

DEC/JAN/FEB

2023/2024

INTO THE HARVEST

ONE MISSION SOCIETY NEW ZEALAND

FIVE MORE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION!



ONEMISSION
OMS · ONE MISSION SOCIETY

p/4

WHEN YOU FOLLOW GOD'S PLAN, DOORS OPEN!

p/8

THANK YOU CHUNI FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE!

p/10

WITNESSING GOD'S WORK UNFOLD IN THE PHILIPPINES!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

P/4-6

RAROTONGA

See the fruit that comes from letting God make the plans, not us!



P/8-9

TO BE A MISSIONARY

Thank you Chuni!



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P/3

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Looking ahead to a new year.

P/7

AUSTRALIA

Training new missionaries in human trafficking prevention.

P/10-11

PHILIPPINES

Connecting with our partners.

P/12

NOTICES

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

p/2

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INTO THE HARVEST

DEC 2023 — FEB 2024



Thank you to all the donors that have and continue to support us on our journey. We are encouraged by your generosity and your continued support as we journey on to reach the world for the Kingdom.

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LETTER FROM
THE DIRECTOR

Dear supporters and partners of OMS NZ,

As we approach the end of another year, we at One Mission Society New Zealand extend our heartfelt gratitude and warmest Christmas greetings to you and your loved ones. Your unwavering support and prayers have been the cornerstone of the remarkable journey we have traversed in 2023.

In the spirit of the season, we reflect upon the boundless grace that has propelled our mission forward. Our dedicated teams, spanning from Hungary, Estonia, the Philippines, Rarotonga, to our own beautiful New Zealand team, have tirelessly worked to equip Christians with the Gospel and extend God's love to every critical frontline.

Our efforts in the Philippines have especially resonated with me, as we empowered local communities to embody the teachings of Christ.

Our NZ HQ Team has buzzed with activity, from conversing with aspiring missionaries to forging meaningful connections with other organisations. Your generous donations have fuelled these endeavours, enabling us to broaden our reach and touch more lives with Christ's transformative message.

As we look ahead to 2024, we are filled with hope and renewed vigour to continue this holy endeavour. The roadmap ahead is promising, with new projects and collaborations on the horizon. We invite you to remain a part of this enriching journey as we strive to glorify Christ in all we do.

We pray that this Christmas season fills your heart with joy, peace, and the love of Christ. May the New Year usher in abundant blessings and continued partnership in our shared mission.

With the warmest regards, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Stephen McCurdy

Executive Director
OMS New Zealand

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RAROTONGA

His plans, not ours.

“But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative - that is, the Holy Spirit - he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.” **John 14:26 NLT.**

Earlier this year, we began planning a HOPE61 focused trip to Rarotonga; an exciting opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking in the Pacific Islands and train people on how to prevent it. But in the preparation process, we weren't able to book as many speaking engagements or trainings in advance as we would have liked.

But I am so thankful we didn't.

Through the process of preparing for this trip, it was certainly frustrating at times that things weren't moving at a pace we wanted. But the few weeks before we left, I had a continuous, supernatural peace that this trip would be one of impact. Because we would be doing things according to God's plan, not ours.

Here are all the doors God opened for us during our trip to Rarotonga...



Karen (L) and Imogen with OMS NZ missionary Chuni Pema about to be interviewed for Cook Islands TV.



Combined Church Prayer Meeting

Our second night in Rarotonga, Karen and I joined our missionary Chuni Pema in attending a combined prayer meeting to pray for Israel.

It was an amazing evening of unity with a total of 8 churches joining together, not only praying for Israel and the current situation, but the Pastors also prayed for their congregations to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to share the Gospel.

It was also a great opportunity to meet a few of the Pastors and church members to share about the purpose of our trip. One of the Pastors shared that he had a copy of the 'Sound of Freedom' movie (a recent movie that came out about child sex trafficking). Yet every time he sat down to watch it, he could bring himself to do so as he knew what it was about. This movie was a common topic that came up in our conversations with people.

Cook Islands TV

An amazing opportunity opened up with the local Cook Islands TV station. We visited the TV station as Chuni knows people who work there. An OMS team had also connected with them in October last year when we sent a media team to Rarotonga.

On our fourth day there, I was interviewed on our reason for being in the Islands, and was able to share about how big human trafficking has become.

Then on our eighth day, we were invited to do a follow up interview where Chuni and Karen joined me and we were able to share about the things we had learned on our trip, and how people can be effective in recognising and preventing trafficking.

From our first interview, we connected with a woman from Chuni's church who is involved with a few different community groups, including working with children and youth. She was interested in getting those she works with, training about preventing people getting involved in trafficking situations. I'm excited to follow up with her through email!



Chuni's Home Group

Chuni kindly invited us to speak at his home group on Friday night. A couple of people couldn't make it that night, but we had a wonderful time connecting with those that were there.

I was able to share about human trafficking, what it looks like in the Islands and how everyone was serving their community. Each person was very responsive in learning this information and we had opportunities for further connections open up.

Bobby knew people in the government, and after learning this happens where he lived, he was fired up to talk with them to make a change. Bobby's wife Mata sells hand made crafts at the Saturday markets, and the next day I heard that she had talked to her friends at the markets about what she had learned about trafficking. Another woman Romea wanted to share this information with her daughter who has started a new church in Brisbane, and wanted to get some training about this for them. These are amazing connections!

p/5



Itu Productions

Another TV station on the island, Vaka TV, connected us with an amazing couple, Teariki and Joy Allsworth. They own a company called Itu Productions and create short films and videos for worthy causes. We were able to meet with them to discuss the possibility of making a short video about human trafficking prevention that can be played regularly on TV.

Teariki and Joy are passionate people who are keen to spread this awareness in the Islands. We're excited to chat with them further to make this idea a reality!

Visiting the prison

A regular ministry Chuni does in Rarotonga is visiting prison inmates. His pastoral heart yearns to help those who are hurting and to listen to those who don't have regular visitors.

We were blessed to join him and his team on Sunday after church, and visit some men he visits weekly. Karen joined Chuni and Okey at one table, and I joined Romea at another. We were able to share about human trafficking, which wasn't a surprise to them. However, we got a good response and had some in depth discussion about it.



Along with all these pictured moments, we were able to share about human trafficking with those we met in the street and in Chuni's church. God delivered above and beyond what we thought possible and I am so thankful to Him for all He organised.

I also thank God for all of you who prayed, donated, and supported HOPE61 and this trip. You have been part of something big and I believe this is just the beginning! If you'd like to support HOPE61 in anyway, or would like regular updates, email me at hope61@oms.org.nz.

Many blessings,
Imogen Cook
HOPE61 Trainer
One Mission Society New Zealand.



The beauty of Rarotonga.

AUSTRALIA

Opportunity after opportunity!

After an incredible time in Rarotonga, 2 weeks later I jumped on a plane to head to Melbourne for more of what God had in store. The way He has brought incredible opportunities for HOPE61 this year, I wait with anticipation to see what happens next!

The OMS Australia team graciously hosted me in exchange that I would take some of their missionaries in training (and one OMS friend) through the one day HOPE61 ENGAGE training. Each of these passionate people have a huge desire to take Jesus to those who are hurting, and provide a safe community for them to heal. This led to amazing discussions with them about how they can put into action what they had learned through the training, into their ministries.

A specific highlight of the training is looking at scripture and identifying what defines a God driven community. (You can see part of our brainstorm in the photo below.) This activity provoked a powerful realisation for my trainees about what actually looks like to serve. Not only this, but it is up to us to put all this into action outside the church doors.

My trainees are planning to serve in Japan, Cambodia, and Thailand in the near future. Please be praying for them as they prepare to go!



Imogen with her five trainees in Melbourne in November.

TO BE A MISSIONARY

Thank you Chuni!



Above: Chuni assisting Ps Rely Samonte hand out New Testament Bibles to prisoners in the Philippines.

Right: Chuni baptising new believers in Bangladesh.

Opposite page: Chuni leading worship at New Song Church in Rarotonga.



After almost 20 years with One Mission Society New Zealand, Ps Chunillal Pema has decided to begin his journey to missionary retirement. He shares with us what he's learnt through his time in ministry.



"Speaking to 25,000 spiritually hungry Indian believers; baptising over 200 Bangladeshi believers in a fish pond over one afternoon; breaking the soil of a church plant in the Indian jungle, and returning two years later to find a fully functioning Church.

Working with mountain tribes in the Philippines; ministering to those held in prison and seeing the power of the Holy Spirit work in their lives; being able to share the burden of mission with young and old alike across New Zealand. These are just a few of the miraculous and soul enriching experiences I have had the privilege of participating in over my 18 years of missionary work with OMS NZ.

My first seven years were spent as the Executive Director of OMS NZ where I had the thrill of seeing numbers of key men and women take up the challenge and call of mission overseas. Part of my role was to speak to churches and groups about missions work around NZ. On one such occasion, I saw many young boys and girls come to Christ. The call for OMS NZ was to train missionaries for overseas mission, but this experience revealed to me that we have a whole backyard full of souls to lead to Christ, without leaving the shores of Aotearoa.

Watching as God transformed broken lives and brought reconciliation to families, churches, and communities; facing pastors who tearfully relate their experiences of persecution; listening lovingly to the pain of those who face the struggles of lack of finances and helpers - this and so much more is and has been the honour of being a missionary.

Indeed there are certainly bright praise worthy moments which shall never be forgotten, but there are seasons when trouble comes with a capital T into your life and suddenly you must work through the mine-field of temptation, discouragement, and despair. Once through the fire, you realise that God has been with you all the time and never once left you, and that every tear was precious to Him. This is a missionary's life, full of real people experiencing real life and real situations, but with the strength and love of a very Real God!

I would be remiss if I did not mention those who, although physically unable to stand on the mission-field, stood with hands clasped in prayer, pockets empty from giving sacrificially to support me, and hearts in unity with all that God was doing in my life. Their trust, love and faithfulness so often bolstered me up and reminded that I was actually part of a greater team and that I was never, ever alone, not even once! Thank you all!"

PHILIPPINES

Witnessing God's work unfold



Stephen with leaders from different OMS ministries in the Philippines..

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I've recently returned from an inspiring journey to the Philippines, where I had the privilege of witnessing the incredible strides our dedicated team and partners are making. Nestled in the vibrant landscapes of Mindoro, I experienced the essence of our mission with Jesus Christian Ministries (JCM) - Malolos Partners and the OMS NZ Teams.

For over a quarter-century, our collective efforts have been deeply rooted in a holistic mission, nurturing the body, mind, and soul of communities through the steadfast pillars of OMS-NZ: Discipleship, Disciple Making, Church Planting, and Church Multiplication. Our vision has blossomed into a multigenerational beacon of hope, with the second and third generations of leaders now emerging.

This transformative journey reminds me of Philippians 1:6, "being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." It's a testament to God's enduring faithfulness in our mission.

Imagine a future where once unreachable tribes are now home to university graduates, educators, and trained professionals, all united by a desire to serve and uplift their communities. This is not a distant dream—it's a reality unfolding before our eyes. These graduates are the new leaders, returning to their roots,

Take Donna, for example, a guide for the children of Mindoro. Sponsored by generous New Zealand supporters, she is about to become a teacher at a JCM school, ready to open the doors of learning from kindergarten through to year six. Donna represents the future we are building together—a future where education and faith intertwine to elevate entire communities.

As we stand on the cusp of this educational renaissance, we invite you to be a part of this transformative journey. Your support is the catalyst for change, empowering teams who are tirelessly working on the frontlines. In the coming days, I look forward to sharing opportunities for you to make a tangible difference in the lives of these children, our future missionaries.

With your help, we can continue to change the trajectory of entire tribes, one child, one teacher, one community at a time, fulfilling the work God has called us to do. If you'd like to join one of our teams going to the Philippines to serve, email us at teams@oms.org.nz. We'd love to have you!

Warm regards,

Stephen McCurdy
Executive Director.



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 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.

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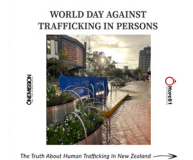
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Regards, the OMS NZ Team.

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