



Take a look at what us

SOLIDARITY AT EMMMAUS

tam-tam: the Emmaus news wall

“Take a look at what us good-for-nothings have managed to do with nothing! Imagine what we could do to rescue all those who are suffering, if only you, who think you’re good for something, finally decided to do something yourselves.” Abbé Pierre



good-for-nothings have managed to do with nothing!

Emmaus on the move

Four international solidarity actions that illustrate the movement's values...



GROUP TO GROUP EXCHANGES
Partnerships, to ensure we're "always united"

Alain became a companion aged 19 and has now been at the Niort community in France for three years. A year ago, he got involved in the 'BBF partnership', which since 2008 has brought together ESO* in Burkina Faso, IFS** in Bosnia, and Limoges, Angoulême, Niort and Ruffec in France. Through the partnership, he's found out about life in other countries, like Bosnia, where you can't resell goods, and Burkina Faso, whose people he praises because they're "poor, but proud and stand together". He's encountered the movement's values in all the groups – "Show solidarity with people who are suffering more than you" – and shares his enthusiasm with his own community. He's now working with the Bosnian and French groups to send a container to ESO to help with its agricultural activities. And he plans to do a lot more besides!

*Emmaus Solidarity Ouaga
**International Forum of Solidarity



EMERGENCY SUPPORT
Rebuilding after a fire, with emergency support

Located in Mom-Dibang, Cameroon, CPSS's* main activity is agriculture. It has a 7-hectare palm grove where it produces palm oil. In February 2013, a fire of unknown origin damaged the roof and oil mill equipment. The group decided to request emergency support from Emmaus to receive either material or financial help. Emmaus Africa and Emmaus International gave 2500 Euros, enabling the group to replace the damaged equipment (two oil presses, 100 oil containers and 10 metal and plastic barrels) and to rebuild the warehouse so production could start up again after six months' shutdown. "For Emmaus, solidarity is all about sharing with the whole movement in order to make others stronger. We couldn't do it alone." says Madeleine, co-leader of the group.

*Centre for the Promotion of Health and Social Care



SOLIDARITY SALES
Chocolate for solidarity in Lebanon

AEP*, located in Beirut, focuses mainly on making microcredit loans accessible to leaders of small projects. Since it's unable to put on a big sale, the group has had to find an alternative way of contributing to international solidarity. It was Najwa Aftimos, who has benefitted from microcredit and who is the cleaner at AEP, who found the solution: sell chocolate for international solidarity. For the past 13 years, she's been putting her chocolate-making talents to work for AEP, which provides her with the ingredients and makes their kitchens available to her. 2500 kg of chocolate is produced and sold every year by members and volunteers of AEP for Easter and Christmas. "We contribute to international solidarity through these sales, which is why they're so important", says Hélène Sayad, leader of AEP.

*Occupational Mutual Aid Organisation



SHIPPING CONTAINERS
Containers: solidarity without barriers

Every year, container days give groups a chance to find out how they can send containers to other groups. In October 2013, the container days in Marseille, France brought together 15 members of 11 different Emmaus groups, as well as a representative of the Africa region and another from South America. Luciano Callañaupa Triveño, treasurer and in charge of collection at his community, Villa el Salvador in Peru, came to represent South America. During the event he saw that "Emmaus is a movement without barriers when it comes to helping others." For his group, which has received two containers, financed by Emmaus International in 2011 and 2014, receiving containers is crucial as that's how his group can run sales, create jobs and provide social assistance to many people.

Next port of call... Jekawilli (Côte d'Ivoire)

Meeting with Nantégué Koné, Leader of Emmaus Jekawilli, Côte d'Ivoire

You requested financing from Emmaus International for a project in 2012. What was the project for?

The project was motivated by our aim to become financially self-sufficient and to increase our incoming-generating activities by building a sixth henhouse to develop our poultry farming. We're also setting up a new activity and have purchased three tarpaulin sheets, a sound system and 300 chairs which to hire out. We're located on the outskirts of the city where there are a lot of cultural events which often require equipment.

Does international solidarity enable you to become more independent?

Yes, we're aiming to become self-sufficient. We want to be sustainable and depend less on other groups.

What impact has this project had?

Emmaus groups' international solidarity amounting to 9000 Euros firstly enabled us to create two extra jobs for our equipment hire service. Also, as part of the project, we've been able to increase the number of people we support through our partnerships with the Ministry of Social Welfare (financing hospital stays for the sick). We have also provided equipment to two nurseries that look after 190 abandoned babies and toddlers.



What do you do for international solidarity?

At Jekawilli we pay our Emmaus International subscriptions every year, but we also hold a big solidarity sale, which is quite unique because we sell chickens! We give all the proceeds. For us, it's essential we give something back. Even if we don't raise all that much because people here are poor, all the regions benefit from it, and that's what's most important.

Edito

Setting the bar high Chair of Emmaus International
There are two things that make Emmaus's solidarity unique, which Abbé Pierre often used to refer to, ever since the movement came into being. Putting solidarity into action isn't simply about showing compassion once and then not following it up. It isn't to be confused with charity either, even if charity can

be useful. And it most certainly shouldn't be adjusted to the circumstances, as is all too often seen. True solidarity is provocative. People with very little manage to share what they have with people who have even less, which shows the privileged how much further they have to go. So our solidarity is also valuable because it sets an example.

Later in his life, Abbé Pierre even broadened the idea of solidarity: "Our societies are generating new forms of exclusion, and solidarity is no longer enough. We need to bring back our community spirit." We've set the bar high, but without a hint of doubt, this is the way for us to be useful and this is how we can make sure we are heard.



All aboard

- Hold your annual solidarity sale between 15 and 29 June 2014. Get companions, volunteers, staff, partners and the public on board, and promote the event around you! Information and questions about the sales: Emmanuelle Larcher (e.larcher@emmaus-international.org) For communications resources: communication@emmaus-international.org
- Take part in the container days this year in Toulouse on 9 and 10 September 2014. All nearby groups are invited! Information and sign-up: Paola Da Fonseca (p.dafonseca@emmaus-international.org)
- Find out how to get involved in international solidarity and about what groups need. Information: Emmanuelle Larcher (e.larcher@emmaus-international.org)

An Emmaus International publication - 2014
communication@emmaus-international.org
47 av. de la résistance, 93104 Montreuil Cedex, France
Publication director: Jean Rousseau and the communications steering committee
Designed and drafted by Marie Flourens, Clément Tendil, Marie-Anne Dubosc
Graphic design: Nicolas Pruvost (www.nicolaspruvost.fr)
Illustration by Claire Robert (clairerobert.org)
Photo credits: Emmaus International
Printed on FSC certified paper by Loire Offset Titoulet
Translated by: Laura Sharpe

www.emmaus-international.org