

What you need to know

Go to the EfM UK website and find out more

www.efmuk.org.uk

or ring the administrator on 01252 621639
for further assistance.

Speak to your minister or priest about starting an EfM Group

*Talk to friends at your home church
and in neighbouring churches about EfM*

*Ask EfM UK to provide a speaker or a trainer to run a
'taster workshop' - this will be provided free of charge*

*Find some people who would be willing to be trained as mentors,
in order for a new group to be established*

*Request publicity material and encourage people
to come to an introductory evening*

*A group is ready to start with a minimum of 6 students
and a maximum of 12*

*EfM groups can begin anytime of the year – though many choose
the Autumn as a traditional time to start*

Students enrol via the mentor at the current cost of £195

*Students are required to attend 75% of their seminars and undertake
weekly study of the course material*

EfM

exploring faith matters



Becoming a student

Are you:

keen to start on a journey of discovery?

eager to develop into a mature disciple?

thirsty to make connections between life and faith?

ready to be challenged through robust study?

excited to know where God may be calling you next?

determined to develop lay ministry in your region?

Then read on and find out more.....

Emmaus Road and Damascus Road

Jesus said: "Well then, every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his storeroom some new things and some old things." Matthew 13.52 (The New Testament for Everyone translated by Tom Wright).

The word 'scribe' is still one which we might stumble over because many of us will have some mind-set or prejudice which devalues the image of a scribe, especially as in the gospels they frequently appear to be in conflict with Jesus alongside the Pharisees. In our twenty-first century culture the scribe may best be thought of as teacher or even more basically as a minister.

Education for Ministry takes as its premise that every Christian is a minister by virtue of his or her baptism and has been encouraging people in America, Australia, Canada and New Zealand in their journey to discover their ministry for over

35 years. In the UK we still stumble over the word minister as it raises images of professionalism and clericalism – yet everyone is a minister just as everyone is a priest:

"But you are a 'chosen race; a royal priesthood'; a holy nation; a people for God's possession. Your purpose is to announce the virtuous deeds of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light." 1 Peter 2.9.



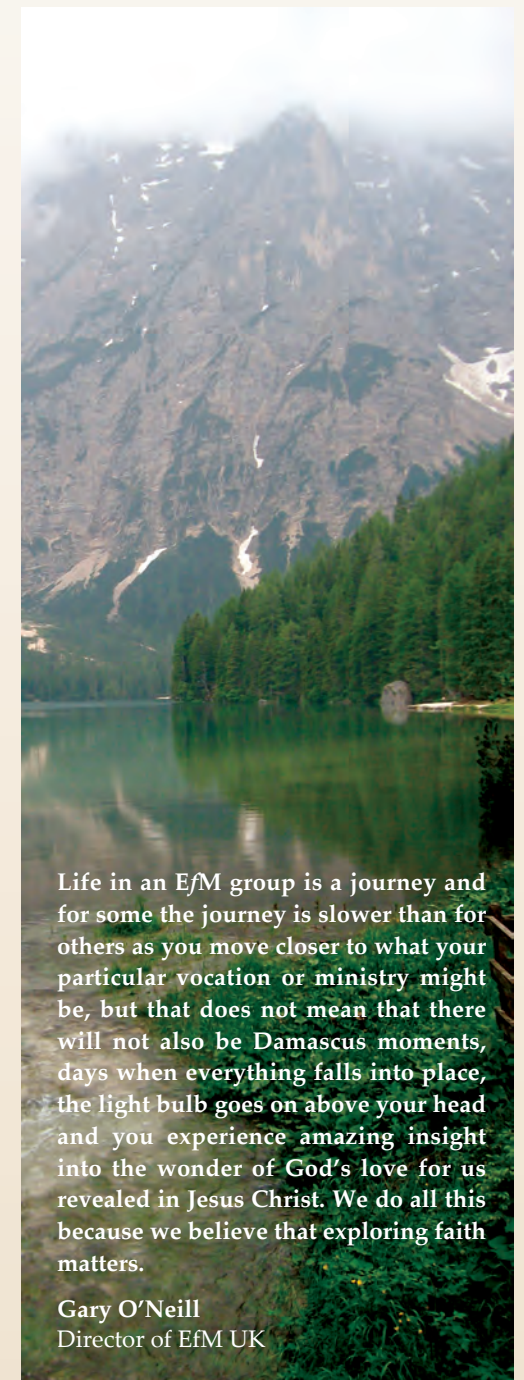
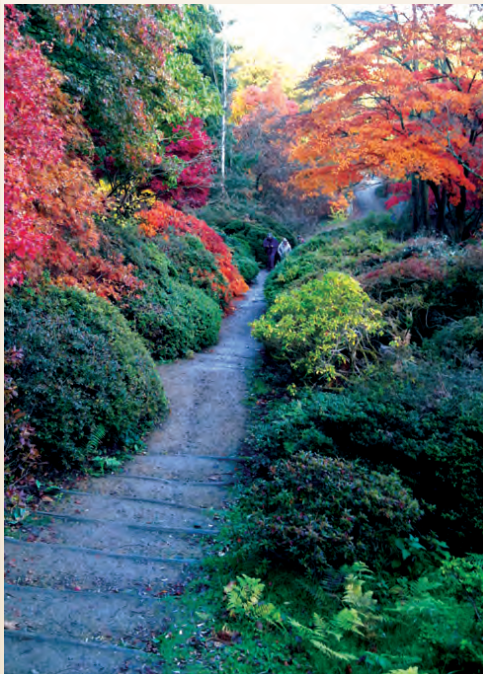
In the UK EfM has now been around for over twenty years and like the scribe Jesus refers to we constantly try to bring forth both the old and the new. We rejoice in the world wide fellowship and vision which is Education for Ministry and at the same time try to bring our own new understanding which is why we talk about Exploring Faith Matters (EfM). Christianity is amazingly diverse and multi-cultural such that it is now widely recognised that a one size fits all attitude is not appropriate. EfM will suit some people and will be uninteresting to others.

However there is also now much more understanding of how people come to faith and realisation that for many people this is more an Emmaus Road experience than a Damascus one. The two important elements of the Emmaus Road story in Luke's gospel are that the disciples are arguing and discussing the astonishing events of recent days and Jesus walks with them but they do not recognise him.

In an EfM group we recognise that people have all sorts of questions, frustrations and confusion about their experience of God, their family, work, the local church and relationships with friends and neighbours. We recognise that two ways in which to feed and stimulate these discussions are to offer people information about how the Bible is written and interpreted and some tools to reflect on the connections between their everyday experience and what they are reading in the bible – we call this theological reflection or TR. We recognise too that like the Emmaus experience this work is often best done in a group which is why you are encouraged to participate in an EfM group – this then provides fellowship and worship to accompany your studies and encourages group theological reflection.



If you are looking for a quick fix or someone to tell you what to believe then EfM is probably not for you. If you are looking for companions to share refreshments, worship, study of the Bible, your experiences at home and work, and draw all this into a lively discussion and reflection with one another, then EfM is for you. If you need to pace yourself, remember that though EfM is a four year course, people commit only to join a group for one year at a time. People can study continuously or take a year or two out before resuming their studies.



Life in an EfM group is a journey and for some the journey is slower than for others as you move closer to what your particular vocation or ministry might be, but that does not mean that there will not also be Damascus moments, days when everything falls into place, the light bulb goes on above your head and you experience amazing insight into the wonder of God's love for us revealed in Jesus Christ. We do all this because we believe that exploring faith matters.

Gary O'Neill
Director of EfM UK