



David exemplifies EFC thinking & community development practice of moving from: “the community for myself to - myself for this community”

David Barrington has engaged with churches in the past, but had difficulty in forming a sense of belonging and developing purpose. He felt frozen out of any sense of belonging in mainstream church.

His journey ultimately led him to the Grainery Church in Newcastle, New South Wales, where he has been an active member of their Empowered Faith Community (EFC) since 2018.

The Grainery work deliberately to ensure that the Participants of their community meal, often people who can't find a place of acceptance, develop a sense of belonging.

Empowered with opportunities to actively contribute and be a leader in his social space in community, David in the words of Pastor Paul West has experienced “holistic development, body, soul and spirit”.

David is an engaging man, who is encouraged to pray for others and is given a platform through the leaders meeting (called the Pilot group), to contribute inspiring and creative ideas on how to reach into the community in his social space.

Just recently, David strongly encouraged by the leaders of his EFC, elevated his contribution to his community by delivering his first preaching message to his contemporaries and the leaders. He has been entrusted with his very own EFC business card, with his contact details on it and community meeting times. He is learning to lead small groups

By being offered a platform to participate and use his gifts, talents and strengths David is not a consumer or client of a meal service, rather he is an empowered owner. This ownership engenders purpose, re-shapes identity and as we have seen with David and his business card, stimulates the motivation to invite others to participate themselves.

Mark Matthews – National Training Manager