

...State of the Nation...

Thank you all for your responses and feedback on the membership application process. We (Paul, Karl and Julie) have read each response and would now like to reflect the content of those back to you and present you with options for where we go from here.

Overall, members were supportive of this new move ahead and the call to a higher level of commitment to where God takes Incedo.

Many described their involvement as a missionary to young people as a 'call from God', and expressed passion for it and a strong commitment to working with young people.

Regarding participation in the Incedo community, this comment is representative: "I definitely see that everyone giving input into the journey and life of Incedo is a positive thing...It will help the members to 'own' Incedo and therefore want the best for the community." Most people feel that we are on the right track for a group of us to commit for the next two year period.

Most people agreed that a good level of personal spiritual discipline is important in mission life, and while many acknowledged that this is a matter of the heart and has its ups and downs, all those who responded registered a commitment to this.

Willingness to give more time to gathering with other Incedo members drew a variety of responses. These ranged from "I yearn for this" and "this is an important part of feeling like a family" to those who supported the concept but felt concern at being able to find time to do so.

Some people raised the concern that accountability to others needs to be mutual, and that it can be a nerve-wracking thing to embark on. Others noted that it has the potential to create stronger relationships because people are more authentic with each other.

So, there was general support for the call for a higher level of commitment in Incedo. However, it was equally clear from members' responses that within Incedo we have two distinct points of view operating.

One point of view is owned by those who want to live an altogether different kind of life. They wish to create a mission order / community which explores a new way of being a Jesus-centered community.

This point of view is illustrated by comments such as "we have to seek and find our vision for God and youth", "share all of my life with young people", "It is crucial to have spiritual preparation in our mission", and "I believe spiritual growth and accountability are of top priority".

The second point of view is of people who are committed to living the gospel but wanting to continue to provide service to young people through programmes and relationships with their present support/network. This involves offering them the good news of the gospel, relating and connecting with young people through various programmes and encounters, and offering personal and spiritual development.

This point of view is illustrated by comments such as "I look to serving young people", "community based youth work", "reaching unchurched young people".

We would suggest that within our membership, we come from two different perspectives. The mission order perspective and the youth worker perspective. While these two points of view are not mutually exclusive, it will certainly be harder to move forward while holding both these priorities in

tension and attempting to reconcile both. In light of this, we are now conceivably faced with several potential scenarios for the future.

One scenario is that Incedo continues to move ahead holding both these points of view in tension and attempting to reconcile both perspectives.

A second scenario is that those who come from the mission order perspective refocus themselves clearly on the identity as a mission order. The name of Incedo, and the resources belonging to Incedo remain with this group. Those who wish to continue from the youth work perspective could be gifted the resources necessary to continue their work, but operate independently of Incedo either as independent youth workers, or by setting up a charitable trust or incorporated society.

At this point we are now faced with some options. We will need to decide where we go to from here. Which of the above scenarios do we wish to pursue, or are there other alternatives we could put on the table?

The view of the MLT on each of these scenarios is as follows:

Scenario one: Incedo moves ahead incorporating both the mission order and the youth work point of view.

We believe these two points of view are incongruous and in order to do justice to each, we should not continue to compromise with each other. If we continue to attempt to reconcile both perspectives, we will grow neither as an order, nor as a provider of services to youth. There is potential for frustration on behalf of both parties.

Scenario two: Incedo refocuses clearly on our identity as a mission order.

We believe that this is the best option to follow. Youth for Christ was called into a change process some years ago, and that process had lead to the creation of Incedo. As we move forward, we feel we are called to deeper relationships with God and with others, and a call to live our whole lives differently as disciples of Christ. We believe that in two years time we will be well on the way to creating a missional movement of young people and will not be service providers to young people.

There may be other options you can think of and put on the table for members to consider. If this is the case, please get in touch with one of the MLT as soon as you can to talk it over.

We would now like to hear from each member, regarding the way forward. The MLT is currently proposing option two. We believe we are truly called by God to pioneer a new way of living which models a life of discipleship to young people. However, we would like to hear your thoughts and opinions on these options, because a radical move in this direction will potentially affect a number of people who currently work in fulltime ministry with Incedo.

Please email us back with your thoughts, and your preferred option. We would appreciate hearing from you by **March 26**, so we can consider our way from here.

Look forward to hearing from you,

God bless,

Julie, Paul and Karl