

INTO THE HARVEST

ONE MISSION SOCIETY NEW ZEALAND



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From the Office Desk

Have you ever found yourself asking, What's next for me? My husband and I found ourselves in that very place—not lost, just uncertain. We began to wonder if it was time to hang up our boots and ease into retirement. But every time we considered it, there was no peace. Then, something incredible happened.

Over the past year, different people—on different occasions—spoke the same words to us: *“God’s not finished with you. He has more for you to do.”*

Shortly after, we were invited to attend the OMS Asia/Pacific Conference in January 2025 in Thailand. It became clear this was the beginning of something new—a fulfilment of those repeated words. Meeting missionaries, field leaders, and staff from across the globe, we were struck by something beautiful: **so many of them were in our age group.**

Curious, we asked several couples why they were still serving on the mission field. Their answers were simple yet profound: *“Because we feel free to serve God.” “Because we can.”*

There was no mention of age, no thought of limitations. Instead, there was freedom, joy, and a deep sense of purpose. Watching others our age live by faith, serve with passion, and carry no burdens of retirement-age expectations lit a fire within us. We felt truly connected to their joy.

We returned home to New Zealand with renewed excitement and energy. The message had sunk in: **you are never too old to serve God, and never too old to serve in missions.**

This reminder kept coming. As I took on a team leader role in OMS after the departure of our director, this opened doors for me to help missionaries prepare for the field, as well as travel to Greenwood, USA for the OMS mission council meetings.

Our newest missionary and many of those that I met at Greenwood were of similar age to me. God was confirming His message again and again: **“I’m not finished with you. There is more to do.”** And we believe it.

Scripture reminds us in **Luke 10:2 (NIV)**:

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Wherever you are in life—whether you're in your 30s, 50s, or well into retirement—God can use you. He still wants to use me. He still wants to use you.

Blessings,
Karen Moar
Team Leader/Administrator.



**THE POWER OF DISCIPLESHIP:
ESTONIA.**

BRENT AND COLLEEN HAVE SERVED WITH OMS FOR 30+ YEARS, SERVING THE LORD IN DISCIPLESHIP, TRAINING CHURCH LEADERS, TEACHING, AND MENTORING.

Tere Eestist - Hi From Estonia!

“Two years ago this August, we arrived in Estonia. As a couple, we see various ways that our ministries in Spain, Russia, and Ukraine have prepared us for this time and place. We desire to invite all people to come and to know God deeply, follow Him faithfully, and love their neighbours as Christ has loved us.

Our primary ministry is teaching at the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary in Tallinn. We teach courses in Healthy Church Planting and Development, Discipleship, Theology of Missions, Spiritual Formation, and the Bible. Our students come from more than nine countries, speak one of three languages: Estonian, Russian, or English, and vary in age, ministry calling, denomination, and Christian experience. We are privileged to have this opportunity to share God’s heart and Word with a new generation of leaders who will then mobilize ordinary church members into God’s mission in His world.



Outside the seminary: Brent and Colleen's discipleship in action

We also reach out to make disciples through our leadership of an English Bible study fellowship at the Tallinn Methodist church. This fellowship has members from eight countries; and through our partnership with a Ukrainian couple, we also host an evangelistic English speaking club each Friday evening. Half of the club members are refugees from Ukraine, so God is graciously allowing us to remain connected with a nation we love and for which we deeply grieve.

Brent continues to coach an Estonian couple (Allar and Piret) who have been effective in training people to develop and lead small groups in several Estonian towns. They describe their ministry as a 'slow-motion revival.' Over the past two years, fifty-three people have turned to Jesus through witness of Christians, who a few years ago had no idea that God could use them in any special way. This is reason for great rejoicing in the spiritually hard ground of Estonia which is rated one of the least religious countries in the world.

**“God is graciously
allowing us to
remain connected
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we deeply grieve.”**

Globally, Colleen facilitates access to discipleship training opportunities for OMS missionaries and remains at the ready to encourage colleagues near and far. We recently hosted a mission team from the USA who helped paint an historic church, so there is always a place for you to serve here if God calls. Watch this space as we grow the potential for short term trips here!

Please pray for us as we continue to teach, guide, love, and serve the community that God has lead us to in this small northern corner of Europe. Pray also that those we touch will go on to touch others with the love, truth, and forgiveness of God offered through faith in Jesus.”



The USA team help paint a local church



English Bible Study Fellowship

Teens on Mission: Fiji

PARTNERING WITH FINLAY PARK AND HOMES OF HOPE

“Therefore, Go”

Most Christians can recite Matthew 28:19-20, beginning with the words ‘therefore, go’. These verses then tells us to make disciples of all nations, baptising them, and teaching them to obey the commands of Jesus. But we can’t do these things until we decide to go.

Whether we go overseas or go to our neighbours house, putting into action this command can be hard for some of us. However, for 12 teenagers from Finlay Park Adventure Camp in Cambridge, they answered the command to go and in return, were abundantly blessed. Continue reading to see the amazing work God did in the lives of these young people, as they partnered with Homes of Hope Fiji to share the love of Jesus!



The team praying outside a village.

When you’re willing to go.

The growth of all the teenagers over these two short weeks was obvious. We received feedback about their “newfound confidence in prayer, sharing, and worship”, and how they grew in their faith. One of the girls shared, “I am enjoying reading the Bible now, and doing Bible studies with my friends.” There was also a glorious observation of “seeing everyone’s joy even in the midst of hardship.”

Much of their time in the villages they visited was spent with the children, leading them through programs where they “sung songs, told Bible stories, danced, shared testimonies, and played games.” It was clear how much fun the team had with the kids, and what a joy it was to bring the love to Jesus to these little hearts.

Alongside serving in 5 different villages, the team had the opportunity to impact their peers as they ministered to an assembly of teenagers at a local high school. A couple of the team shared their testimonies, then they performed songs and skits pointing to how the Creator of the universe values them.

Team leader Nicole shares the impact she saw on this trip and it is beautiful!

“There is a Māori proverb that came to mind as we journeyed through this outreach trip:

**"He aha te mea nui? He tāngata,
he tāngata, he tāngata."
"What is the most important thing?
It is people, it is people, it is people."**

It was always about the people—from the young people who put their hands up and trusted the Lord to lead them, to the Fijian people God set before us, ordained that we might meet and build one another up, and to the faithful saints who prayerfully supported us. I am so grateful to God for all the people He has brought together.

A heartfelt thank you to all who covered our team in prayer. We will never fully know the impact these prayers had, but from my perspective, the Lord our God revealed Himself as both tangible and mighty. His hand of peace and protection was certainly over us.



Sharing testimonies at a high school.



Children and women ministry in the village.

I recall the youth having a hard day midway through—and instead of arguing, I watched as they chose to pray for each other and share Bible verses of encouragement. It brought such joy to see how God is working in each of these young people's lives. He certainly has great plans for them.

We leave Fiji not with a chapter closed, but with people we will continue to support and walk alongside from New Zealand. We praise the Lord for the opportunity to keep partnering with our Fijian family and are excited to see what His plans will hold.

So, thank you again for playing such a powerful role in this kingdom-shaping work.”

We are thrilled to keep our partnership with Finlay Park going, with plans for another mission trip in 2027. Praise God!

By Imogen Cook.



Connecting Globally: USA

IMOGEN COOK HAS SERVED WITH OMS NZ FOR 10 YEARS, WORKING IN THE OFFICE IN MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS, AS WELL AS WORKING AS A HOPE61 TRAINER, TEACHING ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION.

Back in April, we said goodbye to our long time OMS staff member, Sara Kenny. God called her to move back to Ohio in the States after serving 8 years in New Zealand. In God's graciousness this opened up an opportunity for me to travel back with her, to support her and her 4 year old son with their relocation.

But during my time there, God also opened the door for us to visit OMS' headquarters in the next state over, Indiana. This was my first time visiting Greenwood, where I could see the OMS head office and their campus that houses missionaries and ministry workers.

This was a wonderful few days where I could meet in person those I communicate with through email, but also to catch up with a couple of my fellow HOPE61 trainers, Tonya and Lori. Tonya is the associate director of HOPE61 and was the one who came to New Zealand in 2018 to take a group of us through the HOPE61 MULTIPLY training. She is the reason I can teach HOPE61 ENGAGE trainings!

Lori is a HOPE61 trainer for the US, and was a huge help to me when I began my role as a trainer. I'm thankful for her time to meet me over Zoom and share all her wisdom about human trafficking prevention. Lori is also a history buff, and so was the perfect choice to give us the OMS office tour and share some historical gems about OMS (that's been going for 124 years!)

Praise God for making a way for this to happen! Next, it was Karen's turn to visit. See her story next! Blessings, Imogen.

A Journey of Faith and Fellowship

In June, I had the privilege of attending the OMS Mission Council and Board meetings for OMS USA and OMS Global in Greenwood, Indiana. This trip was both a challenge and a blessing—a true step beyond my comfort zone. Having never flown alone to the United States, I faced many unknowns: unfamiliar airports, uncertain connections, and the question of whether I would know anyone at the conference.

Clinging to the reassurance of Matthew 6:25-34, “Do not worry about your life,” I placed my trust in God to guide me and give me strength throughout the journey.

My faith was certainly tested in the journey to get there. Through late arrivals, weather disruptions, a cancellation (resulting in an overnight airport stay), and lack of internet, I continued to find my comfort in Deuteronomy 31:8. “The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Along with this comfort, the Lord sent me 3 angels to help me through it all.

Finally arriving in Indiana after 2 long days, I wondered who would be there to greet me since my delay disrupted plans. But soon I heard my name and was warmly greeted by Daniel and Nancy.



Colleen and Karen



Wednesday Chapel at OMS



Our beds in Houston Airport

Greenwood became my home for two weeks—a sprawling hub for OMS with offices, apartments, and a vibrant community. I shared a room with Colleen Weaver, our missionary from Estonia, and cherished hearing her story of God’s provision and calling.

The first week of the Mission Council was filled with insightful discussions, policy reviews, worship, and fellowship. I met passionate couples who had sold everything and paid off debts to serve God in remote places. The hospitality and delicious meals provided by the Greenwood team were a blessing throughout.

The second week OMS USA and OMS Global meetings, where I found myself among highly educated professionals—lawyers, accountants, veterinarians—all united by a shared mission to serve God and win souls. Witnessing their passion and dedication was deeply moving; one leader’s tears revealed a heart focused not on finances, but on salvation of souls.

My goal was to connect with the people behind the emails and phone calls, to seek guidance for my role. Instead, I found a supportive family, ready to offer help immediately and wholeheartedly. Responses came swiftly, and no request was too small or too difficult.

This journey deepened my appreciation for my colleagues and strengthened my faith. I returned inspired, knowing I am part of a global mission family committed to serving together.

By Karen Moar.

Praise God! We are excited to be sending out our newest missionary, however this is someone who is certainly not new to the mission field. We are honoured to be with him as he makes his return to a country he once served.

For security purposes, we can't share his name so we will be referring to him as R.M. who will be serving in Asia. He will officially leave New Zealand in September 2025 so as he starts off this new season, we decided to ask him a few questions.

INTERVIEW

1) What is the best way for developing and multiplying churches in the country in which you will serve?

The church (i.e. the body of Christ) faces many challenges in the country where I will go to serve. The

constitution guarantees freedom of religion but subsequent laws make it very difficult to build church buildings. The church also suffers from religiosity and over-dependence on theologically-trained leaders. One of the things that has great potential for developing and multiplying churches (i.e. congregations) there, would be developing a template for house church meetings (which are technically legal in the country where I will be serving) with a focus on discipleship and ability to share one's faith.

2) Why do you think God has called you to go and serve in your retirement years?

I used to serve overseas but had to return to New Zealand to look after my elderly parents. They have both gone to be with the Lord now and I feel a call to return. Part of it is to fulfil prophecy spoken over me when I was much younger. The fact that it is my retirement years is more a reflection on me, in that it tends to take me a long time to come to a firm decision.

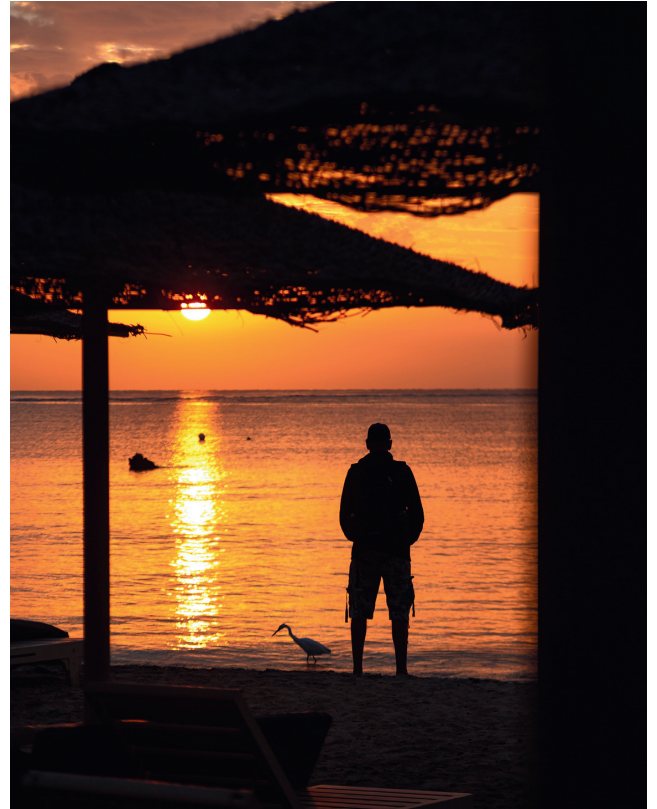
3) How can people best support a missionary?

Definitely by prayer support and financial support. Also by offering hospitality when they return home on furlough.

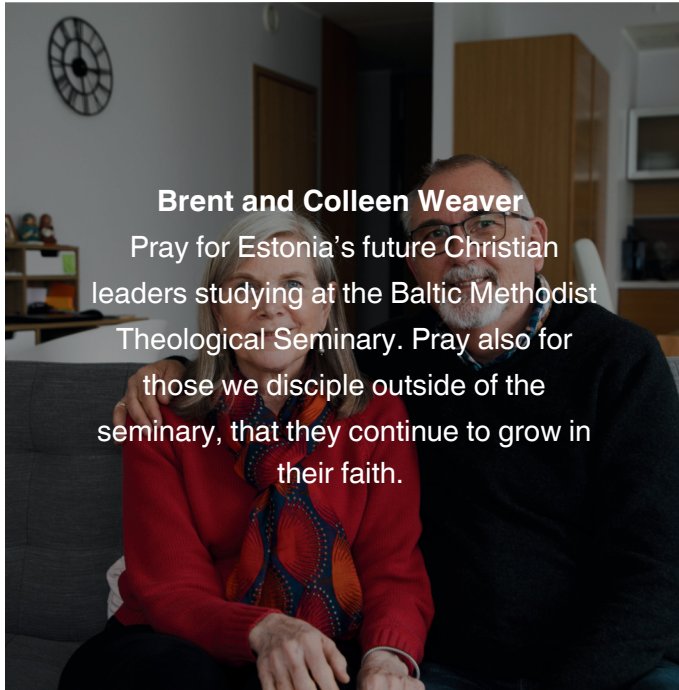
4) If someone was thinking about serving as a missionary, what advice would you give them?

Seek the Lord wholeheartedly. Seek the LORD and His strength; (Psalm 105:4). Talk to those who you look to as your spiritual oversight. Don't be put off by the lie that God no longer uses Western missionaries. Learn as much of the language as you can. If suitable resources aren't available for learning the language of the country you are thinking of going to, I would recommend the book LAMP (Language Acquisition Made Practical).

Please be praying for R.M. as he begins their next season of ministry. We know God will use him well to further His Kingdom.



“Never stop praying.” 1 Thess 5:17 (NLT)



Brent and Colleen Weaver

Pray for Estonia's future Christian leaders studying at the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary. Pray also for those we disciple outside of the seminary, that they continue to grow in their faith.



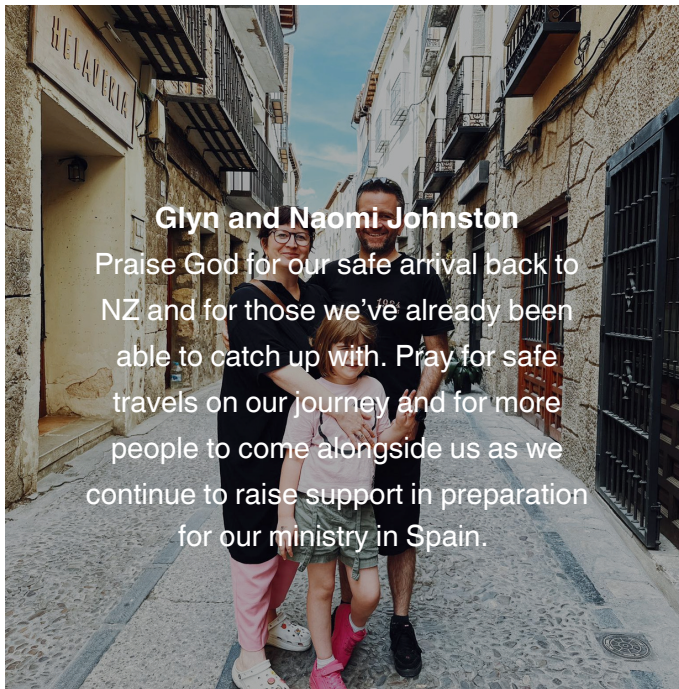
Phil and Ruth Robinson

Praise God for a new sewing machine for the tribe in Bulalacao, Philippines. Pray for the tribes we minister to as they go and reach out to their tribe neighbours with the Gospel.



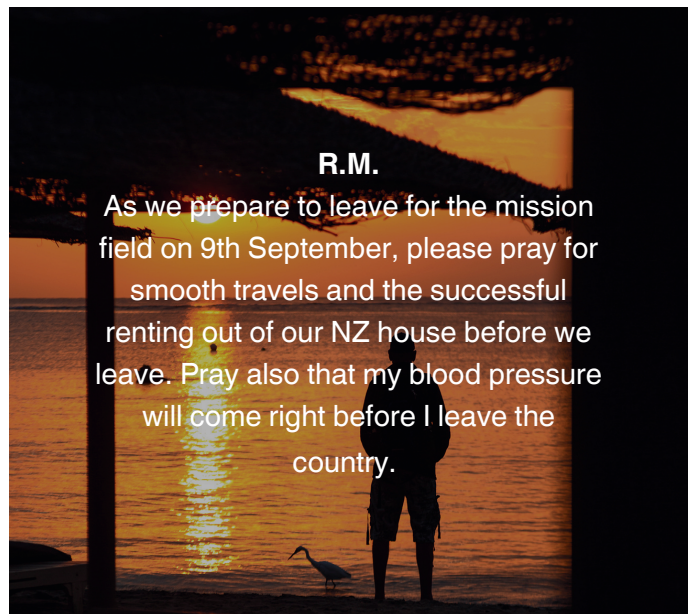
Rely and Lalaine Samonte

Please pray that we and those who we minister to will always have a Holy Spirit filled life. Pray also that more mission teams are able to come and minister here in the Philippines.



Glyn and Naomi Johnston

Praise God for our safe arrival back to NZ and for those we've already been able to catch up with. Pray for safe travels on our journey and for more people to come alongside us as we continue to raise support in preparation for our ministry in Spain.



R.M.

As we prepare to leave for the mission field on 9th September, please pray for smooth travels and the successful renting out of our NZ house before we leave. Pray also that my blood pressure will come right before I leave the country.

Thank you for partnering with us!

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