



Twinning - Linking

Twinning is the linking between two communities. It can be between congregations, groups within a congregation, or it can be more extensive.

Linking can be initiated through the Synod providing initial contact names. Linking is best established and maintained if there are personal relationships or contacts that exist, or that are developed by a few families. Linking can be established if there is a mutual interest.

Accept the offer of twinning, arrange a visit and see if some families or people click and then go from there. The ideas of what to do with the twinning will come from a face to face discussion of each others situation but the most important thing to do is to organise a visit.

Ideas tried with twinning congregations:

- Exchanging information about happenings, News sheets, newspapers, prayer points,
- Exchange of people to support or arrange specific events. Cultural, community spiritual, teaching
- Visit and run a community concert, take a service, exchange over the year worship leaders, teams to support help a program in the community, men's shed, pastoral visiting team, women's fellowship, youth group, flower show team, fete stalls, camp leaders, technology teachers/trainers.....
- Specific emotional, physical, financial support at times of need or on some arranged basis. Such as providing some identified needed resources.
- Pulpit exchange or loan of a minister or a specific lay team to complement or relieve locals, local preachers talking about rural issues, mission team exchange.
- Joint conference or family camp at another mid location.
- Accommodation, house exchanges for visits, holidays.

I have seen so many city people learn so much from just visiting. At the Elixir of rural resilience meeting in West Wyalong the small towns there felt having city people visit and getting to know the situation and the problems was really important to help the city country divide.

Twinning usually has a limited lifespan and there should be an agreed timeframe and boundary established at the beginning. Don't be afraid if after one or maybe two visits there is no energy or enthusiasm to continue don't be afraid to discontinue the relationship.

If you would like to try twinning with another community/congregation please contact Gillian Blowes on 63614224 or at bomrural@bigpond.net.au