

Supernatural

Imagine over 60 years ago, a hardy people, once proud and autonomous, lived before foreign soldiers marched through every town. Men were rounded up and taken away. Some were executed in public or simply disappeared. Women and children were left alone to survive harsh winters and an indifferent regime, whose goal it was to demoralise the population.

60 plus years on they are still under the thumb of this foreign power and resentment is never far from the surface, at times reaching boiling point.

It's amongst such an ethnic group that a New Zealand WEC couple, and their family, find themselves "somewhere" in Asia.

In this context, how is it possible to make a difference and talk about Jesus?

"We followed the prescribed approach of extensive 'seed sowing'...doing any activity to share faith...to [gather new believers and] start a church planting movement." But there was little fruit.

So what happened? "We had come to the end of ourselves...and a visiting group ministered to us in the power of the Holy Spirit." The team realised that only the Holy Spirit would help this People find hope in a living God. "They're very spiritual... used to demonic manifestations...they need to experience a power encounter."

So how did this look? "We began treasure hunting." Aye? "In groups, we would pray and ask the Holy Spirit about places to go and people to

talk with." Did this work? "Yes... many received prayer and healing...and asked who did this. We told them about Jesus."

Other ministries are less random but still rely on the fruit of the Spirit. Natural connections through hospital visits, university work and an English teaching ministry allow a bunch of foreigners to show a kind of love these people have never experienced. "Many do want to know why we are like this and we tell them."

Opportunities for the future?

Although some have become believers and a church is slowly emerging, there is yet to be a "great harvest." Waste of time then? Not likely, "we feel we are in the middle of what God is doing and it's very exciting...recently, we've been visiting nomadic tribes and seen God heal and minister miraculously." This is what the apostle Paul meant when he wrote "no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined the things prepared for those who love God" (1Cor 2:9). Like this couple, if you want more than just a rational faith, talk to us today.

WEC SINCE 1913



BE PART OF IT

Crisis Point *(by James Gray)*

In this issue we celebrate the tremendous growth of Christianity globally, missionary endeavour, and we take a glance at how those resistant to the gospel are trying to respond.

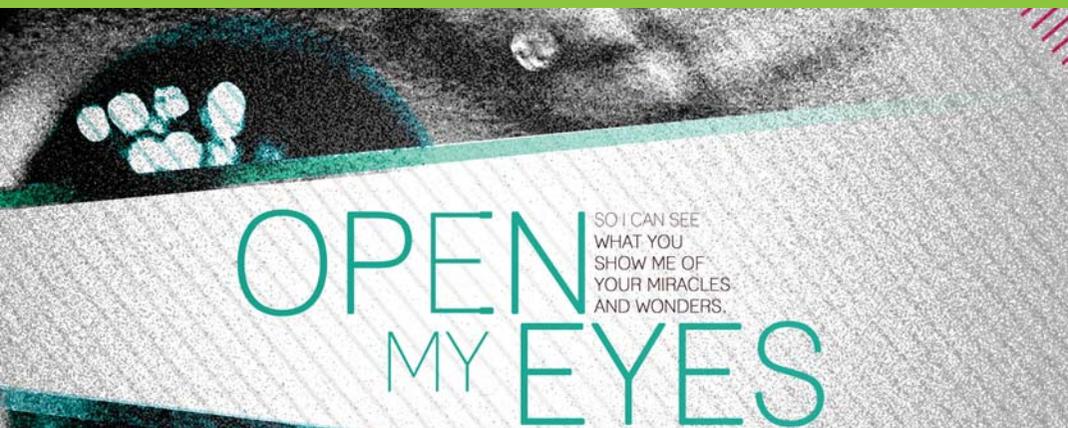


ورجائنا معاه في ضمان
For Our hope is secured in Him

The Coptic Church faces Persecution. See Your Beauty is Awesome on www.youtube.com/watch?v=YTD6TZN7qj4

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Crisis Point (Continued)

In the 1900s the ascent of Christendom was very much Western with North America, Europe, Britain – and some of her colonies - making up the faith's majority. Since then, the evangelical movement through missionary activity has done much to evangelise previously hard to reach people groups in Asia, Africa and Latin America, especially in the last 50 years. Conversely, the Western Church has struggled against secularism and church attendances have fallen.

In spite of the western decline, Christianity, in all its different forms and degrees of maturity, has become the predominant global religion with an estimated 32.5% of the earth's population as adherents.

Interestingly, just as Christians have been fearful of the influence of Islam in Western Europe, leaders of other religions have become startled and threatened by the growth of Christianity on their turf. Many consider this a crisis.

As far back as the early 2000s, Muslim commentators were worried at the advance of the Church in Africa. In an interview broadcast by Al-Jazeera, Muslim Scholar Sheikh Ahmad Al Katani admitted the extent of his fears:

"In every hour, 667 Muslims convert to Christianity. Every day, 16,000 Muslims convert to Christianity. Ever year, 6 million Muslims convert to Christianity."

His solution? Target children and build schools instead of mosques to influence the next generation and *"stop this missionary octopus."* Today, 20,000 Madrassas provide Islamic education to over 1.5 million students per year.

Another response to church growth includes the use of media and propaganda techniques. One example on the internet is the "Save Maryam" campaign, designed to raise £2 million for an Islamic TV network to stop young Muslims turning to Christ. A sympathetic reporter wrote: *"Depicted as lost and vulnerable, 14 year old Maryam is passive to propaganda delivered to her via TV channels and helplines provided by Christian*



A possible Maryam?

missionaries." It is then pointed out that Maryam is just one of *"2 million Muslims converting to Christianity [in Indonesia] each year."*

Although these figures sound like scaremongering, it seems the truth behind Church growth is just as surprising.

According to Patrick Johnstone's book "The Future of the Global Church," the ongoing Renewal Movement is where the "real dynamism" of Evangelical and Charismatic church growth can be found.

In Africa, Evangelicals numbered 5m in 1960, were 149m by 2010 – and could reach 350m by 2050.

Asian Evangelicals grew from 12m in 1960 to 197m in 2010 - and could reach 400m by 2050.

In Latin America, Evangelicals grew from 1m in 1960 to 69m in 2010, and may reach 150m by 2050. In addition there is a huge growth in the number of Charismatic Catholics in Latin America who could number 70m by 2050.

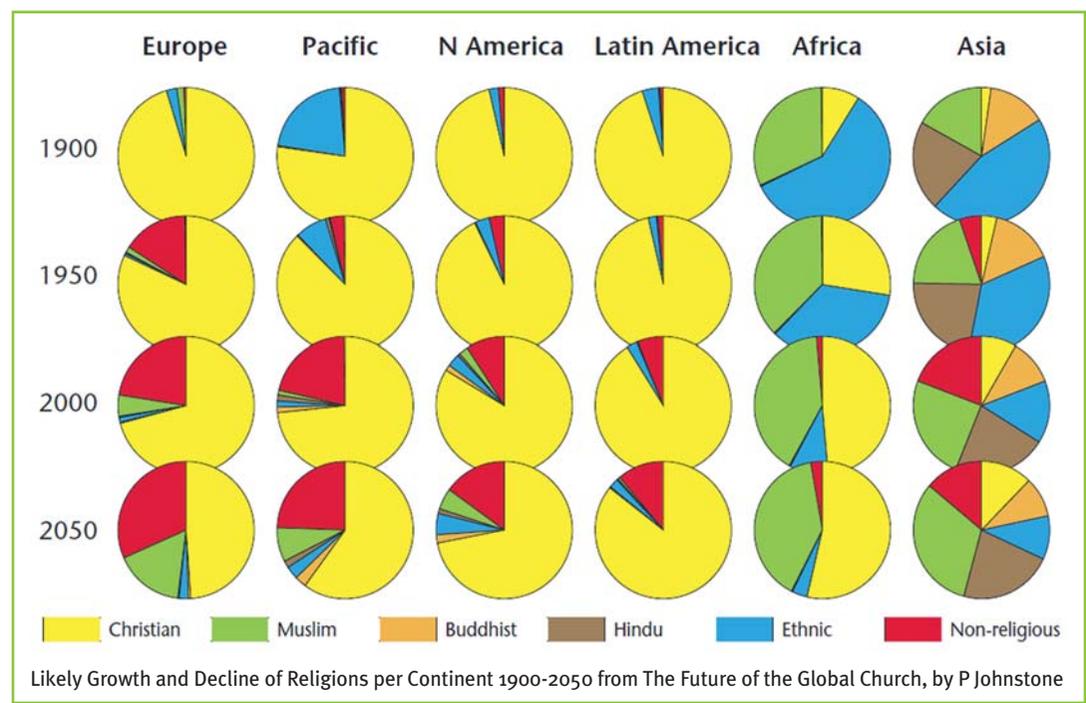
Ironically, much of this expansion has been in the face of severe opposition. We read from Open Doors' "World Watch List 2013", that some of Satan's schemes to persecute the church are categorised as follows:

- "Islamic Extremism" - in many places there is no religious freedom and in some countries evangelism and conversion to another religion is punishable by death. This is sometimes at the hands of family "honour killings." Other punitive measures include imprisonment, "re-education", torture, discrimination etc.
- "Communist Oppression and Dictatorial Paranoia". The contrary values of Christianity result in severe oppression from the regime. An extreme example is North Korean spies sent to China to expose escape networks, kill defectors and Christians assisting them.
- In some places the "Orthodox" or traditional church has seen protestants as a threat and is involved in persecuting those who have left their ranks to join a "heretical" renewal movement.
- "Religious Militancy" in India shows itself as organised mob violence against minorities including Christians. In Bhutan, an aggressive form of Buddhism seeks to antagonise and restrict civil liberties of both Christians and Hindus.

- "Tribal Antagonism". In Myanmar even though much has been made of recent moves toward democracy the government continues to put pressure on Christian groups such as Kachin and Chin people.

Consequently, it's estimated that 100 million Christians today live in fear of life threatening persecution with over 160,000 dying for their faith last year – 45million in the last century!

Although the cost is sobering, the tide of those coming to Christ is unstoppable in spite of the dangers. Inexplicably, the church continues to grow while other faiths/ideologies are scrambling to recover lost ground. Christ is gathering people to himself and building his church no matter what! (Mt 16:18) He is doing something more glorious than we can imagine, and like our persecuted brothers and sisters we too can play our part in God's plan for redeeming the world.



Confessions of a church planter

Lindsay and Myk were in NZ recently to promote and recruit for BETEL – a WEC ministry that has seen thousands healed of addiction and come into a relationship with Jesus. After a while, it was no longer a surprise to see people from the audience expressing interest and wanting to know more. Why? Their testimony of God is amazing and pulls no punches about themselves or their ministry.



Confessors: Lindsay and Myk McKenzie

What on earth is church planting?

Having completed a diploma in Mission, Lindsay and Myk set off to Madrid, Spain to plant churches in the early 1980s. As part of a CP team, they were going to implement an “approach” to evangelise and gather together new believers into a church, and then replicate the process over and over again. The team spent two years evangelising university students, as this approach had worked in Mexico. They also tried to plant a church in a needy low income area. Problem was, no one cared. Exasperated, they began to question their methodology. Naturally, God had his own agenda.

One day a drug addict named Raul convinced Lindsay, against his better judgment, to give him a bed in his small flat. Like Raul, many addicts saw these WEC missionaries as a soft touch and duly bothered them. Annoyed, Lindsay would often lament that God was not sending him “normal people” to start a church.



After attending a poorly organised evangelistic event, Raul began asking about God. Too busy with disappointment and only half hearing, Lindsay heard a voice “Will you just listen to him!” Startled by this, he paid attention and later that evening, against all expectations, Raul believed in Jesus. Cue high fives right? Nope. Although glad, Lindsay was still looking for “normal people.” But they didn’t come. Instead, when Raul’s druggie friends saw the change in him, they wanted the same – much to Lindsay’s consternation. After all, he wasn’t in Madrid to do “social work, we are here to plant churches!” That’s what WEC is about. Nevertheless, these were the *not-so-normal* people that God was leading to Lindsay and Myk, and has continued to do so for nearly 30 years. From humble beginnings, Betel has now helped over 160,000 people with addiction, establishing 90 communities and 40 churches in 22 nations – and counting.



What’s the secret? What’s the strategy?

A quote adopted by Betel from one of WEC’s early leaders, Norman Grubb, gives us a clue. He began each day with this simple but profound prayer: “Good morning God. What are you up to today? I want to be part of it. May I? Thank you, Amen.” In other words, there was no strategy, other than to follow the lead of God. This became the strategy of Betel, though, according to the McKenzies, “this could only be discerned 10 years after the fact.” From their experience, “God doesn’t give a formula or a methodology.” One simply has to realise when God has clearly intervened and get onboard. This was the defence that Jesus gave the Pharisees when he dared to heal a blind man on the Sabbath:

“I assure you, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and tells him everything he is doing...” (Jn 5:19-20a).

Though Jesus was strategic in his ministry, he did not adhere to a single, unbending strategy. He knew His father wanted to intervene in this blind man’s life and obeyed. There was no guess work in the matter. Not as eagerly, but to their credit, the McKenzies, and the other co-founders, the Teppers, realised a *God intervention* in the life of Raul and other addicts and changed their plans accordingly. The rest is His-story.



Betel Madrid – largest protestant church in the city.

Lessons to heed for the would-be church planter

What can be learnt from the Betel experience? Hold lightly to any plans or theory. God doesn’t need you to conjure up something to rubber stamp for blessing. Remember, he is the one who’ll lead and build his church - not us! Instead, expect God’s clear intervention and be ready to change, even if it doesn’t make sense. Once He has shown His Glory, as He did with Raul and others, *then* get busy with planning, activity, structure etc to support God’s agenda. Very simply: avoid jumping the gun on God. Christ wants us to seek Him, day-by-day, moment-by-moment and follow - only then can we know and be part of His mind-blowing designs. And 160,000 impacted lives later, Lindsay and Myk would say “amen” to that.

SITsvacant

Central Asia, 2 years

Business Developer: Entrepreneurs needed. Good export potential. Agriculture and food retail are thriving industries but endless opportunities to generate income AND help improve lives in underdeveloped but booming region. Goals are to share the gospel and disciple in a BAM context.

Qualifications: Well-funded, full of faith, self-starter, knowledge of Mandarin an asset, be able to cooperate with the team, people-person. Willing to travel, and not unnerved by changing regulations.

Middle East, 2 years

Science and Technology Lecturers: A University of Science and Technology require personnel to teach: business, basic mathematics, and science courses.

Qualifications: Master or Doctoral degree in business, civil, or petroleum engineering.

Africa, 3 months

Satellite TV Programme Manager: Working with a Christian TV channel broadcasting into North Africa and the Middle East. Internet programming and administration; Social network administration and development.

Qualifications: Technically able to learn and work consistently with software, images, text. An EU visa for France (this is getting more difficult, patience may be required), functional French language for daily life and for the work (you may need to programme some months language study in France).

Mission Mobiliser, Gordonton, NZ, 2 years.

Work in a team environment and increase mission awareness; visiting churches, Bible schools, mission conferences etc; publicise and edit WEC’s ‘Go Into’ magazine; encourage returning missionaries and those on furlough/holiday to get involved in mobilization.

Qualifications: A good, friendly communicator, and people-oriented, team player.

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

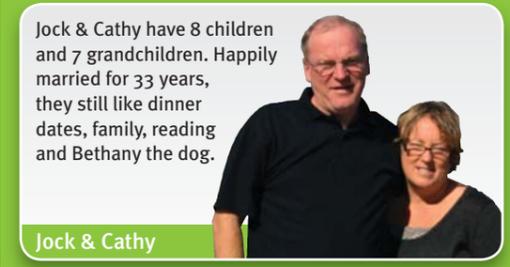
Why do we Serve?

WEC International is 100 years old this year. WEC New Zealand began in 1924 with a visit by Priscilla Studd to mobilize for mission. The first Kiwi recruits went overseas to fields around 1933. From the early days workers left New Zealand for Congo, Colombia, Spain, India, Indonesia and beyond. Today we have a New Zealand voluntary team serving here and overseas of around 85 adult personnel - many with families, children and youth.

What is the motivation that causes people to train, get equipped, leave what is often a vibrant Kiwi career, family and friends and serve God among other peoples – often far away and in dramatically different cultures? At our September Reunion with over 160 current and past workers present, we were reminded again why.

Our motivation is not out of a sense of obligation nor duty, but instead from joy and delight in our God. Joy is an essential element. The story was told of a Sultan’s Palace in Chad where one could only enter by invitation, through the right doorway, and where the penalty for getting anything wrong or approaching too close was death by beheading. Into this formal and fearful royal court, the Sultan’s grandson was seen to run, past all the pomp and ceremony – to leap into the Sultan’s arms to be received with joy.

That amazing image is a picture of what it is like for us to come into our God’s presence and to serve him gladly. And with that same motivation of joy and fellowship, He invites us to share in what He is already doing. What a privilege and opportunity!



Jock & Cathy have 8 children and 7 grandchildren. Happily married for 33 years, they still like dinner dates, family, reading and Bethany the dog.

Jock & Cathy

One third of the world has never heard God’s Big Story. They’ve never seen a group of God’s people. Will you go?

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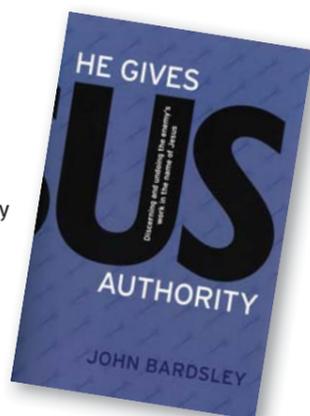
He Gives Us Authority

Discerning and undoing the enemy’s work in the name of Jesus

By John Bardsley

John explores kingdom conflicts. Somehow he condenses 35 years of his explorations, plus the experiences of over 30 Christian workers, into a very practical, engaging book. It is a ‘how-to’ book that helps make sense of our own culture and trends, and looks behind the scenes. It’s systematic, theologically sound, challenging, encouraging and equipping.

Jesus has defeated the devil, who is now an illegal squatter. He gives us authority to evict him.



STAFF NEEDED : MOBILISER

Do you like cafes? Enjoy meeting new people? Like helping people find their fit in mission and ministry?

We are looking for a NZ mobiliser(s). This is a voluntary position as part of the WEC New Zealand team. **Requirements:** interest in cross cultural ministry, recruitment; desire to build relationships and serve the church in NZ; self motivated with good communication skills. This could be for you...

Contact Jock & Cathy Brunskill, (NZ Directors) director@wecnz.org

