

MINUTES

RE-ENTRY RETREAT PLANNING MEETING

24/8/10 – 11am

Venue: MI Office Box Hill

Attendees: Helen Macnaughtan, Michael Collie, Graeme Vines, Fran James, Laurence Whitehead (via Skype), Jenny Johnston

Apologies: Pam Thyer

Minutes: Jenny Johnston

Meeting opened in prayer - Michael

1. *Update & discussion on registrations and impact* – (covering of Avery's costs – MI SA are covering her transport costs – brief discussion on her fees – for further discussion when costs finalised) 3 couples and 1 single registered.

- Numbers being low, retaining the Wonga Park booking seems untenable. **Helen** will cancel.
- Discussion ensued re teams opinion on going ahead with the retreat – considerations: the need for a retreat has been expressed in the fact that some have registered (very keen); cost; venue; format of retreat geared to bigger group - ? would need to modify; the length of time applicants have been back in Aust.; maintaining momentum of availability of retreat; families may have made flight bookings or baby- sitting arrangements. Voting re going ahead: **Fran** – no, **Graeme** – yes, **Michael** – how would we make it work, **Jenny** – undecided, **Helen** – yes, **Laurence** – yes
- Alternate venue: *Wycliffe Centre Retreat Accommodation Kangaroo Ground* – enquiries being made re availability – both lodges are booked, but there are units available – *tentative booking to be made* - will need to view it & finalise costs & numbers – **Fran** (Thursday)
- Shorter retreat discussed but discounted – considerations – less time for people to relax and tell their stories
- **Go ahead with current format**
- Need 4 facilitators – **Laurence; Helen; Graeme, ? Pam**, Fran offered to coordinate with cooking & Jenny offered to help with cooking; **Michael** is willing to come and lead a session

2. Linen provision – provided

3. Welcome letter – **Helen** to check with Fiona –
Will revamp and circulate to team – include:

- explanation that retreat, reflections and mediums cater for people from a wide variety of church experience, culture & background.
- Explanation of object that participants bring that represents the participants experience in their second culture – when to display it and when to discuss it (at celebratory dinner)
- note for participants to be prepared to share a humorous story

4. Transport arrangements – **Laurence** can take 4 from Mooroolbark

ARRIVAL

6. Welcome bags – to include

- gifts & a note of appreciation to participants for their service (calligraphy) (**Helen & Serving Christ Together Bendigo Baptist Womens Group**), shampoo (**Fran**) & chocolates (**Jenny**)
- a schedule
- folder with ReEntry material (**Helen**); timetable and Fran's / Humphrey Babbage's rationale of retreat – **Graeme** to review.
- Name tags (**Helen**)

7. Allocation of rooms – **Fran** looking at rooms

8. People on hand early (**Fran, Jenny, Helen & Graeme**)

Other Matters discussed:

9. Minimum numbers and cut off dates need to be looked at for the future – Wonga Park venue, cut off date at 2 months prior is too early. Need to look at early bird date.

10. Suggestion of having a Q&A boards/info exchange – * **need butcher paper**

11. Inclusion of families – is this possible? This request is common?? Link up with TCK network and possibly run a concurrent retreat. Major philosophical shift, would need further discussion. Not for 2010.

12. **Pam** – how much participation in retreat - leading segment – not leading small group; craft items available

13. Date of next meeting: **Tues October 5th – 11:30**

14. Meeting closed in prayer - **Helen**

WEEK-END FORMAT – Coordinator – Helen Macnaughtan

THURS EVENING:

- MC – **Graeme**
- Welcome. **Graeme**
- Fun game to get to know each other like last year (to be modified to suit smaller group) – **Jenny**
- Facilitators to share one aspect of their re-entry journey & what helped (3-4 min. snippet from each facilitator) **Graeme** to introduce
- Explanation of the week-end including retreat segment – (Aims will be listed in welcome letter) –**Graeme** – **will email around to team**
- Housekeeping info – **Helen**

FRI MORNING:

- *Worship time* – **Fran**
- *First seminar* – ***Changing Cultures*** – **Laurence** (Noted and discussed comments from past participants)
- *Second seminar* – ***Loss and Grief*** – **Michael** (taken note of comments)

(RETREAT SEGMENTS) - Explanation of Retreat Overview & Rationale - **Laurence**

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

- Reflection 1: *Call and Origin* - ? **Laurence**

SATURDAY MORNING

- Reflection 2: *Gifts given and received* - **Graeme**

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- Reflection 3: *Fears and difficulties* - **Helen**

SUNDAY MORNING

- Reflection 4: Vision for the future – ? **Pam To confirm**

(NB comments from 2009 retreat)

OTHER COMPONENTS OF THE RETREAT:

- **CELEBRATORY DINNER:** Friday night – Significant objects presented and discussed by participants, participants to be asked to share a funny story
- **COMMUNION** - **Graeme**

THINGS TO BRING:

- Books/articles – Helen and others welcome to bring relevant material
- CDs of chosen songs plus copies of words – **each segment leader to choose and provide own items**
- Craft items -? **Pam & Fran**
- Gift bags - **Helen**
- Name tags - **Helen**
- Tape recorder/musical instrument/keyboard
- Timetable – Intro to retreat – 4 reflection outlines
- Table decorations for special celebratory dinner eg. Candles, serviettes etc – **Fran & Jenny**
- Butcher paper for Q & A

GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FROM FEEDBACK FORMS

- * Booklet with overview/introduction/welcome/detailed program/people's info
- * Participants to bring photos to share and put on a board with an explanation so all can 'see' a ministry/country. Fun photos as well.
- * Participants prepared to share funny story. Bring significant object – symbol of service, something of the culture they have been given. They need to be clear about what to bring.
- * Want to hear about participants items, not just the facilitators.
- * Celebratory Dinner - ?First meal Thurs evening. Thanks for service from MI.
- * Open each session with prayer. More specific prayer,
- * Time for humorous stories
- * Grief/Joy balance
- * More 'get to know you' activities
- * 'Express in colour' on sheets. ?Delete/widen/explain not necessarily literal (for the "Js"!)
- * More lively worship times
- * More input sessions – talking through practical ways of coping – as a large group, not just given a sheet to read.
- * More focus on helping people be positive
- * Emphasise more that ReEntry is a process, not an event
- * Certificate of participation

SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF RETREAT

SEMINARS:

Changing Cultures – Holmes Rahe scale could have more items relevant to missions
eg. Uncertainty re future/ leaving a familiar environment for a less familiar one/preparing for deputation

Loss and Grief – More time for personal reflection & processing of losses, griefs & gains/more time to think – too many interjections/perhaps tried to achieve too much/too much involvement from facilitators and not participants.

REFLECTIONS 1-4 – Became a little repetitive in style/need more of an overview of where we are going – not enough clear explanation/?give out white sheet first.

PERSONAL REFLECTION TIME – Some other guided options, perhaps around God's word, rather than just 'personal' issues.

FACILITATORS – Hard to know who was in charge/took themselves too seriously.

OVERALL – No real cosy area in dining room/more biblical input/didn't know what was coming/too Anglican in focus, needs a broader appeal/seemed to be following a formula/humour lacking.