

Under the radar

Imagine living in a place where there is no church. Where you can't meet with others to worship in your language. Living in New Zealand, it's pretty hard to imagine. Over summer, I visited such a place.

I flew in, and was picked up by some others who were working there to see the gospel established. In this nation, there are no such things as 'missionaries'; they're not allowed. However, there are plenty of Christians; those who love God, and share their faith with the locals they live and work with. I was struck by the normality of their lives – going to work, taking the children to school, and spending time with friends. But I was also impressed with their passion to see a church established. They've left family and friends, are learning another language and functioning in a

different culture in order to see the light of Christ reach this nation. They are the ones you won't hear about during 'Missions Week' at church, because it's not safe for them to broadcast their work. But they're there, and they are making a difference.

Next year, I'm planning on leaving the Waikato and joining them. It's going to be a challenge, but I'm excited about what God is doing in this place. He will build his church, and he's looking for people to join in with what he's doing. Would you consider coming to join us?

Iran – harvest time

At the beginning of 2012, a Muslim family starting watching Christian satellite TV broadcasts. They immediately began email correspondence with the outreach ministry, asking questions about what they had seen, about Jesus and God's word.

A week later, the family recorded their voices and sent an audio file to the outreach ministry. The family wanted to check that they had said the prayer of salvation correctly:

"Dear God, we confess that we are sinners, I confess that I cannot save myself through my own good works. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins. And they put You in the tomb and you rose from the dead three days later. I believe that You are still alive and have the authority to forgive my sins. And to make me righteous in front of the everlasting God, I ask that You accept me and as You promised, please give me a new life. I thank You for hearing my prayers. Amen."

Transformed, this family began sharing the gospel with their family members. Within one week, 20 more Iranians were transformed, becoming followers of Jesus. "...I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35)

Despite intense persecution, people are coming to Jesus! Conservative estimates state more than 100,000 believers in Iran (some optimistic estimates put it at close to a million). This underground church multiplication is a remarkable move by the Holy Spirit.

This Iran – created, known and loved by God.



reaching people planting churches

Build your Career in Mission

Quick – fill these vacancies before they disappear!

When God called us to the Middle East 20 years ago, a tent making strategy for missions work wasn't common or well understood. Today there

is no longer the great separation between what is considered sacred and secular work and tent making is rapidly becoming integrated into WEC.

Story continues on page 2 →



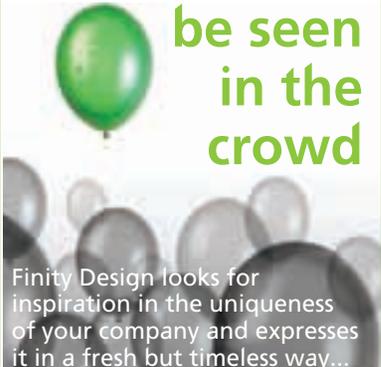
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reaching people planting churches



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Build your Career in Mission *(Continued)*

In fact, it's almost impossible to live in the Gulf countries – Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Oman unless you have a valid secular job. However, as these nations grow and develop there are less jobs available to foreigners, so it's crucial to take up employment while the Lord still provides us with a window of opportunity.

In any of these countries, any determined, suitably qualified and experienced (usually 2 – 5 years) professional can easily gain work in the following fields which are booming:

- Any engineering discipline, teaching at all levels, university and vocational lecturing, medical work, work related to oil and gas production, project management and aviation related work .

Don't have those skills? Here are some other tentmaking opportunities that don't take so much time to train for:

- Teaching English as a second language, beautician, gym, tennis, swimming, squash or adventure tourism instructor, hospitality and tourism related work, first aid instructor, real-estate broker.

There are also business opportunities, though setting up a business in the Middle East is not for the faint-hearted - consultancy work, tourism, sale of New Zealand products (they like our honey and our Whittakers chocolate!), personal training, sale of second hand goods (think Trademe), tutoring and many more.

We've also known interior designers, chiropractors, dietitians, chefs, baristas, au pairs and violin teachers – there are some obscure jobs out there, waiting to be filled by godly tentmakers.



Skill shortages in the service industry

Best way to get a job in the Gulf? Enter on a visitor's visa, armed with your CV and go door knocking. Arabs don't tend to plan ahead – you may be offered a job on the spot, or you may gather a list of contacts that you continue to correspond with until an opportunity arises. When it does, it might only be a matter of weeks until you find yourself baking in the desert and embarked on a new career – tentmaker missionary!

Want a career in mission? Call 0800 46 46 86



Construction keeps going

Stretched in a strange land



New Years day

Short-term work overseas can be both rewarding and challenging. For me, it consisted of a year in Central Asia volunteer teaching a class of 10 energetic 5 and 6 year olds at an international Christian school. Not only did I interact with students from different schooling and cultural backgrounds, but I also encountered the reality of my host culture, once I stepped outside the safe confines of the school-yard. This host culture was welcoming, challenging and made me fall in love with a country that is unlike my own.

What brought me there was answering the need of parents who live in this Central Asian country, whose children (theirs and others) needed an education. I chose to say yes to teaching them, as my heart is to serve in a cross-cultural context. Teaching in a primary school setting was a safe and familiar role, while living in a highly unfamiliar country. My classroom was like a little slice of New Zealand slap-bang in the middle of a thriving Muslim capital city! This wee multi-cultural class contended with my strong Kiwi accent, strange jargon and new ways of doing things but it was also very adept with the host culture that we were living in. We learnt a lot from each other, I think!



Naan for only 25 cents!

Putting my degree to use by serving others felt rewarding. Prior to teaching overseas, life was comfortable but I knew that there was more to it than earning a regular salary and building my own kingdom in New Zealand. I challenge others to have a go at short-term service - to use their skills, abilities and utilise them in a needy place overseas. Get a taste of what life is like in a different country, but use a familiar skill to help with the transition. Not only will the people that you are serving benefit, but you too will be blessed by your host culture and be stretched in new ways in your profession. Go for it!



Chicken and naan combo \$3.25

Want to go short term too? Call 0800 46 46 86

“Behead all those who insult the prophet”



Demonstration in Egypt

Freedom of Expression – cultural principles and practice

An image of a Muslim woman taking a photo of her young son holding a placard, “Behead all those who insult the prophet”, appeared in Australian papers during September demonstrations in Sydney. Many people in New Zealand were shocked at these types of responses and the violence that erupted in countries such as Egypt, Pakistan and Libya.

These demonstrations were responses to a video which was placed on YouTube, produced privately by expatriate Egyptians living in the United States, which featured uncomplimentary depictions of Islam’s founder, Mohammed. Demonstrations were directed at America and other Western governments.

What’s underlying these demonstrations?

Freedom of expression is formally recognised by most nations but this right to communicate one’s ideas and opinions is in practice not absolute in any country. Each country has its own limitations. In the case of the woman above she abused her right by inciting others to commit a crime, a limitation on the freedom of expression in Australia. Photographers in France who took snap shots of the topless Duchess of Cambridge abused their rights by taking away her right to privacy, an English limitation on the freedom of expression. We see in both these examples clashes between cultures and their accepted practices of freedom of expression. In the September protests we watched freedom of expression and its varying practice across different nations and cultures play out in real life.

In countries such as Pakistan and Saudi Arabia there is a law regarding ‘Blasphemy against Islam’. This can result in imprisonment or death for those found to defame Mohammed by speaking ill of or attacking his good reputation. This limitation on freedom of expression is valued by most Muslims and motivates their demonstrations. They also commonly come from collective cultures with highly controlling governments. These nations do not separate an individual from his or her nation and take very seriously the government’s responsibility to preserve public order, religion and national security. Such a video would never be “allowed” to appear under such regimes. This is why protests are directed at governments, which they believe cannot be separated from the action of the individual.

What are the practical implications of “Freedom of Expression” for Christians?

Jesus expects us to practice freedom of speech. He seeks other people’s opinions - “Who do you say I am?” (Matthew 16:15). He is clearly capable of responding to insult and challenge with gracious and powerful words, and sees no need to attack others (e.g. John 8). In fact when his disciples wanted to “call down fire” on the Samaritans for not welcoming Jesus, He rebuked them for their reaction, and kept walking to another village (Luke 9:55). And finally, when faced with his own imminent torture and death, he commanded his followers to “Put your sword back in its place” (Matthew 26:52). Jesus taught very personally that Christian freedom of expression comes with the freedom to be rejected and insulted.



Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you

He also taught that this freedom came with responsibility to love and respect others, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44), a truly radical ethic. We practice this freedom within the laws and limitations of the countries in which God calls us to live whether that is New Zealand or the Middle East. In Muslim countries Christians are very aware of blasphemy laws and will be sensitive not to defame Mohammed. This focusing on the truths and positives of Jesus and his teaching rather than putting down another religion proves to be a much better approach wherever we find ourselves in the world. However, affirming the Lordship and saving power of Jesus is in effect a statement about Mohammed. It will often result in persecution and imprisonment for new believers and expulsion from a country for Christian workers when people start to express their Christian faith.

Wherever you find yourself be bold in expressing your beliefs while respecting the rights and reputation of others. Acts 4:29

SITsvacant

West Asia: Web design

Minimum period: 2 weeks

Description: The Bible Correspondence Course has dozens of sites and projects that need a professional touch in website design.

Gambia: Registered nurse for nutritional centre

Minimum period: 2 yrs

Description: Experienced. This is also a long-term opportunity. Under medical officer supervision. Shared accommodation.

Central Asia: Creative arts ministry

Description: Musician, soundman, dancer, actor or visual artist, your gifts can be used for proclaiming the good news in a way that touches the hearts of local people. Also need people to help in administration, hospitality of visiting artists, being a ‘roadie’ and prayer. There will be language study requirements based on the amount of time staying in the country if it is more than 3 months. A progressive orientation and training programme is also provided.

Central Asia: English Teacher

Minimum period: 1 yr

Description: Teach English as a Foreign Language for a Christian business. Daily contact with local believers and non-believers in the work environment. A graduate, aged 25-55 years, with a degree in any subject plus a certificate or degree in TEFL, with at least 3 years’ relevant teaching experience.

Central Asia: Help with missionaries children

Minimum period: 8 days

Description: Helper needed for teaching children of missionaries for one week (usually end of May or beginning of June) at our summer Conference. May be opportunity for travel to visit before or afterwards. Someone with commitment and flexibility, experience of working with children (eg. in Sunday school).

Asia: Ophthalmic assistance

Minimum period: 2 weeks

Description: Provide short-term ophthalmic assistance to the existing project.

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

Transformed in Turmoil

The courage and wisdom of many Muslim background pastors and believers is amazing. Despite persecution, they know the power of Isa al Masih (Jesus the Messiah) and testify powerfully about Him. The daily prayers from the Qur’an open with, “Show us the right path,” and these believers are doing just that to their fellow Muslims. They are sharing about Isa with spiritually hungry Muslims. At the same time the Holy Spirit is testifying to many about Christ through dreams and visions. Some have heard the voice of Jesus saying, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

We heard recently of an Iranian pastor and his wife who, though separately imprisoned for their faith, came to realise that the Spirit showed them Jesus in a dream at exactly the same day and hour – even though they were in separate prisons at the time. The message each heard from him was identical! E Stanley Jones famously said, “You can’t get closer than in!” referring to the indwelling Holy Spirit. It seems that God the Spirit is working powerfully despite the current political and economic turmoil in the region.



Many Muslim believers are light to those around them despite persecution

Jock & Cathy have 8 children and 6 grandchildren. Happily married for 30 years, they still like dinner dates, family, reading and Bethany the dog.



Jock & Cathy

STAFF NEEDED: CATERER



This is a voluntary position as part of the NZWEC team.

Someone who likes to bless others and has an interest in cross cultural ministry.

Catering for up to 50 people.

Caterer is required during our candidate training (3 month blocks) starting February and July.

Contact **Jock & Cathy Brunskill** if you are interested.

While you were sleeping...

A Christian worker in a country with a low percentage of Christians has taken a unique approach to sharing the good news. Each morning the worker takes a taxi (which are a lot cheaper than in New Zealand) for the purpose of asking the taxi driver a question. To the worker’s joy (and we guess surprise) the conversation goes something like this...

Worker: “Have you been having any dreams lately?”

Driver: “Well yes, actually.”

Worker: “What are they about?”

Driver: “I have a vision of Jesus.”

Worker: “Would you like me to tell you about him?”

Driver: “Yes.”

The worker proceeds to tell about the ‘rescuer’, including radio frequencies that the driver can tune into for more information. Then the worker gets another taxi in the afternoon...



God is passionate about communities and culture... are you?

Eastwest College is offering two block courses in A Semester 2013.

Community Development

Mick Duncan

April 15-17

level 5, 5 credits

\$265

Learning Another Culture

Dr Bob Ferris

May 6-17

level 5, 9 credits

\$475

Eastwest College can get you ready to serve God in any situation... whether you come for one or two years, or simply to attend a block course.



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Eastwest College
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