in silence. Both Saturday and Sunday have 5 talks each, with the usual closing on Sunday evening at 4.00pm.

While Chrysalis regularly suffers from late registrations, this year was a record, in that by the end of the final training day, we still had 0 registrations. However, pressing forward in faith, before the start of the flight, we had 8 boys and 7 girls registered to attend. God truly is Great. We received many timely blessings like this, including our hand crosses arriving on the Wednesday before the flight itself as well.

As this was the second year with the amended program, we were much more prepared, with both previous Lay Directors as Logistics, along with the Logistics co-ordinator from the previous flight (the pilot amended program, Flights #67 and #68). Most issues identified from the first pilot flight had been resolved for this flight, and minor issues and potential improvements were identified along the way. As this was the second time this program has ever been used, it is of course, nowhere near as polished as the original program, but we are well on our way and the program will only become more refined as we run future flights.

Other changes made this year due to Covid included all team (minus Logistics) remaining on site for all events, including the Candle-lighting ceremony, in that the Community came to the campsite, and the use of the pre-filled Fellowship cups for all Communion services.

This required minor amendments to the Mime Communion service on the Saturday, but Chrysalis Flights #69 and #70 are considered all around successes.

We have received positive feedback from all the participants, with many people who have been separated from others during the various lockdowns, enjoying the opportunity to meet and connect with new young people in a close environment, an opportunity which has been lacking recently.

At the time of the flight, the Brisbane LGA was under mask restrictions. Chrysalis followed the covid plan of the campsite. There were no cases of Covid-19 transmission within the flight during the weekend.

We have an upcoming Hoot on Saturday 28th August, where we hope to catch up with the new butterflies and see how they are travelling in their Next Steps after Chrysalis.

We thank all people, inside and out of the Emmaus Communities, who sponsored butterflies, both spiritually, physically, and financially. We thank all people who signed up to the prayer vigil and volunteered to support the flight in and out of the conference and dining room. We thank all people who made agape, travelled to the candle-lighting or closing service and who have prayed for the Chrysalis Board and for the success our flight. We thank the National Chrysalis and Emmaus board, and well as the Upper Room for their encouragement and support of the amended program. We praise God for the strength, time, and talents he has provided people in the Chrysalis and Emmaus communities, that we can come together and demonstrate His agape love through the Chrysalis and Emmaus programs.

Fly with Christ

*Jacky Richardson
SEQ Chrysalis CLD*

Emmaus Ministries News



FACE to FACE
THE UPPER ROOM®

Face to Face Central Queensland

Hi! All,

I am writing to give thanks and praise to our awesome

God and the journey over the weekend of August 19 – 22 2021 of the Emmaus Walk held by Central Queensland Emmaus Community @ Yeppoon.

It was a privilege to be a part of the team at this event ... in the midst of our Covid-19 life of the moment; this community braved the Covid-19 Regulations (well done one and all) to walk the walk and hold this event taking 14 pilgrims on a life renewing journey.

The impressive cohesion of this community was an amazing feat to observe, blessings & thanks to all who participated to all who served.

And the, what I am sure all who have experienced a 'Walk to Emmaus' event know, awesomeness of God prevailed in every way!

This community set out and stood for what Perseverance is; and an event to remember was completed.

De Colores

Margaret Niethé



**WALK TO
EMMAUS**
THE UPPER ROOM®

Walk to Emmaus Adelaide Men's Walk 89

While we in Adelaide are very much aware that some walks around Australia have been

postponed or cancelled due to pandemic restrictions, the Adelaide Community stepped out in faith and continued with its men's walk at the Nunyara Conference Centre. Here is an extract from a report by Lay Director Nigel Beams:

We serve a great and loving God! Adelaide Men's Emmaus Walk #89 was held on August 12-15. Covid restrictions were lifted just in time to allow us to go ahead with minimal impact. Sure we had to sing in masks, but we got used to it and it did not impact our worship. We could even sing De Colores on the way to meals!

From forming a team, the postponement in 2020, reforming the team, the training days, the Zoom calls, the

talk previews, the prayer, to the Walk itself, everything came together – God's people, in God's time, in His way. Every single person. Agape love. We had resistance and there were obstacles to overcome, but it all came together, and the 14 pilgrims were truly blessed.

Their sharing in front of the community on Sunday made that abundantly clear. God won. Reflecting on the events last weekend, the words "Spirit of cooperation and charity" keep coming up. And that's what we needed for the Walk to proceed and happen as it did. The team, the pilgrims and the community who were involved had that Spirit and it was palpable. From the buzz of Thursday night, the silence in the fog on Friday morning, to the glorious sunshine and glow on Sunday afternoon, God was there and in control. I think He likes Emmaus.

The Adelaide Women's Walk 90 will be held on 30 September – 3 October.



FACE to FACE
THE UPPER ROOM®

Face to Face

Are you looking for something to boost your communities aging demographic?

Have you Past Lay Directors

who are wondering how their experience can be utilised?

Consider making contact with the National Co-ordinator of the Face to Face Encounter Program;

consider talking to a Community who has undertaken to hold an Encounter.

I am certain you will find the place God has been leading you too, this may bring the spark of new life to your Emmaus Community.

Margaret Niethé

National Face to Face Co-ordinator
facetoface@emmaus.org.au

Community Notices!

Model for fourth day stories.

- Your name and email address
- When and where was your Emmaus Ministries event? (and your community.)
- Please share the way the event impacted your life.
- Growth in Piety – how you are further opening yourself to God (spiritual practices)?
- Growth through Study – what you have been reading/studying recently that has contributed to your ongoing spiritual formation in significant ways?
- Growth through Christian Action – What ministry (ministries) you are involved with and how it is (they are) impacting your world?
- Please share any book(s) or writing(s) that you have published.
- Tell us about your hope for the future, and please include a photo of yourself.

Please send all stories to:

newsletter@emmaus.org.au



Active Prayer Vigils

Please support your Emmaus Communities in Prayer!



Prayer Vigils

Thankyou.

Upcoming Events!



2021 National Secretariat Virtual Meeting

Saturday 18th September

3pm – 5pm EST,

Open to all community members.

(If a vote is required, only current community CLDs and CSDs may vote.)

Register today, save the date and help spread the word!

Register

Meeting information and Zoom link will be provided to registered guests,
once meeting details confirmed.



National Virtual Gathering

Saturday 30th October

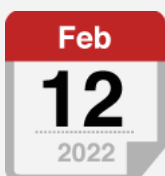
3pm – 5pm EST,

Open to all community members.

Meeting Link will be emailed to all people on the EMA National mailing list.

Mailing list sign up can be found at the bottom of the National website homepage.

<https://emmaus.org.au>



National Virtual Gathering

Saturday 12th February

3pm – 5pm EST,

Open to all community members.

Meeting Link will be emailed to all people on the EMA National mailing list.

Mailing list sign up can be found at the bottom of the National website homepage.

<https://emmaus.org.au>

Click on any hyperlink or button for direct access.

National Board Nominations

The Emmaus Australia Secretariat is the governing body of Emmaus Ministries in Australia and consists of two representatives of each community, plus National Board members. It meets once a year, in the national conference normally held in April or May. The Emmaus Australia National Board (EANB) is the executive arm of the Secretariat and handles the month-by-month business of the movement on behalf of the Secretariat. Officers generally serve for a three year period.

The Emmaus National Board is now seeking nominations for the following positions starting 2021:

- ◆ NLD elect
- ◆ NSD elect
- ◆ Treasurer elect
- ◆ Secretary elect



for a three year term to take office in 2021-2022, and attend National Board Meetings (Zoom) and understand the respective roles for the remainder of 2021 – early 2022.

It is preferable that nominees have held similar positions in an Emmaus Community. They must have given their consent and, nominations must be endorsed by the Board of their own Community.

Nomination Forms have been emailed to community CLDs, CSDs and Secretaries and are also available on the website: [Nomination Forms](#).

For further information please contact:

David Nivala (National Lay Director):

nld@emmaus.org.au or,

Phil Jennings (National Secretary):

secretary@emmaus.org.au



Written nominations should be sent to the Secretary, Phil Jennings, at secretary@emmaus.org.au or post to 29 Ruthven Avenue Glandore SA 5037.

Please prayerfully consider how you may be involved in this important service to Emmaus Ministries in Australia.

Community Connections



<https://emmaus.org.au>



<https://www.facebook.com/AustralianWalkToEmmaus/>