



Education for Ministry  
New Zealand

EfM News

September 2014

Dear Friends in EfM New Zealand

I send you our warmest greetings from the Education for Ministry community across the United States and from the EfM administrative team here in the Beecken Center at the School of Theology of the University of the South. EfM was founded here in Sewanee in 1975, developed by the Rev. Charles Winters who wanted to offer a substantive program in theological education to lay people. He hoped that over time a couple of thousand might complete the program and with renewed confidence in their call to ministry in the world offer their gifts in their dioceses and to the church at large. Nearly forty years later, more than 80,000 persons worldwide have participated in EfM in some capacity. Here in the United States 37,000+ have graduated and we expect to enroll around 7,800 in the upcoming academic year. It's clear that Charlie underestimated the power of his dream!

EfM is connected around the world through our partner programs in New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the Bahamas. Through the web of these connections we also have had groups in Mexico, Honduras, Botswana, Hong Kong, Fiji, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. We are hoping that soon this list will include the Virgin Islands, Uganda, Tanzania, and Scotland. I am happy to note that this program was introduced in New Zealand in 1979, very early in EfM's history, making ours one of the longest of EfM's international relationships. I am also happy to note that, although we do have participants from many denominations in our groups in the United States, yours is truly the most ecumenical of all the EfM communities, a shining example to all of us.

We treasure our connections with you and always look forward to opportunities to host your trainers at Sewanee and visit you in New Zealand. I remember with great pleasure my own New Zealand in 2011, and I know Elsa Bakkum, Assistant Director for Training, is looking forward to her time with you next month. Please know that we are excited that you are joining us in using the latest revision of the EfM curriculum and materials. We hope that with this re-launch the EfM community will grow in New Zealand as it is growing in the US and in Canada, and we look forward to many more years as your friends and companions in the international community of Education for Ministry.

Blessings,  
Karen

Karen M. Meridith

Executive Director of Education for Ministry and Associate Director of The Beecken Center

The School of Theology, The University of the South,  
Sewanee, Tennessee

July 2014

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### *Contact Us*

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## **Congratulations...**

...to members of the New Plymouth EFM group, mentored by Tricia Carter, 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.*

## Notes from the **Trust Board Meeting**

July 2014

### **Accredited Trainers for 2014 / 2015:**

Tricia Carter,  
Alec Clark  
Jan Clark  
Jean Malcolm  
Judith Wigglesworth

### **Online Mentoring**

The Board acknowledged that online mentoring is a priority, and that costings and feasibility regarding online / face to face training of mentor/s be investigated by Tricia and Valda, and a report forwarded to either the September or November 2014 Trust Board meeting.

### **Review of the NZ Component of EFM Curriculum**

The Board agreed to ask Alec Clark, Tricia Carter & Sharron Cole to form a subgroup to review options for the content and delivery of the NZ component of the EFM curriculum, and forward recommendations to either the September or November 2014 Board meeting.

### **Feedback on the New EFM Curriculum**

The Board asked the EO to seek feedback from Mentors and participants currently using the new EFM curriculum. It was agreed that feedback should be sought twice in 2014.

## **from the Executive Officer ....**

*Hello from our wee corner of the world between Mt Taranaki & the Tasman Sea, where Gary & I share a small block of land with our horses, chooks, and periodically sheep and cattle (and our daughter's cats).*

*Our five children completed their secondary schooling in Taranaki, and enjoyed all the wonderful assets of this beautiful province. We are fortunate to now have four grandchildren living within 15Km and a grandson in Australia.*

*I am a Synod rep for the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Fitzroy, and am very excited to be starting the EFM programme with the new North Taranaki group in September.*

*I am contracted to EFM to provide administrative support for the programme and the EFM Trust Board, and to promote the ecumenical EFM programme throughout NZ. Please do contact me to discuss how together we can further promote and grow EFM.*

**EFM WEBSITE:** [www.efm.org.nz](http://www.efm.org.nz) Please check the website regularly, and forward any information that you would like included. Please forward suggestions for anything you would like to have added to the website including upcoming events.

**TRAINERS & MENTORS:** The secure section of the website contains all the current EFM forms and information. As Year B information becomes available it will also be initially added to the secure section. Please contact me if you are unsure how to access this section of the website.

**NEW CURRICULUM SURVEY RESPONSE** The survey was sent to mentors of all EFM groups currently working with the new EFM curriculum. Please return the completed survey forms as soon as possible. Responses will be collated and presented to the September 2014 Trust Board meeting and subsequently published in the next newsletter. Late responses gratefully accepted!



Blessings

*Valda*

[admin@efm.org.nz](mailto:admin@efm.org.nz)

## NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING



Pursuant to Section 19.2 of the Education for Ministry Trust Deed

NOTICE is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of the Members of the Education for Ministry Trust is called for, and will be held on the 24th day of September, 2014, at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul, at 12 midday, for the following purposes:

To consider and, if thought fit, pass a Special Resolution approving changes to the EFM Trust Deed in order to:

- allow for the location of the EFM office to be outside Wellington;
- allow for the review (rather than audit) of EFM financial statements;
- refer to the Executive Officer (rather than National Administrator);
- make any other minor and necessary amendments to reflect recent changes in the administrative arrangements of EFM NZ.

*All members of the EFM community (trainers, mentors, participants, and graduates) are members of the Trust and are warmly invited to attend.*

## 2014 EFM NZ Trust Board Meeting Dates

### New EFM Groups

*EFM Trust Board Meetings will be held at 12 noon at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul on*

- ♦ Lindsay Nicholls is mentoring a new Feilding EFM group starting in September.
- ♦ Tricia Carter is mentoring a new EFM group in North Taranaki which will start in mid September.
- ♦ Anne Priestley and John McAlpine are taking registrations for an Onehunga based group starting in October.

\* **Wednesday 24 September 2014**

\* **Wednesday 26 November 2014**

### Mentor Training

Expressions of interest for Mentor Training are welcome from mentors, prospective mentors, or past mentors wishing to re-connect with EFM or re-train as a mentor.

Contact Valda [admin@efm.org.nz](mailto:admin@efm.org.nz)

*Dear EfM New Zealand,*

*My husband, Carleton, and I just spent two wonderful weeks seeing your beautiful country and visiting with many of you. I can't help but say a heartfelt thank you to so many who opened hearts and homes to us. From Anne Moody in Auckland, Tony Gerritsen at St. John's College, Wendy Tyrrell in Hamilton, Alex and Jocelyn Czerwonka in Rotorua, Valda and Gary McBeth in New Plymouth, Lindsay and Bobbie Nicholls in Bulls, Sue Beauclerc and Chris Pinfield in the Wairarapa valley, and Judith Wigglesworth and Maryalyce Jenkins in Wellington... we received gentle hospitality and great stories all the way! We felt at home among you and returned home with our hearts full of gratitude and wonder at finding 'family' across the globe.*



*As you enter or continue with this year of EfM may you find new inspiration from one another and from the new materials. I will be starting my second year as an online mentor where I have found EfM to suit those among us who are particularly introverted or have commitments that make access to a face to face group impossible. Through Blackboard Collaborate we have access to a white board for recording thoughts and ideas, a chat box for ongoing comment, audio and video capability along with access to a non-contemporaneous conversation when members choose to post. Otherwise, the group forms much as does a face to face group. It seems that sometimes the distance of online reflections can actually enhance the depth of the conversation.*

*Valda asked me to say something about recruiting.... What I have found is that planting seeds all year works best. Don't wait 'til the time to form a new group. Mention EfM to any who might truly benefit from it. It may take years for those seeds to come to fruition, so I always accept the answer from those who decline. Then I am surprised by those who say yes and participate fully. Graduates are, of course, the best promoters of the program, especially when they can articulate how their lives have been enhanced by their participation.*

*I will watch eagerly for news of EfM New Zealand and look for the names and faces of friends. Please let me know how I can support any of you in your ongoing ministries, especially with EfM.*

*Blessings to all and on what the Holy Spirit is doing among you.*

*Elsa Bakkum,  
EfM Assistant Director for Training,  
Sewanee, Tennessee.*



## Thanks!

Many thanks to Jenny Chalmers and Sandy Williams for their Mentoring of the Wairarapa and Whitby EFM groups. The EO and local trainers are exploring possibilities to enable those groups, currently in recess, to re-commence in 2015.

*If you are interested in mentoring or co-mentoring either of these groups, please contact either*

Judith [chair@efm.org.nz](mailto:chair@efm.org.nz) or

## Curriculum Update

### Year B: Living Faithfully in a Multicultural World

EFM Groups beginning or re-enrolling during 2015 will use Volume B of the new Reading & Reflection Guide (RRG).

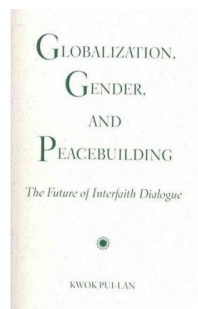
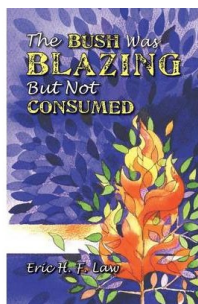
The core texts for Years 1—4 will remain the same for Year B (the second year) of the new curriculum.

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.

### Interlude Books for Year B



Some of the Lower North Island EFM Community. August 2014

## **From the Chair.....**

I am often asked what it is about EFM that inspires me – and in response I refer to its unique blend of theological study, reflection, worship, and fellowship. But I also emphasise the spirit of inquiry and respect that underpin EFM group life. We may come up with more questions than answers, not from a sense of bewilderment (well, perhaps sometimes!), but rather as part of a shared, honest and faith-filled quest to deepen our understanding. In the words of Daniel Migliore:



*“As long as Christians remain pilgrims of faith, they will continue to raise questions – hard questions – for which they will not always find answers. Rather than having all the answers, believers often find that they have a new set of questions... Human life ceases to be human not when we do not have all the answers, but when we no longer have the courage to ask the really important questions.”*

Daniel L. Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding - An Introduction to Christian Theology*.

It's a privilege to be chairing the Board of Trustees at a time when EFM is being revitalised by the new curriculum. My hope is that the Board will oversee this exciting time of transition and growth with enthusiasm and clarity. I thank Bill Atkin who chaired the Board from December 2013 to May 2014, and I look forward to working with both new and returning Board members. At the launch of the new curriculum in May, we warmly welcomed Valda McBeth to the new role of Executive Officer, and there was a clear sense of excitement and optimism about the future of EFM in Aotearoa New Zealand. While the resource material may be re-framed, EFM's spirit of inquiry remains. I trust that EFM will continue to be a place to ask the really important questions – questions that aid our quest for ever-deepening understanding and growth as Christian disciples.

God bless,

*Judith*

# Education for Ministry

*EFM—because Exploring Faith Matters*

A Four Year Programme of Theological Education

Every Christian receives the call to Christ's ministry at baptism.

During the four years of EFM, participants study the Bible, church history and theology, while learning to engage in theological reflection.

By inviting people into mentored communities that help us understand our lives and shape our actions as we deepen our Christian faith, EFM enables us to discover and exercise our gifts for ministry where we live and work.

*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](mailto:admin@efm.org.nz)



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