



# GO INTO

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Spreading the Gospel where it's thinnest

# A Forward Facing Legacy

Northeast India comprises Seven Sister States. Welsh missionaries first arrived in the state of Mizoram in 1840. By 2006, 80% of the state's population were Christians. Missionaries from Mizoram are now missionaries in Wales!



La: "75% of our province profess to be Christian. This is wonderful! However, only 30 missionaries have been sent from our many churches. Mizoram state has sent over 2000. Imagine if this could be repeated across the other states. There is still huge recruitment potential!" La's church is now supporting her at Asha Bhawan, our drug rehab ministry found across India.

Ching recalls, "Whilst pursuing a Commerce degree in 2003, I was praying for mission work by following a small prayer book. God used the statistics to prick my heart so strong that I couldn't sleep that night. I knew I was being called, but I brushed it aside and in my foolishness bargained with God. Again, this time during a church sermon, God's word hit me so strong that I could resist no longer. Now I'm training to go to Laos."

This is only a snapshot of N.E. India. There's a plethora of opinion on what mission involvement in India should look like. WEC's IMM Branch is one model that seems to both build on the past and provide an effective way forward.



Operation World notes that, 'recent awakenings and revivals have dynamised the church and society.' Over 2000 missionaries have been raised up, and Mizoram stands amongst the most literate and well educated states in India.

Neighbouring Meghalaya, known as 'Scotland of the East,' likewise experienced great revivals in the early 20th and 21st centuries. In 2007 the Presbyterian Synod, sensing a 'Welsh Gospel debt', decided to regularly pray for revival to break out in Wales, as it had in Shillong, it's capital city.

WEC's story begins in 1946, when two single women arrived in Shillong. Their plan was to stay for six months of Nepali language study, before pushing on into Nepal for pioneer church planting. They stayed 32 years! Upon arrival there was no known church amongst the Nepalis. Neither did anyone expect them to be able to plant one, in such a male dominated society. Yet in 1947, the first Nepali church was formed in Shillong. Today there is a strong Nepali church, and many fervent Indian Christian leaders across India, as a direct result of these little known, faith-filled women.

Building on this legacy, a WEC IMM team recently ran its first missionary orientation programme in Shillong. Fourteen 'candidates' participated from around N.E. India. Kiwis Jack and Andrea (pseudonym) supervised the residential course. Two of the participants, La and Ching had the following to say.

WEC International



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0800 GO INTO (46 46 86)

Tel: 07 824 3211

Email: info@wecnz.org

Web: www.wecnz.org

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35 College Drive  
Gordonton

RD1 Taupiri 3791

## Hold The Door – We're coming too!

To look ahead is exciting, and daunting. We build on the past, yet know tomorrow cannot be lived the same as yesterday. Paul wrote, "...a wide door for effective service has opened to me" (1 Cor 16:9). Thrilling new ventures are taking place.

WEC Aotearoa and WEC Pasifika recently combined to train NiVans as Associate Workers. Interestingly, Vanuatu derives from vanua (island or land) and tu (to stand or rise up). We repeatedly heard, "Now is the time for Vanuatu to rise up and take its place in world mission." And it's not only Vanuatu. Many nations once the focus of mission activity are hearing the call of God to reach out to the least-reached.

New sending initiatives from Vietnam, Thailand, N.E. India, Romania and the Middle East, join other Majority World missionaries from Africa and South America. These ongoing shifts challenge us to continually evaluate our approach, as we look through the open door to what lies ahead.

Spring births new beginnings, and this edition highlights some of these unprecedented developments. WEC's newest ministry, IMM (International Mission Mobilisation), is at the forefront of this work. IMM have numerous teams working at the invitation of local churches to mobilise and train new workers for cross-cultural mission.

In his explanation to the Corinthians, Paul importantly adds, "and there are many adversaries." Each open door will involve a spiritual battle. Inside, Patrick Johnstone reflects on major prayer breakthroughs that changed the world, encouraging us to wrestle on.

We trust you're excited by these stories (with Kiwi connections). Better yet, may they fuel our prayers, as we involve ourselves with the global church in the mission heart of God.



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## Changing Seats

We've all had the experience of attending a sports event, concert or even a worship service held in a large venue. We soon identify the "bad seats." It may be due to a column or video camera platform blocking the view. We all want good seats. Karen and I had great seats during our years on staff at Eastwest College, near Hamilton. We regularly saw evidence of God's heart for the nations, with His provision of students, qualified staff, government approvals and even the physical development of the college.

Two years ago, when we began the transition from serving at Eastwest to WEC's new ministry International Mission Mobilization (IMM), we thought we might have to relinquish our great seats. We've been pleasantly surprised however, to discover that, though the venue is different, the new view is fabulous.

IMM teams and associates are currently serving in approximately a dozen countries in Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Asia helping to mobilize the church for missions. The response from these churches to be involved with sending forth missionaries is often amazing. Especially when we take into account many of these churches represent people groups who were considered missionary receiving peoples not so long ago.

MEET students performing for the camera while out for an evening walk.



We have been with IMM in Manila since late 2014. Though the mission-minded Christian church in the Philippines is a small percentage of the overall population, with a country population of over 100 million the number remains quite significant. We've met numerous church leaders who are passionate about sending forth workers to the unreached. Often there is strong interest to partner with agencies, such as WEC, who have teams serving in their area of interest. The bringing together of these mission-minded churches and a hundred-year-old mission organisation, appears to be divinely directed synergy.

Karen and I recently returned to Manila from our annual IMM Conference in Korea. One evening the program included testimonies of three relatively new members of IMM, each one from a different country. Only a few decades ago getting a missionary into any one of their countries would of been considered very difficult, if not impossible.

First we heard how they providentially came to a personal knowledge of Christ. Then we heard each one declare their commitment to mobilise their national church to be involved with taking the gospel to the least-reached areas of the world.

When the program finished, as Karen and I walked back to our room, we both agreed that we have once again been granted the privilege of great seats to see God powerfully continue to build His kingdom.

Pat and Karen moved to NZ with their four children in 1996. Since that time they have managed to collect two Kiwi son-in-laws and NZ citizenship. They currently enjoy living in Manila, serving with the local IMM team and the wider ministry as Training Coordinators.

Pat & Karen



## The 'A' Team Prepares Recruits

On one side, a Muay Thai Boxing Centre. Next door an IMM team - let's call them the 'A Team.' On the left, people shout their way to strength and fitness. On the right, people sacrifice much to become spiritually fit and strong for the mission of God.

The 'A' is for 'advance'. Like John the Baptist, they pioneer and prepare a way into uncharted territory. Long gone are the days of "the West to the rest." Mission today is a global task. This team's vision is to seek out and prepare mission-minded people coming from these "emerging sending nations."

### What do they do?

The A Team run regional three-month "mission English" training schools in South-East Asia. Hamiltonians Paul and Rachel recently volunteered at one of these courses. Paul explains, "English is often the required language for multicultural teams serving in mission. This residential course has been specifically developed to improve people's English for mission. With greater fluency, a wider network of opportunities is opened, helping them find their place and contribute well in their teams.

Students come from throughout the region; Thailand, China, Korea and Indonesia. It's an amazing opportunity and demand for course placement is on the rise. Some go on to join international agencies like WEC, others serve in cross-cultural ministry teams within their home country."

### A Typical Day

"Each day begins early with prayer and then chapel. The mornings involve English classes and Bible study. Afternoons host a range of speakers covering topics such as; working in multicultural teams, church planting, mission history and strategy.

Many activities take place out of the classroom. Students write daily journals and are required to lead chapel times, give their testimony and preach two sermons in English. They also attend local services and write up their experiences around a framework of ministry questions.

Regular outreach in local schools and alongside nearby missionaries is complimented by weekly mentoring with a staff member. Life on course is lived out in community; preparation and sharing of meals - pretty much everything is lived out together.



Teachers and WEC staff are stretched with the workload. However, we know the effort was extremely worthwhile and we've made many lasting friendships. For us it was an incredibly rewarding experience for which we're grateful and will never forget."

There is an ongoing need for more teachers to volunteer at the training schools. Courses are held throughout the year. Ideally you would come for 3 months, but even a month would make a difference. Contact the team at WEC NZ and ask about serving on the A Team.

**STOP PRESS:** We have just received an urgent request for volunteers on the course at the end of September, as a couple have to pull out due to an injury. If you can't wait for summer to start warming up, and are available now, then give us a call on 0800 GO INTO (46 46 86).

Bringing a business, education and community health background, Paul and Rachel taught English and helped in a multitude of ways. They've returned to Hamilton and await their next Kingdom adventure.

Paul & Rachel



# World Changing Prayer

“Ask of me and I will give the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.” (Psalm 2:8)



God used these words to confirm his call to Patrick Johnston. Just as the Father challenged the Son to pray for and claim the nations, so Jesus in turn bequeathed that challenge to us! This seeking the nations for the Father’s glory defined the ministry of Patrick. After serving for 16 years with the Dorothea Mission – an agency dedicated to soul-winning and prayer for the nations, the first Operation World was compiled to bring people together to pray for the nations. The research and vision for this resource brought Patrick and his first wife Jill into the leadership team of WEC International in 1979.

After several editions of the full version, Jill saw her long standing desire for a children’s prayer guide completed in 1992, just before she went to be with the Lord. The first country covered was Albania; the first country to openly declare itself an atheistic nation. The effectiveness of the prayers of the children decided the title of the book. Jill ran a children’s prayer group and in 1989, when Albania was closed to the gospel, the children prayed earnestly. Later, to their delight, Albania’s atheist rulers were overthrown and missionaries allowed in. One of the girls declared, “We’ve changed Albania!” Hence the title of Jill’s book, “You Can Change the World”.

From the first copies of Operation World until today, people young and old have continued to change the world. Here are just six examples of what could be many volumes of the changes brought to the world through prayer.

### 1. Evangelical Awakening

What is now known as the sixth Evangelical Awakening or more popularly the Jesus Movement, coincided with the launch of the first edition of Operation World in 1965. This was the beginning of the charismatic awakening and global prayer movements across the world. The following 50 years have witnessed the greatest turning to Christ the world has ever seen. Yet, the world’s press has ignored this fact.

### 2. Euro-Communism

In 1983 Brother Andrew challenged the Christian world to a seven-year prayer war to tear down the Iron Curtain. Six years later the Berlin Wall came down, followed by the fragmentation of the USSR. Today in Central Asia there are many indigenous churches with possibly 100,000 believers – none were known in 1990.



### 3. The Miracle of Iran

There were fewer than 500 Iranian believers from a Muslim background when the Ayatollahs set up an Islamic theocracy in 1978. This led to much prayer for Iran. This revolution was disastrous for the country, and, not liking what they had, many began to seek the Lord. There may now be 500,000 Iranian followers of Jesus across networks of illegal house churches, and many more worldwide.

### 4. Breakthrough in Algeria

For a century intercessors prayed and missionaries toiled. Charles Marsh, the great missionary to the Kabyle people, said that he had to bury nearly everyone he led to Jesus (they were martyred). Thirty years ago a few Kabyle were disciplined by foreigners; the start of a movement to Christ in the midst of violent civil war. Today we estimate that there are over 300,000 believers.

### 5. The Church in China

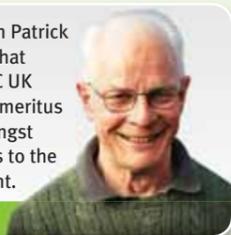
Hudson Taylor’s mobilisation of Christians to pray for China is being answered – but the unlikely ‘evangelist’ was the communist Mao Tse Tung. The million evangelicals in 1949 has grown to 100 million or more today.



### 6. Muslim Background Believers

For a century or more a great volume of prayer has gone up for breakthroughs in the world of Islam. The rise of jihadist Islam has been one of many factors leading to this turn-around. There were less than 200,000 believers from a Muslim background in 1960, but today there may be 10 million! In his book, A Wind in the House of Islam, David Garrison identifies at least 69 movements of 1000+ Muslim conversions or 100 churches planted. The 30 Days of Prayer for the Muslim World project began in 1993. Surely this too has been a stimulus to the great number of Muslims coming to faith in recent years?

This article is based upon Patrick Johnstone’s reflections that first appeared in the WEC UK magazine. He is author Emeritus of Operation World, amongst many other contributions to the world Christian movement.



### Praying Together Engage

May these changes encourage you to engage in prayer for further long-awaited breakthroughs among people clusters in their homelands and diasporas around the world. There are still many people groups with few known believers. Maybe you can adopt such a people for prayer, or use a resource like Operation World (available from WEC NZ). Let’s mobilise an army of intercessors to change our needy world!

### Receive

Each month we produce prayer notes for all our Kiwi and Pasifika workers. If you’d like to receive this, please contact us. All our workers would love to have more people “standing in the gap” on behalf of the people they serve. If you’d like to pray for workers in a particular region of the world, please be in touch and we’ll connect you with someone.

### Join

Join a prayer group. WEC has several groups around NZ who meet regularly to pray for workers from WEC and often other missions. Contact us for more information. And if there isn’t a group in your area or that doesn’t meet at a time that works for you, get in touch and we can help you get set up.

Needed – people with IT skills! Training or experience in developing and maintaining multi-platform apps (windows, OSX, Linux, iOS, Adroid) OR people with experience or ability to work with Autolt and Applescript. A team player is required.

Like working with children? We have several opportunities right now. From just a few days helping at conferences, to longer term helping parents with home schooling. Caring for, and educating our missionary children is a vital ministry.

Do you like walking and talking? Thousands of pilgrims come to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, from all over the world. Come for 2 weeks or more between April and October. As you’ll be walking too, a moderate level of fitness would be required.

After walking the Camino, why not stay on? You could participate in some language learning and assist in various ministries around Santiago.

A team in Madrid needs native English speakers to help in their homework classes. If you have a heart for children or youth then there is a place for you with classes for 4 to 16 year old children as well as young adult classes need assistance.

Bourofaye Christian School in Senegal needs teachers - enthusiastic and flexible, qualified teachers preferred. They also need dorm helpers. This community provides a place of learning and nurture for worker’s children. The school year starts in September – enquire about this year or think ahead to 2017.

People with practical skills and some work experience; metalworker, woodworker, car mechanic, mason, etc. Over 50% of the Gambian population is less than 18 years’ old; many need some training. A training centre for practical skills is being established. Are you trained and/or experienced in a practical profession, have 6 - 24 months to give? Looking to start mid-January 2017.

Registered Nurse needed for Nutritional Centre in Gambia. Should enjoy working with people in a cross-cultural context.

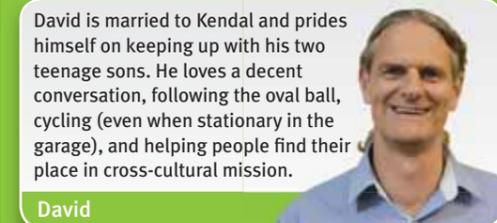
These are just a few examples among numerous possibilities to serve with WEC teams. For more info visit [www.wecnz.org](http://www.wecnz.org) or call us at 0800 GO INTO

More Info

In mission today we are quick to say “mission is from anywhere to everywhere”. This is a significant change from the past when mission was largely “west to east”. However, I’m not sure we have truly grasped the implications of this shift.

Recently, I spent a couple of weeks in Vanuatu training WEC Associate Workers at the invitation of our Pasifika branch and the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. Since returning, many times when I mention what I was doing, people are taken aback as I explain that the church in Vanuatu is sending out mission workers. The next expectation is that they are going to other Pacific islands. It takes a bit to help people accept that these workers are fully supported by the NiVan church and are heading to the 10/40 window. It seems not all are prepared for the implications of this change in mission.

Alongside our rejoicing at this development, may we respond well, examining our own mission practices, especially ensuring we are not creating any form of dependency and we welcome our brothers and sisters as equals at the level table of mission involvement.



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

## Jack’s Back!

I’ve recently returned from six months in S.E. Asia. It was a life changing experience for me as I met people from one of the poorest nations on the planet. The cultural adjustments for me were huge – a new language, the heat, the traffic and the food all required changes from me.

Some highlights for me were: handing out blankets on a winter’s night to those for whom the streets are their home, travelling by over-crowded launch to my mission placement, and spontaneous conversations with locals curious to meet a foreigner. The best things though were the ongoing friendships formed with students and teachers from a variety of ethnic, social and religious backgrounds.

My role was essentially teaching English and a couple of other subjects, and I’d often play cricket with the boys that I shared a hostel with after school. The card I received from them on my last day, asking me when I will be returning, is now a treasured memento – and motivator to continue my journey in missions.

Jack is specialist NZ nurse who took the opportunity to explore mission with WEC. To further your journey in mission contact Jillian – [treks@wecnz.org](mailto:treks@wecnz.org)



## Want to be involved in mission around the world but can’t leave home?

### Now you can!

Intercessors make a difference around the world from their own home – or church, or friends place.

We’re looking for more people to join our prayer teams or start new groups up.

Contact us on 0800 GOINTO, on the website or facebook. We’ll link you with a group or give you what you need to start your own group.

