

RIGHTS FOR US ALL

How Emmaus groups are putting the movement's priorities into action - together

Crossing the Gibraltar strait for article 13



On 11 August, Alain and Maria, two community leaders from Emmaus Saint-Etienne, France, crossed the Gibraltar strait – one by swimming, the other by kayak. Combining sport with activism, the pair set themselves the challenge to pay tribute to the migrants who've died in the Mediterranean. They also aimed

to condemn the madness of migration policy in force and call for the application of article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms the right to freedom of movement. Both set off from Tarifa in Spain and arrived at the Moroccan coast in five hours after the near-15km crossing. In Europe, there've been rallies in Calais, Ruffec, Chambéry, Brussels and Paris in support. A petition is also calling for the application of article 13. Please sign it and circulate it widely: <http://article13-emmaus.wesign.it>

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Nicolas Hulot visits Nokoué

On 3 July, the French president's special envoy for the protection of the environment, Nicolas Hulot, visited the water-access facilities at So-Tchanhoué on Lake Nokoué.

Showing great enthusiasm for the project, which is geared towards health and the environment, he asked several questions about the lake population, water-borne diseases and women's role in the project.

Packed into what was already a busy programme, this again demonstrates the relevance of our action on Nokoué and the interest it can rouse at the highest levels.

POINT OF VIEW → Philippe Dupont, director of the Abbé Pierre – Emmaus Centre in Esteville, France

“The aim of the Abbé Pierre – Emmaus Centre is to promote Abbé Pierre's legacy and show how relevant it is to today's world. The centre's detailed displays and regular events help bring to life the complexity of this extraordinary man – priest, parliamentarian, pioneer and visionary in a number of domains, founder of an international movement, Abbé Pierre proved miracles can be made out of very little. He's still a great source of inspiration today.”



GO FOR IT!

Solidarity sales – the movie!

→ A new film about international solidarity is out now. It tells the story of our “chain of solidarity”, from a solidarity day on 16 May at Emmaus Cambridge in the UK to the Krakow community house in Poland. By the way – have you run your solidarity sale yet and passed on the proceeds?

The film will soon be available in the «videos» section of our website : www.emmaus-international.org/videos

Ecotourism in Asia

→ The Emmaus groups in Asia have been developing an ecotourism initiative since 2008. Visitors are accommodated by the groups, who offer a form of tourism that's sustainable and based on solidarity. Emmaus Asia has produced a brochure that's now available on the intranet (Materials > Solidarity). If you'd like to try out this alternative way of travelling, contact the group in advance.

Emmaus challenges perceptions

→ The Emmaus groups in the Rhône-Alpes region of France have launched a large-scale communications campaign. The slogan, “Think twice about ordinary people – they can be extraordinary” is being aired online, on billboards and at exhibitions, to great effect. The campaign will raise the public's awareness of Emmaus's action and activists in the region. <http://les-extraordinaires-emmaus.org/>



Container days in Brittany

The next “container days” event is taking place on 29 and 30 September in Rédéné, in North-West France. More than eight groups from the region are expected to attend, all of them wanting to learn more about sending containers. Nestor Leon Crisanto from Emmaus Piura in Peru and Aïcha-Bintou Sissoko from the Pag-la-Yiri group in Burkina Faso will be there to tell attendees about the activities they've been able to run thanks to the goods sent by container. A container for Emmaus group CPSS in Cameroon is to be loaded. 51 containers were shipped in 2014. This year we're aiming for 60!

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Community leader meeting in Brazil

From 17 to 23 August, Brazilian group, Amor y Justicia, based in Fortaleza, hosted a meeting for community leaders in the Americas region on the theme of income-generating activities, social initiatives and education. Themed workshops and plenary sessions gave the 70 attendees a chance to share ideas and discuss their practices. They also managed to fit in a session on our values and guiding principles at Emmaus. One day was devoted to visiting the groups, Amor y Vida and Vila Velha. The meeting gave rise to several recommendations and proposals for the region.

Regional Assemblies



From left to right: Julio de la Granja (Chair of Emmaus Europe until september 2015), Moon Sharma (Chair of Emmaus Asia), Koudbi Koala (Chair of Emmaus Africa), Juan Melquiades (Chair of Emmaus America)

The regional assemblies in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe are taking place between September and December 2015. Here, the regional chairs give us insight into their importance...

Regional assemblies provide the only opportunity to bring together all the groups in an Emmaus region. Together, they evaluate their work and adopt plans for the future.

For Europe, “The aim is to come up with options and action plans for the region up until 2020, based on discussions about our relationship with the outside world and the sustainability of the Emmaus model”, Julio de la Granja explains.

In Asia, the issue of the groups’ self-sufficiency will be discussed during “Work sessions on different kinds of income-generating activities”, explains Moon Sharma.

For Koudbi Koala, the Africa region must make the most of the regional assembly in December to “develop strong policy to put forward to the movement at the next world assembly”.

In the Americas, the regional assembly is to discuss “the creation of a regional policy and campaigns committee” and “to develop regional proposals on Emmaus International’s priority areas”, explains Juan Melquiades.

A highlight of the regions’ calendar, these assemblies are also a time for preparing for the 2016 world assembly, as this year, each region will be electing their international representatives. To mobilise all their groups, the regions are to discuss the hot topics for the world assembly and its central theme, ‘Emmaus: common values – tomorrow’s actions’. “We must ensure that as many groups as possible actively take part in the world assembly!” says Juan Melquiades.

NEWS IN BRIEF

→ Emmaus Europe regional assembly

The Emmaus Europe regional assembly took place from 3 – 6 September in Manchester, UK. Willi Does, community leader at Emmaus Cologne, in Germany, was elected new chair of Emmaus Europe.

→ Salons and sales for the international movement

There are several regional sales and salons coming up:

- Ile-de-France salon at la Roche- Guyon, Sunday 13 September
- Reims salon, Sunday 20 September
- Emmaus International auction in Tours, Saturday 17 October
- Rouen and Niort salons, Sunday 8 November.

→ Register now for the world assembly!

Registration is now open and you have until 31 December 2015 to sign up. You’ve already been sent a pack explaining who can take part and how to complete and send back your registration form. Find all the 2016 world assembly documents on the intranet:

www.emmaus-international.org/connexion
Username: intranet
Password: 1949

SAVE THE DATE

12 – 14 October

Emmaus, "What kind of Europe?"
training sessions

24 – 25 October

Asia regional assembly,
Pondicherry, India

28 October – 2 November

Americas regional assembly,
Montevideo, Uruguay

19 – 20 November

Emmaus France *Etats Généreux*
(a meeting about policy and
campaigns)

23 – 29 November

20th edition of the Atypical Nights
music festival in Koudougou,
Burkina Faso

7 – 9 December

Africa regional assembly,
Tohouè, Benin

6 new groups have become members of Emmaus International since May 2015.

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Taking part in the world assembly

→ WHEN?

The world assembly will be in Jesolo, Italy, from 18 to 23 April 2016. The main theme will be: 'common values – tomorrow's actions'.

→ WHY?

The world assembly is a major event for the movement. It's the highest body of Emmaus International as it may exercise all the movement's powers. Each group can vote and decide on the main policy directions for the international movement.

→ WHO?

Emmaus groups from across the world are expected to attend the world assembly. Where possible, this assembly could provide an opportunity to encourage people to attend who have never been before, or new future leaders, who could be accompanied by someone with more experience. It's very much hoped there will be a diverse range of attendees (companions, volunteers and staff).

→ HOW?

Even if you've never been to the world assembly before, you need to ensure you're well-prepared for the discussions, as the decisions you make will commit all the Emmaus groups – i.e. the movement as a whole – for the next four years. Make sure you read the documents you've already been sent and others on their way, and share them with your group.

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