

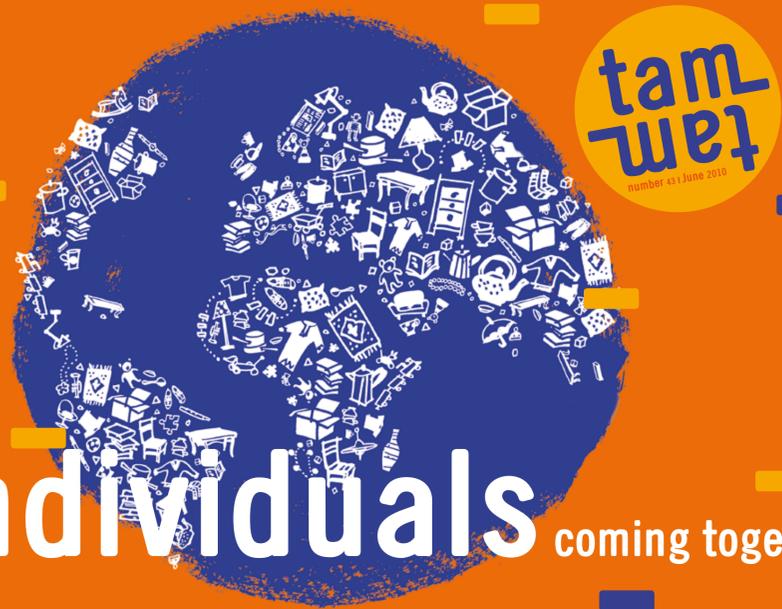
a few individuals coming together who, seeing the distress of others, decide to combine their efforts

**SOLIDARITY SALE
WORLDWIDE
Strength in Numbers**

tam-tam: the Emmaus news wall

“The Emmaus Movement is about a few individuals coming together who, seeing the distress of others, decide to combine their efforts. That, I think, is the heart of the Movement.” Abbé Pierre

 **EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL**



Emmaus on the move

Take a few desirable articles, prepare your sale room and add a group of companions, some leaders and a handful of volunteers. Mix them all together and garnish with some customers. Add a pinch of good humour and a sprinkling of solidarity. Leave the mixture to set. You then have your solidarity sale!

From 13 to 27 June 2010 Emmaus groups throughout the world will be holding a special sale at the same time in order to raise funds to meet the needs of less well-off groups. This is a very practical way to support other groups in the Emmaus Movement.

A flexible format to adapt to everyone's situation
The solidarity sale is organised by the groups once a year, ideally in June. Beyond these common features, there is no set format and no rules about how much money should be raised. If there were a motto for this event, it would be “each according to their means”. In some communities, desirable objects are put to one side over the course of the year for the solidarity sale, while other groups produce handicrafts for the occasion. For some, it is the goods received in containers that will stock the shelves for the sale while for others it might be a homemade cake sale. Whether a day of celebration or just another Saturday in the sale room, second-hand shoes or antique furniture, household linen, clothing, crockery, printed fabrics, handmade bags or foodstuffs, from one country to another and depending on the group's activity, this sale comes in all sorts of guises. But what is it all for?



More than just a sale, this event signifies the groups' commitment to supporting each other
The driving force behind this sale is simple - pooling our resources to set up a kitty which allows the groups, wherever they might be, to apply to the international movement for funding. To what end? It might be to have support in the event of an unforeseen problem, to resolve a situation or to have access to funding to embark on a new adventure or set up a new activity. Every year, the funds raised make it possible to carry



out around twenty solidarity initiatives as well as to provide emergency funding to make groups' lives easier and help them to meet their social commitments.

Emmanuelle Larcher, Head of Solidarity at the International Secretariat of Emmaus, summarises the process: *‘The groups submit their project applications and 2 criteria are used to determine where to allocate funds: the soundness of the project and the funds available. With a healthy sum in the kitty we are*

able to provide support to groups to tide them over temporarily while they are experiencing difficulties or to allow them to embark on new challenges.’

What is the difference between this and other types of aid?

For Raihan Ali (the leader of Thanapara Swallows in Bangladesh), the answer is self-evident, *‘in our particular case it is simple, as there are no other options open to us. Approaching international backers or institutions in an emergency situation can be a very bureaucratic process and the funds would not be released in time. Emmaus reacts quickly and the procedure is accessible to people at grassroots level.’* Similar concerns are voiced in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Jean Busogi (leader of the CAJED Emmaus group in Goma, DRC) believes that solidarity funding from Emmaus comes into its own by covering long term projects that do not interest other financial backers: *‘In the DRC, whenever our group tries to set up activities to help former child soldiers to regain a normal life, we come up against the reluctance of financial backers who are convinced that this will no longer be a problem in a few years' time. In this context it is difficult to obtain funds from them to build shelters and facilities that will operate for the next 10 or 15 years.’*

The solidarity kitty is also used to develop long term income-generating activities. By way of example, the funds raised by the solidarity sales in 2009 have recently been used to build a sale room and workshop, set up a teaching farm to train young people, purchase a truck to increase collection capacity, open a food product processing plant, create a new work community and all sorts of other initiatives on the four continents.

Editorial

An ethos of sharing by Raihan Ali, Board member and President of Emmaus Asia

The month of June is approaching and, just like every year, it is the time when the Emmaus groups organise the annual solidarity sale, the solidarity initiative that links them to the other groups in the international movement. The proceeds of the sales enable Emmaus International to offer funding to groups experiencing difficulties (to cope with emergency situations or get back on their feet following an

unforeseen problem) or needing support to launch a new activity, either alone or in the form of a regional initiative. All of these situations are experienced every year by Emmaus groups worldwide.

The sale is invaluable as it is the sole source of funding for solidarity projects and is therefore one of the vital cogs in the inter-group support mechanism. The solidarity sale is also a tangible

way of extending the ethos that guides Emmaus's work - supporting and accompanying those who need our help most - to international level.

Don't miss out on this key event in a year that is proving difficult for many groups. Make sure you join us in this collective and sometimes celebratory event, when Emmaus groups worldwide hold their solidarity sale at the same time.



All aboard

→ **On your sale stands, get set, go!** You can already get your preparations underway. Counting down a month before the big day, there's plenty to be done: putting together the team for the sale (companions, volunteers, partners and members of staff), setting the date, fixing a venue, organising any entertainment at the sale, publicising the event outside the group (through posters and the local media), preparing the goods to be sold and seeing the results of all your efforts between 13 and 27 June.

→ **Posters are available:** To help you to publicise your sale, Emmaus International can provide you with posters to display in your local area and in your group. Space has been left on the poster for you to indicate the date, time and venue of your sale.

→ **To find out more about the projects financed** thanks to the funds raised by past sales, documents are available from the International Secretariat of Emmaus (in particular an explanatory leaflet and the annual report). Emmanuelle Larcher, who is in charge of solidarity at the International Secretariat, will be happy to answer your questions (e.larcher@emmaus-international.org).

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Next port of call... Piura (Peru)

Juan Melquiades, leader of the Emmaus Aguilas group in Piura in the north of Peru and a member of the World Council on Political Action and International Solidarity, tells us about the annual solidarity sale at the group.

Can you describe Emmaus Aguilas for us? Our community has been around for 23 years. 40 companions (men, women and even families) live and work here in dignity and harmony. We mainly collect and recycle paper, cardboard and plastics but the community also has its own carpentry and metalwork workshops. Several times a week we open our doors to customers. We also run initiatives outside the community such as a rural school, a physical therapy and rehabilitation centre and handing out clothing to poor people living in the mountain villages.

It will soon be time for the solidarity sale. How does this work at Piura? The sale is held in a different village each year with the involvement of a local organisation. Some of the companions are responsible for selecting the clothes to be sold (in our case, they come from a container sent from Europe because here we collect mainly recyclable material such as cardboard and paper) while others coordinate with the local organisation to arrange the date and venue and then publicise the event in the local media. Everything is priced at 1 Peruvian sol (roughly 0.25 euros) to be affordable for even the poorest people. Once the costs of the sale are deducted, the rest of the proceeds are sent to Emmaus International apart from a small proportion which goes to the local organisation which helped us to organise the event. The sale is therefore an international solidarity initiative carried out with



local customers and the local organisation so there's something in it for everyone. We usually get preparations underway one month before the sale.

What is your motivation for organising the sale? Feeling part of a movement. This gives our work more meaning. The companions are motivated by this dual commitment - contributing to the international solidarity fund while also including a local organisation that works with the poorest in society in our local area. The idea has always been to offer disadvantaged people the opportunity to access affordable goods at prices that are mainly symbolic. The only obstacle we sometimes face is the lack of goods to sell.

Could you share an anecdote or memory with us? We often used to invite a singer to host the event and raffle. One time the singer was so good that the customers forgot about the sale, captivated by the show! We had to stop the show to allow the sale to continue. Since then we've had to think twice before lining up a musical event!

Any advice? 4 key points: you need good planning, willpower, companion involvement and good publicity.