



Young people everywhere

A NEW GENERATION

tam-tam: the Emmaus news wall

“Young people everywhere want to live. They know instinctively that living means fighting and creating, whatever the cost, as long as it is worthwhile.” Abbé Pierre

EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL

Editorial

True wealth by Jean Rousseau, Chair of Emmaus International

Even before the great Emmaus adventure had begun, Abbé Pierre had turned his house into a youth hostel. Following the disaster that marred the second half of the century, he had in fact understood that the future of a world that would finally be fit to live in depended on new generations and the strength of young people's commitment. Following on from that, Emmaus - bearer of a universal message - has never ceased to meet

with all generations, all of which are seeking hope and action. Young people have brought enthusiasm, new ideas and exuberant activism, all of which are needed in the difficult and sometimes risky fight against exclusion. In all four corners of the globe the realities which surround us show us just how vulnerable young people are - they are the first victims of poverty and sometimes they end up being sacrificed. Nevertheless, these young people are still here, in the

movement, holding our future in their hands. The new Emmaus generation supports the most disadvantaged and opens the eyes of the privileged. Through directly experiencing this solidarity alongside young people, our movement shows that the emerging generation is a force which needs to be encouraged and given the right tools in order to build a better world - starting from now. If we were ever tempted to forget this, the youth would no doubt remind us...



All aboard

All across the world there are examples of initiatives which favour young people's involvement in the movement.

- Encourage young people to attend summer work camps in France. Contact: Anais Sautier (asautier@emmaus-france.org)
- Participate in solidarity camps in Europe (see Emmaus Express n°22, October 2013): www.emmaus-europe.org Contact: Camille Decaens (camille.decaens@emmaus-europe.org)
- Speak to people around you, train young people, suggest that they participate in your activities, get them involved!

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want to live. They know instinctively that living means fighting and creating...

Emmaus on the move

Throughout the world young people continue to transmit and uphold Emmaus values. We decided to find out more about this new generation, through accounts given by young, committed people from the four Emmaus regions.



Africa
My name is Beron Molantsoa and I am 42 years old. I am the leader of Emmaus CORDIS in Johannesburg. I took over the work of our founder, father Louis Blondel, when he was assassinated in 2009. He believed that the Emmaus model could help fight against injustices in South Africa. In these difficult times, solidarity has been precious to us. Being part of an international network where we share the same values and where we have independence and self-sufficiency gives us the hope we need to carry on. This is what the new generation is all about, a generation that is taking up the torch despite the difficulties entailed - because, like me, this generation believes in Emmaus and in the causes it fights for. If young people are involved from the start and at all levels, they will take over the baton from Abbé Pierre and continue his work.



Europe
My name is Myron Holender and I am 29 years old. I have been living in the Oselya community (Ukraine) since 2004. After studying masonry at a boarding school, a class mate of mine who lived in the Oselya community invited me to his home. I liked the place and I wanted to stay there. I work in the community's furniture workshop and I take care of an elderly lady from the neighbourhood once a week. Here I have found shelter, a job and help obtaining benefits. Most of all, I have learnt how to respect people: at work, when enjoying myself and through living with others. Being part of Emmaus means having a lot of friends. Last year I visited Emmaus Lublin (in Poland) and it was fantastic being able to share my experiences with companions there. Emmaus, therefore, is also about learning to help and respect each other.



Asia
My name is Vikas Kumar and I am 28 years old. I am a volunteer working with TARA Projects for five years. I started off as an intern before becoming a full employee, and I have learnt a lot about the work Emmaus does throughout the world. I became involved in international actions, not just because it's my job but also because it inspired me. My commitment has strengthened my values of sharing, solidarity and respect for everyone. It is important to get young people more involved in the movement. For me, the "new generation" means new ideas and exploring new ways of resolving problems that different communities face. We need new driving forces to push Emmaus forward. Young people will truly play a vital role in the future.



America
My name is Liz Sahira Pintado Garcia and I am 21 years old. I am a university student studying Business Administration. A year ago I was no longer able to pay my studies, and the Aguilas de Piura Community (in Peru) gave me an incredible welcome. I work in the solidarity store and I participate in community life, notably by raising awareness amongst companions with regards to the movement's values and the role that we must play in society. Through understanding the logic behind Emmaus, I wanted to become involved along with other companions - and now I really feel like part of my group. The new Emmaus generation has a lot to offer in terms of both practices and knowledge. It must seek new horizons for Abbé Pierre's legacy, whilst preserving an approach inspired by love, endeavour and helping others.

Flying visit to... Cuddalore (India)

The Florence Home Foundation in India regularly welcomes young volunteers from the United Kingdom. Selva, who is coordinator of the Youth Exchange Programme - a programme which involves sending young Indians to England and welcoming young English people here.



What is your role at FHF? I have been working for FHF for 15 years. At first I was a volunteer and then I became an employee. Today I coordinate group activities, in particular projects related to education, migrants, microcredit and ecotourism. I also run the Child Development Centre in Killal, where I take care of 15 children aged between 7 and 18 years old who come from poor families. Finally, I am in charge of the Youth Exchange Programme - a programme which involves sending young Indians to England and welcoming young English people here.

What does the Exchange Programme involve? Every two years, young people who have never visited India spend three weeks with our group. This programme was set up ten years ago, initially in partnership with Birmingham City Council and then with Manchester in the UK. Volunteers aged between 18 and 22 years old teach French or English to children, and play games with them. They also help us to keep our website up to date.

What impact does this experience have on participants? All participants, both English and Indian, are taken aback by the cultural differences. Young people in both countries learn to respect the other's culture and to share knowledge. Their perspective changes profoundly - it is an experience which will serve them wonderfully later in life. Young people in our modern world face numerous difficulties. This type of exchange programme helps them to build up their resilience in the face of a dominant culture.

Why is this important for Emmaus? Volunteers work with us during a short period and when they leave they spread accounts of their experiences far and wide. When it comes to carrying the Emmaus message into the future, young people are very important.

"This new generation is taking up the torch despite the difficulties entailed because it believes in Emmaus and in the causes it fights for."