

JUN/JUL/AUG

2024

INTO THE HARVEST

ONE MISSION SOCIETY NEW ZEALAND

THE ROBINSONS WILL SOON BE ON NEW ZEALAND SOIL!



ONEMISSION
OMS ONE MISSION SOCIETY

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INTO THE HARVEST

JUN 2024 — AUG 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.

To donate please use the link below:

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LETTER FROM
THE DIRECTOR

Kia Ora!

As we navigate through this year, each step enriched by faith and fellowship, I am continually grateful for your commitment and support. Reflecting on our journey thus far, I am reminded of Nehemiah's resolve as chronicled in Nehemiah 2:18, "And they said, 'Let us rise up and build.' So they strengthened their hands for the good work." Inspired by this spirit, we have embraced the challenges and opportunities to build God's Kingdom together.

Since January, we've seen encouraging developments in our mission fields. Especially in Southeast Asia where OMS efforts have seen significant impact in the Philippines and in the tribes we are supporting.

Our missionaries, Phil and Ruth Robinson will be joining us in NZ throughout June and July to share these stories! You can find out more about their trip and where they'll be speaking in the following pages. We are thankful for the robust support and prayers from all of you—our steadfast partners in ministry.

Looking forward, we are excited to attend and participate in 'Thinking Matters' Conferences across the nation which will help foster community and further our mission. Speaking at these gatherings are not only a way to share the work God is doing, but is also a platform to share our vision and draw more hearts into this work. Your involvement in these events, whether through attendance, support, or prayer, is invaluable to us. Our short term teams coordinator, Sara Kenny, will be back at these conferences this year. If you'd like to know more, you can email her at sara@oms.org.nz.

As we continue this year, let us remain inspired by the example of Nehemiah, strengthening our hands for the good work. Thank you for your continued partnership and for raising your hands to support this Kingdom undertaking. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of many and advancing the kingdom of God.

May this season be one of growth, inspiration, and community as we look to the future with hope and expectation.

Warm regards,
Stephen McCurdy

Executive Director
OMS New Zealand

PHILIPPINES

The Robinsons return to NZ to visit.

If you've followed our newsletters or social media accounts for a while, you will be very familiar with our missionaries Phil and Ruth Robinson. They are an amazing, faithful couple who live in the Philippines, spending their days serving God in many different ways.

Some of these ways include:

- * Preaching and teaching in churches
- * Assisting and encouraging church planting ministries in different villages
- * Helping children get sponsored for their education
- * Providing food and other necessities for those struggling
- * Being field leaders and hosting short term mission teams

We're excited to share that Phil and Ruth, and their two children Jemimah and Zeke, will be coming to New Zealand to visit supporters, share about their work, and raise some more funding.



Phil and Ruth with their children, Jemimah and Zeke.



Here's the plan...

Thank you so much to all those who reached out to us, eager to have Phil and Ruth visit with you. We have tried our best to get them to as many places as possible. The itinerary below shows the churches they will be speaking at through June and July. They would love to see you if you can make it along!

Saturday 8 June - Breakfast meeting at Discovery Christian Centre in Hamilton.
 Sunday 9 June - Te Puru Combined Church in the Coromandel.
 Sunday 16 June - Hills Community Church in Mapua, Nelson.
 Sunday 23 June - Harvest Life Church in Blenheim.
 Sunday 30 June - Nelson Baptist Church.
 Sunday 7 July - Eastview Baptist Church in Auckland.
 Sunday 14 July - Hamilton Elim Church (morning services).
 Sunday 14 July - Agape Bible Chapel in Morrinsville (6-7pm service).
 Friday 19 July - Manakau City Baptist Church in Auckland (meeting with seniors).
 Sunday 21st July - Manakau City Baptist Church in Auckland.

They still have time slots open during the weekdays if you'd like to meet them or have them share at your small group. They have a lot of amazing stories to share of how God works miracles, provides, and heals in so many ways!

If you're interested, contact Imogen at media@oms.org.nz and we'll try organise a time!



Visiting an orphanage (L) and attending a training with Every Community for Christ (ECC).

NEW ZEALAND

The recipe for a short term mission trip.

If you've attended an event where OMS NZ had a presence, enquired about our opportunities, or gone on a trip with us in the past six years, I am sure we have met. But who am I and what do I do exactly?

My name is Sara Kenny and I first connected with OMS NZ through an internship with Elim Leadership College. From there, I came on staff as a support funded missionary in 2019 with the role of short term teams coordinator. As STT coordinator I am like a baker, carefully planning and measuring, to ensure a beautiful result. Ultimately external factors play a role, but thankfully God plays a huge role in the success of the project. My recipe for a trip involves a lot of hours, steps, and processes but from a basic point of view, the following steps outlay what my recipe contains.

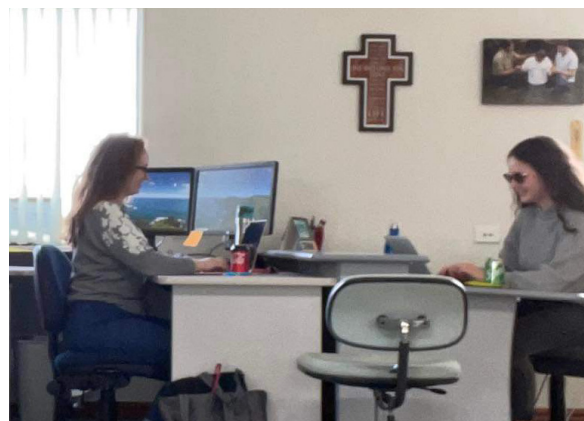


Sara's recipe for a successful short term missions trip

1. Find 1-15 individuals and adjust recipe accordingly.
2. Coordinate to form a relationship with team members, discover God-given passions and strengths.
3. Pre-heat the oven by coordinating with field staff and ministries.
4. Combine applications, reference checks, medical forms, passports, and police vetting into two checklists, one for each individual and one for the full team.
5. Stir together by communicating with the individuals, team, and field staff throughout.
6. Once combined, book flights.
7. Fold in team trainings, team preparation documents, and trip information sheets.
8. Sprinkle generously with prayer and put into the oven.
9. Once baked, let cool with debriefing.
10. Once cooled decorate with further debriefing, connection, and welcome home letters.
11. Enjoy and repeat!

It's a lot of careful planning but it is so incredible to play a part in what God is doing to spread His Kingdom. I love partnering with people as they learn and grow in their relationship with God and His mission.

Since COVID, my baking style has had to shift and change and part of that change has been towards the front of house. With a passion for people and missions, I am still someone who feels most comfortable in the kitchen, doing this by working behind the scenes and more personally with people. However, since 2021, my role of welcoming people to the bakery through PR and Networking has been so good. From the front of house, I now get to work with people before they step into the bakery, a prequel to my work as the baker. Traditionally this role is mobilizing. This means I get to welcome new "customers", share about the bakery (OMS), and invite people to get involved in the work being done. It's been a fun addition but involves a lot of work and many hours, to which I currently am only able to give to part-time.



My other role in life is full time mama to a toddler, with additional volunteering, church involvement, and serving where God leads. I am so grateful for how God provides, and how he makes this all possible. I am originally from the USA and as missionary staff with OMS NZ, my salary is made possible from the generous giving of people like you.

If you would like to support this work being done, and in turn myself in this role, I am currently in need of more financial support. I also welcome prayer partners, as prayer is truly a gift from God. If you would like to receive my monthly newsletters, please e-mail me at sara@oms.org.nz and I can get you added to my mailing list. If you would like to give you can visit our website www.oms.org.nz where you will find all the information necessary.

If you would like to get involved in missions or the work OMS is doing please e-mail me at teams@oms.org.nz

Sara speaking at a Thinking Matters Conference.



HUNGARY

Sabbath: A quiet rebellion.

Take a few minutes to remind yourself of the importance of the sabbath through this blog by our missionary, Naomi Johnston, serving in Hungary.

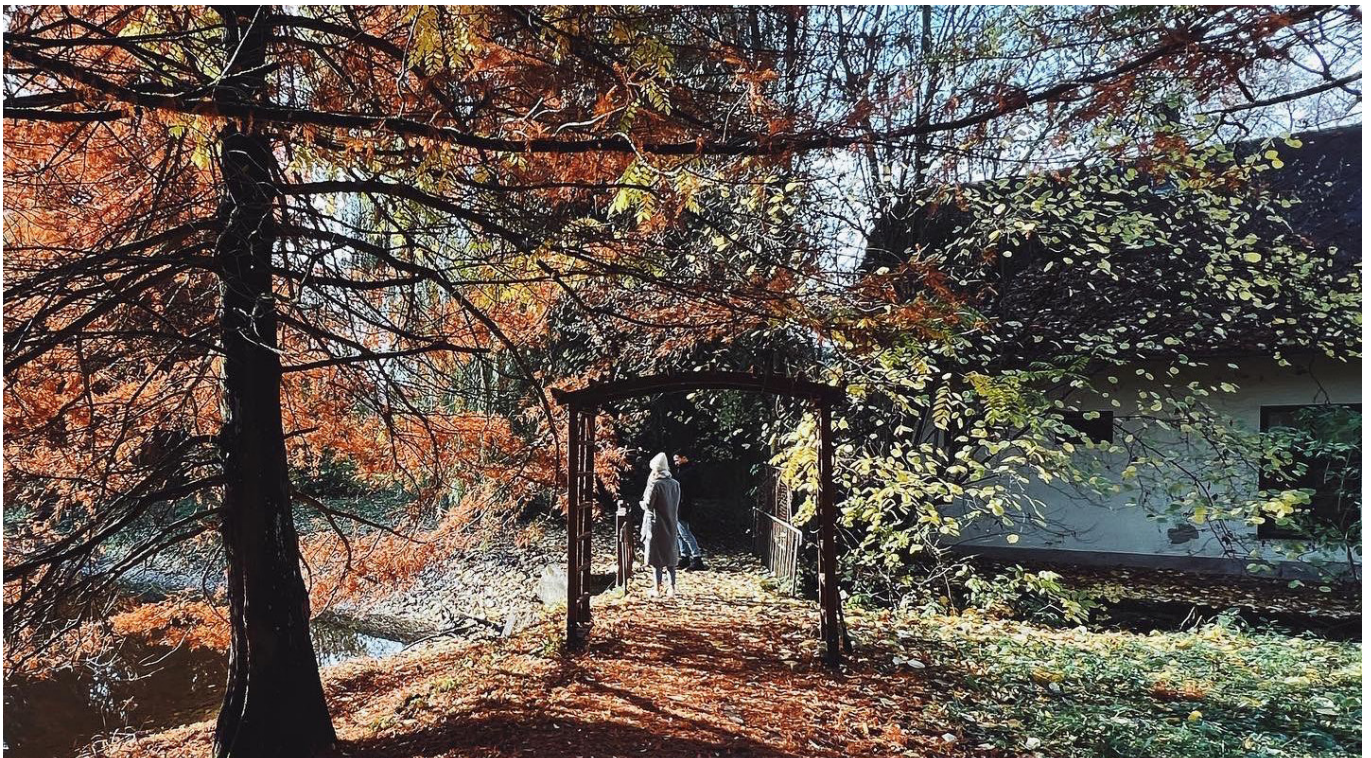
"You'd be hard-pressed to find something more rebellious in today's age than sabbath.

I've been harping on about John Mark Comer for at least two years now, and every time I take a break from his content, it seems to find its way back into my life through a different channel. And the latest round has me looking at, among other tools of spiritual formation, sabbath.

My experience of sabbath as a young person growing up in church is probably familiar to most millennials who grew up in the faith. For us,

Sunday was always a day where we were allowed, nay supposed to, sleep in a little. Then it was time for a relaxed breakfast, followed by getting dressed in our Sunday best for church. Then we were herded into some type of vehicle - ours was a van, and there were 9 of us: a literal herd. And off we went.

Once we arrived at church, there was always a game of four square going, which kept the kids from running wild in the 30 minutes or so before the service. Then it was church for the next 90-120 minutes.



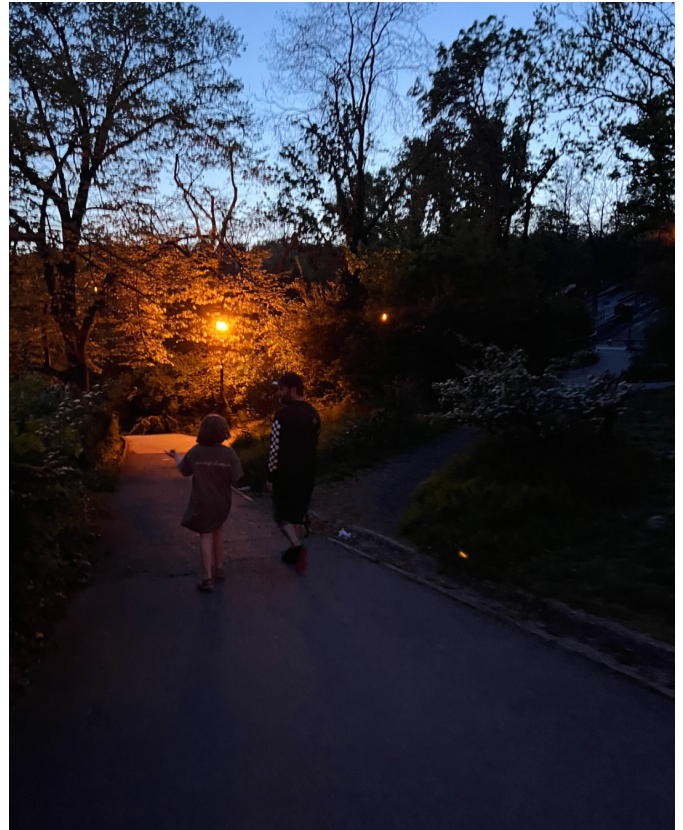
Following this was lunch with the family, and maybe some friends if it wasn't tuna casserole week. Dad would have a nap after lunch. Everyone knew to keep the noise away from the lounge where he was sprawled out on the couch with a hat over his eyes. I never can remember where Mum got to, but it was probably equally restful. Then Dad would take us out to some watering hole somewhere for an afternoon swim, followed by a quiet dinner and then it was time for bed.

As an adult looking back, it seems so idyllic. All I felt at the time was that we didn't have quite the same freedom as other kids to do what we wanted.

But it's funny how now I can look back and see what my parents were trying to do. They were in a state of quiet rebellion against the hustle culture. And this rebellion is even more important now, with today's overwhelming supply of media entertainment, work demands, and subtle distractions.

For me and most of the people I'm talking to that are my age, the idea of sitting still and not filling every single moment with some form of entertainment, screen time, activity or work, well that's just craziness, or laziness. Either way, it's not easy to go against that way of being. It's counter-cultural to carve out time and purposefully put away all media distractions, to just be with family and/or friends. It's swimming upstream to quietly go about cutting out work and busyness from our lives for that 24 hours.

But if we truly believe in the call not to covet, and if we truly believe that there is still good in the commandment of not committing adultery, then we should give equal weight to the instructions given to "remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy". What does that look like in today's world?



Well, for me, it is becoming more and more about purposeful actions that turn down the volume on the world's noise for 24 hours, and tune me into rest and worship. It looks like a walk to the ice cream shop with my daughter's hand in mine. It looks like reading a good book on my couch while my husband tinkers on his latest toy. It looks like coming together to cook waffles in the morning, and then eating them lazily on the balcony overlooking the street. It's a slowing down, and an honouring of our closest community by spending our precious time with them. It's worshipping God through obedience, a very bodily obedience.

The rebellion of the sabbath reminds my soul that we are not ultimately responsible for life and how it turns out. We are not in complete control of the world, and we can rest in the arms of the one who is.

You can lie on the couch with a hat over your face, take a nap, and remind yourself through physical form that God is in control.

And you can rest."

NZ/USA/INDIA

An update on Roger and Glenda Kruse.



Roger and Glenda with their family: Derek and Caleb, daughter-in-law Kailee, new son-in-law Inian, Emily, and Luke.

Roger and Glenda are OMS missionaries who live in the USA where Roger is from, but Glenda is a born and raised Kiwi. They both started serving with OMS as single people, but met each other while serving together in India. They were married in New Zealand in 1981. Earlier this year, the whole family was back in NZ to witness the wedding of Roger and Glenda's daughter Emily. See their April update below!

"Spring is surely with us as tulips show off their bright colors, peach trees bloom, and tree buds are ready to burst into leaf. It is always special to be back home after many days of travel.

Of course, it all started in New Zealand with Emily and Inian's wedding. The setting on top of a hill with sheep grazing round about, and a view of the ocean bay in the distance was breathtaking. The ceremony was joyful and blessed by God's own presence. After the bride and groom zoomed off in a helicopter to downtown Auckland for the reception, we also made our way by car to the harbor restaurant. The attire for the next event was Indian, and many of the guests dressed accordingly. The Turkish food was amazing and the fellowship, festive and fun.

Next Glenda and I joined Inian's family in Sydney, Australia for a reception with family and friends at their home. Aside from an unwanted flu bug that affected several of us, we enjoyed the opportunity to see where Emily and Inian will make their new home.

Our next journey took us to Singapore en route to Chennai, India. Unfortunately, we were not granted permission to enter India this time. As we reflect on the persecution and suffering that many Christians endure all around the globe, we recognize that our own experience was just a small taste of that reality.

We will continue to connect with co-workers from India via phone calls, Zoom, and What's App, offering training, coaching and encouragement. In addition, we will prayerfully consider future opportunities related to missions ministry with OMS. We also continue to give leadership to a local church ministry here in Middlefield called Discovery Fellowship. The Lord is knitting us together as a caring nucleus of Christ-followers, seeking to lovingly reach the de-churched and unchurched people around us.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and partnership. We continue to trust God to supply our needs and provide guidance for fruitful investment in His harvest field worldwide.

Best of all, Jesus is risen and shows us His love and power each and every day."

Keeping faith,
Roger & Glenda.

GLOBAL

Upcoming events and short term trips.

Thinking Matters Conferences

The aim here is to equip people to defend their faith, navigate culture, and reach people. We have been privileged to be able to partner with Thinking Matters for a few years now, to support their goal, and to encourage people to think about how they can serve in missions.

There are six of these conferences happening this year across New Zealand, and an OMS representative, will be present at all of them! Come say "Hello" to Sara or James in Dunedin, Tauranga, Christchurch, Auckland, Hamilton, and Wellington.

Scan the code to learn more about Thinking Matters Conferences 2024!



Short Term Teams

Did you read all about short term teams in Sara's article on page 6? You can be a part of one!

The current dates we have for upcoming trips are as follows:

Hungary English Camps: 4-16 July 2024, 18-30 July 2024 (These camps happen around the same time every year so if you want to get ahead for 2025, please do!)

Philippines: 12 - 27 October 2024 (Enquire for plans for 2025 as well!)

Scan the code to read more about what these trips will entail!



To get more info on any of these things, contact Sara at teams@oms.org.nz!

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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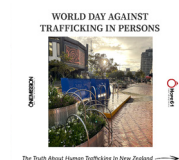
Email: vicki@riskadvice.co.nz

Website: www.riskadvice.co.nz

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Return this completed form to:

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

Regards, the OMS NZ Team.

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