

KZN EMMAUS MINISTRIES

COMMUNITY NEWS LETTER

Shalom.

With January 2019, the last Team Formation Day for Face to Face Encounter 118, the first board meeting of the year, executive training day, and the first Team Formation Day for Walks 119 and 120 all already confined to history, and with Face To Face Encounter 118 starting at Poinsettia Park, Amanzimtoti on Thursday, 7 February 2019, KZN Emmaus Ministries has hit the ground running!

For me personally, as the new incumbent to the post of Community Lay Director, still finding my feet, it has been a whirlwind period! My particular thanks go to the board, that dedicated group of knowledgeable, committed servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, who give so freely and generously of their time and talents in the service of God, for getting 2019 off to such a constructive and fruitful start.

Face To Face Encounter 118 promises to be a life changing experience for all 31 pilgrims that are registered to attend. If we, who are part of it, could feel the love and excitement that was exuded at the Team Formation Days, then I can only imagine what it will mean to the pilgrims! And the talks that were previewed were exceptional!

The Encounter will be held at Poinsettia Park, 619 Kingsway, Amanzimtoti. Sponsors Hour is at 8h30 on Thursday 7 February, Candlelight at 14h00 on Thursday 14 February and Closing at 2.10pm on Saturday, 16 February. Please make an effort to come and support these senior citizen pilgrims, some of whom live lonely lives and to whom your agape love presence, will mean more than you might realise.

Team Formation Day 1 was held on Saturday, 2 February for walks 119 and 120, which are scheduled for 2 to 5 May for the men and 9 to 12 May for the ladies. Hosted as usual by the board, the day focussed on team building and training. Lyn Warr, as the board representative for training, led the day in her usual efficient, inimitable way. A solid, constructive grounding was laid for the next 3 Team Formation Days, where every detail of the walk will be practiced and rehearsed.

Please consider sponsoring a pilgrim. In recent times pilgrim sponsorship has been problematic, particularly for the mens walk. Please start early and get those pilgrim application forms in as soon as possible. It would be an absolute tragedy were it to prove necessary to cancel a walk for want of a few pilgrims.

Mariannahill Monastery has generously kept the fees for walks 119 and 120 at the 2018 price of R1500.00. Your board will nonetheless continue to look for ways to reduce costs. Any ideas or suggestions which you may have in this regard would be appreciated.

Planning, preparation and team formation for Chrysalis Flight 117 is progressing well with The Wykeham Collegiate having been secured as the venue for the boys and girls flights, which take place on 28, 29 and 30 June.

As I said at Emmaus TFD1 focus for this year is on interactive communication with the community, particularly through the Accountability groups and the community newsletter. A separate letter has been written specifically to the Accountability Groups, but as it is also of relevance to everyone, it is being sent out together with this newsletter.

KZN Emmaus Ministries is your ministry, it's not just the board's ministry and most certainly not just mine. So if the community is to become involved in the affairs and activities of KZN Emmaus Ministries it has to be engaged by the board and informed as to what is happening and planned for the future. To this end an interactive communication system is vital. A starting point is the newsletter and YOU are invited to get involved.

Firstly, we need a new, vibrant, alive, colourful, "de colores" masthead, letterhead or whatever you call that which usually goes at the top of page 1 of any newsletter. As long as it incorporates the Emmaus logo (as at the top of this newsletter) and the words KZN Emmaus Ministries Community Newsletter, anything else goes. It must make the newsletter look alive, vibrant and inviting. Please let me have your ideas, in colour please.

But, an alive, colourful masthead is of little use if the content does not match it. As you can see from this newsletter, I am certainly no literary genius! Your input is sorely needed! The letter to the Accountability groups, which accompanies this letter, sets out how they can become involved. Likewise, you, the community, can become involved in the newsletter by writing in with your stories, photos, comments, questions, suggestions, complements and criticisms. If the volume of input is so great that I have to get "editorial staff" to help me with the news letters, I'd be delighted.

And then there are the gatherings. Last year we started a drift away from the structured system which has served Emmaus well for so many years, but which has now become stale and uninviting. We are trying to make gatherings family orientated fun days. Not days that you feel obliged to go to, but days that you want to come to. A relaxed day of community and communion with fellow Christians spent in grateful thanks to our Lord and Saviour.

This year's gathering, the date is still to be finalised, end of May or beginning of June, will be held at the African Raptor Centre, off the road to the Lion Park at Ashburton, about 15 kms on the Durban side of Pietermaritzburg. It's an enchanting place where you can lose yourself for a few hours in the glory, diversity and splendour of God's creation. Watch this space for much more on this special occasion.

Everything that I've written about in this far too long and rambling newsletter is dedicated to what all the Emmaus Ministries set out to achieve. That is, as per The Upper Room Handbook on Emmaus, page 2 "to renew the church as the body of the risen Christ in the world through the renewal of Christians as faithful and committed disciples of Jesus Christ."

May we all, through our Team Formation Days, Walks, Flights, Encounters, Accountability Groups and Gatherings, never lose sight of that purpose.

Yours in the service of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

De Colores!

Terry

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