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2024/2025

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## CONTACT US!

### Postal Address:

PO Box 24038, Hillcrest, Hamilton, 3251

### Phone Number:

(07) 856 8655

### Email Address:

office@oms.org.nz

### Our Website:

www.oms.org.nz/connect

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## LETTER FROM THE BOARD

*OMS NZ Board Members: Keith Turner, Andrew Sing, Stephen King (L-R top line), and James McKenzie-Wiley.*

"As the Board of Trustees, we have grappled with understanding and defining the OMS vision. The world has changed a lot in the last 5 years and will change even more in the future.

We often discuss the question 'what is OMS's vision?', and we are aware that this is an area that we need to hear from God about.

But isn't that also reflective of our relationship with God? Abram was told by God to go and leave his family. He was counted as righteous for his faith and obedience. He didn't really know what the future held but simply obeyed. Also consider Jesus' disciples. They all gave up whatever they were doing to accept the offer from Jesus to become disciples. And as I'm sure our missionaries can attest, they know what it is like to simply obey the call of God in their lives!

Despite this, we can give glory to God for what He is doing through OMS NZ and globally. We have seen His provision and faithfulness with doors opening and exciting opportunities in new and existing mission fields.

As the well known hymn says "Great is thy Faithfulness." We are humbled as a Board to see what God is doing through us and encouraged that He never disappoints.

So the vision remains a focus for the Board and staff as we continue to work together and seek guidance from the Lord. We are all excited and expectant about what He has in store for OMS now and in the future."

**Blessings,**

**Keith, Stephen, Andrew, and James**

Board of Trustees

OMS New Zealand

# NEW ZEALAND

## Missions Morning at Gateway Church

***"Missions is an invitation in joining God in His redemptive work."***

**- Chris Jones, Gateway Pastor.**

This is certainly a perfect way to describe missions and why we do what we do at OMS. But we cannot do it ourselves which is why we were so thrilled to join 15 other mission organisations at Gateway's first Missions Morning, where the goal was to encourage people to take a step and see what opportunities are out there.

It's clear to tell through recent interactions and events that people are hungry to serve God in some way through missions. And that was confirmed at this missions morning. With over 50 people in attendance, we were able to talk with many about our work and the different ways they could get involved.



*Snapshots of those who gathered for the Missions Morning.*



*Imogen teaching her workshop.*

It was also an honour that I was asked to host one of the 5 workshops held during the morning. With my role as a trainer with our HOPE61 ministry, this workshop was focused specifically on human trafficking prevention. I am so thankful that God organised this opportunity and for those who attended. I was able to have some great discussions with people interested in prevention, as well as share about what human trafficking involves, which a few people weren't aware of.

As God prepared this event, He knew who needed to hear this information. Please be praying for those who attended, that their paths will be lit with the Word of God, and for the seeds that were planted to grow.

We're already anticipating Missions Morning 2025!

By Imogen Cook  
OMS NZ Content Creator/HOPE61 Trainer

# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

*"So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness." - John 1:14 NLT.*

*Rely & Lalaine Samonte*

*Roger & Glenda Kruse*

*G.R.*

*Karen Moar*

Thank you all for your support and prayers this year. It is truly appreciated! We wish you the most peaceful Christmas and a joyous holiday this season wherever you are. From the staff and missionaries at OMS NZ.

*Stephen McGurdy*

*J.R.*

*Brent & Colleen Weaver*

*Sara Kenny*

*Imogen Cook*

*Phil & Ruth Robinson*

*Glyn & Naomi Johnston*

# NEW ZEALAND

## Our One Mission and how Thinking (still) Matters

A lot has changed over the last four years, from short-term opportunities and ministries highlighted, to the video's we show at conferences (this year's video is our latest OMS NZ promo video voiced by our one and only Imogen Cook). The Thinking Matters conference itself has changed too; from locations (it was so good to be in Dunedin this year!), to the speakers, to the conference schedule layout. Next year will bring even more change, most noticeably with how the conferences are run, or in this case technically not run, and what our involvement will look like. It's been a privilege to be a part of these conferences; from making new connections, building on ones made in the year(s) prior, and partnering with such a God fearing and passionate organization. I am unsure what next year will look like but I do know that it will hold great change.



What hasn't changed is our One Mission; our belief that by engaging one, we can reach many. That we serve one Lord, we have one life, and have all been called to fulfil the Great Commission. Whether that is to our workplace/school, our greater community, the nation, or the world, we all have been called for one purpose. "Now wherever you go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. And teach them to faithfully follow all that I have commanded you. And never forget that I am with you every day, even to the completion of this age." Matthew 28:19-20.

At Thinking Matters, their mission is "Defend Faith. Navigate Culture. Reach People." That too hasn't changed. The Great Commission isn't only relevant to OMS and our call to go, but it also shines light on what Thinking Matters is all about. Whether a missionary or an apologist (or both!), here or elsewhere, we are all called to make disciples (reach people) of all nations (navigate culture), teaching them (defend faith) to faithfully follow all Jesus has commanded. What a beautiful connection we all have to one another! That, and our combined connection to the things that never change, God and His Word.

By Sara Kenny, Short Term Teams Coordinator.

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# THAILAND

## The OMS Asia/Pacific Region Summit

On the 3rd of January, missionaries, field directors and ministry leaders will gather together in Thailand for the biennial OMS Asia/Pacific Regional Summit. A much needed time of rest, connection, prayer, and gathering of resources for all who will attend.

Stephen (our Director), Karen (our administrator), and I will be in attendance which we are really excited about! Living in New Zealand, we often feel a distance from other OMS workers in our region, so we are really looking forward to connecting with people in person to improve our communication around the region.

The week long summit will include workshops of the different ministries that OMS operates so workers are able to be informed of the work happening around the region. I have been asked to lead the workshop for HOPE61 which is a huge opportunity that God has orchestrated!

Currently, HOPE61 is working a lot in the American and African regions, with God bringing opportunities for me to train people here in New Zealand and Australia. But connecting with other OMS workers at this summit, we are praying for more doors to open for churches to be trained in human trafficking prevention throughout the Asia/Pacific Region.

Please be praying with us as we travel in January and that our time together at this summit will be fruitful.

By Imogen Cook  
OMS NZ Content Creator &  
HOPE61 Trainer



# PHILIPPINES

## Training in Human Trafficking Prevention

“You can make many plans, but the LORD’s purpose will prevail.”  
**Proverbs 19:21 NLT.**

Oh, how true these words are! In my personal experience, especially with my HOPE61 work, I have truly seen how God’s plans happen in the most perfect timing.

Just a month after my time in Thailand, sharing about HOPE61 with our missionaries and field directors, I will be heading to the Philippines! The way God has brought all these things together is true to His Word that His purposes will prevail.

So far, we are planning to take church leaders, school teachers, staff, and parents through a human trafficking prevention training. Why I believe that this is such an incredible opportunity is because the Philippines is one of the biggest countries for child sex trafficking. The need for awareness is great and we need to spread the word.



*JCM Church who we partner with in the Philippines.*



*Imogen (L) and Jalyssa.*

Please be praying for myself and my friend Jalyssa who will accompany me on this trip to the Philippines; for protection and guidance as we prepare to go. Also, please lift up those who will attend these trainings, for God to prepare their hearts to hear this message and to find ways they can reach their community.

By Imogen Cook  
OMS NZ Content Creator/HOPE61 Trainer.



# NEW ZEALAND

## Festival One happening in January



Summer means time for Festival One!

The biggest Christian music festival in Aotearoa is returning to their beautiful new location in Karapiro. It will be four days of music, art, and community - a perfect way to spend a long weekend.

One Mission Society will be returning with a booth in 'The Call Space', a dedicated area where missions and charities can connect with Festival goers.

If you're planning on attending the festival, please come and say hi. We'd love to see you! It will also be a perfect time to ask any questions you have about our available opportunities. Let nothing hold you back from where God's calling you in 2025!

See you there!

# GLOBAL

## Short Term Team Opportunities 2025

*We have some exciting trips planned for next year! You can enquire about these trips as an individual to join a team, but if you have a group of people in mind, we can get you organised as a team straight away!*

### Philippines



We have opportunities for work projects in villages during the day, then taking part in ministry with the locals in the evenings. Projects will depend on the time of year the team travels. But even when you get there, be prepared to be flexible for wherever the Lord guides you!

Dates for 2025:  
2-16 May  
19 October - 1 November

### Fiji

Serve at Homes of Hope, an organisation that provides long term residential care, therapy, and holistic training for girls, young women, and children who are victims of, or are vulnerable to forced sex. Teach the residents new skills, and build relationships with them in their time of healing.

Dates for 2025:  
September (specific dates TBC)



## Hungary



Our OMS team based in Budapest operates English summer camps where young people are able to come and have fun in a positive Christian environment. Your role will involve being partnered with English speaking Hungarian students. Then all you have to do is build relationships with them through a summer of fun and spiritual growth!

Dates for 2025 English Camps:  
June/July (specific dates TBC)

## Spain

Is summer camp in Spain calling your name? Welcome to Pena de Horeb! Your role at this camp will be more hospitality focused. Duties include cooking, cleaning, and preparing rooms for new guests. Maintenance of the property also offers opportunities. But your main duty? Make new friends and share the love of God!

Dates for 2025:  
Go for any length of time between  
10 May - 15 October



## Italy



This is an exciting new field for us. Join in on an amazing discipleship movement taking place in Italy, catered towards refugees. If you love people and evangelism, this would be a perfect opportunity for you to share God and build relationship with those in need.

Dates for 2025:  
Flexible for anytime of year, but a possible team will be organised for September.

# NOTICES FROM OMS NZ

**Christmas Office Hours** Merry Christmas! Just a note to say our office will be closed from 19th December to 17th January. If there is something you need during this time, please email [office@oms.org.nz](mailto:office@oms.org.nz) and we'll reply when we can. Have a wonderful and restful break!

**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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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!  
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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.
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**Return this completed form to:**

OMS, Freepost 101250, PO Box 24038,  
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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:

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