



YOU MIGHT BE AN EFM PARTICIPANT

You MIGHT be an EFM participant if...

you teach Sunday School or lead Youth Group.

If you sing in the choir and cannot attend Adult Formation,

You MIGHT be an EFM participant.

If your congregation does not offer Adult Formation,

You MIGHT be an EFM participant.

You MIGHT be an EFM participant, if...

you long to take a deeper look at what Scriptures really say, in context.

You MIGHT be an EFM participant, if

you are looking for a supportive, caring, interesting group of fellow seekers
to share your Christian journey.

If you are discerning your own vocation for service in Christian discipleship,
and would appreciate helpful insights,

You MIGHT be an EFM participant.

If you would enjoy a method for orderly & creative theological reflection based on
scripture, tradition, reason, and personal experience,

You MIGHT be an EFM participant.

If you could benefit from reflections on your own life and relationships
from a Christian perspective,

You MIGHT be an EFM participant.

If walking together seems better to you than walking alone,

You MIGHT be an EFM participant.

If any or all of these circumstances speak to your reality, you really MIGHT be an
ideal EFM participant.

For more information about EFM, visit our website: www.efm.org.nz

or contact Valda admin@efm.org.nz 06 755 1851 or 027 442 5569

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2016 Fees

The 2016 EFM fees will
remain at the same level
as 2014 & 2015:

\$260.70 (GST inclusive).

A View From the Mountain Top

by Tricia Carter (Mentor, Trainer, & Interim Chair EFM NZ)

After thirty five years of involvement with EFM, I finally fulfilled one of my ambitions. I visited the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee.

I represented the New Zealand EFM Board and the EFM NZ Trainer network, and was overwhelmed by the warmth of the welcome I received. The Sewanee staff were fantastic, and it was so nice to put faces to names of those with whom I had communicated for many years.

The first surprise was the stunning beauty of the location of the University. It sits atop one of the beautiful mountains in Tennessee and the views are truly stunning. What an amazing place to live and work for those who shaped our EFM programme. It was summer, but at the higher altitude the weather was cooler and allowed for a pleasant working environment. This was no holiday we were definitely there to work!



View from the University of the South,



Training of EFM Trainers Group, Sewanee , June 2015

*Middle 2nd row: Tricia Carter, EFM NZ Interim Chair & EFM Trainer,
Front Row: Joshua Booher, EfM Asst. Director / Operations, Sewanee,
Elsa Bakkum, EfM Assistant Director for Training, Sewanee,
Eric Law, Kaleidoscope Institute Founder & Author of "The Bush was
Burning but not consumed"*

A gathering of EFM Trainers from around the US and Canada met together to work with the Kaleidoscope Institute founder and author of "The Bush was blazing but not consumed", Eric Law. This is a Year B Interlude Book and so it was a good opportunity to engage with the contents with Eric Law present. The weeks work on multiculturalism gave me glimpse into the very different cultural roots of the US and NZ. I heard first hand stories of racial segregation and the developing civil rights movement, and some of these were shocking. More so when you realise that this is very recent history and the consequences are still being lived out on the streets of many American communities today. To be reading the interlude book within this context forced the group to ask very different questions than those that NZ groups may be asking.

One of the challenges of the southern hospitality was the selection of food on offer. After much encouragement I tried shrimp and grits, a local delicacy, and I have to say it was delicious. The hamburgers and ribs were enormous, and the iced tea a very welcome refreshment in the heat. I was very definitely in a new land, and I loved it.

The visit to Sewanee reminded me that I belong to a wider family of EFM around the world. It was a joy and privilege to attend. Whilst there I also negotiated a new contract on behalf of the EFM NZ board and this assures us of an ongoing relationship for the years to come.



Shrimps & Grits

Focus on the Onehunga EFM Group

by Anne Priestley, Vicar & Mentor, St Peter's Anglican Church,
Onehunga

We will finish Year 1 with fireworks on 5 November. As a result of EfM, there have been visible changes in the lives of participants. Some have taken new responsibilities in liturgy, surprising themselves by preaching, teaching leading prayers. Others have found new inner resources, voicing questions, going deeper in study.

Joyce says *'EfM has a lot to answer for, and (for me) it's happened surreptitiously! I don't understand everything that we read [in the Reading & Reflection Guide], but I come here, we do things, and I think "That was all right."*

Maile says *'I'm keen to know how it was, in the past, so the reading makes me interested, and I'm keen to read more! It's a bit complicated... What happens in the past, we still have it today - killing, fighting. There's peace and harmony in here, and blood and killing out there, a never-ending story.'*

MaryAnna said: *'EfM has opened me up, helping me to see things clearly. I'm getting to know the other people in the group. I am also discovering I have a lot more to offer than I thought I had - including, that I am a storyteller!'*

Philippa: *'I don't always get the readings done, but when I do, it makes me think I must try harder. I love coming to the group.'*

My own surprise is to hear the depth of theological reflection which naturally happens even without an explicit structure to support it. The structures are interesting and we use them from time to time with profit. For me as Mentor, it's useful to have some of those 'shapes' inside me, to draw on. But the confronting business of reading lengthy chunks of scripture, a book or two (or more!) at a time, itself provokes questions, outrage, reflection.

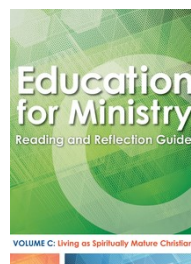
I'm not sure if ANYone of us has read everything we were 'supposed' to. But there's heaps happening, inside and outside.

On we go... in the words of a Mainly Music song:

'It's an adventure,
anything could happen -
and it sure is good to know
God is everywhere!'

Volume C:

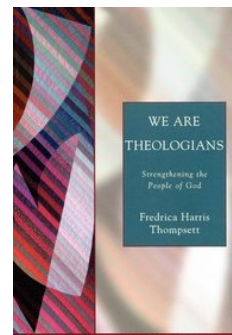
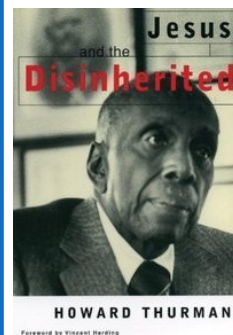
Living as Spiritually Mature Christians



In Ephesians 4: 12-13, St. Paul speaks of the need to "equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ."

How do we as the Body of Christ in the world even begin to measure up to "the full stature of Christ" so that we can do the work we are called to? How do we recognize and nurture spiritual maturity in ourselves and others? These questions and others will guide our EFM study through the coming year.

Interlude Books



"Jesus and the Disinherited"

by Howard Thurman

&

"We Are Theologians"

by Fredrica Harris Thompsett

Education for Ministry (EFM)

www.efm.org.nz

EFM is a four year **ecumenical** programme. It is open to any adult willing to commit to study from a Christian perspective, regardless of educational level or denomination.

Students commit to ONE year at a time.

Year 1 students study the Hebrew Bible

Year 2 students study the New Testament

Year 3 students focus on Church History (including a Unit on The Church in Aotearoa New Zealand)

Year 4 students focus on Theology, Ethics, and Inter-faith Encounter

EFM has four themes, which are cycled throughout any four year period:

Volume A: Living Faithfully in Your World

Volume B: Living Faithfully in an Multicultural World

Volume C: Living as Spiritually Mature Christians

Volume D: Our Journey into God

New groups, (consisting of 6-10 students and trained Mentor) can start in any month of the year.

2016 fees (\$260.70) include the Reading & Reflection Guide which focuses on the appropriate theme for the year. In addition students are expected to purchase their own textbooks for each year (currently less than \$100/year)

In 2015, all new groups, and existing groups on the anniversary of their commencement, use Volume B: Living Faithfully in a Multicultural World. Likewise in 2016, new groups, and existing groups on the anniversary of their commencement will use Volume C: Living as Spiritually Mature Christians.

Each year of the EFM programme covers 36 sessions, organised into five study units:

Unit 1: Spiritual Autobiography

Unit 2: Theological Reflection as a Life Skill

Unit 3: Developing a Sustaining Spirituality

Unit 4: Building a Theology: Integrating Belief, Behaviour, and Doctrine in Everyday Life

Unit 5: Hearing and responding to God's Call

Students enrol annually and commit to only one year of study at a time. There are no assessments, as individuals are expected to take responsibility for their own learning. Students agree to attend (as faithfully as possible) a weekly ~2 hour seminar meeting, and to read the assigned text prior to each meeting, participate in discussions and to share in leading worship. Weekly preparation for the seminar meetings usually takes 3 -5 hours depending on the demands of the chapter and the individual's life.

The EFM programme originated in the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, USA. Students who complete the 4 year programme are awarded a Certificate from the School of Theology in the University of the South.

EFM –because Exploring Faith Matters

We currently have EFM groups in: Onehunga, Papakura, Hastings, Rotorua, New Plymouth, Marton, Feilding, Pahiatua, Levin, Whitby, Newlands, Lower Hutt, Wellington Central, Dunedin.

Plans are underway to start new groups in Auckland Central, Hibiscus Coast (Auckland), Kapiti Coast, Central Otago.

However, we endeavour to start new groups according to demand.

Interested in joining a new or existing group in any district? Contact Valda admin@efm.org.nz phone 06 755 1851



Accredited EFM Trainers (2015-2016)

Tricia Carter
Alec Clark
Jan Clarke
Eric Fairbrother
Jean Malcolm
Judith Wigglesworth

EFM NZ Board Update

The EFM NZ Board was disappointed to accept Judith Wigglesworth's resignation from the EFM Board earlier this year, and is very appreciative of Judith's huge contribution to EFM NZ.

During her time on the EFM Board, Judith took on a 12 month stint as Interim Executive Officer, during which time she was responsible for all the administrative tasks involved in the introduction of the revised EFM curriculum in NZ. Judith was also Chair of EFM NZ from May 2014 - April 2015.

Judith is passionate about EFM, and will continue in her role as an EFM Mentor and Trainer.

Judith has recently prepared a draft Reading & Reflection Guide "The Church in Aotearoa NZ" which is currently being trialled by two Wellington based EFM groups.

Eric Fairbrother was welcomed to the EFM Board at the September 2015 meeting.

The EFM Board is currently looking for new Trustees. For more details, contact Tricia chair@efm.org.nz

EFM NZ Board

Bill Atkin
Tricia Carter (Interim Chair)
Sharron Cole
Verity Doak
Eric Fairbrother
John Whitehead
Valda McBeth (Secretary)

For Sale.....

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible

John Collins, 2nd Ed. 2014. Soft covered, as new condition. Offers/enquiries to Heather Lofthouse: heather1349@gmail.com or phone 06 752 7720

NOTE: This is NOT the recommended Year 1 Text.

EFM –because Exploring Faith Matters

NZ EFM Groups

We currently have EFM groups in:

Onehunga, Papakura, Hastings, Rotorua, New Plymouth, Marton, Feilding, Pahiatua, Levin, Porirua/Whitby, Newlands, Lower Hutt, Wellington Central, Dunedin

In 2016 we hope to have new EFM groups starting in:

Hibiscus Coast, Auckland Central, Kapiti Coast, Wellington Central, Central Otago

Interested in joining an EFM group? No EFM group in your area?

We will organise information events in your area, with the expectation that a new EFM group will start when there is sufficient interest.

(Minimum 6 participants + Mentor/group)

Contact Valda admin@efm.org.nz phone 06 755 1851

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



Education for Ministry

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