**MI RE-ENTRY RETREAT TEAM MEETING**

**26th October 2012 – 12pm**

**MINUTES**

Held at the home of *Elspeth Carr* with lunch prior to meeting - thank you **Elspeth & Fran**

*Gathering opened with prayer* in thanks for the food – **Graeme Vines**

**Present**: Helen Macnaughtan, Fran James, Elspeth Carr, Michael Collie, Graeme Vines, Maree Vines, Dawn Taylor, Jenny Johnston, Laurence Whitehead (skype)

**Apologies**: Nil

**Business**:

1. **Relations with *Wycliffe*** discussed - concerning retreat experience over last two years. **Fran** reported a casual conversation that was had with a friend from *Wycliffe*. *Richard Dickens* – treasurer MI had suggested that the team contact *Wycliffe* to discuss issues. After the teams discussion it was decided that we *won’t proceed* with any complaints or meetings. If requested by *Wycliffe* to provide any further information we will, however, provide it.

**To be noted**: conciliatory communication was made to *Dave Katona* prior to the 2012 retreat, by **Dawn** (02/08/12)- (Response: 03/08/12 - negative): **Helen**alsosent an email (07/08/2012) offering that members of the team to meet with *Dave* (Response: 15/08/12 “water under the bridge – don’t worry about it”)

1. **Venue**: *Elkanah* (Marysville) – planned opening in *January 2013 (March was mentioned in discussion although this is not seen on the website)*. **Helen** will contact Vera 041 456 4309 <http://www.elkanahmarysville.org.au/>
2. **Debrief the retreat as a whole** : **Michael** commented and there was a sense that the group was mature & cooperative group. Positive feedback
3. **Review the feedback received**. Feedback sheets tabled.

* *Expectations*: seemed to be in line with PR
* *Intro session*: Mostly scoring 8.
* *Changing Cultures* – 9’s rest of the retreat designed to unpack that.
* *Loss & Grief*: 10’s. Liked group participation. Deep and mature sharing. Seemed to appreciate

extended opportunity to share. New aspects of grief were brought out by participants.

* *Origin & Call*:10’s A comment re found the questions helpful. Helpful thinking about family of origin.
* *Gifts Given & received*: 8’s . NB Aussie supporters giving to promote the Gospel. Suggestion: One person demonstrates a cultural dance and others invited to copy. Song can be shorter.
* *Difficulties and Fears*: 9’s – Discussion on line “ you’re not giving up. How could you” need more possibility of lamenting. Balance required between joy and lament. Suggestion re use of Sons of Korah.
* *Vision for the future*: Appreciate ending with a sense of hope. Good progression of themes.
* *Personal reflection time*: just enough. Some sensed pressure to produce something. Some commented on the guided reflection as to how helpful it was.
* *Group Sharing*: 9’s mixture of wanting more time and some less. Positive comments.
* *Contribution of Facilitators*: Positive feedback from participants. Team discussed that **Fran’**s role was appreciated (no group responsibilities) – although the down side was that **Fran** was unable to spend time and get to know participants. Value in having one facilitator free. Cook appreciated. Comment on morning teas – can be less elaborate (although greatly enjoyed and appreciated).
* *Celebration Dinner*: 8’s - Rename: ? *Appreciation Dinner*. Comment that explanation given at end possible more suited to beginning. ? offer possibility of ethnic dress or dress of host place. Sharing time at dinner longer? Focus on each person and their object. NB.

**Action** arising from this discussion: Include a **thank you** to the participant on the **certificate** *along* with the current forward looking Bible verse.

Discussion re idea of *significant object & sharing*:

**Action** arising from this discussion: *Welcome letter*: reword section re bringing of significant object. Note that people will have a couple of minutes to share during dinner. Noticed that people had time to chat after the dinner over significant items. Suggestion re punch.

* *Weekend as a whole*: 8 & 10’s. Discussion re when people ask re counsellors – possibly suggest that participants seek out professional help if they ask. The small groups are not counselling they are a time for listening & sharing.
* *What have you found most helpful about the week-end*. Comments seemed to align with our aims and participants expectations. Share where you are at with people who understand. Start small group at 7 and end at 8:30 especially with children. Avoid daylight savings weekend.
* *Time of year*: ? middle weekend of holidays. Difficulties at any time. Lining up holiday times difficult..
* *Location*: *Excerpts from tabled responses*: It would be nice to develop the gardens and outdoor seating for reflection spaces; so glad to have individual room.
* *Brochure*: Helpful and informative
* *Suggestions for future retreats*: Counselling to be available and/or prayer ministry; not every-one is arty, ‘touchy, feely’ in the way we open up or respond; maybe further opportunities for connection post retreat –(this hasn’t gotten off the ground in the past); could involve people in the serving and dishes. – Team happy to serve. Sing a little more? – time is tight.
* *Would you recommend this retreat to others*? Positive – we can use some of these comments for future brochures.

1. Finances: **Dawn** $307.14 in hand. In the bank $591.02 – MI levee payed. *A vote of thanks to* **Dawn** (all the ‘number crunching’ & extra and associated duties that setting up a bank account entailed.)
2. **Retreat has been going 10 years** – **Elspeth** noted that approximately 250 people have passed through – **Laurence** has been part of it for 10 years. A vote of thanks to **Laurence**.
3. **Re-entry Retreat 2013**
4. A future co-ordinator: **Helen** does not wish to coordinate on her own. **Dawn** has offered to assist. Important to have definite role. Suggestion to keep bringing in new people to learn the about the retreat and roles.
5. Facilitators for 2013 – *Helen Macnaughtan, Graeme Vines, Maree Vines, ? Laurence Whitehead (date dependent), Elspeth Carr, Dawn Taylor, Michael Collie, Jenny Johnston, Fran*  *James* only able if has limited associated preparation work during the year.

***Names put forward****:*

*Elspeth Young* (PoA) - may be able – (date dependent).

*Neil & Lisa Sim* (SIM)– **Helen** to approach**. Fran** emailed **Michael** for thoughts on *Neil* being approached re facilitator role (subsequently received positive feedback)

*Robyn & ? Ben McLean* (PoA) – **Jenny** to approach (deciding delay to talk with Michael first).

*Marjory Sieffert* – **Graeme** to approach.

*Kathryn Fletcher* – **Dawn** (subsequently is planning to wait to discuss with team further.)

1. **Date**: *Thurs 19th – Sunday 22nd  September OR Friday the 20th – Monday 23rd  September.* Would be at the *beginning* of the school holidays. Discussion re *Friday to Monday* as a preferred option due to some team members work commitments. Note that these dates are *different* to previous dates booked with *Elkanah* in order to occur during Victorian school holidays and have the potential to overlap with the TCK Connect Camp. **Helen** will be meeting with **Brent Allred** to discuss camps. **Helen** to discuss availability of new dates with *Elkanah*.
2. Definite applications for 2013:
3. *Myra Ronalds* – formerly with The Leprosy Mission (in SE Asia) C/- Jenny Johnston
4. *Peter & Karen Roberts* (Mid Asia) – PoA
5. *2 MAF families*
6. *3 CMS families*
7. **Inventory of printed material:** checklist of items to go in folder or be handed out. Some items were missing this year e.g. bios of facilitators, liturgy for communion. *Dropbox* to store. **Michael** suggested.
8. **Craft & installations**: if **Fran** does not attend will need to hand over, but will probably attend.
9. ***Jewels of Hope****:* Thanks from **Dawn** for support and purchases.
10. Vote of thanks to **Maree & Fran** for morning tea/snack and breakfast food contributions & **Fran’s** effort in all the breakfasts.
11. Vote of thanks to **Helen** for her leadership and welcome letter and pack and also to the ladies Bible Study for gifts. The welcome bags were very welcoming ☺

All agreed that it was an encouraging and joyful retreat.

1. **First meeting in 2013**:– *Friday* ***1st February*** *12 pm*.

MI requirement: *need to set up budget*

**Lunch** @ 12 and meeting at *12:30* (when Laurence will join via skype).

*Venue*: *Elspeth Carr’s* place. **All team please bring food to share**.

1. Meeting ended in prayer at 2:35pm. **Helen**.