



Africa South

Emmaus / Chrysalis Co-ordinating Board

Renewing Christ's Church for Mission

23 September 2013

My dear fellow Lay Directors,

There's much to report on the Africa South Board meeting that was held on 16th and 17th August.

First of all I want to thank the Lourie Community for keeping us covered in prayer. It was a meeting that needed more prayer than most and I doubt we would have handled everything the way we did had it not been for the prayer.

And then I want to thank you all for getting your Quarterly Reports to me; it is so helpful for me to receive a summary of all that has happened in your Communities for the past few months which I can then condense still further into my Report to the Board. In this way we ensure that we don't overlook dealing with anything happening in the Communities that needs our attention. Almost all the news in your Reports was wonderfully positive and there is no doubt that there is a large number of very hard-working, dedicated people out there who work tirelessly to ensure that the Emmaus, Chrysalis and Alarga Stroll programs are carried out in the Africa South region - both as regards holding Walks, Flights and Strolls, and as regards supporting the Fourth Days of all your members. We continue to be very grateful to you all.

AGM at Simons Town in November 2013

Disa Community is hard at work preparing for us as you all know. Please make every effort to ensure that you, the Community Lay Director, as well as your Community Spiritual Director attend the AGM. **It is vitally important to have both lay and clergy represented at the meeting** and the Friday is specially planned to give both the lay and clergy representatives time to spend together to discuss common problems and to share how these are being overcome. Then of course, although **the Trainers do not have a vote at the AGM, their presence is vital, as is the presence of your Certified Facilitators**. It's the one time in the year that these portfolio holders can get together and this time has always been found to be most beneficial.

I also ask that as many of you as possibly can, try to arrange your return trips so that you can stay on for the Saturday night to celebrate with the Disa Community their 10 years as a Community. I know this may not be possible, particularly for clergy who have Sunday church services they need to get back to, but please stay on if you can.

As I'm sure you know, the Africa South Board does not have a Nominating Committee. The Community Boards form our Nominating Committee and you and your Community members are asked to prayerfully and wisely put forward names for prospective Africa South Board members. This year we have the following vacancies that need to be filled:

Emmaus	Chrysalis	Combined Emmaus and Chrysalis
Alarga	Secretary	Music
	Agape	Supplies
	Lay Director	Mission and Outreach

As you know, Val Nel and Emma Alston were co-opted during the year to the Chrysalis Lay Director Elect and Agape portfolios and Renny Stoltz was co-opted to the new Mission and Outreach portfolio and they have all been doing a grand job. Their positions need to be confirmed at the AGM but having said that, the Constitution permits you to put forward other names as well for these positions, if you feel so led. Then, so far, two nominations have been received - the first is for Kevin Sudbury of the Protea Community for the Supplies portfolio and the second for Sue McLennan of the KwaZulu Natal Community for the Alarga portfolio. Here again, you are at liberty to put forward other names if you feel so led. But please bear in mind that the Supplies portfolio holder needs to live in the Gauteng area as proximity to the printers is absolutely essential. And finally, although David Fidler was elected to the Chrysalis Board as the Chrysalis Spiritual Director at the last AGM, the minutes did not reflect this. This omission will be handled when we deal with the confirmation of the minutes of the previous AGM.

Please would you prayerfully consider these vacant positions and remember that when you approach someone for their consent to be nominated, you must supply him/her with the relevant Role and Responsibilities document for the portfolio so that he/she can be fully informed of what the position entails before agreeing to stand. You can request the Nomination form and updated Roles and Responsibilities documents from Amanda and would you please ensure that Nomination forms are returned to her no later than **28 October 2013** as late nominations and nominations from the floor cannot be considered.

In Memoriam

Once again we will be including in the AGM, a time when we can remember, in a very meaningful way, those Emmaus and Chrysalis members who have left this earthly life during the past year. I know that Amanda has already asked you to let her know the names of these people from your Community. In case you were not at last year's AGM and so don't know what to expect, what will happen is that, during the Communion Service on the Saturday morning, the Lay and Spiritual Directors of each Community will come forward, read out the names of the people from their Community and then light a candle. We will then pray for these people and their families.

Cost of serving on the Africa South Board

As you all know, Africa South has no means of raising funds other than the profit that is made on the sale of manuals, crosses etc. This income provides the means to pay for the Board members' travelling expenses to the three Executive Board meetings each year and for a few trips to Communities for problem-solving or training, but not much else. Up until now, the Lay Directors of both Emmaus and Chrysalis and the Trainers as well as anyone else from the Board who have visited Communities, have paid their own way and have not submitted claims for these expenses. Had they done so, Africa South would be bankrupt. And the costs will increase still more when the Zambian Community becomes operational. Obviously there will continue to be people who are elected to the Board who can, and wish to, pay their own way but we have a concern that there may well be people who would be highly suited to serve on the Board but who may refrain from making themselves available because of personal budget constraints. We are therefore appealing to the Communities to give this matter thought and prayer and to come to the AGM with ideas as to how funds could be obtained to cover these costs e.g. donation of frequent flyer miles, tithing by the Communities, etc.

Added to this, we will be bringing to the AGM a proposal that as from 2014, the Communities pay for the flight costs to Nashville of the Upper Room representative on the Africa South Board when he/she goes to attend the International Conference each year. At the present time this is a figure of close to R20 000 and is obviously a huge amount to expect an individual to bear.

AGM Agenda and Reports

The AGM Agenda and Reports need to be in the hands of the Communities, at the latest, two weeks before the meeting i.e. by 24 October 2013 which means that *your Year-end Reports (including the Spiritual Director Reports) need to be with Amanda by Friday, 11th October 2013 at the very latest to enable her to have everything ready to go out to you timeously.* PLEASE would you make every effort to ensure that this happens so that Amanda doesn't have to spend hours and hours chasing up Communities for their Reports.

Amendments to the Constitution

Africa South has spent some time going through the Constitution with a fine-tooth comb to pick up areas where change is recommended. The new draft will be sent to you as soon as possible. Because a notice period of 3 months is required for changes to the Constitution, we are asking that you and your Board:

1. agree to waive the 3 month period;
2. spend time before the AGM, looking at the suggested changes; and
3. send all your comments on these along with any other suggestions you may have to the Africa South Secretary no later than 15 October 2013 for collation.

A final document will be sent to you in time to revisit the proposed amendments prior to the AGM. At the AGM we will then be able to vote so that another general meeting will not be necessary.

Certified Facilitators' Exam

As you all know, at last year's AGM we took major first steps towards appointing Certified Facilitators in all the Communities. We have this year been developing the next steps in the programme and would like to apologise to the Certified Facilitators who were appointed last year who have been finding their way with regard to their duties without having had as much input from Africa South as they may have needed. Despite this, they have done a great job and we are very grateful to them.

By now you will have heard from Nigel that this year's exam will take place at the Rocklands Centre (the venue for the AGM) at 12.30 on the Thursday, 7 November, the day before the AGM. A special invitation is extended to clergy to come and write the exam as we know that this will prove to be of great benefit to them. Please would you ensure that your candidates have had lunch before they arrive as only afternoon tea will be provided.

I know Nigel has written to you about the Certified Facilitators but I feel that I need to stress that having a Certified Facilitator is not optional for Communities but is indeed a requirement. **Any Community that does not have one by January 2014, will not be able to hold Walks and Flights until they do.** So if you haven't yet been able to find a suitable candidate, please ask your Community to pray that God will reveal the person whom He has chosen.

And please don't let anyone be put off by the word "exam". It is an open book exam based solely on the Upper Room Handbook and provided one has spent time reading the Handbook thoroughly beforehand, passing the exam is not something that only boffins can do! I speak from personal experience! Once again, the Africa South Board members who were new to the Board this year, will be writing the exam too!

Accreditation of Clergy

Brother Daniel will be writing to the clergy about this but just so you are in the picture, once Brother Daniel has carried out the accreditation process for your Community Spiritual Director, he/she can then attend to the accreditation of the clergy currently serving in your Community. *Each Accreditation Form must be sent to the Africa South Secretary* who will ensure that a copy is sent to both Brother Daniel and David Fidler, the Africa South Emmaus and Chrysalis Spiritual Directors, and she will also add the name to the clergy database. In this way Brother Daniel and David will have the information they need, and the database will be in the hands of the Emmaus Secretary who will include it with all the other information that is passed on to the person who takes his/her place in the future. If you have already sent any Accreditation Forms directly to Brother Daniel, there is no need to re-send them as he has already passed them on to Amanda.

Upgrading of Roles and Responsibilities Documents

So far we have had very little response from the Communities regarding changes and/or additions to the various portfolio Roles and Responsibilities documents. Does this mean that you are all happy with them as they stand? If your Board members haven't yet been through the documents and let you have their input, it would be appreciated if you would see that this is done as soon as possible as we would very much like to be able to finalise the documents for distribution as soon as possible.

Quarterly Reports from Community Spiritual Directors

In future, in addition to the Quarterly Report from the Community Lay Directors, the Africa South Board will also be asking for Quarterly Reports from the Community Spiritual Directors. These will not be long and complicated Reports; Africa South will provide the format which will consist of just 3 or 4 simple questions, the answers to which will give us a good idea of the spiritual well-being of the Community.

Children's Act No 35 of 2005

This government legislation is mainly relevant to Chrysalis but can also affect Emmaus should a Community have a younger than 16 year old Chrysalis member working on the Support Team and staying overnight at the venue. Because of the importance of compliance with the Act, we are hoping to get someone to come to the AGM to give us the background to the Act and to advise us as to how one goes about obtaining the necessary police clearance.

The "Dust" DVD

As you are aware, the Upper Room has given permission for the Rob Bell "Dust" DVD to be used as part of Training and this is still the case. But the DVD appears to be used so seldom that it is felt by Africa South that it that there is no need for us to keep it in stock any more; if you wish to use it at any time, would you please obtain your own copy from your local Christian bookstore.

You-Tube/Audio visual clips

Africa South has been asked about whether it is permissible to show You-tube/Audio-visual clips during a Talk. Having discussed this with the Upper Room I can inform you that it is permissible **provided that the showing of the clip is relevant to, and will enhance, the Talk.** The presentation of the clip has to be the **responsibility of the speaker** and of course **must be previewed** when the Talk is previewed. The question must also be asked - "If the power should fail at the Walk and the clip cannot be used, will it detract from the Talk's value?" If the answer is yes, then the clip should **not** be used.

Music

Concern has been expressed that by providing the Emmaus music in a Drop-Box, we are not complying with CCLI requirements. This has been fully checked out and we are advised that what we are doing is legitimate and that we can continue to do what we are doing. Please remember though that the music in the Drop-Box is intended for Emmaus and Chrysalis use only.

And whilst speaking of music ... the Swaziland Community has appealed for help with learning the new songs. Perhaps there are some musicians out there who would like to form a group to visit Swaziland for a weekend and teach them the new songs? If anyone would like to do this, please let Amanda know.

Pilgrim Numbers on Walks and Flights

A request was received from a Community to allow a minimum of 16 pilgrims on a Walk. Unfortunately this cannot happen as the Upper Room Manual on Emmaus requires a minimum of 20 pilgrims (see Chapter 11 - Board Responsibilities). It has been Africa South's recommendation that 24 is a good minimum number but obviously as the Manual allows as few as 20, this can be permitted.

As far as Chrysalis is concerned, the requirements are totally different and Chrysalis is allowed anything between 12 and 36 caterpillars per Flight. Having only 12 caterpillars could have an adverse effect on the financial viability of a Flight and could also make the table dynamics very difficult e.g. trying to keep caterpillars from the same church at different Tables and these facts need to be borne in mind when making decisions as to numbers.

First Walks in Zambia

Tentative dates for the first Walks in Zambia have now been set:

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|--------------|---|------------------------------|
| Men's Walk | - | 31 July 2014 - 3 August 2014 |
| Ladies' Walk | - | 7 - 10 August 2014 |

Attached you will find a team volunteer form. Please give this serious thought and prayer to see if God is calling you to be a part of this outreach. Nigel's words to the Africa South Board that "if some Emmaus members from Texas had not been as loving and generous as they were in coming out to South Africa to hold the first Walks at Son Valley, we would not be where we are today", keep ringing in my ears. It is a huge sacrifice in time and money and effort but one that should reap great rewards for God. The closing date for the volunteer forms is 9 November 2013.

Proposed Africa South Meeting Dates for 2014

The following dates have been tentatively set:

8 February

24 May

16 August

AGM – 7 – 9 November hosted by SONflower Community

This will be the last letter that I write to you as your Lay Director; the next letter following a Board meeting that you get from Africa South will be from Dewald Lubbe. He is more than ready and equipped to take up the Emmaus reins, as is Val Nel for Chrysalis. Our God is a God of new beginnings - as members of the Emmaus and Chrysalis Boards we come and go but our God is the same yesterday, today and for ever and He will always lead and guide us in His loving and wise way.

With my love and thanks to you all for your amazing support and love,

Brigid
AFRICA SOUTH LAY DIRECTOR

Emmaus Spiritual Director –

Br. Daniel ☎ (034) 2124536 (h), 082 4907674 (cell), e-mail brdaniel@telkomsa.net

Emmaus Lay Director –

Brigid Mackenzie ☎ (033) 8152223 (h), 084 588 7201 Cell, e-mail: brigid@cramond.co.za

Chrysalis Spiritual Director –

Rev. David Fidler ☎ 082 409 3000 Cell, e-mail: csd.chrysalisafricasouth@gmail.com

Chrysalis Lay Director –

Rautie Rautenbach ☎ (021) 853 6178 (h), 082 781 9085 Cell, e-mail: rautie2002@yahoo.co.uk