

SEPT/OCT/NOV

2024

# INTO THE HARVEST

ONE MISSION SOCIETY NEW ZEALAND

THE POWER OF CHURCH SUPPORT



**ONEMISSION**  
OMS · ONE MISSION SOCIETY

p/4

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE  
ROBINSON'S NZ TRIP

p/6

HUNGARY ENGLISH CAMPS  
A HUGE SUCCESS

p/8

'CHRISTIANITY IN A GLOBAL  
PERSPECTIVE' EVENT RECAP

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

P/4-5

## PHIIPPINES/NZ

Highlights from the  
Robinson's Trip



P/6-7

## HUNGARY

Summer Camp Fun!



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P/3

## DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Casting Vision

P/8

## NEW ZEALAND

Christianity in Global Perspective

P/9

## NEW ZEALAND

Addressing our Physical Location

P/10-11

## GLOBAL

10 Ways you can Serve in Missions

P/12

## NOTICES

Tell us how you'd like to serve with the gifts  
God has given you.

p/2





## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

# Casting Vision: A New Chapter for OMS

I am excited for what is, and what is to come. I've witnessed One Mission Society's 122-year legacy of changing lives, and this legacy continues today with men and women around the world serving on the field who are; connected to 14,000 indigenous coworkers and 150 global partners, impacting over 80 countries, and reaching 600,000,000 people today! You are a vital part of this story through your prayers, financial support, and, for some, through serving on short-term or long-term missions. You are part of our legacy, and I am honoured to have you on our team.

As our legacy guides us from where we have been, I want to cast a vision of where we are going in New Zealand. I believe that we are in a time of sowing into the harvest. We have a new generation coming up—these are our children and grandchildren. They are the ones who will take The Great Commission to the unreached. I believe this is where our investment matters. This is our chance to lead intentionally with purpose and with succession in mind.

### Introducing Project “Follow Me”

John 10:27 (NIV): “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

Project “Follow Me” is designed to engage the leaders of the church to lead or co-lead groups of individuals from their congregations, chosen by pastors and church leaders, to mission fields beyond our area codes. These individuals are our future leaders in the church, those who will answer God's call to serve. The pastor will provide continuity before, during, and after the trip, acting as a mentor beyond the mission. OMS NZ is looking to the future by sowing the harvest with mission trips designed to develop our future leaders.

We will provide the necessary training for those going and leading internationally. You will have OMS NZ's global network supporting you, and you will have the resources you need.

**A Call to Action:** I am reaching out to those with a heart to serve—those who are retired, those who can mentor, the pastors, and those of us who can say, “Follow Me.” The BIG question is, will you answer the call?

We have an incredible opportunity to shape the future of our mission and to ensure that our legacy continues through the next generation. Your involvement, whether through mentoring, financial support, active participation or prayer is crucial to our success. Together, we can empower a new generation to carry the torch of The Great Commission, reaching the one to reach the many.

If you have a calling on your heart, please send me a direct email at [stephen@oms.org.nz](mailto:stephen@oms.org.nz).

Warm regards,  
**Stephen McCurdy**  
Executive Director  
OMS New Zealand

# PHILIPPINES/NEW ZEALAND

Blessed to be a blessing.

***“Having the same heartbeat as Jesus, that is something that’s powerful. To look at people with compassion, just as Jesus does.”***

As Ruth preached these words at Hamilton Elim Church, there was no doubt that she lives what she was preaching. This meeting was just one of many that Phil and Ruth Robinson spoke at around New Zealand throughout June and July. And through them, hundreds of people were impacted and empowered.

One of the main messages that was highlighted as they shared about their work in the Philippines was about the difference between reaching people and engaging them. Reaching people with the Gospel is only the beginning. When the people have been reached, the next step is to take them into an engaging relationship with Jesus. This, of course, requires time to build relationships, disciple and mentor the people.



*Phil and Ruth speaking at Hamilton Elim Church in July.*





*Speaking at Discovery Christian Centre.*



*Pictured with Peter from Eastwest College.*

Engaging with the Filipino people and helping them on their faith journey is a large part of Phil and Ruth's work, and is what encourages them to keep going when things are hard. It was certainly encouraging to hear this message, and to be reminded of the amazing work God is doing, despite the hard times we face.

We would like to thank everyone who hosted Phil and Ruth, and helped set up meetings for them. They had a fantastic couple of months with people in Auckland, Hamilton, Morrinsville, Te Puru, Gordonton, Nelson, Blenheim, and Christchurch. They were able to speak in churches, small groups, in one on one meetings; as well as share at Eastwest Bible College and on Radio Rhema.

The Philippines continues to be our biggest destination to send short-term teams. We have made plans with Phil and Ruth for future teams, which will require both physical work and ministry work in the villages. We would love to have you join us on a team! If you're feeling called to the Philippines for 2025, email our teams coordinator, Sara Kenny, at [teams@oms.org.nz](mailto:teams@oms.org.nz) for all the details!



*(From top left going clockwise) At Agape Bible Chapel in Morrinsville; with the Seniors group at Manakau City Baptist Church; with the Filipino group at Harvest Life Church in Blenheim; with the congregation of Te Puru Combined Church.*



# HUNGARY

## Summer Camp Fun!



*As you can see from these photos, the Summer English Camps (SEC) in Hungary have been another huge success! But what's even more special this year is SEC celebrating 30 years of epic camps! Check out what the kids have been up to!*

With the Olympics going on in Paris, the timing was perfect for the camp to participate in their own Olympics games. The teams created their own names, chants and flags, before participating in a series of friendly but competitive games. The power of teamwork was clear as the 'Girly Pops' came out on top by the smallest point difference in SEC history!



p/6



As well as games, everyone was able to enjoy learning new hobbies in a variety of workshops which also gave opportunities for us to connect with each other in a small group setting.



Conversation groups and English classes have also been a highlight, as the teams are encouraged to participate in activities that help them learn English, and get their creative juices flowing.

But the best part of these camps is teaching the kids about the love of Jesus. It is a safe place for them to ask questions in a loving environment. As you see these photos, I'm sure you'll agree with me just how much love is radiated at these camps. As expected, the good-byes are the hardest part.



Would you like to join in next year? Start planning now to be ready for July 2025! Contact Sara at [teams@oms.org.nz](mailto:teams@oms.org.nz) for more information.



# NEW ZEALAND

## Christianity In Global Perspective Event.

Have you ever thought about trends in global christianity? What about the impact of women in christianity? These are certainly two things I hadn't really thought about before, until July.



*Dr. Gina Zurlo. Photo credit: Danielle Daphne Ang.*

Missions Interlink hosted an event called 'Christianity in Global Perspective' with guest speaker Dr. Gina Zurlo (Ph.D). She is a world renowned Christian demographer, historian, and was named one of the BBC's 100 most influential and inspiring women of 2019.

Gina is the co-director of the Centre for the Study of Global Christianity, where she helps edit the World Christian Database. She is also a Visiting Research Fellow at Boston University's Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs, where she edits the World Religion Database. So clearly, she is extremely knowledgeable in her field!

I thought I'd share a few interesting facts I learnt and felt quite challenged by.

### TRENDS IN CHRISTIANITY:

- \* David B. Barrett was the first person to count all religions across the globe. He spent the 1960s and 70s travelling to 212 countries collecting data!
- \* The 3rd edition of the 'World Christian Encyclopaedia' was published in November 2019, which Gina also helped put together. She was also chosen to present a copy to the Pope.
- \* In 1900, 82% of Christianity was located in the North (Northern America and Europe with 460 million people). Where 18% percent was in the South (Latin America, Africa, Asia, Oceania with 99 million people).
- \* In 2020, 33% of Christianity was in the North (833 million people) and 67% was in the South (1,686 million people).
- \* Currently Africa is leading for future Christianity. What are they doing that Western Christians can do better?

### WOMEN IN WORLD CHRISTIANITY:

- \* Demographics have estimated that the majority of Christianity is female everywhere in the world.
- \* Yet there is a chronic lack of data on gender in World Christianity. Because of this, in 2019, Gina began a new project studying women in world Christianity.
- \* In an article co-written by Gina that was published in June 2024, it is stated that "Women have been utterly critical for the growth and survival of movements in the face of competing religions, persecution, and shifts in political power. There would be no twentieth-century shift of Christianity to the global South, nor its tremendous numerical growth, without women working as indigenous evangelists, raising their children in the faith, and spreading the message of Jesus among their local networks."

We are thankful Gina was able to take the time to visit New Zealand and share her knowledge with us! If you're interested in hearing about her work, she has a lot of videos on Youtube as well as podcasts online.

By Imogen Cook - Content Creator/HOPE61 Trainer.

# NEW ZEALAND

## Addressing our Physical Location.

Over the past years, we have made tremendous strides in advancing our mission and ensuring the sustainability of One Mission Society. Today, I am thrilled to share a significant milestone in our journey: the successful sale of our building. This strategic decision is part of our long-term plan to increase income by leveraging the proceeds from the sale of our physical assets. This transition to a hybrid operating model has already led to remarkable growth in our ministry and strengthened OMS's long-term sustainability.



*The OMS NZ office in 2019.*

I know none of this could have been achieved without you. Together, we have embraced new ways of working and adapted to changes with resilience and determination. Our move to a hybrid model has not only maintained but enhanced our ability to serve and reach more people, ensuring that our mission continues to flourish.

It has been the greatest honour of my life to serve as your leader during this transformative period. As we look to the future, I hope to find a new headquarters over the next two years. However, I am incredibly proud of the superb accomplishments we have achieved under our current structure. Our flexibility and innovation have demonstrated that physical constraints do not limit our impact.

This transition marks a new chapter in our story, one that is filled with promise and potential. By reinvesting the proceeds from the sale, we have been able to expand our programs, support our missionaries more effectively, and ensure the long-term viability of OMS. Our ministry has grown, and we are better positioned than ever to fulfill our mission.

I am reaching out to all of you who have been part of this journey—our supporters, volunteers, and staff—to express my deepest gratitude. Your dedication, faith, and adaptability have been the driving force behind our success. We have proven that, together, we can overcome any challenge and turn it into an opportunity for growth and improvement.

As we continue to navigate this exciting path, I am confident that our collective efforts will lead to even greater achievements. We are building a legacy that will endure for generations to come, ensuring that One Mission Society remains a beacon of hope and faith.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment. Together, we are making a lasting impact, and I am honored to lead such a dedicated and visionary team.

Warm regards,

Stephen McCurdy

Executive Director

# GLOBAL

## 10 Ways You Can Serve In Missions

*Do you feel like you're not called to missions or maybe you just don't have time? Well, when Jesus shared with us with the Great Commission, it wasn't a commandment for just some of us, but for all of us. Missions can be done in many different ways, and doesn't always require you leaving your family and heading overseas.*

***Here are 10 ways that you can serve in missions (some of which may surprise you):***

***1. Start a missions corner in your church***

Do you currently have a display in your church that is catered for missions work? Having a missional display is a great way to share news of local and global work where sharing the Gospel is a priority. As missions is a central theme in the Bible, it should also be a focus in our churches.

***2. Join a club/night class***

This can be in your school, university or in your local area. Joining a club or a night class can be a great way to learn a new skills and meet new people. These new connections can provide opportunities to practice local missions and share about the Gospel.





### 3. Start networking

Venture out into different organisations that work to spread the Gospel. You will meet so many different people who are doing mission work in unique ways, therefore gaining a greater understanding and knowledge of local and global missions.

### 4. Invite people to speak

Now that you've met a number of new people through networking, invite them to share! This can be done anywhere, in your church, small group, or events that you hold. In this way, we can share ideas and support each other.

### 5. Be a volunteer gardener

This is a terrific way to help your neighbours. Mission work isn't just talking about how to do it, but actually putting our words into action: serving as Jesus served by helping those in need. An added bonus of this is that you're helping look after God's creation, taking care of His garden.

### 6. Support missionaries prayerfully and financially

This is an oldie but a goodie. One of the best things we can do for missionaries is to pray for them. They are a group on the front lines of battle, so we must help provide the spiritual protection that they need. Donating financially is also an extremely helpful way to contribute to the Kingdom. The money you donate helps churches get built, ministries get started and sees lives changed.

### 7. Join a short-term mission

Maybe you're thinking of dipping your toes into the mission field? A 2-3 week trip can be a real eye-opener, testing your flexibility, your dependence on God and showing you how you can use your giftings in new ways. We have terrific opportunities for short-term trips; check them out on our website, [oms.org.nz](http://oms.org.nz).

### 8. Invest in a mission project

As well as supporting individual missionaries, there are opportunities to support certain ministry projects. A few opportunities through OMS NZ include the Caleb Institute in India and the Moscow Seminary in Russia, seminaries that teach theology in relevant and practical ways. We also



partner with Homes of Hope in Fiji, the Mangyan ministry in the Philippines, and the OMS camps in Spain and Hungary. HOPE61, our human trafficking prevention ministry, is also an excellent project to get behind. Countless lives are being changed through these ministries, and with your help, we can do even more!

### 9. Host fundraisers

Perhaps you have a knack for putting together and hosting fabulous fundraisers? There are so many opportunities to raise money for missions work, whether it be supporting a missionary, a mission project, organisation, or helping send passionate individuals on a short-term mission.

### 10. Consult with God on all things

I left the most important item for last. The best way to serve in missions is to ask God for guidance. Without Him, everything else on this list would be pointless. God was the first to do mission work, so naturally following His example and asking for His advice is the way to go.

After all, the heart of missions is to bring Jesus to those He came to save.

By Imogen Cook.

# NOTICES FROM OMS NZ

**HOPE61** "You are anointed to proclaim the good news to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim freedom for the captives, and release prisoners from darkness." (Isaiah 61:1). Interested in finding out how? Sign up to take a human trafficking prevention training and learn how your God given gifts can be used to prevent trafficking in YOUR community. Email Imogen at [hope61@oms.org.nz](mailto:hope61@oms.org.nz) to register your interest!

**Volunteer with us** Do you want to be involved with OMS in another way? We're eager to chat with anyone who's interested in volunteering their time to further God's Kingdom. Bring the unique skills God has given you and let's work out how to best utilise your giftings within the OMS organisation. Contact us through the details on our contents page at the start of the newsletter to start the conversation.

We acknowledge the support of Risk Advice Limited.

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## FOLLOW US on social media



Please like, follow, and share us on Facebook and Instagram. It's an excellent way to get more people aware of what we're doing and how they can get involved!  
[@OneMissionNZ](https://www.facebook.com/OneMissionNZ)



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- ☐ I want to receive this newsletter by email.
- ☐ Send me info on short term teams.
- ☐ I would like to have a HOPE61 one day training at my church.
- ☐ I want to unsubscribe from this newsletter.

**Return this completed form to:**

OMS, Freepost 101250, PO Box 24038,  
Hillcrest, Hamilton 3251.

You can also email or phone us if you would like to make any changes.

Regards, the OMS NZ Team.

### TO FINANCIALLY PARTNER IN THE HARVEST:

Make a deposit through your bank branch or internet banking to:

Westpac Bank  
OMS International NZ  
03 1556 0029014 000

\* Please include your name and the missionary or ministry/project you are supporting in the transaction details.