



KZN DRAK CHRYSALIS

Good morning Fellow Pilgrims,

I speak for myself when I say that the Emmaus Walk weekend was one of the most spiritually transforming times I have ever experienced. It was, for me, a time of tears – happy tears, sad tears, blown away tears and completely overwhelmed tears. Overwhelmed, largely, by all the inexplicable little acts of agape love that were shown to me by what started off as complete strangers and, over the course of a couple of days, became family. A time of being lovingly directed along my own spiritual journey by this same group of strangers who constantly guided and affirmed me every step of the way. By the end of the weekend I was emotionally drained, had depleted boxes of tissues, but was completely renewed and transformed. I had started off on Thursday evening feeling more than a bit anxious about what would transpire over the weekend. I was undoubtedly a Christian but had never been particularly inspired, however, by Sunday afternoon I was on fire for God !

I subsequently worked on an Emmaus weekend and found myself being even more blessed than I had been during my own pilgrimage. Then followed a Chrysalis weekend which I was fortunate enough to work on - Chrysalis being the youth equivalent of what you have just experienced. What a privilege and a blessing it was, and continues to be, watching God working in these young lives – transforming them and touching them in an unforgettable way. Our name, Chrysalis, was chosen because it represents the three stages they experience. On Day 1 – Faith - they die with Christ like the humble, little caterpillar; on Day 2 – Hope - they rise with Christ as a chrysalis; and on Day 3 – Love - they fly with Christ as a beautiful, newly emerged, gloriously coloured butterfly – ready to go out into their church and community and make a difference.

In KwaZulu/Natal we have two Emmaus communities – KZN and Drak – and we as Chrysalis, represent both. We are KZN/Drak Chrysalis. Our caterpillars are drawn largely from our Emmaus communities and we rely on our Emmaus family to spiritually sponsor the youth who take part. It is an amazing ministry to be involved with – a very humbling responsibility. I urge you to think long and seriously about prayerfully sponsoring some young person (between the age of 15 and 25) in your family or circle of friends.

We are desperately trying to keep the costs of the flights as low as we can in order not to stretch already tight budgets even further and have been blessed over the years by gifts and donations which, to date, have allowed us to keep them down and even to financially sponsor caterpillars.

Our next flights will be taking place on the weekend of the 3rd – 5th July at The Wykeham Collegiate in Pietermaritzburg. The school has once again, very kindly, given

us the use of the venue free of charge. Application forms can be found on the KZN Drak Chrysalis website with all the details you would require. If you wish to know more about us please feel free to phone me at any time on 082 324 2504 or contact me at cld.kzndrak@gmail.com and I'll do my level best to answer your questions.

Finally, on behalf of Chrysalis, it falls to me to officially welcome you into our Emmaus/Chrysalis family. You'll find it is a "real" family – one where it isn't all smooth sailing, but one, when the chips are down, who will always be there for you; one where you are accepted for who you are and loved in spite of it.

I really look forward to hopefully getting to know you better in the years to come and trust that you will consider giving some young person the opportunity to experience what you have just experienced.

God bless and Fly with Christ.

Much love,

Greg Conolly

Community Lay Director

KZN /Drak Chrysalis