



GO INTO

Calling Kiwis to the mission of God

A Fresh Wave in Mission

Perhaps we are in denial, unwilling to loosen our grip on a long glorious summer. Maybe this explains our Pasifika theme for an Autumn edition. Far from it!

Science tells us that waves primarily transport energy. Unimpeded they can transmit this energy over vast distances of ocean. A wave of a different sort is building momentum. It represents a new breed of "message bearers" and churches from the Pacific. Islanders by heart, they are prepared to transport the gospel to the very ends of the earth. This edition is devoted to their stories.

A significant first for a denomination in Vanuatu. A Fijian-Indian returning to the unreached peoples of his ancestors. A wife reflecting on the comical realities of cross-cultural marriage and ministry with her Fijian husband. Three exciting journeys, all connected with WEC NZ.

Kalafi Moala, pioneer missionary and author notes, "The peoples of the Pacific were the most potent missionaries of the late 19th and early 20th Century. But in the past 50 plus years, we have mostly been engaged with ministry to ourselves." WEC's Pasifika Director tackles this and other contemporary challenges in our Feature Article.

Read on for an Island experience with a difference. Beware though. You just may be inspired to grab your togs and join them!

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Blended Marriages in Mission

Fijian man meets Swiss girl in Chad – that's our love story in a nutshell!

We got married in Switzerland in December 2012, and in April returned to Chad. A year later our daughter was born, again in Switzerland, and soon after that we left for our first furlough in Fiji. Such are the beginnings of a cross-cultural marriage.

We're thankful we had the chance to start out on our adventure together in Chad. It was a place where we were both on neutral ground, and both had to operate in a second and third language. It gave us the opportunity to start building our own marriage culture. To be honest, to live in one of our home countries is the greater challenge. It means that one of us is a foreigner, and often an outsider because of the language barrier.

Culture influences every important aspect of marriage, and when you marry across cultures you marry his or her culture too. Our cultures are very different - the way people express themselves, how things are done, the value system, the use of one's resources, the importance of relationships and family. When Tevita spent his first few months in Switzerland, he was surprised at all the questions people asked him about Fiji. However, when I came to Fiji I waited in vain for people to ask me similar kinds of questions. Are people not interested in me? They probably are but they show it differently.

Tevita is very good at "participant observation." He seldom asked me for an explanation and he never complained. He simply tried to go with the flow.



For me it's quite a different story. My culture hasn't taught me that skill. I want to know why things are done in a certain way and what they mean. Because I rely heavily on verbal information I miss out on a lot of the non-verbal clues. I feel uncertain about the "dos and don'ts." But in my husband's ears my questions can sometimes sound like complaints or criticism.

Raising a child cross culturally adds another set of challenges. I'm learning that our daughter Lidia is part of the extended family. There is much beauty in this as I can learn from women who have more experience than I do.

Soon we'll embark on a new adventure as we return to Chad as a family of three. I'm thankful for our time here in Fiji. It's been a learning experience that will no doubt go on as we continue our journey as a cross-cultural family in cross-cultural ministry. We place our trust in God who is faithful and able to help us with any new challenge we face.

Tevita and Mia Naborisi have been long-term workers in Chad since 2011 and 2009 respectively. They are involved in teaching English, church planting and children's ministry.

Tevita and Mia



WEC International



reaching people | planting churches | mobilising for mission

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My Ni-Vanuatu Journey into Mission

The year was 2009. I knew deep inside my heart that God's calling for my life was to be a cross-cultural missionary. My problem was not only that mission was new to me, but also to my local church and the whole Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu! Sure, they knew about mission, but we hadn't yet sent any cross-cultural missionaries. They didn't know about the 10/40 Window, or how to send missionaries. I grew up in my local church, but I'd never heard any prayer point about a missionary serving outside the Pacific.

On the one hand the thought of learning more about God, mission, and how to share his message made me very happy. On the other hand I was a bit worried, because I didn't know how to speak English. I could speak French and Bislama (our mother tongue), but English?

Nevertheless, the story of Moses encouraged me to get moving. When God called Moses to rescue

the Israelites, Moses complained that he was slow in speech. Then God told him, "Who gave man his mouth?...Is it not me, the Lord? Now go, I will teach you what to say" (Exodus 4:11-12). After reading that, I just stopped in silence and asked God to forgive me for worrying. I told him, "I will go, but I need you to be with me!"

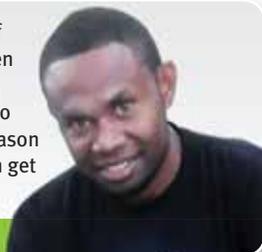
So I left for Fiji in January 2010. I trusted God with this first step of preparation and prayed that he'd help my church to understand more about mission.

During my studies a Fijian WEC missionary, called Geoffrey Nainoca, introduced us to Chad. That was when I started to research and pray for the many unreached peoples which make up half the population of Chad. Four years later I find myself living there, as the first cross-cultural missionary sent from the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

Now that I'm here it feels like I'm nothing, but I know that God is at work behind the scenes! God is the one who helped me finish my studies without knowing how to speak English. God is the one who was working in my local church and denomination to redefine and value mission. I also believe God is going to do great things in many other local churches in Vanuatu. Proverbs 3:5-6 rings in my ears as I continually learn to trust God, to depend on and be thankful towards him. To him be all glory and honour!

Aphia is the first recruit of a new partnership between WEC and the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. New to Chad he loves the cold season best, because then he can get a decent nights sleep!

Aphia



No More Excuses

The Gospel came to India almost 2000 years ago but while many millions in the southern states believe in Christ, God gripped my heart with the remaining unreached peoples of the North. Miraj, a house cleaner friend of mine, represents 162 million Muslim people in India of which less than 0.1% follow Christ. Statistics tell us there's a ratio of one missionary to one million unreached Muslims in North India. It was for people like Miraj that I was compelled to come.

The Bible says ... "God determined the time set for them and the exact places where they should live, God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him..." (Acts 17:26-27). I believe God brought my North Indian ancestors to Fiji so they would find him. Imagine if I'd been born in India. I don't think there would have been much opportunity to know Christ. Now I am a "labourer for Christ" in India, My ethnic looks help me blend in and I enjoy a long term visa because of Indian connections. This is all God's plan.

My journey into cross-cultural mission was challenging. First was the battle of understanding what mission is. I decided to study at a Missionary Training Centre. This was the best decision I ever made after accepting Christ. I came to better understand God and his universal plan to save humanity. Finance was also a struggle, but thanks to God for the gift of faith. He made sure I was well looked after. It is true what they say, "Faith is possible, but not easy."

Some say, "Two is better than one." I believe that, but I've also learned when God is with you, everything is possible. Being single in mission is no barrier to church planting. In fact it's a blessing in my context. I've got more time to spend with people. Indeed, singles can struggle with loneliness, but I've found the best prescription to be spending quality time with God. Christ alone meets all our needs.

The mission journey is full of obstacles, temptations and possible excuses. If God is calling you, be courageous and don't give in! Walk in step with his Spirit and his church, trusting him with your deepest fears and longings. Whatever your ethnicity, marital or financial status, don't settle for Plan B or C. Instead step out and embrace the challenge - to join God in reaching the least-reached peoples of the world.



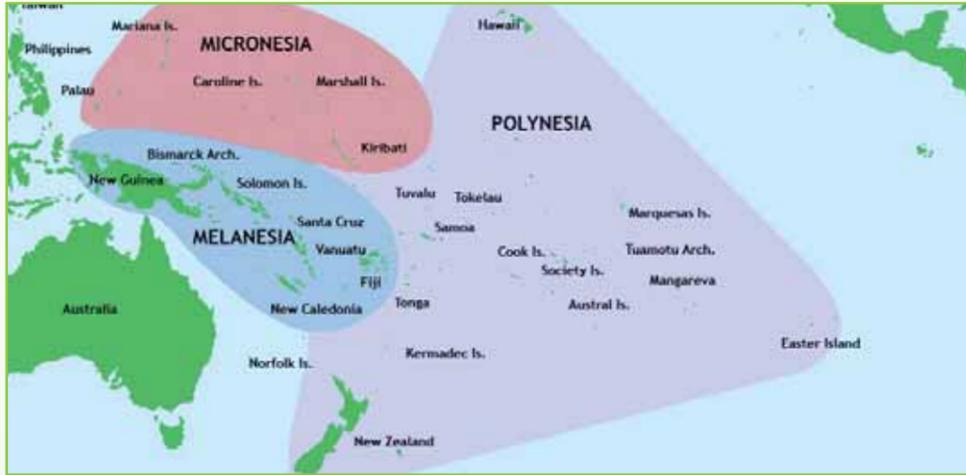
Raised in Fiji, Ravi is a NZ citizen who longs to see the least-reached peoples of India know Christ. He's got the look, loves the people, the food and cricket, but deep down he's a not-so-closet football fanatic.

Ravi



Mission In, To and From the Pacific

One of the great blessings of living in Aotearoa NZ is being home to the colour and vibrancy, not to mention sporting talent(!), of our Pacific neighbours. At the end of last year we were privileged to host Eliko and Lavenia Drodrolagi, our WEC Pasifika Directors. They shared not only their stories, of 16 years living amongst an African Muslim community, but also their reflections on mission “in, to and from” the Pacific. Laced with humour, their talks were woven with mission history and contemporary challenges. While this is a palagi retelling, feedback from Pacific peoples was overwhelmingly positive – if only we could have kept them here for longer.



Looking Back

By way of introduction Eliko reminded us of the arrival and spread of the gospel in the region. As we celebrated 200 years of the gospel in NZ, I was struck that the peoples of the Pacific had in fact had the gospel for even longer. Beginning in Tahiti, then Tonga, the gospel soon spread across Polynesia and into Melanesia. Unlike NZ however, it was not primarily European missionaries who were the conduits of the good news. Instead the first hearers became the first messengers, sharing the good news from island to island.

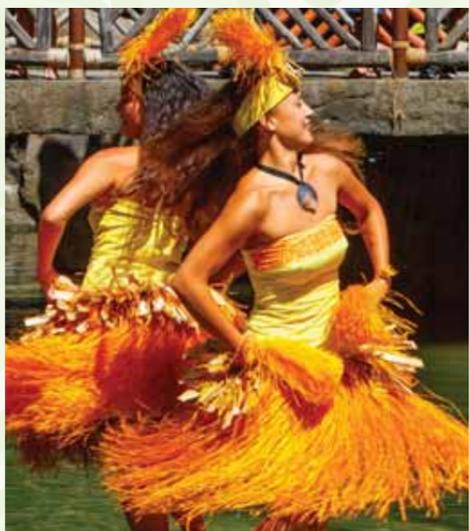
The next several decades followed a wider historical pattern. Initial enthusiasm became tempered by the familiar. Just as the Church of Ephesus “lost their first love,” the Pacific church lost her fervour. The arrival of colonial traders seeking to develop their businesses, and the vices of alcohol, tobacco, sexual immorality and general godlessness took their toll on the church.

Despite this God remained faithful. In mercy he raised up a new wave of Holy Spirit empowered, gospel centred missionaries. These came from a variety of church backgrounds including Brethren, AoG and Baptist groups. This also helped to ignite the established churches. The embers were once again fanned into flame and the peoples of the Pacific reignited their passion for the Kingdom of God.

Exiting the Roundabout

Today however, we stand at a crossroads, or as Eliko put it, “the church of the Pacific peoples, whether in NZ or on various islands of the South Pacific, is on a roundabout, continually circling around the same places.” Just as previous generations got “stuck” before discovering the way forward, today’s church must find a way forward. The path, Eliko maintains, is “mission.” Not the limited, compartmentalised version we commonly see, but mission in all its fullness.

Traditionally the church has read the Great Commission progress as, “Jerusalem, then Judea, then Samaria,” or “Samoa, then the rest of the Pacific, then the rest of the world.” These should instead be seen as concurrent activities. Using a local village analogy he highlighted that the areas of greatest need are in fact where the church should be focussing on. Namely, where the church is least established and the gospel least accessible.



As the consensus has rightly shifted to mission from anywhere to everywhere, the Pacific church must see itself as a sending church. It cannot be content to just be a spectator or a recipient of palagi people or funds.

A great need also exists for local cross-cultural outreach, particularly to their Muslim, Hindu and secularly influenced neighbours. Eliko spoke of fresh initiatives to reach Muslims in Fiji which are bearing fruit. Yet Islam continues to spread in the Pacific. This local mission challenge requires ongoing emphasis, strategic partnerships and cross-cultural training.

We were encouraged by stories of new cross-cultural workers from the Pacific. Newly trained missionaries who are primarily sent and supported by their home churches in the islands. At WEC NZ we have helped train and pastorally support new workers from Fiji, Nauru and Vanuatu, with others in the pipeline. The potential remains though for many more Pacific workers to be sent from the region. Yes, the challenges are plentiful. But finance in particular should not be a deciding factor for involvement in mission.

A Word to NZ Churches

Is there still a need for missionaries in the Pacific? “Yes,” says Eliko. “But with a different ministry focus. They are needed to reach Chinese, Hindu and Muslim, as well as other immigrant communities in partnership with the local church.” Specialist help is also needed for reaching youth, addicts and disabled peoples, as well as offering deeper training to local leaders.

He cautioned that we have to be wary of continuing practises beyond their usefulness. We must ensure that our inter-church and agency relationships empower, rather than perpetuate a paternal approach or dependency.

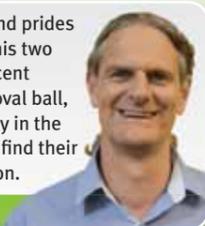
In New Zealand there is the challenge of engaging 2nd generation Pacific Kiwis alongside the usual issues that are faced by most churches e.g. connecting with an increasingly multi-ethnic and multi-faith neighbourhood in a largely secularist society.

However, there remain nearly 2 billion people who have no local church and little to no access to the gospel. It will take the whole church to reach these largely forgotten peoples. We agree with Eliko that the people of the Pacific are uniquely endowed to play their part in taking the Good News to the ends of the earth. His challenge, and invitation, is to love these “least-reached peoples” enough to share the living waters of Jesus Christ with their parched souls.

Hopefully it won’t be too long before we have more missionaries from the Pacific stirring our churches. In the meantime, let us take up the challenges Eliko has presented, and continue to pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out workers.

David is married to Kendal and prides himself on keeping up with his two teenage sons. He loves a decent conversation, following the oval ball, cycling (even when stationary in the garage), and helping people find their place in cross-cultural mission.

David



SITsvacant

Professionals Urgently Needed

Many of our teams are desperate for professionals of different persuasions. Administrators, teachers, IT, accountants, businesspeople, tradespeople, health professionals and so on can be immediately placed in numerous contexts among the least-reached peoples of the world. Interested to put your skills to use alongside church planting teams?

Location: Worldwide! Duration: Flexible

Media and/or Editing Support

Several of our smaller branches in Asia-Pacific are in need of remote assistance with website development and management, and editing or graphic art skills for promotional materials and newsletters.

Location: From here or there Duration: Project by project for 1 year

Business Manager/Developer

A Learning Centre which our team has founded needs development to be a viable long-term registered business. Three languages and craft are currently taught, but it needs an experienced business person.

Location: South-Asia Duration: Flexible

Betel Internship

‘Be Jesus’ in everyday, real-life situations, by working, living and serving alongside those with addictions whose broken lives are being restored.

Location: UK Duration: 6months

Student Worker

Our Learning Centre is attracting many male university students who are seeking to learn or improve their English. We need relaxed “people people” with a passion for Christ.

Location: Chad Duration: 1 year

Doctor

The clinic provides primary health care services including antenatal, maternity, paediatric and adult medical care.

Location: Gambia Duration: 6months

These are just a few examples among numerous possibilities to serve with WEC teams. For more info visit www.wecnz.org or call us at 0800 GO INTO

More Info

NZoutlook

Playing in the Team

I wonder where the Auckland Nines, the 7’s, the AB’s and the Silver Ferns would be without many incredible Pasifika players? Think of sporting icons like Sonny Bill Williams, Valerie Adams, Tana Umaga, Inga Tuigamala, Joe Rokocoko, Beatrice Faumuina, Bernice Mene and David Tua. Pacific people are well known for their sporting prowess across many fields.



This edition presents some of what God is doing with Pasifika people in WEC International teams. They are great players, making significant contributions. It seems to us that the Holy Spirit is raising up many from Pasifika to serve him among the least reached peoples of the globe.

We are thrilled to see Pasifika peoples from Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and around the Pacific joining us. It’s also exciting through Mission Interlink to partner with new movements like Pacific 2 the Nations (P2N), which are challenging many Pacific New Zealanders into short and long term mission. Pacific Island church leaders are recognising the time and renewing the call for people to serve cross-culturally – especially in the 10/40 window.

WEC is teams of people, from over 50 nations, united to live passionately for Christ, and committed to present the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus’ love to peoples yet to hear. Care to join the team?

Jock & Cathy have 8 children and 8 grandchildren. Happily married for 34 years, they still like dinner dates, family, reading and Bethany the dog.



Jock & Cathy

Short Term Mission

Want to learn how to reach across cultures and different faiths? Only have a few weeks to spare?



An unique opportunity exists to work among the unreached Muslims, Hindus and Chinese of Fiji. WEC has ongoing ministries to these peoples, and each can incorporate short-termers or small teams anytime from June. For example, staying with Muslim background believers you would visit and share in other Muslim homes, take Bible studies, and assist in a variety of practical ways. Each person or team would be serving alongside experienced church planters.



For more information contact Ross & Jillian on 0800 GOINTO

Training for Mission

Is God challenging you to step out and serve him in another culture? By investing first in training, you gain the skills to last the distance.

Eastwest College offers accredited 1-year Certificate and 2-year Diploma courses, to equip men and women to live and work as ambassadors of Christ in cross-cultural situations. Contact the team below and put yourself in the picture.



www.eastwest.ac.nz | 0800 896 477 | info@eastwest.ac.nz



GO GLO-CAL!

WEC NZ offers a range of GLO-CAL Workshops to equip your church for cross-cultural mission.

Check the website for details, or contact the Mobilising Team and book yours early!

Contact the mobilising team for details:
0800 GO INTO • mobiliser@wecnz.org

