

A USER GUIDE TO...

SAVE THE DATE

10 & 11 December

Nokoué lake population's general assembly

March 2014

Emmaus Asia regional board meeting, Lebanon

October 2014

Salon for Nokoué, Region 7 of France (Marseille)

Alain Fontaine will step down as General Manager of EI on 22 January 2014 after 11 years of service. We wish him fulfilment and the best of success in his new projects.

38 volunteer interpreters took part in the movement's international meetings in 2013.

An Emmaus International publication – 2014
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Regional assemblies

→ WHEN?

The world assembly in Ouagadougou in November 2003 redefined the role and responsibilities of regional organisations within the framework of decentralisation. The 2004 EI Board meeting changed the number of regions to the four that exist today: Africa, America, Asia and Europe.

→ WHAT?

The regional assemblies (RAs) are the region's decision-making bodies and they meet every two years (every four years for Emmaus Europe).

The regional organisation's mission is to implement EI decisions within the region, to challenge public authorities, to ensure coordination between member groups and to support new members.

→ WHO?

RAs bring together delegates of member groups - one vote per group.

→ HOW?

The RA sets regional priorities in conformity with the decisions taken by Emmaus International and the region's own commitments. The assembly also elects those who will be both members of the regional board and the Emmaus International board, as well as electing the world councillors who represent the region in the two world councils.

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e-Emmaus express

January 2014

www.emmaus-international.org

RIGHTS FOR US ALL

How Emmaus groups are putting the movement's priorities into action - together

First health work camp in Asia



Twelve companions, group leaders and volunteers from the Caen, Vannes and Rédéné communities, which partner the health programme in Asia, took part in the first work camp of its kind from 16 to 30 October. They were accompanied by Hans Van Beek, Emmaus International Board member and contact person for health.

Participants found out about mutual fund schemes set up since 2011 by TARA Projects (India) and Thanapara Swallows (Bangladesh), schemes which enable up to 2500 people to access health care. The group also participated in raising awareness among slum dwellers in Badapur and met with fund beneficiaries. This trip also allowed participants to learn about the microcredit and fair trade activities carried out by groups in the Asian region.

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OUC in New York

At the start of October, three members of the Organisation for Universal Citizenship's Board (including one EI representative) participated in high level talks at the UN on the theme of international migration. Eight priorities (including protection of migrant's rights and improving the public perception of migrants) were set out for the next five years.

Although the OUC has raised awareness among some states on the issue of free movement, it regrets the weak level of participation from civil society in this debate. It has asked for an international UN conference on migration to be held.

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POINT OF VIEW → Carline BEAUBRUN, holder of a Universal Citizenship Passport

I left my home for France with a two-month visa and I wanted to try my luck and stay here. I knew, however, that by making that choice I would have to leave my family behind me, and that's very difficult for me. Sometimes, I feel like I'm in an open air prison. It would be a dream to have access to the same rights as others.



GO FOR IT!

Annual Nokoué meeting

→ On 21 November, 59 members from 32 European groups involved in the Nokoué programme took part in the annual Nokoué meeting in Paris, presented by Beninese stakeholders and programme experts. It was a chance to take stock of progress made in 2013 (5 water towers and 87 water supply points), to learn about the 2014 work camps (on sanitation and awareness-raising) and to start thinking about "life after the Nokoué project".

Appeal's 60th anniversary

→ 1 February 2014 will mark the 60th anniversary of Abbé Pierre's 1954 appeal.

On the day, groups are invited to occupy a square in their town/city and rename it "Voiceless Square", and use the slogan "Emmaus: an alternative voice for a better world". To take part, contact the communications department.

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Paris Salon 2014

→ The fifteenth Paris Salon for international solidarity will take place on 22 June 2014. The theme for 2014 is to be 'an economy based on solidarity', focusing on work carried out jointly in 2013 by Emmaus International, Emmaus France and Emmaus Europe.



The Marseille container days

The Marseille container days (14-15 October) brought together 15 representatives from 11 Emmaus groups, including from the UK. After helping the Pointe-Rouge, Cabriès and Saint-Marcel communities load a container, participants received information about the programme, shared their experiences and visited the two Marseille communities. Two representatives from receiver groups attended - Baba Koné from Côte d'Ivoire and Luciano Callañaupa Triveño from Peru - making this event even more enriching.

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France-Bosnia-Burkina Partnership

Ten community members from Limoges, Angoulême, Niort and the International Solidarity Forum (IFS) in Bosnia visited Emmaus Solidarité Ouaga (ESO) in Burkina Faso from 25 to 30 November, as part of the partnership that has existed between these groups since 2008. This visit completed the cycle of meetings after the ones in France and Bosnia. The groups will now define an action plan on common themes such as training and the protection of women.

Franz Valli, Companion turned Chair



Franz Valli joined Emmaus as a companion nearly 30 years ago and has been Chair of Emmaus France since May 2013. His and Emmaus' history is one of sharing; it started with just a cigarette and a coffee and became a life long battle. As soon as he stepped through the Dijon community's door back in 1985 (soon after leaving the army), he was immediately offered a cigarette and a coffee. "I'm Swiss and knew nothing about Emmaus or Abbé Pierre, and I've spent my life returning that coffee and that cigarette" he says. "Because that initial welcome is what Emmaus is all about: no questions asked, you're just invited in".

After a spell as a companion at the Bayonne community and some contact with the Union of Associations of Emmaus Communities (UACE), he became leader of the Bourg-en-Bresse and Le Havre communities. An unparalleled logistician, he is often sent to communities in difficulty. From 1991 to 2001 he was federal delegate of the UACE, and he was also an elected member in EF and EI governing bodies. "I've seen what a wonderful thing it is to have brothers and sisters all over the world" he says, "people with whom I have worked to try and distribute wealth more fairly." In 2002, he returned to the Bayonne community as its leader: "I'd gone full circle: I'd arrived as a companion and come back as a leader, to pay back the cigarette and the coffee".

As chair of Emmaus France, he insists on the importance of unity: "It's key to our survival now that Abbé Pierre is no longer with us, but it's the young who must preserve it. As for me, next year I will leave as I arrived: as discreetly as I can."

NEWS IN BRIEF

→ An atypical festival

The 18th edition of the "Atypical Nights of Kougoudou" (Burkina Faso) welcomed almost 45,000 festival-goers from 27 November to 1 December 2013. This international cultural festival hosted 26 music groups from 6 countries (Mali, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Togo and Burkina Faso), with its theme being a social and solidarity-based economy. The organising group of Benebnooma, EI member, paid a tribute to Félix Kaboré who passed away last October.

→ Auction in Tours

A special auction organised by Emmaus Angers and Emmaus Tours took place in Tours on 23 November of this year. Around 60 groups from Emmaus France, Switzerland, Italy and Bosnia provided items for the sale. The €34,000 raised will contribute to financing the collective access to water programme for Nokoué (Benin).

→ Regional assemblies

Regional assemblies took place in Asia and America from 18 to 21 September 2013 in Delhi (India) and from 9 to 15 September 2013 in Lima (Peru) respectively. Among the decisions taken was one to create a work and training camp in Brazil in 2015, as well as to continue developing ecotourism in Asia.