

# MARCH 2021 CHATTER



**Our Mission:** *Empowering leaders through Emmaus and Chrysalis to be the hands and feet of Christ!*

**Our Vision:** *Fourth Day Leaders embodying Christ!*

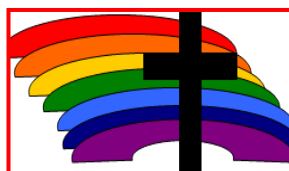
## From our Immediate Past Spiritual Director

Hi there everybody and how are you all. Our last Gathering was a great success with around 60 in attendance. If you were not there you missed out on a great afternoon. This will be my last article as Community Spiritual Director as Pastor Heather Couchman is taking up the position.

Yesterday was Valentine's Day and I wonder how many of you reached out to a love one and did something special for them. Valentine's Day is all about love. When I think about love not only do I think of loved ones but I also think of God and His Love toward us. He loves us with such a great love and Paul tells us in Romans 8 :35 following that there is nothing that can separate us from His Love. He lists a lot of things that might try and separate us BUT they cannot separate us. What a great God we have and how often do we just take Him for granted. Let's remember His Love and tell Him how much we appreciate it.

May the Lord richly bless you and keep you as we move into the year ahead. Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to be your Spiritual Director. Heather congratulations on taking up this position as Community Spiritual Director and I pray the Lord will bless you as you carry out this special role. Prayers and Blessings to you all.

Pastor Neil Warner.





# Gold Coast Emmaus Gathering

**Saturday, 6 March 2021**

**@ Burleigh Church of Christ**

174 West Burleigh Rd, Burleigh QLD 4220

## Gatherings are for Everyone

**Bring your Friends! Bring your Family! Bring your Children!**

**Everyone is welcome!**

Come early and share a cuppa and bickies,  
And a time of fellowship & prayer before the Gathering

**Then at 2pm we will Gather for**

Praise and Worship

4th Day Talk

Communion

Prayer

God's Love and Joy

If you have a name badge, book, cross and some bling - bring them along.



COVID restrictions will be in place according to Government requirements

Greetings everyone

What a joy it is to 'almost' be back to 'normal'. May our normal be what we once had or may it be a new normal. Which ever it is we know in our hearts and in our minds that God has a purpose for each of us and He will equip us to carry out that purpose in the old or new normal.

**Our first 'Saturday' Gathering.**

What a fantastic Gathering we had back in February — our welcomers at the door had a great time of meeting many of our GC and FNC communities. A sausage sizzle and a cuppa to enjoy, lots of chatter going on, some were catching up with those who attended Walks way back in the early nineties, some were praying and some were singing. 2 o'clock came around and the Gathering struck a chord with our Praise and Worship leaders. A great message, a top 4th day talk, communion and more songs. The offering on the day will strengthen our ability to move into our new venue. Weave, Weave brought the Gathering to a close. Wow, what a fabulous day. On behalf of the Board I say a huge thank you to our Father for watching over us, for being the reason we Gather together and for the many words of thanks and encouragement that have been spoken. Thank you Gold Coast and the Far North Coast communities.

**What's your purpose for coming to a Gathering?**

As I travelled home that day I reflected on the purpose of us meeting together, do you have a reason for coming to our Gatherings? The Chatter editor would love to hear from anyone who would like to contribute by way of a paragraph or more telling the community why you attend Gatherings.

**We have a new Community Spiritual Director.**

Having served the full term of 2 years as CSD, Rev. Neil Warner has had his prayers answered. Ps. Heather Couchman said yes to being asked to be the CSD for the next 2 years.

**Resignations**

Our Board has thanked Olga Kucsak for her gift of serving as Secretary. We also thanked Valerie Caldwell for her gift in serving as Dining Room co-ordinator. On behalf of the Board and community I thank you both for your many prayers, your thoughts and ideas you shared at our meetings and the hours you each gave in carrying out your roles. We will continue to uphold you both in prayer. **YES**, we need at least 2 more persons to fill these and other vacancies. If you would like to find out more about these roles please ask any of our Board members as listed in this edition.

**Positions vacant.**

With our planned Walks happening at a new venue, our Board is calling out for more hearts, hands and feet to make things happen. If you have a heart to serve God and you have attended a Walk to Emmaus weekend you are asked to contact a Board member for details. Continued next page.

## What's our Board up to?

### ***Saturday Gatherings.***

During 2019 - 2020 the Board discussed how our community has grown. Some of our growth came through the enthusiasm and focus of Gold Coast community and some came through the involvement of people who attended FNC Emmaus and live on the Far North Coast of NSW. Day light saving for the 6 months of each year meant that FNC residents would travel at night. It was suggested we try a Saturday Gathering instead of the Friday night.

**At our March Gathering, the Board will invite everyone to indicate their preference to cease or continue with Saturday Gatherings. Your prayers for the best outcome would be appreciated.**

### ***Positions vacant.***

Over the years, people have come forward and asked if there is anything they can do to help out. On several occasions the Board has accepted people to join the Board 'on the run'. At our AGM we then go through the process of identifying those who have joined the Board during the year and formally list them as Board members. Currently we are in need of a Secretary, a Dining room co-ordinator, a Gathering set-up co-ordinator, someone to keep in contact with ministries such as Alarga, Chrysalis, Kairos inside and Kairos outside and a co-ordinator for Special Agape. Having said that, you might like to contribute in ways the Board has not called for. Please come forward and let one of the Board members know what it is you want to share with us and the Emmaus community .

### ***Contact the Board.***

The Board is working on setting up ways and means for our Chatter to get to you and for you to contact us.

### ***Registration forms.***

We are making sure we have the necessary and correct questions and details in our new forms. It is planned to have these forms available at our next Gathering and also through our Chatter and Face book.

### ***Signing of the Community Covenant Documents.***

Each year, all members of the current Board are required to sign a document called the ***Emmaus Ministries Covenant Signature Page***. This page indicates the intent of the Local Australian communities that offer Walk to Emmaus, Chrysalis and/or Face to Face in this Covenant year to adhere and follow the Emmaus Ministries programmes. Each signatory has read and does agree to adhere to the Covenant between the Emmaus Ministries Board at the Upper Room.

Theo Galjaardt CLD on behalf of the GCEB.



### **Food for thought** from Our Daily Bread

It's hard to hate someone, when you're complimenting them.

To rule your tongue, let Christ reign in your heart.

Your life either sheds light or casts a shadow.

Poster found in a Church in France... (translated):

"When you enter this church it may be possible that you hear "the call of God". However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving."

## Here are 5 Ways to Develop Healthy Habits:

**Remember *whose* you are.** You are called by God and made in His image. Because of His great love for you, *you have the ability to become more like the person God created you to be.*

**Identify the "why" behind your behavior.<sup>†</sup>** Do you eat junk food because you like the taste? Or because you're tired or bored? Once you know *why* you behave the way you do, it's easier to replace unhealthy habits with better ones.

**Draw close to God.** When you prioritize time with God, you're allowing Him to renew your mind (Rom. 12:2). Eventually, this will help you change the way you live.

**Focus on *one* key habit.** Consistently doing one thing well will yield results over time and make it easier to master other habits later.

**Give yourself grace.** You won't always get it right... And that's okay. When you stumble, "fall forward": learn from your mistakes and keep going. God will still be right beside you, cheering you on.

It only takes a moment to start a healthy habit. Plan a change, and let God use that choice to begin transforming your daily routines.

### PRAYERS POINTS

Please pray for the Gathering day to be settled in for 2021.

Pray for the team as they await the October Walks and the training days that lead up to them.

Please pray for those of us in the Emmaus Community who need the healing hand of the Lord on them.

Guide us in these uncertain days with peace and reassurance that our Lord is in control. Help up to be faithful in whatever circumstances we may face.

Thank you for your Word, your grace, your mercy, your forgiveness, your provision and your amazing creation that surrounds us.

If you would like to share your prayer requests, please email Rhonda on [rjoys55@bigpond.com](mailto:rjoys55@bigpond.com)

## Raging Through The Storms Of Life.

Storms may come any time. It may be big or small. Most people may be caught unaware of its attack. What then can we do? Well, just be ready. Be prepared at all times and face it with boldness.

Storms are strong and show no mercy at all. It can strike anyone, young or old. Raging through the storms of life means, that we must have the courage to face it and never be afraid. Sometimes, we may feel rattled and may not know what to do as our eyes are focused on how big the storm is and forgot that our God is bigger than any storm. Life can sometimes be cruel. Strength is needed to combat anything. Should we then rely in our own strength? Human strength has its limit. Physically, we may get tired when things are overwhelming and even spiritually. And mentally too. No one can fully understand why sometimes things are in chaos. It is just the way it is. And we could never change our circumstances in life but we can overcome it for sure. Lots of questions may come to our minds and will try to solve things our way. Questions may remain unanswered at times. And sometimes, we may go off the tracks. It may seem that there is not enough answers to all our questions in life.

Please always remember that The Word of God has all the answers for any question that we may have. There is no escape from the storms. The best way is to face it with boldness knowing that our God, is our Helper, our Guide and our Strength. He is our all and is with us all the time. Yes, He is our Everything.

Let us know that God is in control of everything, even the storms that come in. Instead of gripping with fear, let us commit our everyday walk to the Lord in prayer and know that He always go with us just as what He had promised in His Word, even if sometimes we may feel that He is not there. Yes, in reality God is always there.

It is His Promise that He will never leave us nor forsake us. He Never Fails. All we have to do is believe and claim it. Yes, God is always true to His Promises come what may. Let us be grateful.

How could we be strong? Everyday, we have to commit everything in God's Hands. And trust that He will give strength to those who ask for it. Know that He is our God and that we belong to Him, so we should never fear in facing anything. Rise above the storms. It has an end. See that everyday is a bright new day, full of surprises and assurances that we can surely get through it. And our faith will become stronger. Take away all worries in life. Stand firm in our faith. Never stop praising God. With Jesus Christ, we have complete peace.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 says, "Now, may the Lord of Peace Himself give you peace always in every way". Amen!

God bless us all.

Luz Osborn

Board Prayer Director





