



EFM Matters

October 2023

E.F.M Needs You!



Covid-19 had a dramatic impact on E.F.M. With the Hamilton group ceasing in July there are now only two groups, both in Wellington, with 13 members. No new mentors were trained in 2023. E.F.M is still a great programme and it has to grow. Currently we are planning to add two more groups in 2024 — one a Zoom group. It would be really good to get a group going outside of Wellington.

For E.F.M to continue to grow we need your help in four ways.

Firstly, please include E.F.M. in your prayers. The power of prayer and the holy spirit that is harnessed by it should not be underestimated. Can you please pray for the board members, the trainers, the mentors and group members. But most importantly, please pray for E.F.M to grow in terms of numbers of students, mentors and groups.

Secondly, please recommend E.F.M. to someone you know. I only joined an E.F.M group 40 years ago because of a recommendation. Word of mouth recommendations from people who have done E.F.M. are our most important way of getting new members. With a Zoom group forming, people anywhere in New Zealand, or even overseas, can join E.F.M. This newsletter is emailed to 130 people. If each of you recommend E.F.M to a friend and 10% of those people go on to enrol then we have doubled our numbers.

Thirdly, there are only 130 names on the mailing list but there are over 1000 people who have done E.F.M in the past. The list I received only has email addresses for people who did E.F.M from 2014 onwards. Please ask all the people you know who have done E.F.M if they are receiving the newsletters. If they are not please email Michael Crawford-Butler at educationforministrynz@outlook.com with their name, email address and town.

Finally for E.F.M to continue to grow we need new mentors—especially outside of Wellington. There is no charge to attend mentor training and no prior commitment to becoming a mentor. With E.F.M going to zoom you can mentor from anywhere. Please contact Michael if you are interested.

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Please distribute this newsletter widely amongst your networks in the community

Certificate Presentations



On 12 August, E.F.M Chair Leonne Munroe and Bishop Justin Duckworth presented Michael Crawford-Butler with his graduation certificate at the Wellington Diocesan Training Day in Palmerston North.

Mike enrolled in E.F.M. in 2019 as he was approaching retirement and wanted to discern how God was calling him to serve once he had finished working. Mike is now the E.F.M administrator, a volunteer at Noah's Ark— the pre-school playgroup in Pauatahanui parish and also drives for Free Store in Wellington collecting food from cafes that would

otherwise go to waste. "I started E.F.M. with a lot of questions hoping to find all the answers. What I found was better questions," said Mike.

Three graduates received their much delayed certificates on 3rd September. Jenny Boyack, Githa Warrington and David Barrett were presented with their certificates by Anne Crisp, the group moderator and Michael Crawford-Butler, E.F.M. Administrator, during Sunday worship service at St Michael's Church, Palmerston North. The Rev Stuart Goodin read a congratulatory message from Bishop Justin.

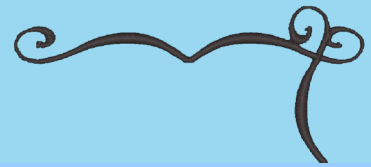
Jenny says: "In terms of what E.F.M. means/meant to me, I really appreciated the overall group experience and the breadth and richness of others' offerings and insights. When I came to the end of the four years I felt as though I was in a great position to start all over again! Although I have always been a



Christian, I have also always been full of questions and have my fair share of doubts. E.F.M. was such a welcoming environment for questions, concerns, disagreement, theological differences, total puzzlement (it was pretty difficult to find meaningful connection to some of the Old Testament readings!). I love that E.F.M. is

contextualised and for me, *Huia Come Home* was a stunning text. Since completing the course I continue to read widely and often find myself referring back to the various texts and commentaries." David summed up his experience as "New light through old windows."

Trainers' Corner



A place to find some ideas for EfM groups

In the coming year we will be using Volume C: Living as Spiritually Mature Christians. In Week Two, this volume uses colour as a way to shape the telling of our Spiritual Autobiographies. Some people get stuck with this method as they don't see themselves as being visual, or "arty".

However, all of us do use forms of "colour" in our metaphorical language... (e.g. she was in a dark mood; he had a sunny personality). In preparation for leading Volume C, it would be good to start looking out for resources of all sorts that use kinds of colour metaphor, so that you can use them as invitational examples.

Here's a poem by Macrina Wiederkehr

Slowly

She celebrated the sacrament of
Letting Go...

First she surrendered her Green
Then the Orange, yellow, and Red...

Finally she let go of her Brown...
Shedding her last leaf

She stood empty and silent, stripped bare
Leaning against the sky she began her vigil of trust...

Shedding her last leaf
She watched its journey to the ground...

She stood in silence,
Wearing the colour of emptiness

Her branches wondering:
How do you give shade, with so much gone?

And then, the sacrament of waiting began
The sunrise and sunset watched with

Tenderness, clothing her with silhouettes
They kept her hope alive.

They helped her understand that
her vulnerability

her dependence and need
her emptiness

her readiness to receive
were giving her a new kind of beauty.

Every morning and every evening she stood in silence and celebrated
the sacrament of waiting.

Elsa Bakkum Retires



Elsa Bakkum, Associate Director of Training for E.F.M. at Sewanee, Tennessee announced her retirement from E.F.M. effective October 1. It was under Elsa's leadership that we witnessed firsthand how she transformed the Training Network into an empowered group of colleagues. While serving as a trainer, Elsa was always a source of support and encouragement to all her encountered her.

In her retirement letter, Elsa shared that it was time to focus on her family, especially as she lives into her new role of grandmother. She stated, "I am incredibly proud of the work that E.F.M. Trainers are doing and am very proud of the support that I have given to them over the 12 years of my tenure. I will not continue as an E.F.M. Mentor or Trainer. This comes after much careful thought and processing."

Her care for the programme and her support of the trainers will be missed.

Thinking about E.F.M?

Do you want to know more about E.F.M?

Are you keen to join or start a new
E.F.M. Group?

Please contact Michael, who would love
to hear from you.

Phone 021 246 0672

Email: educationforministrynz@outlook.com

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

Fertile ground to grow your faith

Like the mustard seed, we need fertile soil to grow. Education for Ministry (E.F.M.) is like that fertile soil and we are the mustard seeds.

Learning about the Old and New Testaments, church history, and discovering theology is the light shining on the soil, warming it so the seed will sprout.



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