

# FEBRUARY 2022 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 SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

"May the joy of the Lord be your strength"

I declare a wholeness over our Emmaus 2022 program; that you, Father, are always in our midst, and that we have the ultimate pleasure of abiding under Your shadow. I declare over Emmaus, You are our dwelling place, and that all decisions required to be formulated and voted upon will come from the throne of Grace. In Jesus' precious Name."

Have you ever thought that Hanukah and Christmas are times to celebrate the wonder and mystery of the miraculous? Of one night's supply of oil lasting for 8 days so the temple light could remain lit; of the King of kings, the Saviour of the world, coming to earth as a tiny baby.

If we have eyes to see, the truth of their story shines throughout all creation. Paul tells a sad story of those who refused to acknowledge to give the Father glory. With so much turmoil and uncertainty in our world, it's easy to follow a futile path and so difficult to see the "good news of great joy" that the angels sang to the shepherds.

No matter how dark the world gets, no matter what trials we experience, the light shines in the darkness. Like a baby placed in a manger, the light may not come in ways we expect, it is our honour to seek it out. God does not conceal these mysteries to hide them from us, but rather He conceals them to hide them for us.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord. Psalm 92:1.

De Colores, Heather Couchman





**Gold Coast Emmaus Gathering**  
**Saturday, 5th February 2022**  
**@ Burleigh Church of Christ**

174 West Burleigh Rd, Burleigh QLD 4220

“LET THERE BE LOVE SHARED AMONG US,  
LET THERE BE LOVE...”

LET’S ALL GET TOGETHER TO SING SONGS OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP, TO PRAY WITH  
ONE ANOTHER AND TO SHARE IN COMMUNION.

GATHERING STARTS AT 2.00PM. COVID restrictions will be in place according to  
Government requirements

**Join us on Facebook**

Are you on our Facebook page?

Gold Coast Emmaus is a private group for Emmaus and  
related 4th day participants to keep in touch with the our community and events.

Only members can see the posts

Answer the questions and approval will be certain.

Approval is only given to those who have attended Emmaus and related events e.g.  
Chrysalis, Cursillo, Kairos, face to face

**Prayer**

Prayer is the foundation of our walks

The prayer directors support on site and in the lead up to the walks but the prayer  
vigil is special

Please show your support by joining the prayer vigil at <https://vigil.emmaus.org.au/>

Links to all community prayer vigils can be found there.

Blessings in the name of Jesus.

Wow, what an amazing start we have had to 2022.

Our weather this summer has been beautiful. Yes, we had some rain (which we needed), but we also had some nice cool days and nights - instead of the heat that we usually get. Our God is so good. No matter what, He still loves us and wants to have an intimate relationship with us.

Yes, there has been covid, there have been earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis etc, but we are taught not to fear, not to take our eyes off Jesus. I don't know about you, but I would rather spend my time on things of God and not things on the world. Look to the positive, and not the negative. Satan is trying hard to pull us down, but we know who wins in the end.

So, what is happening in 2022?

We are continuing to hold gatherings - with our borders now open, our NSW members will be able to attend if they wish. Come along and enjoy some praise and worship, partake in communion, fellowship with other members of our community. Plans are in place to do some different things at our gatherings throughout the year.

Our Lay Directors, Peter and Kerry, are getting their teams ready - Training days have been set. Walks are going ahead. Please pray for our Lay Directors, our teams and especially our pilgrims.

It is now 2 years since we have held a walk. We have a new campsite. Let's make these walks something special.

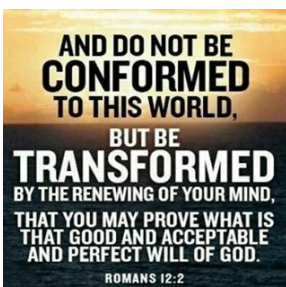
Please consider sponsoring pilgrims for the walks - remember what it was like when you did your walk. Let us bless others with their "Walk to Emmaus"

It was decided not to hold walks in October this year, but to do something to build up our community -instead - plans are still underway as to what these will be. Dates have been set for 2023 walks.

New board members are still needed - there are several vacancies on the board that we would like to be filled. Please speak to one of the board members about what it is like to be on the board and consider what you can do to help.

Face to Face - still a possibility of holding one on the Northern Gold Coast and one in the Northern NSW. Churches have agreed to allow us to hold these in their premises if and when we need them.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our gatherings and especially what blessings our Lord will bless us with during 2022. God bless you all. Jill (CLD)



## **2022 - Gatherings & Board Meetings**

**February 5**

**March 5**

**April 2**

**May 7**

**June 4 - 4<sup>th</sup> Day BBQ**

**July 2**

**August 6**

**September 3**

**October 1**

**November 5**

**December 3 - Christmas get together**

### **Training Days and Walks**

**Meet and Greet - 26 February**

**Training Day 1 - 12 March**

**Training Day 2 - 26 March**

**Training Day 3 - 30 April**

**Debrief - 18 June**

**Men's walk - 19 - 22 May**

**Women's Walk - 26 - 29 May**

### **PRAYER POINTS**

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

Please thank Our Lord for delivering us from 2021 to face 2022 filled with joy and peace and comfort in Him.

Pray for all of us who have need for healing in various degrees and conditions. Pray we are faithful in whatever is God's plan for our lives.

Please help us to manoeuvre the current restrictions in place and respect our challenges.

Pray we can communicate with others in our Emmaus family especially those who have endured so much isolation last year.

Please pray for the teams and their families for the Walks in May as they negotiate all that has to be in place for the Walks to run well. Let them not stress about the little things as it will still be an amazing witness to Christ.

Help all of us be of assistance in some small way to ease the burden of those who try to do too much. This should be a joyful event celebrating our Lord and Saviour and giving many people the opportunity to get closer to our God.

Let us praise and worship our Lord for all that he has done for us because He loves us even if we are unworthy.

Well, it's brand new year, and let's pray that it will be a better one than the last couple!

Some of you may be aware that I have agreed to take on the role of Weekend Lay Director for Women's Walk 145 in May this year as Jill Harris has been unable to continue. I'm very pleased to report that most of the team put together by Jill is still on board and I'm looking forward to meeting and working with all of them.

At this point, we are still in need of an experienced Assistant Lay Director, so if this description fits you and you think you are able to fill this role, please contact me on 0402 047 016. It is also possible that more team members may still be needed.

My grateful thanks go to Robyn Collins who has agreed to step in as Spiritual Director, to Janine and Damian Kinnear for filling the role of Prayer Directors, and to Charles and Heather Probin for once again coming to the rescue to coordinate the Agape and 'showing the ropes' to Judy Frost.

If you feel able to help us make this an amazing Walk in any way, please be a part of the support network, either by participating in the 72 hour Prayer team, making Agape, serving in the Dining Room, or attending Candle lighting and Closing ceremonies. You make a difference, and we need you. I believe God has his hand on these Walks. They have been a long time coming together and we must trust him in his wisdom to bring everything together in his timing.

You may also be aware that the Walks this year will take place in our new location just up the hill from Camp Tamborine. The campsite is much easier to navigate than Camp Tamborine, being all on one level with no more long stairs to climb.

Our 'meet and greet' and training days have been set. All will be held at the Burleigh Heads Church of Christ. Dates are as follows:

Meet and Greet – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February

1<sup>st</sup> Training Day – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March

2<sup>nd</sup> Training Day – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March

3<sup>rd</sup> Training Day - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April

Men's Walk 19 – 22 May

Women's Walk 26 – 29 May

Debriefing Day – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Reminders will be sent to the teams before each get together.

I am hoping that the whole community will support both Peter Osborne and I in these upcoming Walks, and that you will keep us and all the team in your prayers.

De Colores

Kerry Skee, Lay Director for Walk 145



...and it's Kerry again, wearing a different hat.

I would like to talk to you a little about 'Face to Face'. I have taken responsibility on the board for this very important part of Emmaus, but it occurs to me that many of you may not know very much about it.

I first heard about Face to Face in 2018 and was intrigued. I was a little concerned about whether it would be 'as good' as Emmaus. Late in that year, I was privileged to attend, with Tracey Carlson, the closing ceremony of the first Face to Face encounter held at Sandgate Uniting Church. To put it bluntly, we were both 'blown away' with the impact this program had on the participants. Face to Face is very flexible. It was designed for senior people who may not be able or wish to attend a 4 day Emmaus weekend. It is not limited to the older generation. There are folk who for various reasons are not able to participate in a 'Walk to Emmaus'. This is for them too.

The impact that Face to Face had on its participants was EXACTLY THE SAME as those on an Emmaus Walk. The witnessing at the closing ceremony was indistinguishable from the closing ceremony at an Emmaus weekend. I wished I had also been able to attend the candle lighting. There have been concerns raised such as having both men and women. It did not seem to be a problem. The tables are segregated but all in one room. This has always been the way it was done for Alarga too, and that also worked. If you have any concerns about how this would work, please talk to us about it, because it's possible that your concerns are similar to what we first thought before seeing how it worked.

Another benefit is the timing and location. The program can be done in 4 sessions, either 1 day a week for 4 weeks, or 2 days a week over 2 weeks, depending what works for that particular encounter. It can be held in a local church, a hall, wherever is convenient for that group of people. Obviously, some things are done a little differently (no chocolates on your pillow) but the experiences and reactions are very similar to what we see on an Emmaus Walk.

We are considering the possibility of holding Face to Face Encounters instead of our normal October Walks. We are unable to hold Walks in October, and this is an option we may pursue.

Please give some thought to this program. You just might be asked to be involved!

De Colores

Kerry Skee

## Visualisation – Pool of Bethesda

Get comfortable if you aren't already. Close your eyes and take several deep breaths.

Imagine your spirit rising into the Presence of God. Picture Jesus, as you think of Him.

He is with us visiting the pool of Bethesda.

Picture a clear pool of water, surrounded by a porch with flat, shallow steps. Jesus is there waiting for you – just you, alone. He is looking at you. He asks you

“Do you want to be made whole?”

“Are you willing to be made whole?”

“Are you willing to use your health and strength and vitality of a perfect body, a sane mind, a serene soul, to gift yourself to Him?”

“Are you willing to use your health and strength and vitality of a perfect body, a sane mind, a serene soul, to help others and bring them into the Kingdom?”

Let us picture this pool, as a pool of His divine love; of water that is flowing out from the throne of God. Whoever touches this stream of love – whoever steps into these waters will find healing and cleansing.

Now you are going to see yourself stepping into the pool.

See yourself removing your shoes, and with them all the petty troubles which bind you to this earth.

See yourself, stepping in deeper and deeper - up to your waist. Feel the water's soothing touch.

Feel the cleansing of the external and internal part of your body. Now renewed for God's divine purposes.

As you stand there you realise that nothing of the body's natural physical desires and urges are evil, yet nor can they control you, because they are now cleansed.

You step further into the pool, slowly the water and God's cleansing power is covering and cleansing and healing your body externally, and internally, organ by organ. There is complete restoration happening to cause your body to function with healing and health.

Where there was any part of you that was not whole you now see the refreshment and invigoration. Your body is renewed and thus your whole body, emotions, spirit is free to function now just the way God designed it to.

Jesus' presence and power has brought you cleansing, health and wholeness. Step out as you wish - now to experience that wholeness.

Thank the Lord for His gift of cleansing, life, health and wholeness.

Our new pastor at church put this to us in a sermon one Sunday. The challenge was to answer it.

### **RHONDA BRYAN - WHO ARE YOU? DESCRIBE YOURSELF**

First of all I am a wife, mother to two daughters and grandmother to two grandsons and two grand-daughters. Now retired. Formally worked for the Gold Coast Bulletin for 20 years and Crossroads for the disabled for 8 years and Crosslife church administration and Crosslife's child care centre, Young Discoverers for many years.

I am:

A child of God	More Available when possible
Able to change mind if needed	Organised
Accepting	Overwhelmed by our circumstances
Always try to be more loving, kind, compassionate and forgiving	Peaceful and Joyful most of the time but want more
Beautifully and wonderfully made in a unique way	Prompted by the Spirit
Creative and Innovative	Quirky
Determined	Realistic
Discerning	Serving to others
Encouraging	Sincere
Faithful	Sometimes disappointed in myself
Frugal	Spiritually created in the Image of Christ
Grateful for many blessings	Striving for Grace
Honest	Thankful
Hopeful of His Promise	Trusting
Learning to Surrender	Unworthy of His love

This is Wayne's -

I am a part Caucasian, part Indigenous male person. **I am crucified with Christ.** I am 5 foot 4 inches (162.5cm) and 60 kg. **I'm a child of God, Yes I am**

I am 77 years young and recovering from Prostate Cancer I'm a motorcycle owner of 4 bikes. **I'm healed by Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary.** I'm a V8 owner of a 308 in a Bedford Van. I'm a gospel singer and worship leader and musician. **I'm a time traveler currently in 2022. I'm a follower of Christ.** I'm a stepfather to four and a step grandfather to four. **I am gloriously delivered from my sin and shame. Hallelujah.** I am a keen gardener. I'm a retired electrician. **I'm in awe of God's creation.**



## Men's Walk 144 Update

Greetings to All,

I would like to wish you all a very happy new year and pray that you all enjoy a prosperous and positive year.

It was with that positive outlook that we have started this year, with a meeting in January, between our CLD, Jill Ballinger, our CSD, Heather Couchman, Kerry Skee, WLD for the Ladies Walk 145, WSD for the Men's Walk, Neil Warner, the Men's Support Director, Michael Ballinger, and myself.

We looked at our teams and made any adjustments that were required and worked out all the dates we need to enable these Walks to proceed.

We will go for a meet and greet (Version 3.0), in late February, with the first two training days to be held in March, due to Easter, Anzac day weekend and school holidays. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> training day will not be held till the end of April, which in itself is a blessing as the teams will be back together not long before the Walks get under way in May, at our new venue. We will also be encouraging all the team members to come back together again in June, to hold a Walk debrief, this is important and vital with these Walks, so we can see what worked and what we need to adjust, with the new arrangements.

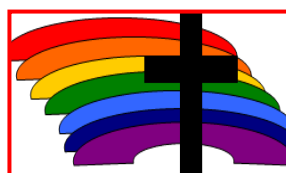
I would encourage you, as our faithful community members to continue to uphold the teams and the pilgrims in prayer and continue to pray that all the restrictions, that have hampered us successfully holding our Walks over the past two years, will be a thing of the past and we can all look forward with a positive outlook and with faith that our God will guide us through all this.

Finally I would like to encourage you all, both team and community to show your support for our community by attending our Gatherings and perhaps the meet and greet on the 26<sup>th</sup> February.

De Colores,

Peter Osborn,

(WLD Walk 144)



Welcome to the New Year and let us approach this year with a positive outlook and attitude towards prayer.

A new year is a great time to deepen your prayer habits. Do you want to commit to spending more regular time in prayer? Prayer is easy to do, and it's worth the effort.

**Prayer is easy to do**, but making it a regular habit can be difficult. We sometimes have short attention spans, feel discouraged, are exhausted, and wonder if it's worth the effort. Mary Kate Morse addresses motivation to pray in the *Guidebook to Prayer*.

If we pray because we should or because we need something, the motivation for a life of prayer is weak. However, if we pray to experience God and to grow, the motivation is stronger. Prayer can redirect anxiety to hope, bitterness to freedom, insecurity to courage, and stuck-ness to vision. We feel ourselves in the living water of Christ. We hear the whisper of the Holy Spirit guiding us. We know the presence of God. (p. 17)

Prayer is motivating because we have permission to [speak directly to God](#). We can all pray, there is no wrong way to do it, it can be done anywhere, and you don't need anything to do it. The apostle Paul teaches us to "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful" ([Colossians 4:2](#)) and to "Rejoice always, **pray continually**, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" ([1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18](#)). When we pray, we enter into communication with our Saviour, listen to His leading, and savour His grace.

**Is prayer worth it? Yes, it is!** Daniel is a hero of faith from the Old Testament, and he gives us a great example of what a habit of prayer looks like. Daniel was intelligent and had outstanding character. But he was forced to leave his home and taken to a foreign country as a captive. His wisdom and skills were noticed, and he was soon invited to serve the foreign king. Other servants of the court were jealous of Daniel's swift promotions, and they set a trap: they created a new rule that stated people in the land could only pray to the king—and no one else. Anyone who broke that law would receive a death sentence. But Daniel was a man of prayer, and he continued to pray to God: "Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened towards Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before" ([Daniel 6:10](#)).

Even when faced with death, Daniel continued to be faithful in his prayers, "just as he had done before." **His habit of prayer was incredibly strong; he was willing to give up his life rather than give up his prayer life.** Prayer was worth it. (And—as we read later in Daniel 6—God miraculously delivered Daniel from the attempted execution in the lions' den.)

As you start this year, **may you have the motivation to make prayer a regular habit.** Remember that God hears your prayers: "Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." ([Jeremiah 29: 12-13](#)). May you recognize that prayer is easy to do and is worth it.

Blessings,

Peter Osborn

(Board Prayer Director)

