



New curriculum underway

Groups around New Zealand began using the new EFM curriculum in February.

The first boxes of the newly printed *Reading and Reflection Guides Volume A* (RRG) were posted out to groups in February. So far there are nine groups around the country using the new material. Some of

Groups in USA gave feedback in November last year on the new texts. Information from the nearly 1,000 EFM groups in USA was collated, and the responses are summarised in the graphs on pages 3-4.

EFM's fresh new look is already bearing much fruit...

these are multi-level groups; others are single level groups.

The new material presents fresh challenges for mentors and group members as everyone becomes familiar with the new format and text books, but initial feedback is positive.

Comments include:

The new RRG is well presented and easy to follow

Each year's reading is clearly spelt out

The new text books, especially the beautiful Year 2 text book, are very readable

I love the online resources and links

There will be opportunities for trainers, mentors and groups to offer detailed feedback as they work their way through the new material this year.

From the Interim Executive Officer...

It's great to see the positive response to the new EFM curriculum in New Zealand. The Board took a bit of a 'leap of faith' last year when it decided to introduce it from 2014, but the signs are that EFM's fresh new look is already bearing much fruit.

So far this year, 22 new Year 1 participants have signed up for EFM, joining either new or existing groups. That's not far off the total number of new Year 1 participants for the whole of 2013. More new groups are highly likely to start within the next few months in Auckland, Pahiatua, Feilding, Taranaki, and Dunedin. Our first print run of the RRG Volume A was 100—but it's probable we will need a further print run to cater for the demand.

That's exciting!

Judith

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Contact Us

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Check out the website for information on the new curriculum, and lots of upcoming events.

EFM NZ Annual General Meeting 2014

Notice is given of the
EFM Annual General Meeting 2014
to be held on

**Friday 9 May 2pm
Dean's Vestry
Wellington Cathedral of St Paul
Hill Street, Wellington**

As members of the EFM Trust, trainers, mentors,
group members, and graduates are invited to
attend.

At the AGM elections will be held for EFM Board
members. Under the terms of our Trust Deed,
nominations for Board members are to be made in
writing, endorsed with the consent of the nominee,
and received not less than 24 hours before the
AGM.

If you are intending to come, would like your
apology recorded, or would like to make a
nomination for a Board member, please email

**Interim Executive Officer
admin@efm.org.nz**

*As we are in the midst of creating comprehensive email
distribution lists for EFM mentors, participants and
graduates, please distribute this newsletter and notice
widely among your networks in the EFM community.*

Congratulations...

...to members of the "Midlifers" EFM
group in Dunedin, mentored by Jan and
Alec Clark, who graduated recently.

Well done!

***We pray that EFM has equipped and
nourished you. May God bless your
mission and ministry,
now and in the future.***

Trainer Update

Several training events have been held to equip
mentors to lead groups using the EFM new
curriculum. The first such event was in
Palmerston North in September 2013. These
were followed by events in Wellington in
February, and in New Plymouth in March.

At the February training, an enthusiastic group
of mentors and prospective mentors gathered to
make EFM prayer beads.

Thanks to Jean Malcolm for her inspired idea!



Upcoming Mentor Training events

Auckland

Monday 30 June, 1pm – 9pm
Tuesday 1 July, 9am – 5pm

St Peter's Church, 184 Onehunga Mall,
Onehunga, Auckland

Wairarapa

Friday 18 July, 1pm – 9pm
Saturday 19 July, 9am – 5pm

St Mark's Church, 185 High Street South,
Carterton

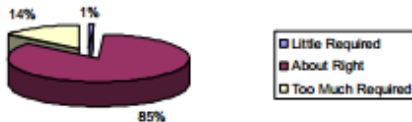
Expressions of interest and registrations are
welcome from mentors, prospective mentors, or
past mentors wishing to re-connect with EFM or re-
train as a mentor. These training events will be led
by Judith Wigglesworth and Jean Malcolm.

Contact Judith on wiggles@paradise.net.nz

USA Feedback on New EFM Curriculum*

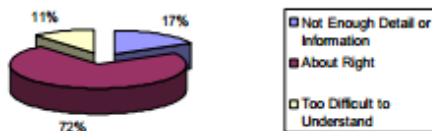
YEAR ONE

For Year One? What is your response to the amount of reading and or preparation assigned?



"Text gives many new insights."

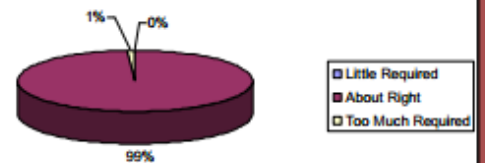
For Year One: What is your response to the textbook assigned?



"Interesting, easy to read, and provides new information."

YEAR TWO

For Year Two: What is your response to the amount of reading and preparation assigned?



"The Texts are fantastic! So much better than anything we've had before!"

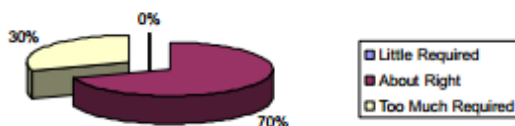
For Year Two: What is your response to the textbook assigned?



"Text is Awesome...wide range of learning depth and ability."

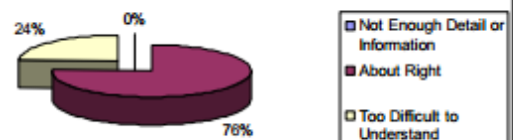
YEAR THREE

For Year Three: What is your response to the amount of reading and/or preparation assigned?



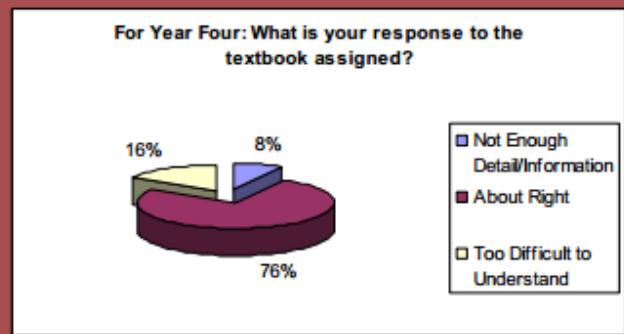
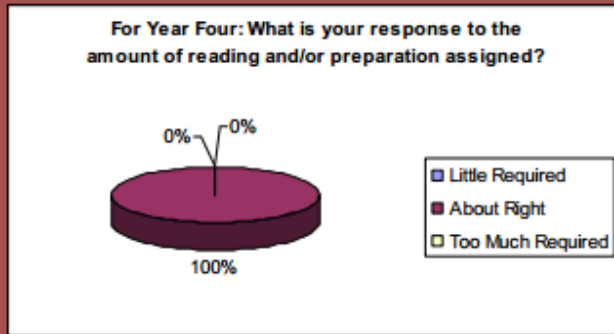
"The Size of the book is daunting to some, but we love it!"

For Year Three: What is your response to the textbook assigned?



"Easy to read, good writer, just an overall good book; enjoying it very much"

YEAR FOUR



"Find it very interesting and though provoking."

"We Love the Allen Book!"

FAQ - New Curriculum

Who uses the new Reading and Reflection Guide (RRG)?

All EFM group members using the new curriculum at the moment use Volume A of the RRG, whatever year of study they are in. The RRG follows a four-year cycle of its own, and is being rolled out year by year. USA will begin to use Volume B in their 2014/2015 academic year (beginning later in 2014). In NZ, groups will begin to use Volume B from February 2015.

How do the volumes of the RRG differ from each other?

Each RRG has a theme. Volume A focuses on "Living Faithfully in Your World", and the reflection questions and activities in the RRG reflect that theme. The theme of Volume B will be "Living Faithfully in a Multi-cultural World". So, although the text book reading for each year of study may remain the same across different volumes of the RRG, the reflection questions that guide members through their year of study will differ. The "interlude books" (additional books that every group member reads regardless of their year of study) also change according to the theme of the RRG.

What about the NZ component of EFM?

The NZ component of EFM (focusing on Allan Davidson's book *Christianity in Aotearoa*) fits most logically into Year 3 of the new EFM curriculum, which covers church history. Mentors of Year 3 groups using the new curriculum this year have the flexibility to decide when and how they cover the NZ material (eg by slotting it in, or adding it to the end of Year 3). We will seek feedback on how they get on. In addition, EFM trainers are likely to focus on this issue in their training this year, including the possibility of updated reading guides and identifying other NZ resources to accompany EFM's use of *Christianity in Aotearoa*.

*All data and comments obtained from November 2013 Group Status Report questionnaire

News from Sewanee

"The Beecken Center"

The School of Theology's "Programs Center" (of which EFM is a part) has a new name, "The Beecken Center", thanks to the generosity of David and Kitty Beecken of Chicago. Their gift will provide funding for the development of the centre.



New Assistant Director of Training

Joshua Booher has been appointed as EFM's new Assistant Director for Operations. Joshua has been involved in EFM in USA as trainer, mentor and regional coordinator, and co-led the trainers' training in Sewanee that Judith Wigglesworth attended in November 2013.

2015 Texts

Sewanee has advised that the core texts for Years 1-4 will remain the same for the second year of the new curriculum. The interlude books for Year B of the RRG will be:

- *The Bush Was Blazing but not Consumed* by Eric Law
- *Globalization, Gender, and Peacebuilding: The Future of Interfaith Dialogue* by Kwok Pui-lan.

Both these books fit the year's focus on being a faithful Christian ministering in an intercultural and increasingly non-Christian context.

EfM NZ Re-Launch

Thursday 12 June, 5.30 – 7pm
Loaves and Fishes Hall
Wellington Cathedral of St Paul
Hill Street, Thorndon, Wellington

This gathering will celebrate the introduction of the new EfM curriculum.

All welcome – those interested in exploring EfM,
and those who are or have been involved in EfM.

RSVP for catering purposes to admin@efm.org.nz

*This re-launch event will be followed by local re-launches in other areas of the country.
More details soon.*

EfM news from around NZ

What's happening with EfM in your area?

Let us know so we can include your news in the next newsletter. Email admin@efm.org.nz



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