



Calling Kiwis to the mission of God

Engineering Evangelism

Nearing the end of high school, I dreamt of becoming an engineer. Acceptance as a trainee with an electrical supply company saw my dream begin to take shape. God's dream though was much bigger. A radical missionary lady spoke at the church I was attending. What she said changed my life forever. I knew I was being called to live "that same life." After graduating from Canterbury University in Electrical Engineering, I worked for four years as a design engineer, resigning to do Bible training in 1994. I joined WEC and arrived in France in 1996. His dream for me continues to be fulfilled.

I could never have imagined the journey ahead. I've spent 18 months learning French in France, 18 months learning Arabic in Jordan and nearly 6 years living in North Africa. I'm now working with a Christian TV station, based in southern France, broadcasting the gospel into North Africa and the Middle East.

My daily work is primarily that of a design engineer, but with a few big differences. I'm part of a team of five technical maestros using MacBook Pros with specialised TV software to run a 24/7 TV channel. I help prepare and monitor the programming, intervening if any problems arise. I also manage the channel's web sites, coordinate follow up teams, and am developing partnerships with other organisations who provide broadcasting content.

Over the years I've seen that a majority of Muslims coming to the Lord hear, at least in part, through the media. We're receiving a huge response: around 2,500 people call our partner phones every month; 12,000 viewers watch our TV on the web; somewhere between 1-3 million receive and watch our channel by satellite. We're excited to know that at least 50 people, mostly Algerians, give their lives to Christ every month through this ministry!

I feel so privileged. I'm happy I persevered in my studies, and so pleased that when God said, "Go, I will be with you," I replied, "I know this ain't gonna be easy, but yes, I'm gonna do it!" Handing our dreams, professions and passions over to him can take us beyond the routine to making an eternal difference. Indeed, his dreams are more than we can ask or imagine, and I can say it is truly worth it.

Originally from NZ's King Country Aidan (pseudonym) spent 10 years in the electrical supply industry. Now married and with two children, he enjoys fresh croissants, good coffee, sport, reading and fixing stuff.

Aidan (pseudonym)



Professionals in Mission

"Hi there! I'm Martin. What's your name? And what do you do?"

Not an unusual way to greet a new person in the neighbourhood! Locals aren't just being nosy. They want to know for a good reason. Who's living next door? Who's passing their kids every day in the street? Are they safe to have around?

Few, if any, would say, "I'm a missionary and I've come to share about Jesus." Some celebrate this highly direct approach, but would struggle to implement it in societies hostile to the idea of missionaries. If the answer given is vague and hesitant, it will make that first, all important, meeting awkward. Wouldn't we too be a little concerned about a neighbour who couldn't answer that question easily? After all, first impressions linger.

When a Kiwi Christian living in Tehran, Mumbai or Beijing can say, "I run an IT business" or "I'm an

engineer with the power company," "I'm a speech therapist" or "I'm a Tae-Kwon-Do instructor," the conversation can move forward with ease. This is one of the many advantages for those working with a clear missional mindset across cultures in their profession.

Challenges exist too. The market place missionary may have less time for Bible study, discipleship and developing friendships. It's also necessary to keep a close eye on professional accreditation, training and work performance, and all the while maintaining vital contact with one's supporters back home.

It's not easy. Mission never has been. But as you'll discover, it's worth it! This edition is devoted to courageous Kiwis, serving in their vocation with WEC, among some of the least-reached peoples of the world.



▼ inside

• Much More Than a Job! • The Numbers Add Up • God at Work in the Gulf • Engineering Evangelism



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Much More Than a Job!

In many places WEC serves, our workers are in paid secular employment. Labelled “tentmakers” in honour of the Apostle Paul, they work as engineers, doctors, teachers, IT consultants, accountants, lecturers, managers, and countless other occupations in places where traditional missionaries cannot go.

Sometimes people think the only reason I have a job here is so I can get a visa for my country of service. If true, that means I spend 40 hours a week doing one thing so I can have a visa, and do what I actually came here for (church planting) in my remaining free time. How sad! Such people may think that I tent-make begrudgingly. They see work as a time-consuming distraction from actual “ministry.” Not so!

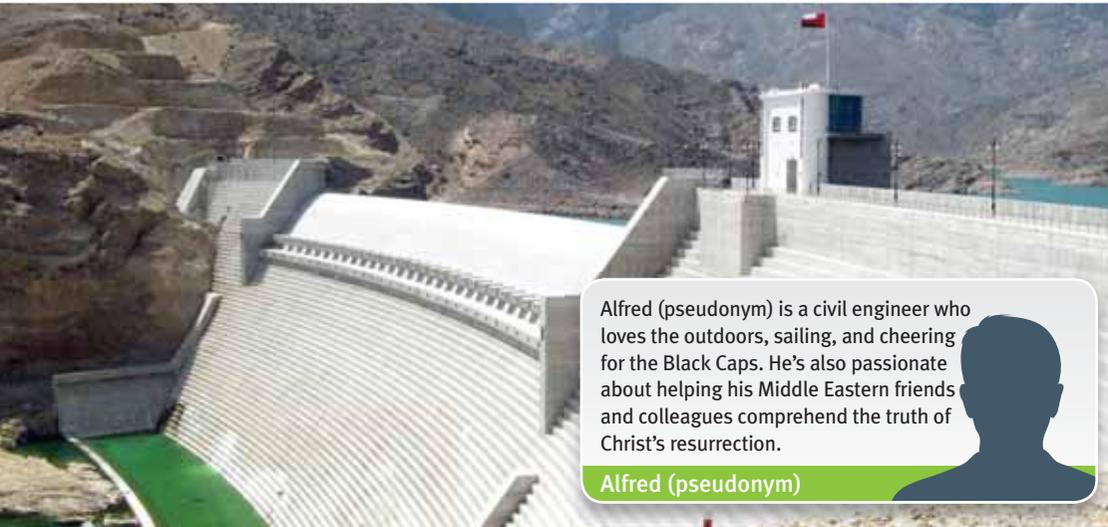
Many Bible characters used ordinary work as a means to witness God bringing people into his Kingdom. Joseph was a servant of high regard to his master Potiphar. Daniel shaped history in Babylon while employed by the King. A lowly housemaid pointed Naaman to where he would ultimately find faith in the God of Israel. Elsewhere in scripture, we find God using a farmer (Amos 7:14-15), a food taster (Nehemiah 1:11-2:4), a publisher (Ezra 7:6), and a fashion retailer (Acts 16:14) as bearers of the good news.

God providentially used the persecution which drove the church from Jerusalem to spread the gospel. All of these Christians would have sought

employment in their new homes. They would have haggled and bartered with any number of pagan people, all the while being ready to defend the gospel. This is the role I see myself in.

Colleagues are the neighbours of the 21st century. I rarely see my next door neighbours. The lost will not be found in church halls but in hospitals, company meeting rooms, and construction sites. The best way I can build meaningful, eternally significant relationships is to roll up my sleeves and discuss production targets and key performance indicators alongside them. I get to spend a minimum of 40 hours a week investing into their lives—surely I am one of the most privileged of all WEC workers!

Increasingly, tentmaking is the only viable option for missionaries in many nations. But paid secular employment isn’t a necessary evil or an obstacle to be tolerated. It’s living the Gospel in everyday life. Perhaps the current necessity is not a hindrance, but God once again moving providentially to build culturally appropriate bridges to call all peoples to himself.



Alfred (pseudonym) is a civil engineer who loves the outdoors, sailing, and cheering for the Black Caps. He’s also passionate about helping his Middle Eastern friends and colleagues comprehend the truth of Christ’s resurrection.



Alfred (pseudonym)

The Numbers Add Up

As an accountant, I felt challenged about what I had in my hand (my skills and experiences) and sensed the Lord’s call to put these to use for His kingdom in a cross-cultural context. While finances may not seem an obvious way to further the gospel, I have a growing appreciation for just how critical the oft-unseen support functions are to church planting teams. My skills have provided a great opportunity to work alongside locals, to train them well, and to demonstrate how the gospel penetrates everything we do, including our financial decisions, work ethics, and day-to-day responses to corrupt society. It’s incredibly practical, and so essential!

Often times, more ‘up-front’ jobs get the spotlight, but without support from skilled administrators, many basic things don’t get done, and this can be a drag on the team. Skills in office management, finance and reporting are a huge blessing. It enables teams to run with what they are called to do. Abilities like critical thinking, communication, coaching, and people management are often taken for granted, but are highly useful on the mission field.

While it’s been challenging to get my head around a professional context so different from NZ, it’s evident to me that support skills have a crucial role on the mission field. It sure is a jump from NZ. Things move slower and are incredibly unclear. Information isn’t freely available, customer service is almost unheard of, and people lack the training to do their jobs well. Rules may exist but go unenforced, and there are often issues of corruption and bribery. The challenge of living out the gospel has become apparent in ways I never before faced, but I feel alive in a way that I didn’t while sitting in my cubicle in my NZ corporate job two years ago.

Short or long term, I would challenge you as a professional or someone with a specific skill: what do you have in your hand and how are you using it for the extension of his Kingdom? In a developing country, the bar is often low, and what you can give will go further than it would in NZ. We are incredibly blessed in this nation. How you are using your expertise to bless other nations? Even if you don’t think of yourself as a church planter, I would challenge you that in missions, as in any organisation, a wide range of skills are valid and necessary!



“What do you have in your hand? How are you using it for the extension of his Kingdom?”

Originally from NZ’s beautiful South, Deanne (pseudonym) spent 10 years in finance in Auckland before moving to South East Asia. She enjoys photography, experimenting in the kitchen, and perfecting her cycling technique amongst the local Asian traffic!



Deanne (pseudonym)

God at Work in the Gulf

My wife and I have lived as tentmakers in the Middle East for over 20 years. This is our story.



Early in our relationship, we decided that mission was on the agenda for both of us. We got married on that understanding and then wondered, "Where Lord, do you want us to go?" We both had experience in East Asia, but when we prayed about going there, nothing felt right. As we were pondering this, several things happened to steer our focus elsewhere. Random people would give us books or articles on the Middle East. We would read compelling stories in magazines or see news clips about the Middle East on TV.

We belonged to a church in the Baptist Union, and twice we attended their annual missions week. The first year they zeroed in on Islam and the second year was all about 'tentmaking.' I work in aviation, and some of my colleagues were returning to NZ from stints in the Middle East. Many were positive about the experience. All of this gave us a desire to work in the Arab world, especially the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations: Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

One day, my wife mentioned a particular country in the GCC (not named for security reasons) and opined that she would feel pretty bad if we weren't heading there. I countered with a remark about being open to any place God called us to. Little did we know the surprise God had in store for us! Two days later, without having told anyone that we were interested in a job overseas, I received a telephone call from an expat working in my field. He indicated that he urgently needed my services in the exact country God had laid on my wife's heart. We were gobsmacked. Never had the Lord spoken to us so clearly. It was an easy decision to resign from my job immediately and prepare for our lives in this new place.

We scurried around the countryside, looking for a mission organisation that would accept us on such short notice, but most were cautious in taking on a couple about whom they knew so little. Fortunately for us, WEC was able to take us on as 'Associates,' as they already knew both of us individually.



So we went. Our first few years were essentially a honeymoon period. We settled in with like-minded families here, sharing the same heart for a church in this land, rearing a young family, learning the language, and visiting the nationals who were amiable and hospitable. Over time, we found that while the locals were very friendly, they were resistant to accepting the Gospel or absorbing our teaching on Jesus. Islam has a very different view of Christ, his divinity and his role in salvation. Centuries of teaching have hardened many peoples' hearts against the truth.

Again, God surprised us and, after 20 years of barren ministry, locals are coming to Jesus in numbers that we could never have imagined, even three years ago. God's drawing, not our efforts, have been the key. We have simply been in the right place for people to reveal to us that they have accepted the Lord. We are seeing wonderful growth as the Holy Spirit breathes life, freedom and joy into the hearts of those who are following The Way. We have the satisfaction of participating in a weekly underground church that meets in various homes and takes different formats so believers are given the full breadth of Christian experience - including teaching, worship, communion, and meaningful fellowship. The Spirit of Christ has broken down many walls of distrust in a society where tribal allegiance is strong and there is a well-founded fear of consequences. It is such a joy to see new believers relate how God is speaking into their lives and answering their prayers!

Over the years, my secular work has been the key to securing a visa. Excellence in a chosen vocation is valued in this part of the world. Employers are happy to keep a good worker who adds value to their business. Work opportunities abound here and it's always amazed us that, while millions of non-Christians seek employment for nothing more than the cash, so few intentional Christians take up these opportunities.

From our perspective, it seems that people in virtually any field can secure a contract here. Medical and engineering jobs are abundant. We have also seen Christians employed in sports education, teaching English, small businesses, aviation, defence contract work, finance, and banking to mention a few. If God wants you here, there are no limits. Discernment of a clear call, a fierce determination to push on doors, together with a love for this part of the world will bring you to our shores.

Tentmaking has not been the most obvious route for mission in the last century, but it is increasingly a vital strategy in reaching the most Gospel-resistant nations. It provides a valid way of securing residence in countries where overt Christian mission is neither appreciated nor legal.

The doors are wide open and the harvest is upon us. Come! The Lord will lead you and use you to lift up his name in these needy lands.

Dean and Jane (pseudonyms) hail from the lower North Island but happily call themselves Mainlanders now! Interestingly, Jane loves the hot climate of the Middle East and learning language. Dean is an avid fisherman who enjoys wading into the creation vs evolution debate.

Dean and Jane (pseudonyms)

SITSVACANT

Each team represented in this edition has a number of urgent needs for new personnel. Some are listed below, but if what you're looking for isn't listed here, do get in touch.

Communications Manager

Location: France
Create a media strategy for a Satellite TV channel. A team player who would manage public communications, and could work with software, images, and text. French language ability would be an asset.

Treasurer

Location: S. E. Asia
An experienced accountant/bookkeeper to oversee this team's monthly financial system. Some supervision of local staff is required.

Missional Business Director

Location: S. E. Asia
An experienced business person, preferably with a pastoral gift, to mentor and advise missional business initiatives. These two roles could be combined.

Doctors

Location: S.E. Turkey
Urgent needs exist in refugee camps in South Eastern Turkey for 3 - 4 weeks.
Doctors also needed in Africa, Middle East, Asia for 2 weeks to 2 years.

Architect/Engineer

Location: Gambia:
Experienced architect or building engineer for training centre in Gambia. Interested in working in a developing country and love to empower locals? Even if you can't come but think your skills could help our projects, get in contact with us.

Accountants

Opportunities in Canada, Asia, South Africa, USA, Thailand and Mexico for 1 - 5 years.

Thailand

Urgent - Staff for a children's programme at a two week international mission conference in October.

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

A Match Made in Heaven

What comes to mind when I say, "mission"? Going to far flung places, helping the poor, sharing the gospel cross-culturally, planting churches? So how about, "business"? Maybe you think about profits, customer service, product development, financial planning, entrepreneurship? Many would think the two are incompatible. Perhaps, if you're a businessperson, the best you can do is stay home and send money to 'real' missionaries.

Here's the deal. The idea of combining business with mission isn't new, it's as old as the gospel. Furthermore, when we're talking about reaching 'unreached peoples,' most don't put up welcome signs for 'missionaries'. They do for people who create jobs, bring in needed knowledge and skills, and contribute positively to their economy. So if we want to get in, stay in, and make a difference in the community, we need to think differently about what missionaries are, what they do, and the skills that they need.

And it's not just about business. Professionals and trades people who demonstrate their faith through their work, and act as 'living letters', 'known and read by all around them' (2 Corinthians 3:2), similarly take the Good News where it might otherwise never go. If that's you, let's talk!



Martyn is a Kiwi who chairs WEC's Business Consultancy Group. Coming from an executive business and pastoral leadership background, he's passionate about helping people and organisations with Missional Business.

Martyn

30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World

More Muslims than ever before are coming to faith in Jesus Christ in the 21st Century (see David Garrison's new book "A Wind in the House of Islam"). God is moving in response to our prayers - but many have yet to hear the Good News.

Please join us in prayer this Ramadan!
Your prayers are making a DIFFERENCE!

Order your 30 Days Prayer Guide TODAY!
1-9 copies \$7.00 ea; 10-29 copies \$6.00 ea; 30 or more copies \$5.00 ea

Send all orders to:
MARN, PO Box 20063,
Glen Eden, Auckland 0641
Email: marn@talk.co.nz
Ph: 021 185 3334

Short Term Mission

I heard a radio ad, nek minute, I'm in Thailand! Not an ad from a travel agency, but a mission agency. Together we planned. Now I'm teaching English and home schooling children of Korean missionaries.

Thailand has given me excitement, fear, happiness, loneliness, laughter, confusion, embarrassment, tears of sadness and of joy, but most of all, growth. I'm experiencing these emotions at an extreme I never knew possible, yet I'm thankful for it all. My faith is expanding. Even through the painful emotions, I have an undeniable peace, knowing God is with me. He remains good. He remains faithful. I now understand what it is to have 'pure joy through trials'. I love it here, I hate it here, I love it some more.

I was helping Sion to ride her bike. She fell off, but immediately she determined to try again. This reminded me of God's call to have 'childlike faith.' Like children, we should go hard, and each time we fail, not delay, but carry on with just as much fight.



Learning Thai is sometimes discouraging. After one shopping "muck up" I couldn't go back for ages because I was so embarrassed. Now, I'm trying to be like Sion learning to ride. I thought courage was something that could run out, like the more you use it, the less you have. It turns out, that the more you use it, the more you get.

This has been a great trip. I'm wondering where God might lead me in the future. If you're interested in something like this, do contact the Trek office. You won't regret it!