



Notice is given of the

2016 EFM NZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12 noon, Wednesday 23 June 2016,

Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, Hill Street, Wellington

All members of the EFM Community, (trainers, mentors, group members, & graduates) are members of the EFM Trust, and are warmly invited to attend.

The Agenda will include:

Elections for EFM Trust 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: admin@efm.org.nz

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hat can *You* expect from EFM ?

EFM helps develop skills in theological reflection, deepens participants understanding of their Christian heritage, and provides a new confidence to be Christ's minister.



Pahiatua EFM Group Reflections. (Mentor: Jill Woods)



EFM to me means many things, but principally the chance to study the Bible and related issues in a structured formal way. While this may seem boring, its not. Importantly its relieved by the ensuing discussions and debates surrounding each meeting, here each person's thoughts and feelings and ideas concerning their study can be openly discussed. Indeed for me, the weekly discussions over coffee/tea and biscuits have become an important and (rejuvenating) part of the experience.

Now two years into the programme some of these other elements are becoming evident. A little more confidence in 'things religious,' certainly more understanding of the Bible and how it relates to New Zealand today. (Martyn Preece)

Personally EFM has provided the opportunity to get to know the Bible more deeply. While the Bible itself is the prime source for us, it has always been a little difficult for me. However, the two reference books have been very readable. Both "The Hebrew Bible" by Collins and "Introducing the New Testament" by Powell have provided wonderful insights, as a well as being quite attractive reference books in their own right. I'm very grateful to have been introduced to these two volumes and now understand the Bible itself much more thoroughly.

(Adrienne Preece)

It has been a time of learning not only about the Bible and it's relevance to life in the world today, but learning skills about interacting with others in the group. We have got to know others in the group on a personal level, whereas earlier we had only greeted each other at service. It has been a very worthwhile course for me.

(Nancy Wenden)

Standing here
at the nearing end
of another year

on this small plateau of ground –
I can see and feel
the vastness of landscape around;

It's the wildness of nature through
which I somehow have arrived,
by path I now see through unknown, unnamed

yet demarked, clear and certainly
as if cut out by some predestination
in front spread distant vistas for journey,

Into what is yet to come more mystery.
Behind and before all those hills and valleys
hold, deeply hidden in creation's heart,

life's bountiful gifts of discovery
for you and me, as in stumbling faith
we walk the pilgrim way

to the eventual homecoming of love-
the waiting of God Himself
to be found in us, born again.

(Beryl Knights , Christmas 2015)

I joined EFM because I had never read the Old Testament in total, although I knew the famous stories and many well-known verses. I felt I needed to do this to give myself integrity as a Christian. I had no idea this was a four year course or that it involved Ministry (even though that is in the title!) However, I find now that we have studied it, the Old Testament has not made any significant difference to what I believe. It is pretty torrid, demanding and sometimes boring reading but Collins made it fascinating and by putting events in context, and drawing attention to variations in writing style, chronology, historical events, accuracies and inaccuracies etc., it has been particularly enlightening. Powell's accompaniment to the New Testament is a joy to read. It brings alive the writers of the New Testament and their particular struggles. It is a comprehensive accompaniment to our study and a treasure to own. The extra readings that accompany our Reflection Guide Book are challenging, sometimes intellectually demanding, and thought provoking, but always very worthwhile.

At EFM, I enjoy our accompanying discussions about these texts and, although nothing is any clearer about "God", there is no doubt that somehow I feel a greater sense of the spiritual in my life "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him." 1 Corinthians 2:9

I absolutely believe in keeping my thoughts on God simple. I respect the Mystery. We shall never know fully what He is all about. Isaiah 55.8 tells us: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD." Although it is a great discussion topic, more important is that we get on with our lives having absolute Trust, living with joyful and grateful hearts, and caring for one another with respect and love as Jesus taught us. Each day, I put my hand into the hand of God and allow Him to lead me as I seek a closer relationship with Him and His creation. I am sure EFM study has helped to bring me to this point.

Blessed are you, O Lord God, supreme Creator,
For you uplift us with Love and Beauty
And make us joyous with appreciation.

(Wendy Parker)

Update from Executive Officer as 2016 rushes by...

My 2015 holiday in Turkey, Greece and Italy, is but an amazing memory with many photos which fortunately are all named to provide place name prompts. I feel truly blessed to have been able to have spent time in these beautiful, friendly, and welcoming countries, many of which have changed immensely over the last 8-10 months.



Each country is quite diverse, and I was very grateful for the many smiles, and the laughter I shared with the local people, as at times that was the only way we could communicate.

My holiday was very timely, as shortly after my return to NZ, our EFM group commenced Volume B: Living Faithfully in a Multicultural World, and now as we read and study the New Testament in Year 2, for me, many of the places mentioned are more than a mark on a map.

I was fascinated by the historic places, buildings, and relics, and was excited to visit some of the places visited by Paul the Apostle: Rome, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Rhodes, and Crete. My fleeting visit to beautiful, peaceful Assisi, where life did not appear to be rushed, and pilgrims were almost crawling as they made their way to St Francis' Basilica, will be forever etched in my memory. I was overwhelmed by the serenity of the stunning monasteries perched on the edge of seemingly unassailable rocks in Meteora; and intensely emotional when I visited Crete, the place where my father was taken Prisoner of War. When I was a child, Dad never spoke of the horrors he encountered in WW2, but he spoke warmly of the kindness of the people in Crete, and I experienced that generosity and hospitality. Hot air ballooning was on my bucket list, so of course I fulfilled that dream in scenic Cappadocia. With tears rolling down my cheeks, I stood on the shore of Gallipoli, and later carefully planted some Anzac Day poppies beside the Chunuk Bair New Zealand Memorial.

My photos will continue to evoke many memories, but it is the warmth and friendliness of the people that I met that I most treasure. Now safe at home in Taranaki, New Zealand, I ponder on how many of their lives may have changed, as the world seeks to cope with the hurt much of humanity is currently facing.

I have had a busy start to the EFM year, and am eagerly waiting to receive a consignment of the new EFM brochures which I had been working on for quite some time. I hope to be able to circulate the new brochures very soon.

The EFM Board has approved the draft of the new Reading & Reflection Guide: The Church in Aotearoa NZ. Once all final details and proofing are completed, this new RRG will be printed. It is expected that it will be available for Year 3 groups to use later this year.

The EFM Trainers are currently at their annual Train the Trainers Retreat at the Home of Compassion, Island Bay, Wellington. One of the tasks for the Trainers during the week will be to recommend to the EFM Board the preferred option for the delivery of the 10 week module: The Church in Aotearoa NZ.

*I am keen to further promote EFM throughout New Zealand, and am available to talk to anyone interested in becoming involved in the EFM programme in New Zealand. EFM needs enthusiastic and committed Mentors and Co-Mentors in order to grow this **LIFE CHANGING** programme. Please contact me if you would like to talk about EFM, organise promotional events or if you require any information.*

*Yours in Christ,
Valda*

Reading & Reflection Guide Volume D: *Living into the Journey with God.*

Interlude Books:

Transformed Lives: Making Sense of Atonement

Today by Cynthia S. W. Crysdale. Church Publishing, 2016. [This book is to be released in June 2016.]

Care for Creation by Ilia Delio, Keith Douglas Warner, Pamela Wood. Franciscan Media, 2008.

Year 4 Texts Change for 2017

Theology - A Very Short Introduction by David F. Ford, Oxford University Press, 2013. (*Part of the Oxford University Press Very Short Introduction Series*)

Mysteries of Faith by Mark McIntosh. Cowley Publications, 2000. (*Part of the New Church's Teaching Series*)

The Christian Moral Life by Timothy F. Sedgwick. Seabury Books, 2008

My Neighbour's Faith editors Jennifer Howe Peace, Or. N Rose, Gregory Mobley. Orbis Books 2012

NOTE:

(Theology for a Troubled Believer will not continue to be a Year 4 Text)

Please forward articles and photos suitable for inclusion in the EFM Newsletter.

EFM Prayers, Poems, Prose or Photos gratefully received.

Please forward to admin@efm.org.nz

2015 EFM Graduations

Rotorua

Congratulations!

Graduates: Adriana Maria Sandberg

Ava Janice Gardner

Jocelyn Diana Czerwonka

Florence Elizabeth Buxton

Kathleen Margaret Roper

Mentor: Alex Czerwonka

Dunedin

Congratulations!

Graduates: Elizabeth Purdie

Peter Boreham

David Horne

Cynthia Greensill

Mentor: Alec Clark

Wellington

Congratulations!

Graduates: Ann Desmond

Richard Alan Harrow

Clifford Stephen Mundell

Fortune Tauro

Christine Vaughan-Dawkes

Mentors: Willie Brown & John & Kathleen Fleck

(More Wellington Graduates on Page 5)

WELLINGTON EFM GRADUATION



Congratulations!

Graduates:

Alison Camplin

Sarah Bate

Harold Garmonsway

Tania Hughes

Diana Newbery



Mentor: Alister Hendery



***Celebrated at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul
December 2015***

Certificates presented by Rev. Tricia Carter, Chair EFM NZ.

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

The emphasis of Education for Ministry is on formation for ministry in the world.

Through study, prayer and reflection, EFM helps participants move towards a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom as they better understand the connections between their faith and their lives.

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

EFM –because Exploring Faith Matters



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