



# Serving Asia

## NZ News & Prayer

*Extended  
Edition*

*Living with missional intent*

- Stories of everyday mission involvement here in NZ
- Honouring those who SEND
- Anyone can be in healthcare missions!



Heart for Asia. Hope for Billions.

*"We share the good news of Jesus Christ in all its fullness with East Asia's peoples to the glory of God."*

## In this edition

A yarn with Johan	3
Family news	4
Pathways and runways	5
Mission is everywhere	6
Honouring the unsung heroes	8
My journey as a marketplace self-supporting Worker with OMF	9
Pray for Japan	10
Praying together อธิษฐานร่วมกัน	11 - 14
Willing, skilful labourers	15
Reflecting on a year of faith	16
The six ways wheel	17
Beryl Anderson -an inspiring journey of missionary service	18
How can we serve you in the lower North Island?	19
Anyone can be in healthcare missions	20
Opportunities to serve everywhere	21
Ways to be involved 関わる方法	22
Ways to give	23



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Cover image: A guide leads a boat into the caves of Kong Lor, Laos



# A yarn with Johan

## OMF NZ National Director

Kia ora everyone!

In this issue of Serving Asia magazine, we explore the theme of “everywhere” and how it relates to missions. As Christians, we have a responsibility to share and live out our faith in front of our Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist neighbours. This means reaching out to people right where we are.

To help churches better equip themselves for this task, we are providing intercultural training. In June, we ran an intercultural workshop for a church that supports OMF work. We were able to explain the opportunities and challenges of ministry and sharing God’s love across cultures. Our aim is that these churches will be better equipped to reach out in their own communities and have greater unity together as a body of believers.

Sometimes “everything” seems to be happening “everywhere” and “all at once”. This can be exciting when things are going well. Last month we had the joy and privilege of meeting together as a NZ team and we were able to welcome three new board members, six new staff members, and five new candidates.

Keeping track of all these new people at the same time is fun but can also be challenging. For more on these new team-members, turn to pages 4 and 5.

We welcome Alex Yip and Isaac Chen onto the Board.

### Our new staff include:

- Ruth Page running our Prayer Department
- Faye in the Operations Manager role
- Kim and Mary Robertson representing OMF in the lower North Island
- Jed and Elaine Lim coordinating OMF activities in the South Island.

It is great to see the NZ team growing. Our passion is that we will be able to encourage the church in Aotearoa NZ to be sending many more workers to share the good news of Jesus.

We hope you enjoy this issue!

**Johan Linder**  
**National Director**



We apologise to anyone who missed out on their posted copy of the June/July National Director letter and Praying Together section. This was an error from NZ Post, and we were unable to track which envelopes remained undelivered. If you would like to go on the email list to receive future magazines and letters from us, scan the QR code or email Jess: [nz.comms@omfmail.com](mailto:nz.comms@omfmail.com)

# Family News

## News and Birthdays

### Kim and Mary Robertson join the NZ team

We are very pleased to have Kim and Mary – formerly 25 years serving in Thailand – working with our NZ homeside team as Lower North Island Mobilisers. The area they cover includes Wellington, Kapiti Coast, Wairarapa, Manawatu, Taranaki & Hawkes Bay. For more about them and for an upcoming event in Tawa, turn to page 19.

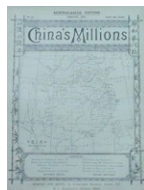
### South Island Coordinator role – filled!

Thank you for your prayers as we searched for the right person or people to serve the churches of the South Island. Jed and Elaine Lim are joining the NZ homeside team in a volunteer capacity, helping to represent OMF in the South Island and supporting local churches in their mission involvement. They will be based around Invercargill and Dunedin. Of course, the mainland is a big area, and this is just the beginning for mobilising local volunteers. If you're interested in getting involved, we would love to chat!



### Do you have these CMAU archival magazines?

The OMF International Research team in Singapore is currently searching for editions of China's Millions Australasian edition – specifically editions from 1894, 1896, 1897 (1894 edition pictured here). Do you (or someone you know) have copies of these three specific editions that could be scanned and sent to us? Please contact Pam: NZ.admin@omfmail.com.



### Happy Birthday!

#### AUGUST

04 .....	Pearl Nicholas
08 .....	Tania English
11 .....	Ruth Page
11 .....	Lena Freeman
17 .....	Sarah Fleming
19 .....	Allen McClymont
19 .....	Alison North
25 .....	Shireen Chua
26 .....	Angela Ma
26 .....	Joel Collins
29 .....	Helen Wells

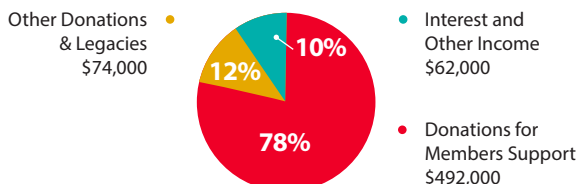
#### SEPTEMBER

01 .....	Doreen Payne
10 .....	Litsa McClymont
10 .....	Georgia McClymont
20 .....	Cristelle Nicholas
21 .....	Simon Collins
23 .....	Faye
29 .....	Peter Hwang

## Finance and Funding (January – May 2023)

### 2023 Income

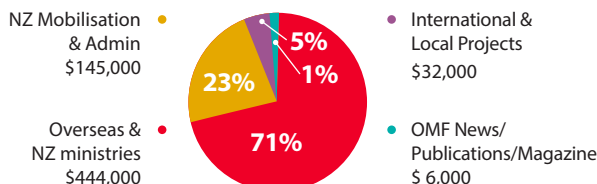
OMF New Zealand



Total Income \$628,000

### 2023 Expenses

OMF New Zealand



Total Expenses \$627,000  
Net Surplus \$1000

# Pathways and Runways

## *In the Pipeline*

Prayer points for these candidates are in the Praying Together pull-out, pages 11-14.  
If you would like to support these candidates with prayer or finances, please email [nz.admin@omfmail.com](mailto:nz.admin@omfmail.com).



**Jason & Louise  
Crowesen**  
w/ Faith & Tikvah  
THAILAND



**Wenjun &  
Kelly Wu**  
JAPAN



**Sophia Burton**  
JAPAN

## *Arrivals and Departures*

### **Stephen and Christina**

Stephen and Christina are bringing their daughter Eva back to live in New Zealand with her grandparents so that she can attend school in NZ for the foreseeable future.

### **Peter and Beth Hwang**

Peter and Beth are also settling back into school and life in Cambodia after a month back in New Zealand.

## *Introducing Sophia Burton - new candidate for Japan*

My name is Sophia, and I live in Auckland and work as a legal executive. After spending some time in Japan working with an OMF-led church plant in Hirosaki, Aomori, my heart for the Japanese has continued to grow and I am now aiming to return to Hirosaki to do a three-year mission internship with that same church. This is a pilot version of the programme, which is being started to meet the need to train the growing number of people wanting to become OMF missionaries in Japan. I hope this internship will lead to long-term missions work, and am excited

to go back and continue to build on the relationships I have already made in Japan.

I am looking for a team of people to support me with prayer and finances on my journey – if you would like to know more, or receive my newsletter, please contact me on [sophia@burtonfamily.co.nz](mailto:sophia@burtonfamily.co.nz)

Thank you!



# Mission is everywhere

Mission is everywhere! In this era, we don't need to "go" in order to be involved in mission – there are normal everyday opportunities available to anyone with a willing heart. We gathered a few short stories of regular people living their regular lives, with missional intent. We pray you will read and be encouraged.

## Missions involvement is a marathon, not a sprint

Jim is 93. He started giving to missions over 80 years ago as a boy in Boys Brigade. He first went to an OMF, then CIM, prayer meeting in Armadale, Melbourne, Australia, in 1947! He and his student friends were very excited to pray for missionaries and out of that group about eight people went on to serve on the mission field. He is now involved in the OMF Upper Hutt Prayer Group that meets monthly, and continues to extend hospitality to visitors at church alongside his wife, Judy.



## Alpha group – food, friendship and faith conversations

"In an attempt to reach out to our local community, a few of us from church decided to run an Alpha course – the only catch being that you had to be born overseas (or have a partner born overseas). We had an amazing array of cultural backgrounds turn up that first night – Indonesian, Filipino, Thai, Japanese – with both Christians and other faiths in attendance. The focus was on eating good food together and having a great time...there were always LOTS of laughs. At the end of the Alpha course, we had formed some tight-knit friendships so decided to keep meeting; we merged into a life group and started studying different cultures through a biblical lens. Over time, other people heard about the wonderful time we were having and wanted to join, which swelled our numbers to around 25. One friend, a Hindu lady who used to attend a Hindu prayer time, one day told us "I'm a Christian now so won't do that anymore." Praise God! Our numbers have continued to grow, so we have now formed a second International group who have also started doing an Alpha course, and we are talking about starting a third group! I feel excited to be interacting with non-Christians in such a fun way...it feels like I'm part of something important."

- Anne from Palmerston North



## Building bridges of friendship and faith

"Over the past three years I have been involved with an extended refugee family of nine people from Afghanistan. Because of the language barrier they have no Kiwi friends – their only friends being fellow immigrants, particularly from the same ethnic group. My role? I meet with two women once a week for an hour to help with their English. They can now read simple books and we can have a simple conversation. I pray with them for God's blessing at the beginning of a new year and whenever there is good reason – moving house, before school exams, before interviews, and so on. Before Christmas and before Easter we read a simple Bible story and discuss it. The husband has joined in on occasion with some insightful questions. At Christmas I wrote Mary's story in simple English, calling it "The Happiest Story in the World" and have been reading that with them. We share a meal with them at Christmas and are occasionally invited to a meal at their home on a special occasion."

*- Ailsa in Palmerston North*



## Serving through the server

Brian is our IT guy at OMF NZ - the go-to support person when your email stops sending or your laptop dies. With a background working and living in Kenya and Tanzania with his wife Jenny and three kids, Brian is well acquainted with what it takes to run an effective mission organisation. He commits his time to working for many different Christian ministries – understanding that skilled people need to support missions as a reality of the capacity in the not-for-profit sector. We are really thankful for Brian using his skills to serve us and our wider team.



Do you have a story to tell about how you are involved in cross cultural mission right now? We would love to share your story with others - send it in to [nz.comms@omfmail.com](mailto:nz.comms@omfmail.com).

# Honouring the unsung heroes



## The power of senders

By Sarah Fleming  
Mobiliser for OMF  
New Zealand



My grannie, Joan, was a “get stuck in”, “work till the work is done”, “love your neighbour” kind of woman. At her funeral her daughters laughed and cried through the apt description in Proverbs 31 ... She even wore purple frequently. She was a dynamo and someone I always looked up to and wanted to emulate.

It is unlikely that biographies will be written about her, but her influence and encouragement was profound for many. You see, she didn’t go to Bible College or live and work cross-culturally overseas; instead she was a sender. For decades my grannie and her sweet-heart, my grandad Eric, worked tirelessly to raise funds for mission, to build churches here in New Zealand and to support my grannie’s sister

Ruth Cremer (with SIM in Ethiopia) and the work of many other agencies.

Grannie typed out Ruth’s notes and prayer letters, did all of the administrative things in the background, gave Ruth somewhere to stay when she was home in New Zealand, and helped keep the work of the Kafa Bible translation project alive for Ruth’s supporters. From the early 1950’s to 2008, she offered more than 55 years of dedicated support. Every cross-cultural worker needs a Joan in their corner, cheering them on and empowering them from afar.

Our National Director, Johan, recently exhorted a group of young people at a commissioning for our intern Tessa. He said that going in mission is like a pair of chopsticks: one stays still while the other one moves. In this analogy, the one staying still was my grannie. All mission workers who are out of their home country need a team - they need pray-ers, financial backers who are giving sacrificially, people who talk about their work to others, and caring folks who take a keen interest in them and what they are up to. They need friends; they need senders.

What can you expect as a sender? Well, you probably won’t have a biography written about you, but you will partner with someone who can’t do what they are doing without you. You will see direct answers to your timely and specific prayers, your own faith will be strengthened, and you’ll get to travel all over the world without having to

leave home. Your heart will break for the individuals your cross-cultural worker is heartbroken for.

1 Chronicles 29:14 is a prayer of David: “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.” This was an ethos that my grandparents understood and lived. Everything they had came from God’s hand...they were just returning it back to him.

You may be reading this because you are already a sender. Thank you. Thank you for your sacrificial giving, and your faithful prayers. Thank you for your consistency and generosity. Thank you for serving on your church mission board or leading the congregation in a focused time of prayer for a cross-cultural worker. Thank you for being a sender! Our workers couldn’t do what they do without you.

Or maybe you have been wondering how you can increase your mission involvement, but you can’t be a go-er. Perhaps you know of a cross-cultural worker who needs a friend, an alongside, someone here in Aotearoa who has their back and prays for their work. If that’s you, know that the work of sending is as important as going. Why don’t you pray and ask God to give you a burden for a cross-cultural worker, and then commit to praying for them regularly? Like my grannie, your legacy of support will have an influence beyond your years.



Joan Jackson –  
a dedicated “sender”

# My Journey as a Marketplace Self-Supporting Worker with OMF



## The value of “on the ground” spiritual support

By K\*, an MSSW in Japan

I first heard about the Marketplace Self-Supporting Worker (MSSW) Pilot Project from a friend during the last year of my university studies. The Pilot Project resonated with my hopes to serve the Lord through work overseas while providing a framework for me to partner with other Christians in ministry. I spent several months praying and discerning with OMF, and got to know its vision, mission, values, beliefs, and culture. Ultimately, the Lord made a way for me to partner with OMF in ministry by providing me with a medium-term contract job, which was a perfect fit for my expertise and career stage, in Sapporo, the same city as OMF's language and cultural training centre in Japan. I spent my first two years in Japan working full-time, while getting acclimated to the Japanese language and culture and participating in ministry.

One of the things I appreciated about partnering with OMF was that I was immediately placed with a local ministry team. This provided me with a community that shared my vision to live as Jesus' witnesses. Because the team understood

the purpose of Marketplace ministry, I was able to invest in workplace relationships and do my job well, while exploring with them how I could contribute positively to the church community. Over time, I was able to introduce a colleague to our church community. I was also able to provide “tech support” at church and give testimonies and messages at gatherings, at first in English, but later in Japanese. Being connected to OMF also opened the opportunity for me to study Japanese with OMF for a few hours a week as an “à la carte” service, which helped me immensely to relate with my colleagues and function in a Japanese workplace.

If not for the MSSW Pilot Project, I may have headed overseas with little “on the ground” spiritual support. The encouragement, training, and ministry opportunities I have received as an MSSW have far exceeded my hopes. I hope to continue partnering with OMF from the new city where I am now based (my second work contract has just started this April). I would appreciate prayers as I seek to let Jesus' light shine through me among my new colleagues.

*“It has been great to have K as part of our team because he can work alongside and witness to people in a way that our full-time church planters cannot. He also models evangelistic zeal and 24/7 discipleship which is valuable in the Japanese church context. As he moves to a new city, our challenge is to support him well as we do not have a team there. We are looking to develop our support structures for marketplace workers, and praying for the Lord to provide the right person to do this.”*

*– Chris Pain, Japan Field Director*

Here at OMF NZ we are looking for people who are seeking to be “message bearers in the marketplace”. Is this you or someone you know?

Get in touch with Shireen: [nz.marketplace@omfmail.com](mailto:nz.marketplace@omfmail.com)

# Pray for Japan



- As the church ages in Japan there is an intense shortage of Japanese pastors. Please pray for new leadership in the Japanese church.
- Approximately half of the members in the Japan Field are in their first term of service. Please pray for us as we train and equip our new workers
- The Japan Field is currently working through the results of our Church Planting Strategy Review research project. Pray for the Lord's leading in how to respond and change.
- An outreach café run by OMF missionaries in Sapporo lost their key Japanese staff member in a bus accident on 18 June. She was the only believer in her family. Pray for the family, and for the café as they grieve and grapple with how to continue.

**Tessa Brown (pictured helping to thin apple trees at a local farm) is currently in Japan on a Serve Asia short-term trip. We asked her a few questions about how her time is going so far...**

## Hi Tessa! What specific roles or projects are you getting involved in, and how do they serve the local community?

At the moment I'm helping with English cafe (our Friday youth group for high school students), Sunday school, and two English classes. Classes like this help make the church more accessible to a society that has very little knowledge of Christianity. Thanks to a connection through church, I've also been able to start attending the KGK Bible Study at Hirosaki University each week to help form connections with more university students!

## What is something uniquely Japanese that has surprised you?

All the announcements on public transport! Aside from all the usual automated reminders for stops and

safety, bus drivers also have their own microphones. Usually this is just to announce approaching stops, but some also like to keep a running commentary on every change of direction and speed. I can only imagine the chaos if Auckland bus drivers were given microphones...

## What was something valuable that you did in New Zealand to prepare for your time in Japan?

Studying classical Japanese at university has been a help in understanding some of the worship songs and hymns here. Much like how old English is sometimes retained in hymns to show reverence, some Japanese songs use classical phrases and grammar that is not common in modern spoken Japanese anymore.



**14 August | 7.30pm – 9pm**

## Have you got a heart for the Japanese?

Join us as we learn about the nation and how to pray for the people and for the OMF team working there.

Join via Zoom, or in-person at 591 Dominion Road, Balmoral, Auckland. No registration required – just jump in!



# Willing, skilful labourers

By Sylvia Yuan,  
Mission historian  
and lecturer



## A mission history devotional

### BIBLE VERSE

*"There shall be with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing skilful man" (1 Chronicles 28:21)*

又有灵巧的人在各样的工作上乐意帮助你 (历代志上28:21)

### HISTORY

Sunday June 25th, 1865. On a friend's invitation, Hudson Taylor had spent the weekend in the seaside town of Brighton. On Sunday, he joined the local church for worship service. Unable to bear the contrast between a rejoicing congregation and the perishing Chinese multitudes, Taylor wandered out alone. He continued to wrestle with God upon the sands left by the receding tide. Shall I? Shall I not? Eventually, God conquered his unbelief - even if the worst came to the worst it would still be worthwhile. The responsibility rests with God if the workers are simply obeying the call. Pencil in hand, Taylor opened his Bible and wrote the following prayers upon the edge of the page: "Prayed for 24 willing, skilful labourers at Brighton, June 25, 1865."

### REFLECTION

That was the birth of the China Inland Mission (now OMF).

Many people know about this story but no one gives the wording of Taylor's prayer any further thought. "Willing and Skilful" may just be some random words that came off the top of his head. But recently, Jamie Taylor IV discovered that these key words were actually taken from 1 Chronicles 28:21 – quoted above. This is the wording of the KJV that Hudson Taylor would have been reading in his lifetime. The context of 1 Chronicles 28 is about King David's encouragement to his son Solomon about building the future temple. It was a new venture not for the king's family but for the Israelites as a nation.

"Willingness" (Hebrew: *nāḏīb*) refers to attitude and desire while "Skilfulness" (Hebrew: *ḥākmā*) refers to giftedness and ability. Both are important attributes for mission workers. Mission work, like any other work of the church, recruits Christians that are both willing

to go where they are needed and able to do what is required. We would have all come across people who are willing but not able, or able but not willing. Neither can be sent to serve effectively. With the rise of 'Creative Access' nations and the Creation Care ministry, "skilful" is taking on a new meaning: specialising not only in the language and culture but also a profession.

In this new era of mission, where are the new generation of willing and skilful Christian workers? How can we find disciples that are willing, and equip them to be more skilful? How can we encourage seasoned missionaries to refresh their sense of call and upskill themselves to face new challenges?



We will feature more devotionals from Sylvia Yuan based on mission history. Keep an eye on future editions of Serving Asia for more.

# Reflecting on a Year of Faith: God's Plans Unfold

By Gabriel and Judy

A year has passed since we last shared in this magazine and you heard about our journey towards Asia. A lot has changed and God is gradually revealing His plans for us. After our graduation from mission training college, we moved to Auckland, where God has provided for us abundantly. We quickly found a great place to stay. God then opened up a job vacancy for Gabriel to work from home, which is what we have been praying for. Judy is currently serving in children's ministry at a church. We also went back to Dunedin to reconnect with our church, sharing with them about mission and how God has led us towards going to Asia. We were invited back in May and July to share more about missions.

We recently met some refugee kids who have just arrived in New Zealand. It has been a blessing to get to know them. Most of them are polite and quiet, and they are SO passionate about soccer. They love the game and we had fun playing together with them. While we may not fully understand their backgrounds, we can treat them with love and patience, just as we want to be treated. It is a privilege to journey with them.

At present, we are in the process of applying with OMF and have had the opportunity to meet field leaders and workers, gaining insight into their work. Our prayer is that God will provide us with a clear vision of the specific mission field where He desires us to serve.

In Hebrews 11:1 it says *"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* This verse perfectly sums up the journey that God has led us on so far. Although God has graciously answered many of our prayers, there have been instances where doors were closed and prayers remained unanswered. Despite that, we have faith in God that His plans are always the best for us, even if they may be different from our own. This is a journey of faith in God; we know He holds tomorrow, so our fear and worries start to lessen. In contrast, the sweetness of assurance and hope in God continues to grow as we walk with Him faithfully each day.

In the future we will refer to Gabriel and Judy as Piwakawaka – this is to protect their identity as they get closer to leaving for the field. When you see us talk about Piwakawaka, please pray for this young couple on their missions journey.



# The Six Ways Wheel

We can help you with each of these options. Please get in touch! Email [NZ.mission@omfmail.com](mailto:NZ.mission@omfmail.com) if you or your church need information, prayer resources, or a mission workshop.

In this magazine, you may have spotted the coloured icons up the top of many of the pages...“learn”, “pray” etc. What you may not realise, is that they correspond to the Six Ways wheel, which breaks down the six key ways that YOU and your church can be involved in God’s mission.

God doesn’t call super-Christians to be missionaries; He calls you just to live for Him in another place. OMF supports people all through East Asia through short-term missional experiences and for those called longer-term. Who has God given you a heart for?

Commit to praying for a specific missionary, ministry, or people group. Web search “OMF prayer resources” for resources to equip your personal and group prayer. Also if you would like our free bi-monthly prayer booklet, we would love to send it to you! [NZ.comms@omfmail.com](mailto:NZ.comms@omfmail.com)

Intentionally send missionaries through encouragement, logistical support and financial giving. OMF partners with local churches to help send those when God calls. Missionaries do not just go overseas: God’s people send them (Romans 10:15).

Explore and study what God has stirred up in your heart for mission. Do a block course at Eastwest College, or partner with us at OMF to run an Intercultural Church workshop at your church.

Help welcome international students and families to NZ. God can use you in cross-cultural ministry in your city right now. We would love to help resource you or your church as you welcome migrants to your city.

Share the vision God has given you for His mission with people you know. Mobilisation is drawing others into the work of building God’s church (Luke 10:2). We have people that would love to share with you the vision of OMF and how you can become involved in mission. [NZ.mission@omfmail.com](mailto:NZ.mission@omfmail.com)



# Beryl Anderson - an inspiring journey of missionary service



*Beryl, alongside her husband Doug, has run the OMF Lower Hutt Prayer Group for the last 15 years. Having recently turned 80, she has handed over the organising reins and now participates in an advisory role. She is an enthusiastic biographer who enjoys recording people's stories at a local hospice in her spare time. Mary Robertson sat down with Beryl to find out a bit about her history with OMF.*

## MARY: HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTERESTED IN MISSION?

Beryl: When I was young, I met my mother's cousin who was on leave from her work as a missionary in India. She was doing something quite different to everything I knew, and she was quite gracious. This sparked my interest. When I was training as a nurse, I remember saying that I wanted to nurse in India. I never got to India to nurse.

## BUT YOU DID GET TO SOME OTHER COUNTRIES - WHERE DID YOU GO?

I went nursing in Vanuatu for 18 months, to Singapore and Malaysia with OMF, later to Turkey working with an International Church and short stints in Scotland and Mongolia.

## AN INTERESTING MIX! HOW DID YOU GET CONNECTED TO OMF?

Doug and I got married in 1966. Doug was a Presbyterian minister and after he had served four years in a parish, we were praying about what direction God would call us to next. We had committed to overseas mission and applied to the Presbyterian Church Missions Committee. They had money to send us but no

vacancies to fill. So, we looked at other possibilities. We heard that a fellow Presbyterian minister had applied to OMF. We applied and were accepted. Being a faith mission, it had no money to send us and we were expected to pray that God would supply our financial needs. This was a real step of faith for us! God has been faithful for the past 55 years!

## WHERE DID YOU SERVE WITH OMF?

We served in Singapore for nine years, 1968-1977, on staff at the Discipleship Training Centre and for some of our time there, Doug was minister at an English-speaking Chinese Presbyterian Church. After Singapore, we were in Malaysia for another four years, where Doug was area director for OMF, and my responsibility was running the guest house.

## WHAT WERE SOME OF THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF YOUR TIME IN SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA?

When we went to Singapore, our first child, Rachel was just one year old. We'd only been there for three months and my mother died suddenly from a cerebral haemorrhage. It was an awful shock! I returned to New Zealand with 15-month-old Rachel. The wonderful thing was that I lead my father to the Lord the night before the funeral. One of the most difficult things in Singapore was that I had three miscarriages, between having Rachel and Stephen. But I had good hospital care and care from Christian friends. While working with the Chinese church in Singapore, I really enjoyed getting to know Chinese people and being accepted by them; so much so that they forgot that

I was a foreigner! In Malaysia, we became involved with refugees from Vietnam. Doug took movies out to the camps for entertainment and gave out Bibles in Vietnamese, Chinese and English. I taught English to the women and children.

## AND YOU'VE WORKED WITH REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS IN NEW ZEALAND TOO

Yes, I taught English, taught people to drive (hair-raising at times!) and started a Christian Fellowship for refugees and migrants in Lower Hutt.

## ALONGSIDE ALL YOUR OTHER INVOLVEMENTS, HOW LONG HAVE YOU LEAD THE LOWER HUTT OMF PRAYER GROUP AND ORGANISED WELLINGTON REGIONAL OMF EVENTS?

For the last 15 years but it's been a team effort with help from my friend, Rubee Yee.

## WHAT ARE SOME HIGHS AND LOWS OF YOUR OMF INVOLVEMENT IN THE WELLINGTON REGION?

There have been some discouragements when people are not interested. But the highs include realising we are part of a big family, hosting people especially Lee-anne Hill, Ruth Page and Faye (we must be ok because they keep coming back) and sharing food and life stories.

*When we asked Doug about his involvement with running the prayer group, he answered "I do the dishes." Thank you for your decades of faithful service, Beryl and Doug Anderson!*

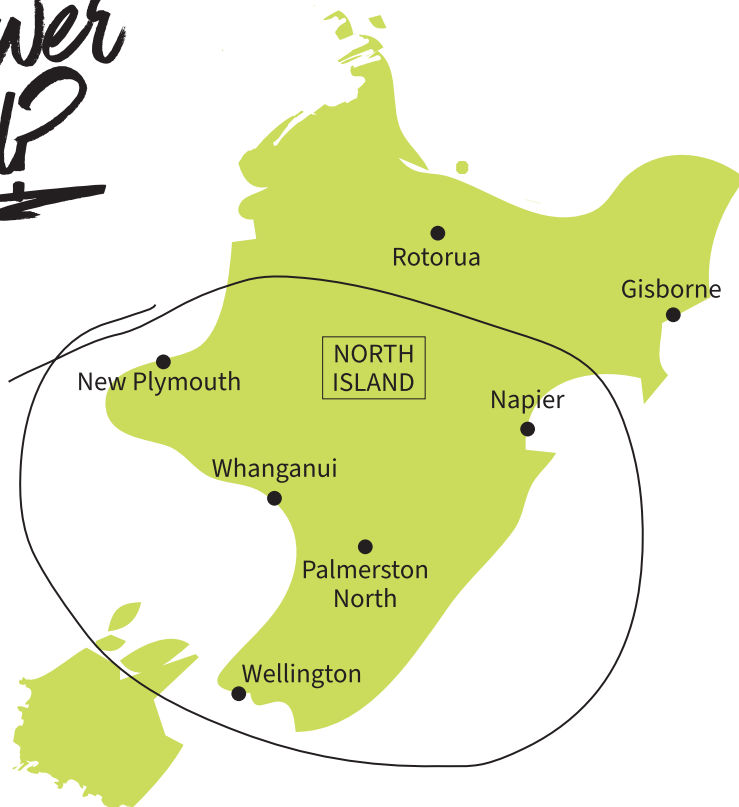
# How can we serve you in the lower North Island?

Kim and Mary Robertson – formally 25 years in Thailand – are back in New Zealand and working to serve the churches of the lower North Island. The territory they cover includes Wellington, Kapiti Coast, Wairarapa, Manawatu, Taranaki & Hawkes Bay.

## Areas they can help with:

- Mentoring and coaching for cross-cultural mission
- Running the Cardboard Village slum simulation game at your church or youth group
- Speaking at church mission months
- Placement and care for short-term or long-term service
- Short-term teams to East Asia
- Intercultural training workshops for churches

To get in touch with Kim or Mary,  
about getting involved in mission, email:  
[nz.wellington@omfmail.com](mailto:nz.wellington@omfmail.com) or ph 020 4109 2005.



## God, Missions and You in the 21st Century

**FEATURING: JASON AND LOUISE CROUSEN,  
JOHAN LINDER, AND KIM AND MARY ROBERTSON**

**Saturday 9 September | 5.30pm – 8pm**

Dinner provided with a koha

The Emmaus Centre, St Christopher's Anglican Church  
Tawa, Wellington

There is a place for you in mission! Come along to join us and hear about what mission involvement can look like today.

For more info and to register, head to the Events page on our website [OMF.org/nz](http://OMF.org/nz) or email [NZ.Wellington@omfmail.com](mailto:NZ.Wellington@omfmail.com)



*Kim and Mary Robertson*

# Anyone can be in Healthcare Missions



*Kreg with Krung elders*

By David Narita,  
International Facilitator for Healthcare Missions

Kreg Mallow is a church planter among the Krung and Brao minority people in Northeastern Cambodia. These communities are animistic, believing that spirits in the physical world around them influence their lives, bringing either success, good health and peaceful relationships, or failure, disease and discord.

Illness is therefore treated through animal sacrifices to appease these spirits. However, over the years, Kreg's team has managed to help many receive the healthcare they needed for severe injuries and complex diseases. Lives literally have been saved.

One example is a man name Yol who had fevers, felt weak, was losing weight and was often getting sick. The local hospital ran a number of tests on him but did not know what was wrong. So Kreg's team arranged for him to be seen at Mercy Medical Center, a Christian hospital near Phnom Penh. There they were able to make a diagnosis - leukaemia.

Over the next three years, the team helped Yol receive treatment which eased many of his symptoms. On the long rides and at every visit, Yol and his family heard what it means to believe in and follow Christ. Sadly, Yol did succumb to his leukaemia. But over that time, through those relationships

that were formed, Yol, his wife, mother and brother all became believers. Praise God! Kreg writes, "meeting a physical need sometimes opens a hard heart to the truth of the gospel." This ministry has helped several minority group members see who God is and His loving provision for them through Christ.

Kreg does have a healthcare background as a dentist. But his story demonstrates that anyone can do this. Showing care and concern for the felt needs of an individual or community provides the relationship through which the Holy Spirit can work.



If this story has struck a chord in you, maybe God is prompting you to explore further. Head to our Opportunities website **[opportunities.omf.org](https://opportunities.omf.org)** (or scan the QR code) to see where workers are currently needed.



*NZ member Simon Collins helping with  
medical education at a Cambodian church*

# Opportunities to serve everywhere



Throughout this magazine you will see stories of people who have gone overseas, short-term and long-term, and those who have stayed and served in New Zealand. Whether you want to stay or go, there is an opportunity for you to serve. You can also head to [opportunities.omf.org](https://opportunities.omf.org) where there are currently 269 other options!



## TRAIN AND GO APPRENTICESHIP

How does five months training in Atlanta, Georgia and then five months on the field sound?



## GUEST HOUSE MANAGERS FOR CAMBODIA

This is 6-months or longer and would suit an empty-nester couple but who are still physically up to maintenance jobs and living in the heat!



## LEARN AND BE MENTORED

March 2024, Thailand. Followed by an internship in NZ. Do you know a young person who is looking for direction and interested in mission? This could be for them.

### To find out more about any of these short-term opportunities to serve:

- scan the QR code, or
- go to [opportunities.omf.org](https://opportunities.omf.org) and search using the titles for each opportunity, or
- email Sarah: [NZ.ServeAsia@omfmail.com](mailto:NZ.ServeAsia@omfmail.com)



## MISSIONARY VACATION HOME, THAILAND

2-6 weeks, living and working at a resort? Tell me more!



## HEY, CREATIVE!

Opportunities in a team serving the urban poor – we are looking for website designers, graphic designers, illustrators, photographers / videographers, and writers!

Is your church interested in sending a short term team in 2024? Applications are now open! It takes time to prepare a team so please get in touch with Sarah early if your church is considering where or when they might like to serve.

# Ways to be involved 関わる方法



To sign up to the mailing list and receive info about upcoming events, head to [mailchi.mp/omfmail.com/nz-events](mailto:mailchi.mp/omfmail.com/nz-events) or scan the QR code.

*Looking for professionals to get involved with Marketplace Ministry!*

Contact Shireen Chua if this sounds like you.  
[nz.marketplace@omfmail.com](mailto:nz.marketplace@omfmail.com)



## HAVE YOU DISCOVERED OUR PODCAST YET?

**From Everywhere to Everywhere** – available where you find your podcasts. We cover God's provision of finances, trusting God when raising kids in a mission context, plus more.



### Mission in the marketplace



**MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2023: 7PM – 9PM NZST**

#### Mission in the marketplace

Be inspired by others to keep taking your own steps of faith in your missions journey. See our OMF events page for details closer to the time.

(online and in small groups around NZ)



### Retreat day



**SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2023: 9AM – 3PM NZST**

#### Retreat Day

Do you find it hard to be intentional about retreating and listening to God's voice? Do you have questions about His purposes for you? We invite you to join us for a day of guided prayer and personal retreat to engage with scripture and make space to listen to God.

To register your interest: email Debbie on [nz.bridgemission@omfmail.com](mailto:nz.bridgemission@omfmail.com)

# HEART FOR ASIA

For more info, go the Events page on the OMF NZ website.

**12 August 2023  
1.30pm**

### CHANGE OF VENUE

Now being held at  
**591 Dominion Road, Balmoral,**  
Auckland and online everywhere.



# Ways to give

献金方法

Email [nz.admin@omfmail.com](mailto:nz.admin@omfmail.com) to set up an **automatic payment** from your account

Give online at  
[omf.org/nz/give/give-online](http://omf.org/nz/give/give-online)



**Direct credit** into our OMFNZ Homeside Trust bank account 03-0104-0415462-00 for donations **for use in NZ** and email [nz.admin@omfmail.com](mailto:nz.admin@omfmail.com)

**Direct credit** into our OMF New Zealand bank account 03-0104-0415454-00 for donations **for use overseas** and email [nz.admin@omfmail.com](mailto:nz.admin@omfmail.com)

Call the office on 09 630 5778 to make a **credit card payment** over the phone

## Leave a legacy:

Would you consider leaving a gift in your will to God's mission work? By including a gift to OMF as part of your estate plans you will ensure that the people of East Asia continue to hear the good news of Jesus long into the future. For more information on leaving a legacy, please contact Pam Singleton: [nz.admin@omfmail.com](mailto:nz.admin@omfmail.com) or ph 09 630 5778



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