Education for Ministry
New Zealand

EFM News April 2015

Notice is given of the

2015 EFM NZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

12 noon, Wednesday 22 April 2015,
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.)
- To consider and, if thought fit, pass a Resolution approving changes to the EFM Trust Deed in order to remove the Executive Officer as a Trustee, but provide for the Executive Officer to have the right to attend and speak at Trust Board Meetings, and also be a member of the EFM Trust. (For a copy of the Trust Deed and proposed changes, please contact the Board Secretary admin@efm.org.nz)

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

"I hadn't really studied anything in about 45 years, would I be up to this?"

EFM Graduate, Denise Bosson speaking at the Taranaki Graduation Service, 23 March 2015.

"Four years of study, woo, I hadn't really studied anything in about 45 years, would I be up to this? I am here tonight to say that yes I was able, and yes I learnt. I certainly learnt about theology, history, the Bible, new words, about myself and about others.

EFM has been a most valuable resource, the four years flew by and I miss those times. I miss the group, I miss my friends. And I have a feeling of what is next? Is there something coming – I don't know, but if something, presents itself and is as accommodating, as worthwhile as EFM has been for me, I will certainly pick it up and continue on the path of exploration and intention that EFM started for me."

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Please distribute this newsletter widely among your networks in the EFM community

From the Chair……

I was fortunate to spend seven days in February on retreat – seven days that stretched out ahead of me with glorious simplicity, the promise of rest, and the potential for some deep "God-connection". There was lots of rest, there was a sense of simplicity, and there was plenty of God-connection. But in another sense, there was much to be done, as I found myself immersed deeply in personal theological reflection, fruitfully using this gift of time and space to take stock, reflect and process what for me had been a year of challenge, change and transition.

One of the blessings of the new EFM curriculum is that it intentionally frames theological reflection not only as something that EFM groups "do" when they meet, but also as an individual life skill. In the words of Volume A (Week 8) of the Reading and Reflection Guide, "Theological reflection is a life skill used to create meaning, in fact, to discover ultimate meaning. What makes reflection theological is not a specialized vocabulary, but the relentless, restless urge to experience wholeness which brings a person to the Holy." As a group process, theological reflection encourages sharing, exploring and wondering together. As an individual process, theological reflection can help us find meaning in personal events or challenges that may seem to make no sense. In whatever setting, the process of theological reflection encourages dialogue between scripture/church tradition, the world in which we live, our own experiences/actions, and our personal attitudes and positions. We draw on God's never-ending story and discover where it meets ours.

The art of theological reflection is learned through practice. There is no one "best" way, and some methods or experiences of theological reflection will "work" or resonate more deeply with us than others. I pray that you will be open to the fruits it offers, give thanks to God when it reveals fresh insight, persevere if it seems "too hard", and revel in the spirit of inquiry that is at the heart of EFM.

May God bless your EFM journey.

Judith

EfM's 40th Anniversary Celebration

WHERE: General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

WHEN: 25 June - 3 July 2015.

Contact Valda: admin@efm.org.nz or phone 06 755 1851 for details.

Is God Calling You To Join the Education for Ministry Programme?

Visit the Education for Ministry website www.efm.org.nz for information about the program and to see sample lessons. Ask someone who has completed the program how it changed his or her spiritual journey.

EFM - *because*

Exploring Faith Matters

Taranaki EFM Graduation Service & Celebration

Congratulations to Taranaki EFM Graduates: Rev. Maureen Hook, Rev. Charmaine Sarten, Denise Bosson, Rev John Carter, Ailsa Claridge and EFM Mentor, Trainer & Trustee Rev. Tricia Carter, pictured here with Arch Bishop Philip Richardson after their recent Graduation Service.

During the Service, Arch Bishop Philip anointed each of the graduates, and presented Certificates of Graduation from the School of Theology, University of the South, and also from Education for Ministry NZ. Graduates promised to contribute their training and understanding towards better education, ministry and service in their local churches and communities. understanding that completion of EFM is not only a stage of personal growth and accomplishment, but also a potential gift to the Church and their parishes.

The Service, attended by approximately 50 people, celebrated the commitment and determination of the EFM Graduates and their Mentor.

> *"...One of the first notes in my diary talked about being available to the possibilities of God working unexpectedly in my life ..... Writing my own theological reflections helped me to be more faithful and thoughtful ..... I learnt that I can not shrug off the responsibility of being the image of God in the world ..... We read the Bible from front to back ... and then moved to the rich history of mission and church in our own Aotearoa ..... I questioned much about my own faith and my beliefs ..... This was a good thing and made me more aware of ..... the promise and potential in my life ahead, the freedom in forgiveness and the promise of hope..... that prayer is the most important ingredient in my world."*
>
> (Excerpts taken from Charmaine Sarten's reflection on her 4 years of study in the Education for Ministry Programme.)

Notes from the ***Trust Board Meetings***

New EFM Policies adopted:

- ◊ Trainer Expenses Policy
- ◊ Financial Delegation Policy

2016 EFM Fees

- ◊ The EFM fees will be reviewed, and it is expected that the 2016 fees will be set at the EFM Board Meeting in May 2015.

Liaison with EFM at the School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee

- ◊ EFM NZ Trainer & Mentor, Rev Tricia Carter will be attending Training of Trainers in Sewanee in June 2015.

Graduation Certificates

- ◊ In addition to EFM NZ Certificates, EFM Graduates now receive Graduation Certificates from The University of the South.

New EFM Promotional Resources

- ◊ 2 sets of portable EFM Banners
- ◊ New EFM Posters

EFM Trustees (2014-2015)

Bill Atkin
Sue Beauclerc
Tricia Carter
Sharron Cole
Verity Doak
Valda McBeth (Executive Officer)
John Whitehead
Judith Wigglesworth (Chair)

2015 Meeting Dates

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

- * Wednesday 22 April 2015
- * Wednesday 10 June 2015
- * Wednesday 26 August 2015
- * Wednesday 11 November 2015

Mentor Training

Expressions of interest for Mentor Training are welcome from mentors, prospective mentors, and past mentors wishing to reconnect with EFM, or retrain as a mentor.

2015 Mentor Training Dates

Auckland - 17 & 18 April
Dunedin - 1st & 2nd May
Levin - 1st & 2nd May
Taranaki - TBA
Wellington - 6th & 7th November

Please refer to the Upcoming Events page of our website for more details: www.efm.org.nz

Accredited EFM Trainers (2014-2015)

Tricia Carter
Alec Clark
Jan Clark
Jean Malcolm
Judith Wigglesworth

Education For Ministry

In all aspects of our lives, there are bewildering choices to be made, and none more than in the area of spirituality. We need practical tools that can help form us as Christians and enable us to become more effective in our lives, which will also make us better able to reach others with the Good News.

Education for Ministry (EFM) is one very effective tool for formation and growth - actually a whole toolkit. A programme developed and overseen by the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, EFM uses a multi-pronged approach to help us grow up in every way into Christ.

2014 Wellington Cathedral Group EfM Graduation

(Photo and report supplied by Jenny Wilkens)

Education for Ministry at the Wellington Cathedral of St Paul finished for the 2014 year with celebrations for 7 graduates of the 4 year programme.

Congratulations to: Jill Bay, Raewyn Berkahn, Wilbur Dovey, Jim Green, Fiona Hoang, Hao Hoang and Kim New. It was also great to welcome back former EfM mentor Ailsa Cornell from the USA.

One graduate commented: 'Four years of gathering with these lovely guys, loads of reading, discussion, theological reflections, food (!) is at an end. Great journey!'

Newlands EFM Groups Celebrate the End of the 2014 Year

The Newlands Year 1 and 2 groups, mentored by Pippa Christmas and Judith Wigglesworth, ended their year with a Eucharist and a pot luck dinner on 1 December. The two groups met on Monday evenings at St Michael's Anglican Church, Newlands, gathering together for fellowship and supper before splitting into their respective groups for discussion and reflection. Both groups comprise members of different faith communities. Links between members of the Anglican parishes of Newlands, Onslow and Johnsonville, in particular, have been strengthened through these EFM groups, and will continue into 2015 as the groups move into their second and third years of study and fellowship.

2014 NZ Feedback on New EFM Curriculum

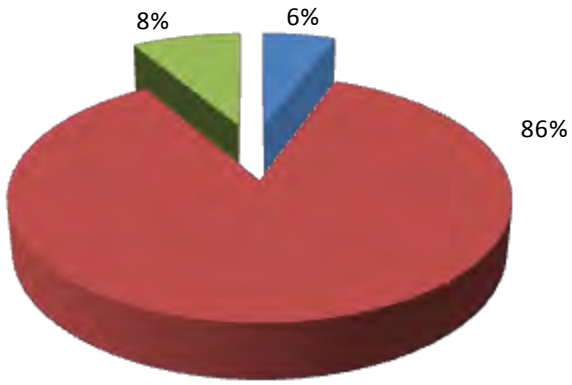
Volume A: Living Faithfully in Your World

The amount of reading and/or preparation is

- Too little required
- About right
- Too much required

The Reading & Reflection Guide (RRG)
Volume A: Living Faithfully in Your World

- Does not have enough information
- Is about right
- Too difficult to understand



Comments copied from the a selection of survey responses……

- *The RRG is much easier to use than previous material - a huge improvement*

- *The RRG helps me to link what I read to society and life I am living in. It really helps me to reflect on what I really believe in and whether or not this is being acted out in my life.*

-*We always seem to have such interesting discussions that the evening is gone before we know it!*

- *In the beginning the theoretical reflection (TR) was difficult to grasp. Now I enjoy where the Holy Spirit takes me. I sometimes struggle but I find myself wanting to finish TR.*

- *I consider this years reading was too great for me. Perhaps I never allow enough time for it.*

- *I found the interlude book "And God Spoke" really helpful, but I'm conscious that not everyone agrees.*

- *I am enjoying the group and the theological reflections have helped me to refocus & refine my faith.*

- *It is giving me a lot of confidence academically in my faith, and the confidence to start preaching in our "local shared ministry" model of church.*

- *Large amount of material - but it's good material.*

- *Mostly it is good - sometimes a challenge to absorb the quantity of data in the time available.*

- *Having a two year grand tour of the Bible is good.*

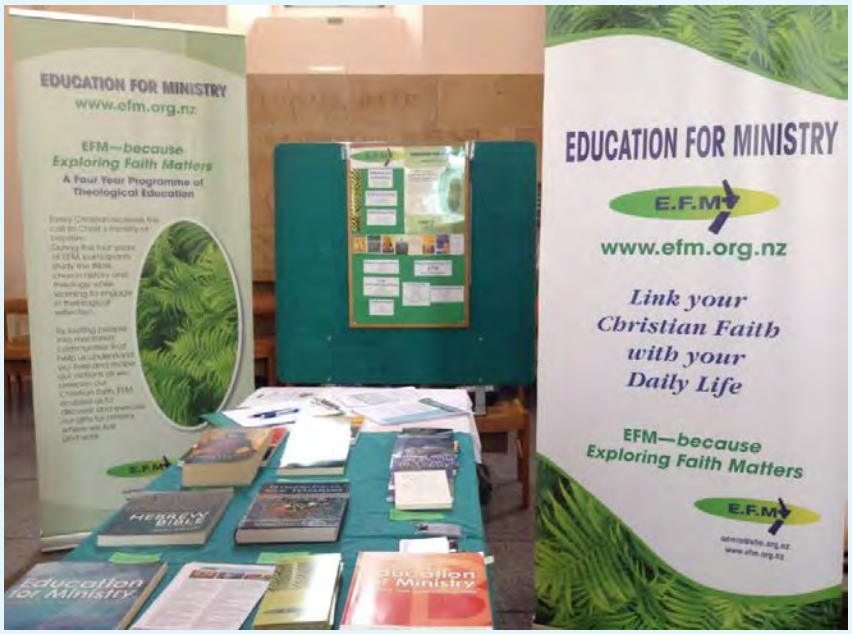
- *Very interesting. Relieved and reassured to learn amount the origins & times of the biblical context. How & why things came to be recorded.*

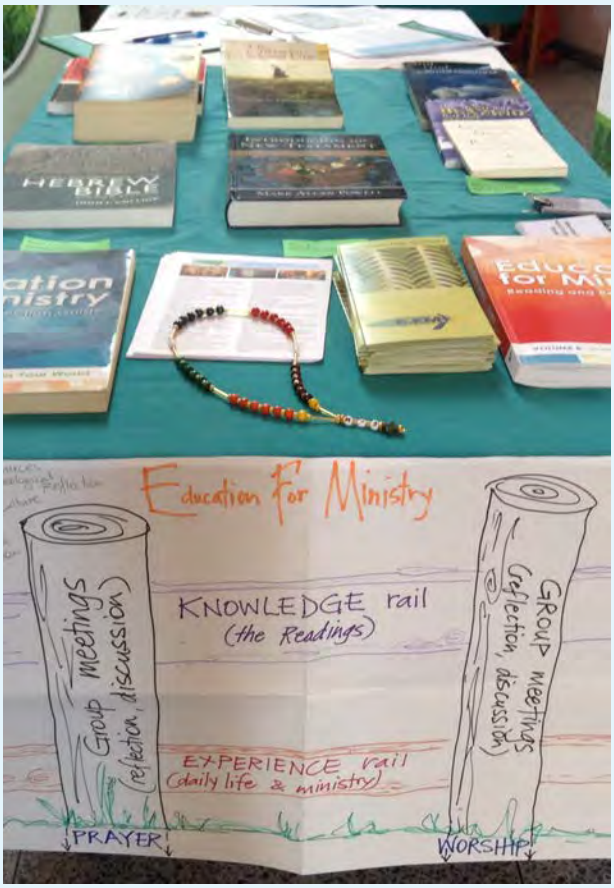
-*It has made me more aware of the basis of my faith, opening up deeper thought and understanding - my prayer time is now No 1 priority.*

- *We're drawing some real insight from the texts, combined with each other's reading and experience.*

EFM Promotional Display at the Wellington Anglican Diocesan Hui

Report & photos provided by EFM Chair, Trainer & Mentor, Judith Wigglesworth





The wonderful new EFM banners drew lots of attention at the Wellington Anglican Diocesan Hui on 7 March, at Wellington Cathedral of St Paul.

It was a great occasion when about 480 people from all over the diocese gathered together to hear speakers on the issues of child poverty, discipleship and biculturalism, to worship together, and to browse the "marketplace" in the nave of the Cathedral set up with many stalls and displays.

As one of the discipleship models promoted in the diocese, the EFM stall attracted lots of attention as people flicked through the new EFM text books and added their thoughts to the big Theological Reflection sheets....

An image of a lone polar bear on a floating remnant of an ice cap invited responses to the following questions:

⇒ What in the media, in our society, in the culture and time we live in does this picture evoke in you?

⇒ What in the Bible and our church tradition does this picture make you think of?

⇒ What opinions, perspectives, and personal positions does this picture evoke in you?

⇒ What does this picture make you want to do?

Lots of people added their thoughts - they were doing TR without even realising it!

Graduation Prayer

O God, by your Holy Spirit you give to some the word of wisdom, to others the word of knowledge, and to others the word of faith: We praise your Name for these gifts of grace and ministry. We recognize that in every beginning is an ending, O Lord, and in every end something new begins.

Some of our number are graduating from their years of EfM study and are ready now for new learning and experiences. Help them preserve old friendships while creating new ones. Grant that innocence and hope may remain alive in them, bringing joy as they continue their journey. Grant that they may hear your still small voice in their hearts saying, "This is the way; walk in it." Grant that they may continue to be curious and find their own voices, their own word and their own work in Christ's true way; we pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

Written by St Wilfred's EFM group Los Angeles, & used at the New Plymouth Graduation Service March 2015.

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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