

## Membership from July 2008

As we are all aware, we have been on a significant journey over the past few years, culminating in major changes to our mission. There are many encouraging signs of new growth and life as we explore radical discipleship as a community.

We believe it is now time to take the next step into a season of deeper community life and accountability in living as Disciples of Christ in relationship with Him.

July 2008 marks this next step, as we ask all current members to prayerfully consider their involvement in Incedo. We believe that this next season for Incedo will call us to a higher level of commitment and involvement, deeper relationships with each other, rigorous spiritual discipline and radical application of life as a disciple into local mission.

In the light of this, all current members will be invited to apply for new membership in Incedo. Membership from 2008 will not simply 'roll over' from the previous year and continuation of membership is not assured. All members (including MLT and board) are asked to apply in writing to be considered for the next 2 years. We ask that all applicants be committed to full participation over the entire upcoming 2-year process. Final decision on membership will lie with the MLT.

Over the next 2 years, the priorities of Incedo will be:

- ✦ To intentionally build the core membership group. These are people who are committed to the spiritual, relational and missional life of Incedo. Active participation is vital in this collective step forward. It will involve:
  - RIGOROUS ENGAGEMENT IN SHAPING WHAT INCEDO BECOMES IN 5-10 YEARS
  - A HIGH LEVEL OF PERSONAL SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE
  - WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE
  - WILLING TO SPEND A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME WITH EACH OTHER
  - DOING MISSION WORK IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES and
  - ACCOUNTABILITY TO OTHERS in all these things.

What exactly is changing?

### **RIGOROUS ENGAGEMENT IN SHAPING WHAT INCEDO BECOMES:**

- ✦ You are asked to *commit to membership for the next 2-year period*. Over this time we will rigorously engage in clarifying, shaping and creating what Incedo will become over the next 5-10 years.
- ✦ You are asked to *take initiative* in giving input into the journey and life of the Incedo community. This WILL be required. We need to take this seriously because we are all in this together - moving forward in trust and hope in God and his call on Incedo.

### **A HIGH LEVEL OF PERSONAL SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE**

- ✦ You will need a *high level* of personal spiritual discipline.

- ♦ On top of your own spiritual devotions, you will be expected to *fully participate* in Incedo spiritual practices. These will involve prayer, fasting, collective readings of scripture, following some liturgical seasons (lent, advent and the feast of St Cuthbert), meditation and reflection, giving, service etc.
- ♦ You will also be asked to discuss your spiritual growth with a support/ accountability group of 3 Incedo members.

#### WILLINGNESS TO CHANGE

- ♦ You must actively seek out where *God is leading us* in our mission work, knowing the mission work may be something crazy that you have never before considered!

#### WILLINGNESS TO SPEND A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF TIME WITH EACH OTHER

- ♦ You will need to spend a *significant* amount of time with other Incedo missionaries in order to build loving friendships and support each other in mission and spiritual lives. This will require you to take the lead in such things as meeting with others, visiting mission areas and working alongside others in their mission.

#### DOING MISSION WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- ♦ You must be active in working as a missionary with young people

and finally...

#### ACCOUNTABILITY TO OTHERS IN ALL THESE THINGS

As it has been in the past few years, if you feel that these next steps are not for you, there is no pressure to remain a member. In fact, we believe it is better that if you are in doubt about your ability to fulfill these requirements, don't apply for membership.

As it has also been in the past few years, if you feel it is time to transition out of Incedo, the MLT and others will help you as much as we can in walking in the call God has on your life and mission. It is important to remember that you will still be able to do whatever it is that God has called you to do. The question for everyone will be - is that with Incedo?

If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to get in touch with any of the MLT. We will be very happy to talk more with you about this next season for Incedo, and your involvement in it, or transition out of it.

**So what do you do now?**

Applicants are asked to prayerfully respond to the above requirements for membership, and answer the questions below. Please discuss your responses

with your spiritual coach, prayer partner or support people. You are asked to be very sure that these next steps in Incedo are ones you will take on with eagerness, fervor and discipline.

Your emailed or posted responses must be received by the MLT before **March 1 2008**. If posting, please send to Julie Heaton, 25 Karaka St, Stoke, Nelson. If emailing, please email to [mlt@incedo.org.nz](mailto:mlt@incedo.org.nz)

If an application is not received by 1 March, we will assume you are **not** applying for membership for the next 2 years.

Thank you, and look forward to hearing from you.

Julie, Karl and Paul.

**Questions:**

1. Tell us about your thoughts on *being a missionary to young people* and your commitment to doing this.
2. Tell us about your thoughts on *rigorous participation in the Incedo community* and your commitment to this.
3. Tell us about your *level of personal spiritual discipline* and your commitment to developing this.
4. Tell us about your willingness to *give more time to gathering with other Incedo missionaries*.
5. Tell us about your willingness to *be accountable to others*.