



a three day experience  
that gives strength  
& renewal to your  
Christian faith

## What is Emmaus?

The Emmaus Walk is an ecumenical program, sponsored by the Uniting Church, which renews Christian discipleship. The Walk is a 3-day experience which takes a New Testament look at Christianity as a lifestyle - a weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, and through them, their families, congregations, and the world in which they live. Emmaus is a combined effort of clergy and laity toward the renewal of the church.

The "Walk to Emmaus" is a 72 hour experience. The weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends Sunday evening. At Emmaus you will spend 3 busy but very enjoyable days at the **Bonny Hills Conference Centre**. You will live and study together in singing, prayer, worship, and discussion. Discussions centre around 15 short talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace, and how that grace can come alive in the Christian community.

You will have the opportunity to participate in the daily celebration of Holy Communion, and to understand more fully the presence of Christ in His body of believers. You will also experience God's grace personally through the prayers and acts of service of a living support community. The purpose of Emmaus is for the further development of Christian leaders.

## About the name "Walk to Emmaus"

The Walk to Emmaus gets its name from the story in Luke 24:13-35, which provides the central image for the three-day experience. Luke tells the story of that first Easter afternoon when the risen Christ appeared to the two disciples who were walking together along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus. Like Christians and churches who are blinded by preoccupation with their own immediate difficulties, these two disciples' sadness and hopelessness seemed to prevent them from seeing God's redemptive purpose in things that had happened.

And yet, the risen Christ "came near and went with them," opening the disciples' eyes to his presence and lighting the fire of God's love in their hearts. As they walked to Emmaus, Jesus explained to them the meaning of all the scriptures concerning himself. When they arrived in Emmaus, Jesus "took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them," and their eyes were opened. They recognized him as Jesus, the risen Lord, and they remembered how their hearts had burned within them as they talked with him on the road. Within the hour, the two disciples left Emmaus and returned immediately to their friends in Jerusalem. As they told stories about their encounters with the risen Lord, Jesus visited them again with a fresh awareness of his living presence.

However, the story of Jesus' resurrection does not conclude with the disciples' personal spiritual experiences. Jesus ascended to the Father, and the disciples became the body of the risen Christ through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. The disciples were sent forth by the Spirit to bear witness to the good news of God in Jesus Christ. They learned to walk in the spirit of Jesus, to proclaim the gospel to a disbelieving world, and to persevere in grace through spiritual companionship with one another.

The Walk to Emmaus offers today's disciples a parallel opportunity to rediscover Christ's presence in their lives, to gain fresh understanding of God's transforming grace, and to form friendships that foster faith and support spiritual maturity.

## More information

More information

For more information or Application forms, please contact

The person who gave you this form (your sponsor)

or The community Lay Director - Glenn Maas on 6556 7667 or 0429-033555 or by email at [cld@mnce.org.au](mailto:cld@mnce.org.au)

## 2009 Walks

**Mens' Walk #74**.....from 7.00pm Thursday **30<sup>th</sup> April 2009** to 7.00pm Sunday **3<sup>rd</sup> May 2009**

**Womens' Walk #75**...from 7.00pm Thursday **14<sup>th</sup> May 2009** to 7.00pm Sunday **17<sup>th</sup> May 2009**