

Sea of Faith

Exploring Values, Spirituality and Meaning

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A recovered old Newsletter

SEA OF FAITH NETWORK (NEW ZEALAND)

Newsletter No 2.March 1993

There was a positive response to the first Newsletter and Questionnaire from 106 people (and they are still trickling, some times from people who heard about it from others). This is a very encouraging number when there has been no publicity, except the invitation offered at Seminars on Don Cupitt at Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin. All 106 wish to receive the Newsletter and to pay a small subscription for it. (This will be discussed below). It appears that 9 are already linked with the Sea of Faith Network (U.K.), that 25 are already in regular discussion groups, that 86 are interested in joining a regular discussion group, and 92 are interested in a national live-in conference.

During February there began the process of establishing groups for those so interested. Where there are a few living in reasonable vicinity of each other, their names have been sent on to persons who indicated their willingness to initiate the first meeting. This has been done in Central Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington and Dunedin. Those more widely scattered (and there are quite a number) will find they have not been contacted as yet. But once groups have been established, the name of the location and a contact person will be placed in the next Newsletter, and it will be left to you to make contact if you think it feasible.

Since 25 are already in discussion groups already and there will be little enthusiasm to multiply groups any more than necessary, it would be useful to

which of these groups are interested in being linked by this Newsletter with similar groups throughout their country. It should be remembered that the Sea of Faith Network is not an organization with any firm basis and is no more than a network of people and groups engaged in open-ended discussion on questions of faith and spirituality. It could play a useful role in simply linking such people together for their mutual benefit by having a vehicle of communication.

The Ephesus group in Wellington is a good example. It began in March 1990 and meets twice a month. It entertained Don Cupitt when he was here in 1991. It functions so much like a Sea of Faith Network group, that there is no point in establishing a further one in central Wellington, unless increasing numbers make it advisable to do so. It is already interested in being loosely linked with similar groups through the New Zealand. Two of the Dunedin respondents have been members of a Dunedin discussion group which has been operating for 30 years. Subscription \$100- some have paid already/ A Trust account has not been opened.

The Actins Secretary is in regular communication
iiiiiiiRonald Pearse. tapes available.

(3) The organization of a short live-in conference. (To this end we have already received the offer of a University Residential Hall at Waikato University.)

Items of Current interest

We regret to report that at the end of September Don Cupitt suffered a cerebral haemorrhage and underwent neuro-surgery to prevent a second one. He is now recovering and the prognosis is good.

This newsletter comes to you by the courtesy of the generous assistance of the Department of World Religions, Victoria University.

Books of interest within the SOF Network are:

Hugh Dawes, Freeing the Faith, SPCK, 1992

David Jenkins, Free to Believe, BBC 1991

John Spong, Into the Whirlwind, 1983, repr. 1992 by Desbooks, Aust.

" " Born of a Woman, Harper, 1992

Don Cupitt, Re-thinking Religion, St. Andrew's Trust, 1992

Lloyd Geering, Religious Trail-blazers, St. Andrew's Trust, 1992

St. Andrew's Trust Publications are available from:

St. Andrew's trust,
P.O. Box 5203,
Wellington.

A full range of the Don Cupitt books and related publications is cazarred by the Epworth Bookroom

