



*Celebrating  
20 Years of  
God's Blessings*



# **GLORIOSA EMMAUS COMMUNITY**

## **TESTIMONIES OF MEMBERS**

A 4th-day renewal movement designed for improving relationships with Jesus Christ.

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# TESTIMONIES

## PRAISING GOD FOR HIS ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

As we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, we reflect on the bounteous blessings that God has poured out on the Gloriosa community and we praise Him for His immense generosity, year after year!!

We have heard countless testimonies of the ways in which Jesus has touched lives through the Emmaus ministry over the past two decades. He has blessed some with miraculous healing; taught others about forgiveness; bestowed peace on the heavy hearted; brought tears of joy to the ill and grieving and to those who were hurting, lost or in the wilderness; filled homes with squeals of delight for those who once were childless; confirmed the spiritual direction that He has chosen for our lives and He has bestowed so very, very many more blessings on this community.

Through fervent prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit, He has continued to reveal His perfect plans for our lives and He has met us each as we bowed before His throne and emptied our hearts to Him. Expectant. Waiting – sometimes not too patiently but ever grateful for answers to our prayer. Answers that weren't always what we had prayed for and, which, at times, left us grappling with God's real intent for our lives. But, time and time again we have been assured that our Lord answers prayers in His time and according to His will.

While the Emmaus Walk is a 72-hour experience of Christian spiritual renewal in which the mercy, grace, forgiveness and unconditional love of our Lord is poured out on us, it is in our Fourth Days that we have the opportunity to truly live the vision of Emmaus – to be empowered leaders and to be His hands and feet. He truly blesses us with the opportunity to be a blessing to those in our local churches, our families, at work, in social environments as well as within the Gloriosa family.

Looking back, we know without the whisper of a doubt, that God has used His people, His chipped, broken, cracked Gloriosa vessels, and that He has fully equipped each of us to do His work with a spirit of humble, anonymous servanthood over 88 Walks.

As we praise and thank Jesus for 20 years of blessings, my prayer is that, as a family of love, we will continue to serve our Lord and to lift His name up high simply by being living demonstrations of His love to world. I encourage you to remain true to God's calling on your life remembering always that Christ is counting on you – and so too, should you be counting on Him. Daily.

De Colores,

**SHAUNEEN BEUKES**

Gloriosa Emmaus CLD

November 2013



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**GOD IS .....**

It started 73 years ago with a little course called, “*Cursillo*” on an island, Majorca, southwest of Spain;

Eventually, 41 years later, it became known as the Emmaus Movement headed by the Upper Room Emmaus Movement. ( A section of the Board of Discipleship in the United Methodist Church Head Quarters in Nashville, Tennessee.)

**God is wisdom!**

The “Walk to Emmaus” Movement fined its way around the globe;

During 1993 the Gloriosa Emmaus Community was born.

**God is omnipresent!**

Twenty years of experiencing God`s blessings;

That was poured out in abundance on members of Gloriosa Emmaus Community.

**God is good!**

Led by God`s Spirit and His Word;

We looked back in awe, respect and reverence after 88 Walks.

**God is faithful!**

Members of Gloriosa Emmaus Community brought together from different denominations;

United in their efforts to pursue God`s call.

**God is able!**

Teachings and talks inspired by the Holy Spirit through Scripture;

Renewing Pilgrims for their fourth days to keep counting on Christ, reflecting God`s unconditional love and grace where they are.

**God is love!**

Opporunities to serve also aimed at developing leadership skills remains;

Until today, members of Gloriosa Emmaus Community did not let that passed by in vain.

**God is preserving!**

Members stay involved and join God at work;

They experience his grace in action where they are and serve without a desire for recognition.

**God is working!**



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No names are being mentioned;

It's not about us, it's all about Him and to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, all the glory.

**God is worthy!**

From: "Once" a Pilgrim, always a Pilgrim on my journey with God and my fellow Pilgrims

November 2013

## **WHAT EMMAUS HAS MEANT TO ME OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS**

I was invited to be on the first ladies walk for the 'Northern Transvaal Community' in March 1993 by Yvonne Whitford. We had both served on various Methodist Church of SA committees as well as being very involved in the leadership of the Women's Auxiliary in those days.

When I attended the walk, I immediately appreciated the profound depth, simplicity and sound structure of the Emmaus programme and realized what it could mean for the wider church in our country of such diversity. In Emmaus I found an amazing loving family and friendship that I had not experienced before. The love of God shared then and now is still the cornerstone of Emmaus.

Over that weekend I felt the incredible calling of God again on my life to serve Him without reservation, serving where He calls me to go and serving no matter the cost. The obedience to follow and serve has been the most amazing joyful and fearful experience! Joyful in seeing the Walk to Emmaus develop and grow the way it has and seeing the joy on the faces of the many pilgrims as they testify to God love and grace. Fearful and overwhelmed in not always knowing what God has in His plans for me around the corner - as in being involved in establishing the first Walk to Emmaus in Zambia. That was not where I thought I would ever be!

I know that God has exciting plans for His people through Emmaus – I am here to serve Him with joy.

**RENNY STOLTZ**

**WALK NO 2 NORTHERN TRANSVAAL (NOW GLORIOSA) COMMUNITY – MARCH 1993  
AT SON VALLEY IN DELMAS**

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## **GLORIOSA EMMAUS COMMUNITY**



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Thanks be to God for calling me to attend an Emmaus Walk – walk no.6 in April 1994 at DSG Pretoria. I experienced many moments of deep reflection, but what I do know is that through the walk, the Holy Spirit changed my life.

The most profound experience was that through many appointments with God during the weekend, I realised that God made me just for whom I am as I always had an inferiority complex. I always wanted to be 'like someone else' whom I knew at the time and this stemmed from young adulthood. But through Emmaus I realised that God loved me as I am and wanted me as I am; He loved ME no matter what and He wanted to use me as I am regardless what anyone else would think... Through my involvement in Emmaus since I did my walk, I've experienced God's prevenient grace in an amazing way and also through leadership roles in my church.

Also the friendships I developed with my dear fellow pilgrims at our table, is a gift to behold. I experience the love of our Lord in them when we still meet (not as much as I would like to..!) or when we exchange messages of encouragement.

Later it was a true privilege to serve as LD and it was with a deep sense of awe to serve in this way. It made me a better servant knowing He is in control and experienced His power through prayer. To persevere in prayer and uphold those pilgrims in prayer every day is an honour and humble experience. It is a duty that was bestowed upon me which I treasure and is a blessing which I reckon that through the Holy Spirit I'm still in contact with them in a very special way...

To God be the glory for ever and ever...  
De Colores

**HELEN KRUGER**  
November 2013

My walk to Emmaus began at Son Valley, Walk 6. It was a very, very lonely experience, which in retrospect was a very necessary learning curve for what was to follow. Being the only pilgrim from our district, I knew nobody and nobody back home knew anything about opening, sponsoring, letters, candlelight or closing. All alone I battled through Friday and Saturday, making my way to my car during the agape feast, determined to go home when I was persuaded by Rev Chris Harrison to see things through.

The most magical moment, early on Sunday morning, Las Mananitas, with the mist rising over the valley, a new possibility began to take root and for me, as the soon to be Community Lay Director of the Fledgeling Gloriosa Community, the best years of my life ensued, as I came to learn and understand, to laugh and cry, in the amazing journey that is the Walk to Emmaus. So many tales can be told, so many precious moments and so many precious faces, the reality of the experience never leaves one. And now years later, we still have the remembrances of candlelight evenings, when we had a vision of "all the glorious company of heaven....., just for that moment." The ethos of the clowns, the nail in the palm, our dying moments, our laughing Jesus. I could go on and on.....moments when we had our faith re- explained, our grace re-



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experienced, our community realized and our renewal continued.... these precious things that undergird all our fourth days and help us to face eternity, with the sure knowledge that "the best is yet to come."

#### **YVONNE AND JOHN WHITFORD**

Thank you for the chance to give testimony of the walk I took part in. The first thing my sponsor did not tell me anything about what happens there.

What I saw when I got to Pretoria was the warm reception I got from all the people. As I was told it's a walk, what came to my mind was maybe after some Bible readings during the day we will walk outside the school premises. So with that in mind I went to the spiritual director to tell him that I forgot my passport in Rustenburg and that if I am caught in the street I will be arrested and deported back to my mother country Zimbabwe. His reply was simply and short, don't worry my son.

I later realized that I was walking with Jesus Christ and that he protected me. The first gentleman I talked to and later shared the same table during dinner became my friend. The whole week end focused on doing all the activities together.

On the day of reunion, I brought my wife who had attended the ladies walk and went forward to introduce her. To our surprise our wives were in the same ladies walk and were actually friends also. The ladies shared a lot of things and both were teachers.

The walk opened up my mind to see how Jesus Christ loves and protects me. In the future I will like to attend another walk to nourish my spiritual faith.

Thank you.

#### **THOMAS NUNU**



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It all started in 1994! My Walk was no 6 and in April 1994. Little did I know how my life was going to be changed forever!

God is so gentle, He never rushes us! It took me time to realise that because of the experience I had on the Walk and working on Team, that my head stuff, became heart stuff, and therefore became do stuff! I wanted to serve God and His people in a very meaningful way. I realised that faith/love without action is dead!

I couldn't believe that He could choose me, a total introvert at some stage, to serve His people with His help. He grew me without me even knowing because it was so gentle. When He called me to serve Him in a portfolio that I never could have imagined, He lead me to a quiet place and after I wrestled with the request He opened a book for me at the right page. It was about a lady who was called to serve Him. When she said that she couldn't do what He asked her to do, God asked her whether she thought He could do it. She obviously said yes and God then asked her to just join Him. That confirmed in my mind that I can do what He has asked me to do, all I had to do was to join Him!

I want to assure everyone who may have any doubts that "He knows the plans He has for you" (Jer.29:11) and that He calls us "to do good works, which God prepared for us in advance to do" (Eph.2:10). Go and be His hands and feet because you just have to join Him.

**ELSA BAIN**

## **CHRISTIAN ACTION**

I grew up in a loving home and my Mom sent me to Sunday school from a young age. I always knew that God existed, I prayed and read my Bible, but it was more head knowledge than a deep relationship. I made a commitment to the Lord at the age of 16 when I was confirmed. After my confirmation I became a Sunday school teacher and sang in the choir. This was the start of a walk with the Lord.

In April 1994 I was approached by our minister to attend the walk to Emmaus (Gloriosa Walk #6). I was so excited and agreed immediately. When I arrived on the Thursday, I was a little unsure of what to expect but I felt sure that something great was going to happen, so I decided to go with the flow and enjoy the weekend. It was important for me to let go and allow the Lord to take me on a journey of the heart.

The talks that were presented were of a high standard and the speakers shared deeply about their personal experiences. This really touched me and helped me to see the Lord's hand in their lives. Our Lay Director made such an impact on me during that weekend and today she is still a special friend of mine. The love of the Lord was demonstrated in so many ways through the servant hearts of the team members. For me, one of the highlights of the walk was to hear the Lord's voice. I had always longed to hear the Lord's voice clearly, and I experienced this for the first time during my Emmaus weekend. During a communion service in the chapel, I heard the following words so clearly: "Fear not for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name – you are mine". I was blown away totally by the fact that the Lord could speak to *me* and decided to write it in my service book as a reminder.



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After the service, we went back to the conference room. I picked up a card with exactly the same scripture verse on it. It was incredible to receive an affirmation of the Lord's words to me. It changed my life. From that day onwards, I have sensed the Lord's prompting on many occasions and heard his voice in my spirit. Another special moment was when we walked from the conference room to the chapel. As we entered the chapel, it was lit by many candles and shining faces. People who did not even know me had gathered just for that moment so that I could experience the love of the Lord. What an experience: to think that people would do that for me! It made me realise how much the Lord loved me. So many acts of kindness were shown to me during my Emmaus walk just so that I could be moved closer to the Lord. After the walk I had to reflect on my experience and decide what I was going to do about it. The first thought that came to mind was the love I had received. I could not wait to serve the Lord through the ministry of Emmaus and give back some of the love that was showered on me during my weekend. I soon realised why "it is more blessed to give than to receive", no matter where you serve on a walk. It is 15 years later and I am still involved.

Members of the Emmaus family are true Christians in action. We had a fire at our home in 1996 and they surrounded us with their love, prayers, gifts and acts of kindness. It was unbelievable to see people reaching out to us in this way; some of them did not even know us. A dear friend brought his caravan for us to stay in while our home was being fixed up, someone else brought meals -- the list just goes on and on. Our family had never experienced something like that before. The Lord showed His love to us through all of them.

During the past 15 years I have had to persevere through some difficult times. The Lord brought me comfort and assurance as I was reminded of that voice which said "Fear not for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine". Those words are engraved in my heart and are a reminder that he lives. I was also encouraged by the story of "The Quilt of your Life" (from an unknown source) and I would like to share it with you.

*"I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls. Before each of us lay our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles. An Angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life. But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty my squares were. They were filled with giant holes. Each square was labelled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in every day life. I saw hardships that I had endured, which were the largest holes of all. I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich colour and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My angel was sewing the ragged piece of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.*

*Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth. The others rose each in turn, holding up their tapestries. Their lives had been so filled. My angel looked at me, and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter, but there had also been trials of illness and death as well as times of despair. I had spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life.*

*And now I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was. I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of life to the light. An awe-inspired gasp filled the air. I looked around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes.*





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*Then, I looked at the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes, creating an image, the face of Christ! Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in his eyes. He said, "Every time you gave over your life to me, it became my life, my hardships, and my struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let me shine through, until there was more of me than there was of you."*

The Walk to Emmaus is not the most important thing. It's what happens after the walk that counts! The Walk to Emmaus was a defining moment in my spiritual journey as it helped me to become an active Christian. The Lord took me on a journey and showed me the areas of my life that did not belong to him. I wanted to have control over my job situation, my marriage and my relationships. Jesus showed me that I needed to surrender my whole life. He spoke to me through the song "I surrender all" during one of our visits to the chapel.

Just before I went on the walk, my boss was promoted and I had to stay behind. I felt as if my world had collapsed. Whom would I work for? Would I be happy? Would I be able to adjust to a new boss after working for the same person for ten years? These questions consumed me. I was being taken out of my comfort zone by having to re-adjust and cope with a new boss and new ways of doing things. It was only when I decided to let go and leave it in the Lord's hands that I experienced his peace.

Since my walk to Emmaus my relationship with the Lord has deepened. He has shown me what my gifts are and has given me the opportunity to use them for his glory. The Lord has blessed me with the gift of encouragement and he has used me so many times by prompting me to send an encouraging message to someone. I also realised that it was not good enough just to know my gift, I had to do something with it and allow the Lord to use me where he wishes. There are many examples, but I would like to highlight one or two as they had such an impact on my life.

The first example concerns a friend of mine who was suffering from depression. While I was on my way to visit her, the Joy magazine came to mind. I shrugged it off because I did not want to be late. The thought did not leave my mind, in fact it became stronger. Eventually I realised that this was from the Lord and I went to the bookshop. As I picked up the book, I saw a heading on the front cover, which read: "How I overcame my depression". I was filled with emotion at the thought that the Lord could use *me* in such a profound way. My friend was blessed by this book and I know today that the Lord wanted her to read that article on that specific day. All I had to do was to be obedient.

The second is about a friend who had to have a neck operation. He spent quite a long time in hospital. We could not visit often so I sent messages of encouragement to his cell phone. Every time we got to the hospital, he could not stop talking about the fact that he had been blessed by the messages. It is a very humbling experience to see how someone appreciates such a small act of kindness. He often told me that he would never forget those messages. The Lord often prompts me to send an encouraging message via my cell phone. Every time that I have been obedient, I have received confirmation that this is just what the person needed and that the message was on time.

I have learnt a very important lesson. The Lord needs my availability and not my ability. What a challenge to think that I could have been a stumbling block by not being obedient. The Lord is so faithful and he will give us the strength and courage exactly when we need it most. In return, special friends have blessed me by sending me words of encouragement – always right on time. Friends are also the hands and feet of the Lord and he uses them to touch our lives when we need it most. The past year has been quite stressful as my husband's health has not been so good. A group of friends



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got together and arranged a morning where I was spoiled with spa treatments, flowers and gifts of agape love. These Christians were the Lord's hands and feet. I treasure the memories of that day.

The weekend after we had the fire, I had to lead a walk to Emmaus: Walk #17. Despite our whole home being damaged by the fire, my Emmaus schedules and walk information had not been burnt. That is something that I will never forget. I did not know how I was going to cope with the walk under those circumstances, but the Lord assured me that he would equip me and give me the strength. And He did! I needed to be fully dependent on him without all the material things that brought so much security. The Emmaus team on Walk #17 carried me in prayer and their acts of love helped me to keep me eyes on the Lord and to trust him completely.

Serving on Emmaus teams has been a blessing each and every time. Whether I served in the conference room or anonymously in support, it gave me the opportunity to allow the Lord's love to touch the pilgrims. It made me realise that the Lord has an appointment with each one of the pilgrims and he works in their lives in his own time and his own way. When the Lord touches lives, they are never the same again.

The Lord has called me into a leadership position in Emmaus and I would not be able to do it without his guidance. He has taken me on a spiritual journey and he is still busy working in my life, shaping and moulding me into the person he wants me to be. I have just completed an 8-week discipleship course where I have been challenged to listen for the voice of the Lord. I have been disciplined in order to learn to serve others as Christ's disciple. I believe that Emmaus was the start of an ongoing walk with the Lord and an opportunity to deepen my relationship with him. The quilt of my life is still a work in progress and I know that I need to "surrender all" each day so that the Lord can have his way in my life and shine through me to the watching world.

The passage is not always smooth and I have found myself in some choppy waters, but it is in those times that he reminds me that he is with me in the storms. The Lord has given me compassion for his children and uses me to reach out to many of them through a word or act of kindness. I believe that the Emmaus movement enables pilgrims to be healed so that they can be instruments in his hands and bring blessing to those around them. Emmaus aims to equip pilgrims to be effective in their home churches. Pilgrims are encouraged to speak to their ministers and find out where they can become involved. For those who do not know what their gifts are, many churches hold gift discovery workshops. The world is desperately in need of the Lord's touch and he needs us to be available as his instruments.

All praise and glory to God for the many lives that have been changed through this powerful ministry.

**ANNAMARIE WILKE**



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Since I had my walk August 2005 Walk No. 56, I have grown spiritually from Strength to Strength. Volunteered on four walks as Assistant Table Leader, Agape Coordinator and Table Leader x 2. Thank you very much to the Community for their spiritual support. What a privilege and an honor it has been to serve the Lord with humility and love. Will forever treasure the memories of all my walks with Team members and Pilgrims. I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the Celebration gathering this weekend will be my last as I will now be joining the Protea Community from next year as I now live in this area. I trust and believe that I am moving into another season of service at Protea and continue to serve the Lord as His Hands and Feet.

**De Colores**

**JOYCE NYANDORO**

