

A two-week live-in opportunity to explore spirituality, community and compassion together with some people in the Waiters Union in West End, Brisbane, Australia.

This residential experience creates space for a small group of participants from any religion - or none - to connect with others who want to learn how we can develop a simple, practical, creative, holistic, life-affirming, community lifestyle that is committed to peace and justice in the radical non-violent tradition of Jesus.

The numbers are always limited so as to maximize the opportunity to connect and interact with people on the course and in the community; but the course is held twice a year to maximize the opportunity for large numbers of people to do the course in small groups. More than 500 people from around Australia and abroad have done the course so far. And many have found it transformative.

Catherine McFedries from Christchurch, New Zealand, who did the last course, said "The course was an intense community learning experience that has helped re-inspire and develop my sense of calling to live out a lifestyle of compassionate action. Living up close and personal with an eclectic group of people was a rich experience of exploring issues and alternative viewpoints in respectful and safe ways. The sessions were thought provoking, particularly those that gave us an insight into the life and work of those connected to the Waiters Union. I loved the stories (of) theor(ies) put into action in ways that make living them out imaginable and tangible. I found the prayer sessions reignited my desire to delve deeper into a more full and life giving awareness of Christ in, amongst, throughout us..."

This grass-roots, face-to-face, show-and-tell, do-it-and-discuss-it introduction to a gentle-but-radical, Christ-inspired approach to compassionate community work typically will include a range of inputs in a variety of styles from local people who are involved with Aborigines, migrants, refugees and others who are struggling with serious disadvantages and significant disabilities in the neighbourhood.

Participants will live together in a joint household, but will also be able to stay over night now and then with others in the community. All participants will be invited to be involved as much they can in personal reflections, interpersonal interactions and group processes around cooperative organisation, whole-hearted engagement, cross-cultural dialogue, practical service and non-violent action.

Place - Waiters Union, West End Brisbane, Australia

Dates - Summer 2007 December 9-22.

Winter 2008 June 22- July 5; Summer 2008 December 7-20

Winter 2009 June 21- July 4; Summer 2008 December 6-19

Cost - There is not a set cost. A group cost sharing exercise will help people work out how much they feel they ought to pay for the course. Accounting for accomodation , food and living costs.

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