

MAR/APR/MAY

2024

# INTO THE HARVEST

ONE MISSION SOCIETY NEW ZEALAND

ESTONIA: BRENT AND COLLEEN WEAVER'S NEWEST HOME



**ONEMISSION**  
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INTO THE HARVEST

MAR 2024 — MAY 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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<https://www.onemissionsociety.org.nz/donate>



**LETTER FROM**  
**THE DIRECTOR**

## Happy new year!

As we begin this new year, I'm really grateful and excited about what's coming. Time has passed so quickly, and every moment is leading us to something good in God's plan.

When we think about last year, it's wonderful to see our achievements. It's inspiring to see our missionaries in the Philippines getting help with prayers, a growing team, and a network of churches. This shows the unity in God's work; even though they are still in need financial support.

The Bible says, in Ecclesiastes 3:1, there's a right time for everything.

We're looking forward to this year because we have new chances to help for a short time in Southeast Asia and Europe. These places really need missionaries and Christians who are eager to help. We'll bring not just our skills, but also Christ's love and message to people who need hope.

I invite you to be a part of this exciting journey. Whether you pray, join us, or support us, your involvement is so important. Together, we'll serve the Lord and make a real difference.

Let's go into this year with faith and joy, trusting God to lead us. We hope to grow, serve, and really impact others.

Thank you for being with us in this mission. May God bless you a lot in this season of change and opportunity.

**In Christ's service**

**Stephen McCurdy**

Executive Director

OMS New Zealand

A stylized, handwritten signature of Stephen McCurdy in black ink, with the words "EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR" printed in a small, sans-serif font below it.

# ESTONIA

## Weavers Wanderings.

Praise God for all the ways He leads and provides. The last time we wrote in this publication we were announcing our big move from serving in Ukraine to beginning a new ministry in Estonia.

God was faithful to us in every step of our move. Here are a few highlights from the past months:

We arrived in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, in August 2023. In September, we were able to return to Ukraine to empty our flat and bring closure to our time of ministry there. Even so, we are full of sadness as Russia continues to wage war. In October, we traveled to Manchester, England, where Colleen attended her graduation ceremony and received a PhD in Practical Theology. Within 3 months of arriving in Estonia we received residency permits that allow us to live here for the next 5 years. November and December saw us travelling around New Zealand visiting many of our friends and supporters. It was such a valuable time to reconnect with people we had not seen for 5 years. In January, Brent was finally able to complete his US citizenship, so now he holds both US and NZ citizenships.



Brent and Colleen Weaver in their new home in Estonia.





## Life in Estonia

With all of these different things achieved, we are ready to settle into life and work in Estonia. While we have contacts and ministry opportunities with several denominations, our invitation for our residency came through the Estonian Methodist church and so much of our ministry will initially be focused on working with them.

Colleen has already been teaching at the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary (BMTS) in various subjects (Spiritual formation, Inductive Bible study of Mark and Exodus, and Helping people in Trauma). Brent has been helping to teach Theology of Missions, Spiritual formation, and will teach a course on Church development and church planting later this spring.

Brent continues to partner with Allar and Piret Saard with whom he has worked as a coach for many years. They are seeking to develop a network of multiplying small groups and to help other church leaders to do the same. In March, Brent will co-facilitate a seminar with Allar in a Baptist church.

Estonian language and culture are new to us so the learning curve to adapt is quite high. We joined a beginner's Estonian language class in the fall that was hosted by the seminary. Tallinn has excellent museums that have offered us lessons in local history and culture. Participating in the seminary community and in several fellowships with Estonian believers continue to be fruitful experiences where we can learn and form friendships with the people in our community.

The churches here are longing to see a spiritual awakening of people turning to faith in Christ. Rather than the atheism expected, they describe the religious atmosphere as superstitious or religiously indifferent. Please pray for us and the Estonian church as we seek to find ways to partner together in bringing the new life of Jesus into this community.

Love and blessings,  
Colleen and Brent.



Travelling in New Zealand and being prayed for at one of their supporter gatherings.

# USA

## A visit from our President and First Lady.

In January, it was an honour for us to be able to host our OMS President Jeff Edwards and his lovely wife Laura for a few days! While it was a short time, it was a delight to chat in person about their heart for OMS, and how we can better work together in the purpose God has given us.

As well as meeting our staff and board members, Jeff and Laura were able to take a day to rest, enjoying the glow worms at Waitomo Caves and visiting Hobbiton! Before coming to us, Jeff and Laura were also able to visit the OMS office in Australia, to meet and pray with the team there.



Jeff and Laura joined our staff for lunch, along with OMS NZ Board member, Keith Turner.



## About Jeff and Laura

Jeff and Laura have both been serving with OMS for more than 35 years, and it's because of this experience that Jeff is a terrific fit for this role as OMS's 11th president.

Jeff, a OMS missionary kid, grew up in Brazil, where he met Laura and they later served together for 22 years as OMS missionaries. Their ministry focus included church planting, leadership development, counselling, discipleship, and couples ministries. They also accepted positions as professors at Londrina Bible Seminary (LBS), where Jeff served as the president of the LBS board for six years, and Laura directed two graduate programs in counselling.

After returning from South America in 2008, Jeff invested 12 years serving as the OMS regional director for Latin America/Caribbean until June 2020 when he served as the OMS Global Ministries executive director before becoming President in July 2022.

Laura currently serves in a volunteer capacity with OMS, officially as advisor to the President. She travels with Jeff when her academic calendar allows it.

She currently works full time at Taylor University as a tenured professor and chair of the Psychology Department. Within this setting, she is privileged to minister to many of her students through discipleship and mentoring.

Discipleship and mentoring are their passion. Their goal is to invest in leaders who can multiply themselves, strengthen the church, and give vision to mission sending around the world.



Jeff and Laura with the OMS NZ Board.

# PHILIPPINES

The collaboration of OMS ministries.



**Above:** Our missionaries with Larry and Sharon Freed at the Juan Project Conference.

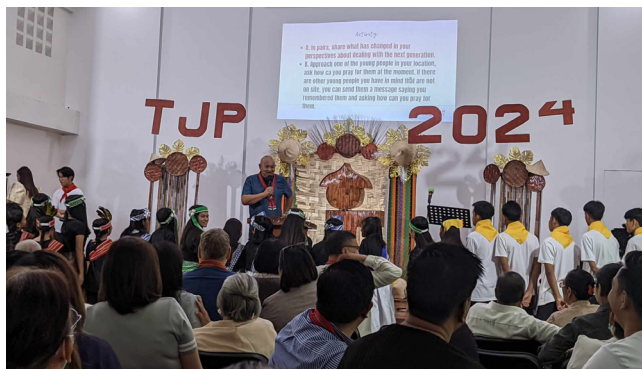
**Right:** Our missionaries in a training session with ECC.

**Opposite page:** Listening to speakers at the Juan Project Conference.





What a blessing it has been for our missionaries, Rely and Lalaine, and Phil and Ruth, to connect with other established OMS ministries in the Philippines!



ECC (Every Community for Christ) is an OMS global ministry that works to help churches multiply and train disciples. Headed up by OMS missionaries Larry and Sharon Freed in the Philippines, the goal is to empower the Filipino ECC team and denominational leaders to achieve their church multiplication goals through training, coaching, encouragement, and prayer support.

Over the past few months, our missionaries have been able to attend regular training and support sessions, alongside other ministries such as OMF and Faith Bible College.

In January, they were also able to attend the Juan Project Conference. The Juan Project is an initiative by ECC that works to equip and engage every Juan (Filipino) in discipling the Filipino people for the transformation of the nations here and abroad, by working alongside churches, church associations, and organisations.

The vision for the Juan project is saturation - that the Philippines and all nations will be saturated with the Gospel. This is why this collaboration is so fitting and organised by God. As the desire for our missionaries is to share the Gospel around the Philippines, they can join with other likeminded people who are aiming for the same goal.

As they continue gathering for more trainings with ECC, they are able to gain more resources that will be useful in their ministries to the tribes and around the cities where they live.

Join us in praising God for this partnership, and this additional support for our missionaries. Please be praying that everyone involved in sharing the Gospel in the Philippines will be encouraged and strengthened as they continue in the work God has laid out for them.



Our missionaries with other OMS ministries.

# GLOBAL

A look into the history files.



OMS in Japan in 1905

I recently found in our OMS history files an amazing script that was used as a presentation at our 100 anniversary of OMS International in 2001. It shows the growth of OMS alongside incredible events that have happened throughout history. I thought it was interesting and wanted to share some of it with you!

1901 - The journey began! Charles and Lettie Cowman arrive in Japan and are met by their friend Juji Nakada. The first Central Gospel Hall opens in Tokyo.

1903 - The Wright Brothers build and fly the first working airplane - a definite impact on missions!

1907 - OMS begins working in Korea.

1912 - The Great Village Campaign begins in Japan.

1914 - OMS Headquarters moves from Tokyo, Japan to Seoul, Korea.

1914 - World War One begins.

1914 - OMS begins in New Zealand.

1918 - The Great Village Campaign is completed in Japan. 10,300,000 homes received the Gospel which resulted in the start of 400 new churches!

1928 - Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin alleviating severe risks for missionaries around the world.

1939 - World War Two begins.

1941 - OMS enters India; Korea missionaries are evacuated/Pastors jailed, tortured, martyred.

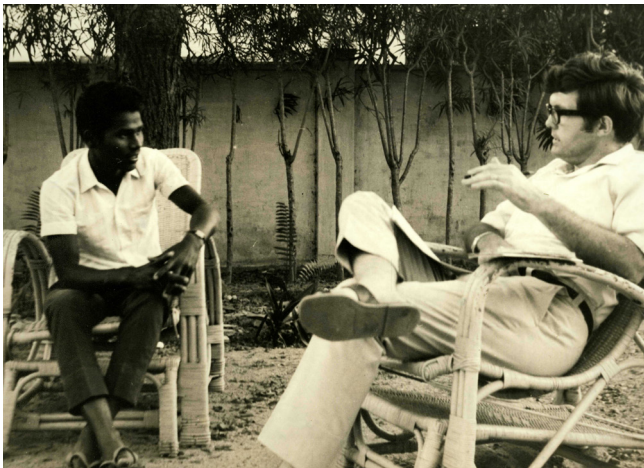
1941 - Japanese attack Pearl Harbour.

1942 - First India Bible school opens.



1943 - OMS begins work in Colombia, South America.  
 1946 - Missionaries return to Japan and Korea.  
 1947 - OMS enters Greece.  
 1950 - OMS enters Brazil and Taiwan.  
 1950 - The Korean War begins.  
 1954 - The polio vaccine is developed.  
 1954 - OMS enters Hong Kong.  
 1957 - The first crusade for OMS ministry, Men for Missions.  
 1966 - OMS headquarters moves to Indiana, where it still stands today.  
 1969 - Neil Armstrong walks on the moon.  
 1973 - 1 million people attended the Billy Graham crusade in Seoul, Korea. This was the largest evangelistic meeting in history.  
 1981 - OMS enters the Philippines and France.  
 1990 - OMS enters Mexico.  
 1992 - The CoMission is launched resulting in 85 organisations working together as the Body of Christ, taking the Gospel to the former Soviet Union.  
 1999 - OMS sponsors a Worldwide Theological Consultation on the campus of Asbury Theological Seminary, with 77 Theologians from 17 countries in attendance representing 31 seminaries and Bible Schools.  
 2001 - OMS celebrates its centennial. OMS is in 30 countries with 5,107 churches, 1.1 million believers, 29 seminaries and Bible Schools!

To God be the glory, great things He has done!



Clockwise from L-R:  
 First OMS NZ missionary, Graham Houghton discipling a young Indian man;  
 an OMS missionary teaching English to some Japanese ladies; one of the brochures from the CoMission in 1992.

# 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.

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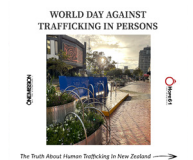
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Website: [www.riskadvice.co.nz](http://www.riskadvice.co.nz)

## 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.instagram.com/OneMissionNZ)



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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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