

The Walk to

# Emmaus

for the development of Christian Leaders



## Great Southern (WA) Emmaus Community



### Newsletter #94 – August 2022 Our Goodbye.

*Hello to all you wonderful people, who have Walked to Emmaus in the Great Southern, time and time again, being community to each other.*

*Many of you will know the news but for those 'who came in late' – a special Gathering was held in February that included a Special Meeting. It was decided that our Great Southern Emmaus Community should wind up.*

*This Newsletter contains the summary of the Gathering and a contribution from each Board Member; sharing fond memories & saying our farewells. You will see that some are dated May, indeed we started following our final Board Meeting; we have found it a hard thing to bring our thoughts together and say our final farewells to the GSEC.*

*The FaceBook page will stay available for the foreseeable future. We encourage you to share your memories and say your farewells.*

*As was said at the Gathering, we are each invited to join the Perth Emmaus Community. Maybe we will see you there.*

### Recap of Walk. Stroll. Stride.

19 Feb 2022

In February, the GSEC held a one-day Gathering in Wagin. On the theme 'Walk. Stroll. Stride.' The aim for the 50 people (from Perth and Great Southern) who attended was to enjoy each other, as well as to listen, lament and hope in God, was to discern what God might be saying about the future of GSEC. It was a great day!

Here's a brief review of the Program:

#### **1 – Listen. Listen to My Story.** (Speaker Chris Butler)

Aim: For each person to have opportunity to tell their Emmaus story - of God's grace received. For each voice to be heard. Validation of story.

Grace: Focus on the grace of God as learnt and experienced at Emmaus.

Q1: Did you encounter God when you did your Walk to Emmaus? What is your story? What circumstances were big in your life then? Are they still looming large? Or is God larger?

Q2: In three words or three short sentences summarise your Emmaus Walk.

#### **2 – Listen. Listen to my Lament.** (Speaker Kay Eva)

Aim: To express personal and corporate sadness, pain, loss, grief, and sorrow.

Grace: In our weakness we find the need for a stronger strength.

Q1: Have you hurt anyone at Emmaus? Been hurt? (→ forgiveness)

Q2: Lament is saying 'this is how I would like my life to be; this is how it is; there is a big gap, but, God, you are sovereign'. Do you have any laments? What would you say to God about your life? About Emmaus? About your local church involvement?

Q3: Take some time to write/cry your own lament. Any subject. Just pour out your heart.

#### **3 – Listen. Listen to My Hope.** (Speaker: John Whaley)

Aim: Finding hope; gaining perspective and clarity; trusting in God; finding breakthrough!

Grace: God is infinite, unchangeable, all powerful, transcendent, active.

Q1: Hope is a way of thinking. What is your response to that statement?

Q2: What images come to mind when you think of God as your source of hope? How does that make you feel?

Q3: How do you cultivate hope?

**4 – Listen. Listen to my God.** (Speaker David de Kock)

Aim: To position oneself to make godly decisions. Keys are listening, obedience, attitude.

Grace: God is a communicating God, a relating God.

Q1: Have you ever heard God’s voice? How do you know it was God?

Q2: What attitude is necessary to hear God’s voice?

**5 – Listen. Listen to your Heart.** (Speaker John Butler)

Aim: Re-focus/re-orientation to stride into the future (with or without Emmaus).

Grace: God’s constant presence is with us always, everywhere, no matter what.

Q1: What is God saying to your heart? Does it sound like a grace?

A ballot was taken at a membership meeting, and the results are printed here for your information.

The Board met on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and carried through the wishes of the Community by formally closing GSEC, done with love and tenderness and grateful hearts for the blessings from God to this Emmaus Community.

| <b>Ballot Papers from 19 Feb 2022</b>                                |    |
|--|----|
| Attendance at Walk. Stroll. Stride.                                  | 50 |
| GSEC Members in attendance at WSS                                    | 38 |
| Ballot Papers received   | 32 |
| Votes for GSEC continuing  | 10 |
| Votes for GSEC not continuing  | 21 |
| Votes for becoming part of Perth EC                                  | 18 |
| Of these 18, already Members of PEC                                  | 13 |
| Names and contact details passed<br>from GSEC to PEC (in March 2022) | 5  |

*De colores* (with a tear),

Wendy Pederick (Secretary and Gatherings)

May 2022

**From the Chairman**

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Greetings to the Great Southern Emmaus Community in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The great story of God is all about self-giving love.

- In the beginning the Creator God gave of himself in making a beautiful world, an expression of love, for the joy of it, making it with all the colours of His love.
- Jesus redefined love by His self-giving sacrifice, a love that confronted, held and rescued us as we beheld him anew strung out for us on the cross during Dying Moments.
- God’s Spirit, breathed warmly into us at our conversion, is the power of God to go and do the same – the reconciling work of God in our marriages, families, communities, and world by daily practices of self-giving love.

God’s kingdom reveals a power exercised through giving, serving and loving. A power that transforms the world in ways nobody could imagine – it calls, confronts, transforms, and then equips more and more people from every conceivable background to be in turn powerful witnesses to the Jesus they have come to know and love. This is still our commission as believers.

For me, Emmaus has been a place for celebrating our God and for reminding ourselves of His high calling to self-giving love. Love is a choice and comes from hearts touched by the many means of His extraordinary grace. Whether on the conference room team or team of servants, countless expressions of God’s love and grace have been witness to His reality and to the strength of love that enables His message of salvation and spiritual growth to reach our hearts and world. Take some time to revisit your memories evoked by this last newsletter of GSEC, and then turn your reminiscing into praise. God has indeed been good to us.

Emmaus teams, servants, pilgrims, and the Board are commissioned to for the roles we’ve held. With the closing of the Community – yes, a sad event, yet one I believe has been managed in a godly, reverent, and respectful way – we are now relieved of those roles. I give profound thanks to God for all the ways you and

I have seen, received and been able to give self-giving love. And I thank you, the Community, for being the beautiful people you are.

Now, receive the blessing:

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and self-giving love of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

*De colores* (one last time),  
Arthur Pederick  
May 2022

### Thanksgiving for the Journey.

I give praise and thanks to God that the Emmaus Movement come to Western Australia because of responsible people called by Him to pass on this gift, along with the benefits they themselves had received when they made their pilgrimage.

Having experienced the love of God and the “hands on” help of team members during my “Walk” was both marvellous and a challenge at the same time, however being on Team was even more rewarding. Seeing others, whether on Team or as pilgrims, grow and growing in the knowledge and personal experience of the Lord was, and still remains an inspiration to me.

After twenty-five years I am so filled with gratitude and thankfulness for all the new friendships and acquaintances I have been enabled to make through Emmaus. You have enriched my life beyond measure to the point that I feel I have received far, far more than I ever gave.

Have there been difficulties and disappointments over the years? Yes, however they disappear into oblivion whenever and wherever I meet my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The joy of pleasant memories, of worship, prayer and fellowship, not to mention EATING together, rises to such heights of happiness and contentment that totally swamps anything negative.

Thank you Lord; and thank you everyone for the journey.

*De Colores*  
John Butler

### ***Hello Great Southern Emmaus Community***

***It is with a bit of sadness that this community comes to a close, but as this group ends, it marks the beginning of other exciting ventures and projects, wherever God directs each of us.***

***I am not usually one that would write a column in the newsletter, and as such maybe an unfamiliar name. My husband Mike and I have shared the Music Director role for the last few years, well we have shared the title- Mike did most of the work!***

*Newsletter #94*



*Our kids have grown up attending gatherings, candlelighting and other community events. The boys used to call Emmaus 'Food church', which I reckon is very fitting!*

*We would just like to thank everyone who served over the years as part of the music team for walks and gatherings. Music is such a wonderful and inspiring part of the Walk to Emmaus, I don't think I will ever forget the first time I heard 'Sing Halleluiah' sung with a full room of women, it was so beautiful. Looking through the music files today I saw so many copies of this song in particular, all from different eras of walks and musicians, it was a nice reminder of all that have been involved.*

*Two bible verses come to mind when I think of the music at Emmaus events, Psalms 98:4 'Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music' and Psalm 100: 1 'Make a joyful noise unto the Lord'! Either way, wow have we had fun over the years!*

*De Colores,  
Mike and Shannon Frost*

I have great respect for the role that the Great Southern Emmaus Community has had over the time it's been active. I know from other's comments that it has played a big part in people's lives reminding them how much Gods loves them and being instrumental in the process of healing there. For myself it was a roller coaster ride at the beginning, as the Walk talks and activities reminded me of the importance of my faith. I was a work in progress although it took a while to come around as our God is a gentleman in His ways. So I have precious thoughts on how He used the people through Emmaus to help me stand up and walk forward. Afterwards being on team for various jobs was very uplifting and I have to say that one of the turning points for me was Pat and Dave Williamsons love and care in the kitchen. The way they watched over the workers and cared for them was beautiful. People mattered. This was a time I will never forget. They were the picture of discipleship in action. Yes very precious memories are kept in my heart for this time of Emmaus in the Great Southern.

We could all say more I think but that's the important memories in a nutshell for me!!

Kind regards  
Tania Higgins

## **GRATITUDE for 20 Gifts in 20 Years**

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Emmaus has been for me an **eye-opening** walk with Jesus the risen Messiah. My heart has burned within me as I've learnt, been challenged, floundered, balked, fought, and softened, as I've gained new perspective and had my world flipped right-side up.

Thanks to Emmaus, I've learnt how to be a confident **public speaker**. Through Emmaus, I've been able to **use my skills** in admin for the Kingdom of God. Via the Emmaus emphasis on **servant-hearted leadership**, I'm becoming a better team player.

Arthur and I have been enriched by many beautiful **friendships** made through Emmaus with people whose paths we would not likely have crossed any other way. There is a richness, a depth, a bond that we enjoy because of the shared experiences of worship, service, bells, holy communion, honesty, prayer, personal sharing, celebration, and community living. In our 'empty nest' years these friends – you – have edified us by your empathy and caring, your genuine interest in the state of our relationship with both the Almighty and with our neighbours on planet earth.

In myriad ways I have been **mentored** by spiritual giants – Emmaus leaders and pilgrims alike – who have lived out and demonstrated to me Christ crucified and risen. I am more disciplined in my **prayer** life,

quicker to **forgive**, and **gentler** with people when they vulnerably share from their broken, tender places – all because of **the witness** of God's faithful in the Great Southern Emmaus Community. Thank you. Through Emmaus Talks and personal testimony, my faith has been built up. Stories you have shared of God's faithfulness have given me more reasons to **worship** our God who cares enough to engage himself in our frail fretfulness and shaming shams.

I glorify Him for either **calming the storm** or **calming us in the storm**. He has done both in me. Emmaus created a **safe place** for me too to be honest about my private inner world. As an introvert, it's the inner me who has most grown since Perth Walk 20 in 2002. In **meditation**, I learnt to really see the Jesus who converses with and healed real people, people confused and lost or arrogant and selfish – people just like me. I learnt how to **examine my conscience** and lay bare my sin-prone heart for the King of Glory to cleanse. I'm grateful to Emmaus for Dying Moments – for the opportunity of **giving up heavy loads** to find release and joy. **Love** finds many expressions in Emmaus – little gifts, words of encouragement, touches of hope, hugs, acts of service, letters from dear hearts, quality time – and I have savoured them all.

Twenty years ago, I only knew the theory of Paul testimony about 'when I am weak, then I am strong' (2 Cor. 12:10). It confused me. But **spiritual growth** is a process, lead by a patient and loving God. By God's grace, I have thrown off the pursuit of perfectionism and more easily embrace compassion (including self-compassion). That is what Jesus has done in me through Emmaus. I have found the courage to be me, to be real and authentic. I have come to accept my weaknesses and vulnerabilities as **opportunities** for God's love and power to shine through a sinner saved by grace. I am so grateful. Glory to God.

Wendy Pederick  
May 2022

It is with a degree of sadness that I write for the last time, as the Board rep for the Great Southern Emmaus to the Perth Emmaus Board and visa-versa.

The Great Southern Emmaus was commissioned into being whilst we (my wife Joy and I) were involved with the Perth Emmaus, having done our walks in 1998 at Baldivis. Walk 7, and 8, and living in Esperance at the time. We had enjoyed a few years of coming up to Perth for their walks, either on the support team or on the Walk Team, with many enjoyable times, memorable moments and drawing closer to God learning times. Meeting many wonderful and colourful country folk.

The Perth Emmaus Board wish to thank the Great Southern people for their diligence, dedication, and love, shown over the years, towards God's work through Emmaus. Faithfulness plus.

The Perth board also wishes to Thank you for the excess supplies that have been given them to use in our Emmaus Walks and activities. TO which you all ARE INVITED to participate.

AS with all walks, Perth once again wishes to have Country folk up, down, or across, whichever – to COME to Perth in support of God's work in this area. (Like in the old days).

Chrysalis is also a welcoming area that still needs everyone's support when you can.

The Western Australian Walks for 2022 will be held by Perth Emmaus Community, in Maida Vale in September – Please see the Application Form for Pilgrims on the Perth Emmaus web site; [www.perth.emmaus.org.au](http://www.perth.emmaus.org.au)

The Perth Community would like to extend an invitation to you all, to 'Come as you can', 'Do all you can' and 'Support how you can'.

The options remain the same as you have been used to: - To be available to be on Team, on a support Team, prayer vigil, sponsoring a pilgrim or coming as a beautiful offering of your time to the Candle Lighting Service and or Closing Service.

**The Perth Board would love to have YOU on their Data Base** so that you will always know what's going on – Just in case you find yourself coming to Perth at that time.

Forward your email address to [ericjoy1@tpg.com.au](mailto:ericjoy1@tpg.com.au) or [cld@perth.emmaus.org.au](mailto:cld@perth.emmaus.org.au)

De Colores  
Eric Loughton

I was Music Director for Walk #1 in 2003, with Phil Voss on bass and Wayne Barnett on guitar. I remember that "The Lab" as it is known still had chemistry work benches on the sides, and it was very crowded for the pilgrims and team. I remember when the men sang, especially the well-known hymns like "How Great Thou Art", the room reverberated with the sound of men singing and worshipping with all their hearts - so much so that the windows rattled in sympathy with them.

I was Lay Director for walk 23 in 2014, and I was on team for the last men's walk in 2019. In the 16 years that the community existed, I only missed three years. I had sponsored my friend Alex to walk #1, and although he appreciated everything that was done on the weekend, the thing that really touched his heart was the agape - "Someone took time to make this, for me". It was a jigsaw puzzle piece with the tag "You are an important part of the Kingdom of God".

One pilgrim told me after the Candlelighting service "All my life I have known that God loves me (in my head), but today I felt it here (in my heart)". These are powerful reminders of God's love, and of our belonging in community.

I am thankful for the precious times when we served together, when we laughed together, when we cried together. I am grateful for the good friendships that we have formed through the Great Southern Community. I am grateful that this instrument called "The Walk To Emmaus" has rekindled the fire of our love in so many of us over the years, and for that I give thanks to God. May God be praised now and forevermore!

De Colores,  
Paul.

And now it is my turn again. Emmaus for me is family; a special branch of my God-Family. You might not get to see them as often as you want though when you do, its like you never left. Not always happy times but when it gets tough, they are there for you; sometimes in prayer and sometimes in person.

We journeyed together and boy, did God turn up at those Walks!

So many memories, hugs, laughs and tears. I know that the end of the GSEC is not the end of my friendships and the best thing is – if I don't see you on 'this side', I WILL see you in Eternity.

*Lots of love & blessings.*  
*De Colores*

*Caroline*  
Newsletter and Registrar



**\*Would you like to join the Perth Emmaus Community?  
Is your address correct?  
Please contact Caroline Mulroney to update your details.**

***Newsletter for:*  
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