

Central West Emmaus

Newsletter

May 2020

From your Community Lay Director,
Avril Butler

My sister has been attending the Spring Harvest conference, which is held in the UK just after Easter, for several years now. This year, she invited me to join her in viewing the sessions which were made available online until the end of April. The devotion entitled "Unleashing Love in a Time of Fear" looked to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, to bring some guidance for us in current times. The speaker drew four principles from Jesus' actions that night:

1. **Jesus chose to go where he had often prayed before, where He had a familiar framework.**
2. **He identified to his three closest friends to be with Him.**
3. **He focussed on the goodness of God, and viewed his situation in the light of that goodness.**
4. **He did not hide His vulnerability either from His friends or from God.**

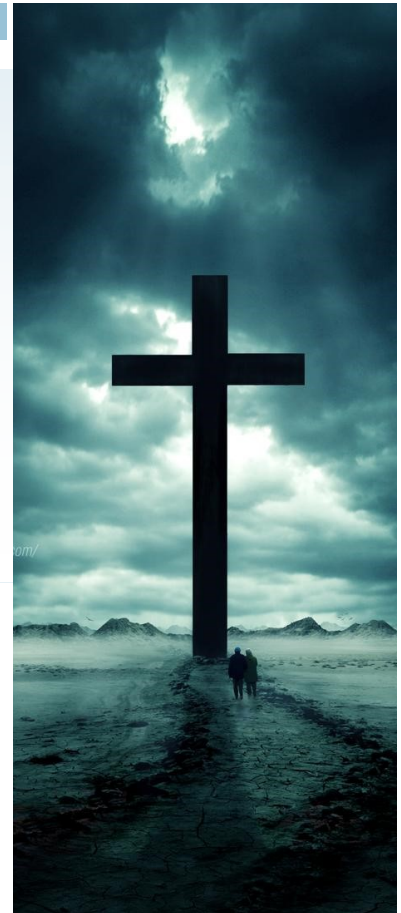
Phil 4:6-9 guides us the same way:

⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved,^[e] whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about^[f] these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

These are words that we all need to hold on to, to rest in the peace that God gives to each one of us, and to share that peace with a hurting world.

De Colores
Avril



Inside this issue

CLD Report	1
CSD Report	2
Words of Inspiration	3
2019 Board.....	4
Words of Encouragement ..	5
Reunion Groups	5
Emmaus Links.....	6

Special points of interest

- Some words of encouragement
- Some words of inspiration
- Some encouragement for today and tomorrow
- Some ways to connect with your friends
- Some interesting stories to read



From your Community Spiritual Director, Allan Vincent

For the last few weeks, I have been reflecting on this passage in James 1:2-8:

²Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶But

when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. ⁸Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

The last few weeks, it has felt like at times that I was in that wave, tossed about, trying to keep my head above water. It reminded me of the disciples caught in

He is right there with us. He has never – and will never – ever jump ship and leave us on our own

Inside Story Headline

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

the storm with Jesus asleep on the boat. Instead of feeling joy during this – instead of feeling a calm delight (because they would've been experiencing God's grace in the midst of the storm), they were feeling the exact opposite. Here was the creator of the universe – the I AM – the Messiah – in the boat with them – in the midst of exactly the same storm as them – yet he was so calm that he was asleep. The disciples had turned their back on Jesus and could only see the storm in all its intensity without the God who had authority over all of creation. If there was one person in the entire universe that I would want to have in the boat during the storm – that would have to be Jesus standing side by side with me – handing the storm over to Him who has always had authority over it. The thing is – every storm – every trial that we face, He is right there with us. He has never – and will never – ever jump ship and leave us on our own.

Never – Ever.

So my question to you is: during the storms and trials of life, are we in that boat facing that storm on our own – or have we positioned ourselves so that the storm is dealt with by God?



Can we recognise the joy that comes from His grace through these tough times?

Finally, I have taken encouragement from Martin Luther today, who in response to the Black Plague, had this to say to his congregation:

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what He has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbour needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above."--Luther's Works, Vol. 43, page 132.

May we each continue to trust God for his protection, do all we can to act with safety and caution...then go freely to generously love and serve others.

Allan Vincent

John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Psalm 107: 1-8

O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy; And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south. They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses. And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation. Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

2019 Board Members

Community Spiritual Director - Allan Vincent Spiritual Oversight and prayer for our Community and Board Meetings and Walks and building up the Community in love.

Community Lay Director – Avril Butler Connecting, loving, encouraging and building the Community, Oversight of Community and Walks, Inspiring the board and chairing meetings, running Gatherings, future direction.

Secretary – Sandra Mudford Taking and compiling Board minutes from meetings, maintaining community contact details.

Treasurer, Registrar & Ridgecrest Liaison Don Butler All financial matters, updating forms, being registrar for the walks and our campsite communication person.

Reunion Groups and Newsletter Vacant

Inspiring and encouraging our Reunion Groups, Encouraging the Community to sponsor and following up on new Pilgrims. Putting the newsletter together and distributing to the Community.

Prayer – Andrew Alder Sourcing Community for Prayer for walks. Praying for us all.

Supplies - Helen Harris Obtaining all things necessary to run Walks including handbooks and equipping Lay Directors.

Copyright - Jenny Gilbertson Keeping our song lists and music Copyright updated.

Music Coordinator – Leisha Chaseling Coordination and delegation of music for Emmaus events.

Community Agape & Walk Agape - Jenny Gilbertson Keeping us connected to Emmaus Communities, both Overseas and Australian, as well as organising local agape from Reunion Groups for Walks.

Gatherings - Geoff Hoskins Sourcing the Fourth Day Speaker and booking venues for Gatherings. Looking after the kitchen at Gatherings and preparing the Communion Table.

Candlelighting – Avril Butler Ensuring materials are available for Candlelighting.

Training – Helen Harris & Avril Butler Overseeing One Day Team Training, Board Talks and lunch.

Website - Michael Flack & Andrew Alder Keeping our website current, updated, interesting and informative.

IT Oversight Andrew Alder Support with and custody of electronic equipment

Sponsoring – Jenny Gilbertson Providing information and support to sponsors

Book Table – Michael Flack Organising the Book Table for both Walks Pack up and set up – Overseeing set up and packing up for Training and the Walks



Reunion Groups

Bathurst Butterflies (First Sat of month)—0417 479 676

Bathurst Gold—6331 2729

Bathurst Rainbow Connection—6331 9241

Dubbo Zooey Zebras—6882 2639

Dubbo Wild Ducks—6885 4454

Misfits—68Dubbo 87 2191



"And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not." Isaiah 58:11

Hassans Walls (Last Sat of odd months)—6351 4214

Lithgow Zigzags (Last Sat of odd months)—6351 4214

Mendooran Doers—6886 1265

Narromine Sunflowers—6889 1791

Nyngan Nutmegs—6832 1339

Oberon Pine Nuts—0412 907 843

Orange Blossoms—6361 0127

Parkes Stargazers—6869 1969

Peak Hill Gold Seekers (First Sun of month)—6869 1784

WWW.com Wellington—6845 2404





Walk To Emmaus

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program that thousands of people around the world have undertaken to renew their heart, mind, soul and strength.

The program's approach richly models the servant hood of Jesus and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all."

In Emmaus Australia, communities form the core of our faith revitalising work.

Communities are self organised and self governed under the loving care of the national body. Emmaus Communities organise events for Spiritual renewal and for encounters with our Holy God and can be found in many locations around this great land.

See more at the Emmaus Ministries Australia website

<https://www.emmaus.org.au/>

And don't forget to like us on Facebook

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



Check your email for the Zoom link - meeting on Saturday 9/5/2020