The basic definition of Emmaus is: to shelter and live together, set free by the bread earned through work...

Emmaus on the move

Some 7000 companions, in four continents make up the Emmaus Movement. Together they are a collection of forces, consisting of those who are men in need as themselves. This chain of solidarity, unlike any other embodies real human worth, bringing together people who are all very different. And share the same values. Who are these companions "without borders" and what does the Emmaus Movement mean to them?

For Alphonse, a companion in Emmaus Pahou (Benin), being an companion means "living and working with others to help me help others"

An essential concern!

Companions stand in the name of the excluded, the marginalized, the hungry and the poor, the homeless, the prisoners, the unemployed, the exploited, those who are hungry, those who are cold, those who are sick, the refugees, the homeless, the immigrants, the prisoners, the unemployed, the exploited, those who are hungry, those who are cold, those who are sick, the refugees, the homeless, the immigrants... Living together means bringing into the world the unity of a group and the friendship that is nourished through sharing a life together. Emmaus is a means of renewal, a way in which companions share their lives and build from this sharing, a community.

Different types of communities

Emmaus communities come in all shapes and sizes. Not only places where companions live and work, but also different types of communities: "in the name of the Movement," just like on that first day, the movement is united again and again, demonstrating the unity of their strength to promote another kind of world where everyone, whatever he or she is, is an active member of the society, working to live better and help one another. Living in communities, the companions rise to this challenge every day and are often personally affected by the example of Alphonse Pierre. They are widely aware of their role in society and in fighting poverty. It is up to all of us to assume our role and understand the whole experience, for being alive the original meaning of Emmaus: "I need you!"

Since it was first set up, Emmaus has enabled the voices of the excluded to be heard and their demands recognized. Moreover, Emmaus has been the source of much inspiration and was to inspire all initiatives carried out by the companions throughout the world.

The second European meeting of Emmaus companions was held in Cologne (Germany) in March 2011. It was exceptionally well attended. Since 2005 at the Emmaus community in Saintes (France), a few times a year, companions from six countries were there. It was really a unique experience to share their points of view.

From Alphonse: it was very moving. We discussed good work and good practices with pictures from magazines. It was really good. It was a fantastic meeting. We learned that communities in Germany are not based on the same values. We learned that there is still a community spirit and a community life. We also learned that the companions rise to this challenge every day and are often personally affected by the example of Alphonse Pierre. They are widely aware of their role in society and in fighting poverty. It is up to all of us to assume our role and understand the whole experience, for being alive the original meaning of Emmaus: "I need you!"

As an essential concern!

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