



I'll remain with each and

REMEMBERING ABBÉ PIERRE

tam-tam: the Emmaus news wall

“With this old man’s heart, my whole heart, I’ll remain with each and every one of you in this rescue of hope, this birth of a more beautiful civilisation”.

Abbé Pierre



Editorial

“Free to love” By Jean Rousseau, President of Emmaus International

Throughout his long life, Abbé Pierre was forever thinking about the history of Emmaus – “what happened to us” – and his own existence. He wanted us to constantly consider our actions from our movement’s unique, instructive perspective – and learn from them. The 100th anniversary of the birth of the founder

of Emmaus provides us with an exceptional opportunity to assess where the demands of the Emmaus universal manifesto take us. Fighting poverty, both locally and internationally, presents us with major challenges – a lack of perspective and analysis are some of the biggest ones. The movement’s meetings in 2012, books about Abbé Pierre

and the Abbé Pierre – Emmaus Centre provide a brilliant opportunity to re-discover or simply find out about the most important aspects of Abbé Pierre’s ideas: “In the face of human suffering, do not only try to relieve it, but also address its root causes.” Let’s tackle them now! Then we can attempt to be “free to love».



All aboard →

- You too can pay tribute to the memory of Abbé Pierre on the 100th anniversary of his birth by organising an event or get-together at your community or organisation.
- Find out more about the ideas and work of the founder of Emmaus in books (in French) such as *Abbé Pierre – Inédits* (published by Bayard, €29.90) or *L'abbé Pierre – « Mes amis, au secours ! »* by Martin Hirsch and Laurent Desmard (published by Gallimard €13.60) among many more...
- The Paris Mint, France is also paying tribute to Abbé Pierre by issuing circulation and collector euro coins that portray him. The currency coins are now in circulation in the euro zone.
- Other events are coming up in 2012. Find out more on www.emmaus-international.org

An Emmaus International publication - 2012
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Publication director: Jean Rousseau and the Publications Group
Designed and drafted by Mélanie Veillaux and Claire Labat
Translated by Laura Sharpe
Graphic design: Nicolas Pruvost (www.nicolaspruvost.fr)
Illustration by Claire Robert (clairerobert.org)
Photo credits: Emmaus International and Éric Hadji/Sipa Presse
Printed on FSC certified paper by Loire Offset Titoulet

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every-one of you in this rescue of hope, this-birth of a more beautiful civilisation



Emmaus on the move

Abbé Pierre would have celebrated his 100th birthday on 5th August 2012. This anniversary gives us a chance to celebrate the legacy left by this extraordinary person who still influences thousands of people’s lives.

Abbé Pierre was one of those people who made a huge impact on his time. A rebel, visionary and pioneer, he was behind many social and solidarity-based initiatives. His work doubtless inspired others who set up organisations to fight poverty, such as ATD Fourth World, Restos du Cœur and Droit au Logement. Sometimes his struggles even led to laws being adopted.

But the man who was long the most popular public figure in France was doubtless better known for having set up a unique, global Movement - Emmaus. By making work a central value and a way of giving back dignity, he turned charity into action. In this way, he set up a new system whereby people can truly be in charge of their lives again.

Over the years, his influence spread far beyond his home country’s borders. People throughout the world have heard of him - in all the places he visited, at least - and there are many of them! In Madagascar, Poland and Lebanon, people still talk about him with fondness. In fact he is remembered in all of the countries where there are Emmaus organisations, for instance in Europe and South America, where he still has a significant influence.



Passing on the values he stood for

Mónica Rodríguez, who has been working in Montevideo, Uruguay at the Emmaus America secretariat since 2005, never crossed paths with Abbé Pierre. At the same time, he is central to her commitment. “It’s a bit like having a grandfather I never met, but who has given me lots of wonderful things.” This feeling is shared by most people involved in the Emmaus Movement in South America. To commemorate the centenary of the birth of Abbé Pierre, Emmaus organisations on the continent are to organise a week of festive events and solidarity sales. The memory of Abbé Pierre and the values he stood for are also conveyed in the various books about him that have been recently published for the centenary. Interestingly, many books for



young people - novels and comic books - are about him. It just goes to show that his words and campaigns are still relevant now! The Abbé Pierre - Emmaus Centre in Esteville, France also fulfils this role of passing on values. It’s a must for anyone interested in the work and life of the founder of Emmaus International (find out more in the interview with Philippe Dupont). For Laurent Desmard, who was Abbé Pierre’s secretary for the last fifteen years of his life, it is up to the Movement to pass on

the values and ensure his message is not distorted. Abbé Pierre is of course no longer with us, but the Movement is still here, with the same guideline: do not do things “for”, but “with” the poorest of the poor. Did you meet, or would you like to have met Abbé Pierre? Pay tribute to him by sending us your story: communication@emmaus-international.org. Selected texts will be published on www.planet-emmaus.org



Next port of call... Esteville (France)

The Abbé Pierre - Emmaus Centre opened its doors on 22nd January in Esteville. The centre serves both as a place to commemorate the life and ideas of Abbé Pierre and as a place to live, as accommodation for disadvantaged people is located in the same building. We meet Philippe Dupont, the Director.

You didn't know Abbé Pierre – does he inspire you?

I realised the importance of Abbé Pierre’s dedicated work and campaigns by reading a great deal about him and about Emmaus. I’ve met a lot of people who used to know him and that has helped me understand the complexity of his personality, other than by reading books. He was full of energy, he wanted to change the world and wanted to do everything all at the same time. He was a great listener and had an openness of heart for marginalised people. This strength of conviction and determination belonged to a man who was, in private, more fragile and sensitive than people realised. Even though he worked actively to build a fairer society, he had a very full inner life.

What possibilities are there for the legacy of Abbé Pierre’s work?

Energy, conviction, friendship and solidarity pulse through the Emmaus Movement, despite there being a diverse range of Emmaus organisations. A collection of written and audiovisual resources, some of which are yet to be published, extend his life and ideas. The centre is a resource providing good-quality informative and educational content, which



is accessible to everyone. It aims to pass on this energy to future generations.

Six months after opening, how would you rate the centre?

Since opening, around 5000 visitors, most of them French, have come to the centre. It’s opened up the international side of Emmaus to them. We’ve also received people from other European countries and are able to provide guided tours for non French speakers, whilst we await a brochure that is being translated into English. To celebrate 100 years since the birth of Abbé Pierre, there will be a temporary exhibition in September displaying photographs Abbé Pierre took himself throughout his life. There will be a mass on 5th August in the grounds of the centre, which will be broadcast on French and Belgian television.