



URBAN LIFE

Cultivating mission in marginal places

Experiments in Mission. A learning journey from **URBAN LIFE**.

Experiments in Mission (EiM) is a learning process which draws together people working in different contexts of marginalisation in order to experiment in and reflect together on their practice, and engage with the latest developments in missiology and marginalisation. Groups gather around food for conversation that is rooted in their experiences of mission.

Experiments in Mission involves:

- 8 facilitated 3 hour sessions for a group of between 6 and 10 people, delivered over 12 months. It is hoped that the group will form a strong learning community which can continue to meet, and can include others, beyond the initial year.
- EiM takes a practical theological approach, starting with participants' experience of ministry and mission. Group members are encouraged to identify a theme or question from their current mission experience as the focus for their experimentation. The sessions provide a framework for participants to engage in a detailed exploration of their own context and we will introduce ethnographic research tools which can help with this.
- EiM takes an integrated, or whole-person-in-community approach to doing theology. We believe that learning is life change and that life change involves our whole selves. Therefore we craft each session to engage our bodies, spirituality, emotions, relationships and intellect.
- Each session includes reflection on an experiment participants have undertaken in their mission alongside recommended reading. We have selected specific chapters from texts that relate most effectively to the challenges faced in communities which are experiencing marginalisation.
- We seek to be both liberative and participatory, believing that all people are made in God's image and have revelation to share. Therefore we are careful to be attentive to power and privilege in both our learning and our mission.

EiM Themes & some representative reading

Practical Theology

Prophetic Dialogue: Reflections on Christian Mission Today, Bevans & Schroeder, 2011

The craft of ethnography

Ethnography as Christian Theology and Ethics, Scharen & Vigen, 2011

Difference

Geographies of Exclusion, Sibley, 1995

Reflexivity

Places of Redemption: Theology for a Worldly Church, McClintock Fulkerson, 2007

Embrace

Exclusion and Embrace, Volf, 2006

Praxis

Talking about God in Practice: Theological Action Research and Practical Theology, Cameron, Bhatti, Duce, Sweeney & Watkins, 2010

Participation

The Go-Between God, Taylor, 1972.

Previous participants have said...

"...the group conversations are interesting, there's clearly a lot of experience in the room... Everything we've discussed has been applicable to what I'm doing and what I think about young people." James Fawcett, Youth worker, London

"...my reading is wide but ...a little bit uncoordinated, this way was going to force me to think through a particular subject, enable me to reflect on my practice in Motherwell. ...I expected some challenging reading but ...there was a depth of challenge that I didn't expect." Bob Baxter, Baptist minister, Motherwell.

"It's really helped me, in how I work with people. It's not that my aims have changed it's that I have a clearer understanding of why I would choose certain ways of working." Emma Neill, Development Coordinator, Housing Justice

EiM in the East Midlands 2020:

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| Costs | £500 per person for the year. We appreciate that this is a significant investment and encourage participants to explore any financial support for training that might be available from their church, denomination, networks or local funding pots. We also have a bursary fund which may be able to contribute towards the cost. To apply to the bursary fund please get in touch. |
| Dates/times | All sessions will be on Thursdays, 10am-1pm. 16 th Jan 23 rd Apr Jul-Aug Social or 121 catch ups 13 th Feb 21 st May 10 th Sept 19 th Mar 18 th Jun 15 th Oct |
| Venue | We encourage group members to take turns hosting us in their community spaces, churches or homes. |
| Contact: | We will host a Taster session on the 28/11/19 for anyone interested in finding out more. To register or for more information contact: Anna Ruddick, Core team member, Urban Life annaruddick@urbanlife.org |

About URBAN LIFE

We are a group of people collaborating to explore new approaches to mission and Christian presence among marginalised people groups and neighbourhoods in UK society. We began in 2014 and work with a wide variety of denominations and organisations across the country.