



# GO INTO

Spreading the Gospel where it's thinnest

## Life as a 1% er

Over the years we've met many people with a serious interest or sense of call to missionary service. Yet so few of them actually get involved long-term. Sure, some engage with short-term mission or projects, but research shows only a fraction of those get to a mission placement. Worse still, roughly 1%, who sensed God's call, lasted beyond a couple of years.

What happens to the 99%? The answer to that is as varied as the people. What we can be more confident of are the factors that ensured the 1% made it, and what kept them going.

There's no doubt the need remains - Jesus hasn't returned and until he does, his mission remains. People are still required to, "Go and make disciples", most especially in the places where the gospel is spread thinnest.

Mission is so much more than the individual. It's a multifaceted journey made up of many stages, involving many partnerships. It begins in the very character of God, is imparted to his church, which in turn sends out those they believe to be called - first to be trained and on through the various stages of the missionary lifecycle.

This edition magnifies unique experiences and seasons in the lifecycle of a long-term cross-cultural worker. No matter where your connection points are, we encourage all to be even more involved. To those he's calling, we challenge you to become part of the 1%. We'd love to help with that. It's what we do!



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# Mission in the Sunset Years

Dr. Paul Brand, the great leprosy pioneer, wrote that 'pain' was a gift from God. Long ago, I hid these words in my heart. Today they continue to serve me well in fuelling my passion for prayer and mission.

Earlier in life, circumstances generally prevented me becoming involved in overseas mission. However, I did manage two short trips. These became both preparation and a catalyst for later steps of faith. In 1998, aged 66, I went for one term to Chefoo Mission School, Malaysia. This eventuated into the best three years of my life! I was nick-named the "Ideas Factory" and "ET" - the Eternal Teenager. God certainly surprised me with his creative use of my availability.

On returning home, my passion grew to include the Muslim world. Twice I visited Turkey, I read widely, attended workshops, took a TESOL course, and began to reach out to the many Kurdish refugees in the South Auckland area. God opened the door to one family of 10 living close to my home. For the next 7 years, I took a special interest in the youngest child and his education, alongside helping his mother understand our very different culture.

Despite now needing a wheel chair and living in a retirement village, God is daily opening new doors to me for the advancement of his Kingdom. Sadly, I recently lost my husband Rev Ian Kemp. Together, we'd been commissioned by our church to serve at Selwyn Retirement Village. This became our mission field. We discovered there were eight different groups around the site, all needing a different approach. I also facilitate a weekly evangelical Bible Study that Ian and I began together. Our call is to be "threshers of wheat" for the many folk here who once went to church, but are not now planting the good seed for the coming generations.

My colourful, global-orientated life continues via my weekly highlight - "cruising round the world" from my wheel chair. No bags to pack. No seasickness. No cost! Just me and my ipad. This week I travelled in intercession to the highlands of Papua, the hinterland of Myanmar, to Hahka - the home of the Chin, and to the Behoa people of Sulawesi. Prayer for mission is so rewarding!

On moving here, I passed on four batons to young people I'd watched grow up in the Lord and begin to serve him. I can no longer run, but they've become the new mission thrust for me in my sunset years. I encourage everyone, you are never too young or too old to go, to financially support, or to joyfully pray for and encourage others.

Unwilling to use the word 'retire,' Juliette maintains that the loss of leaves in one's Autumn Years make for wonderful compost for the next generation of seedlings. Indeed, nothing is lost.

Juliette



WEC International



reaching people | planting churches | mobilising for mission

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## So Pleased to be Home?

“You must be so pleased to be home!”, or, “You must be so thankful not to be over there now, with all that’s going on!” Response: grin politely and keep my mouth closed to prevent a torrent of jumbled emotions spilling out over the ‘100th’ well-meaning person to make the same comments.

After nearly 11 years in the Middle East, I’m back in the country I’m supposed to call home, feeling desperately homesick for the home I’ve left behind. There’s an overwhelming mix of emotions. Grief - in leaving behind our ‘family’ there to the challenges and uncertainties of the current political situation. Isolation - starting all over in a new city. Anger – towards God for making the ‘right thing’ not the thing I wanted. Guilt - because I’m really struggling to find even a drop of desire to adjust back to living in this peaceful and affluent country. A beautiful land that was home in a distant memory, but now feels like a foreign land. Many times I wish I hadn’t adjusted to living in the Middle East so well. Perhaps the pain of leaving wouldn’t have been so great.

Three years down the track and life does look quite different - thank goodness! Unfortunately there doesn’t seem to be a fast track to re-entry. Some things just take time. I’ve learned that this too shall pass. It might pass like a kidney stone, but it will pass!

I’m gradually seeing that God’s plans are indeed for our good, and our ‘premature’ return to NZ to care for ill parents has been the ‘right thing’ for all of us - each in different ways, and some more so than others, but definitely good.

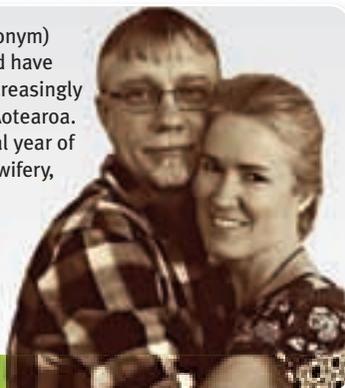
I’m losing my resentment at having to leave, and although my heart is still very much with unreached peoples and those in desperate need, I’m learning to see the desperate need for God amongst the relative affluence, and the ‘church on every street corner’ of this wonderful country I call home for now. I feel somewhat like I’ve been made to lie down in green pastures. I’m allowing God to refresh, restore, and work on my heart, rather than pushing him away because I never asked for it.

Who knows what the future holds? I doubt I’ll ever lose my desire to participate in overseas mission, and, yes, I’d love to once again be in a country less privileged, that doesn’t have all the physical and



spiritual opportunities that Kiwis have. But for now I’m learning to seek first the Kingdom of God, right here in New Zealand.

Melanie (pseudonym) and her husband have five children, increasingly spread around Aotearoa. Entering her final year of Bachelor of Midwifery, she’s loving the opportunities to minister to women and their whanau.



Melanie

## Worth Hanging in There For

Imagine you’ve been involved for 20+ years in overseas mission. What would be your greatest challenges and joys at this stage of life and ministry? No need to imagine. Here’s what two Kiwi couples shared with us.

### Team Canterbury

We find missing family to be one of our greatest challenges. It was as each of our children graduated and returned to NZ, that we realised something more of what our own parents continue to sacrifice. This was a powerful revelation, which made a deep impact on us.

Our own parents have grown older and needed family support too. We’ve had to spend months in NZ caring for them, whilst simultaneously continuing our commitments in Asia. Through these times of being apart as a couple, the Lord has taught us much about walking closer with him, listening intentionally for his direction, and trusting him in new ways.

Staying connected with friends and home church has always been a challenge. It seems the longer we’re away the more the changes, and increasing demands, for each of us. Missionaries can become less relevant or important to those back home, and it takes a lot of effort to maintain vital relationships.

One of our joys has been seeing personal blessings from the Lord in the midst of very difficult seasons. It’s been times such as personal healing or internal issues that have caused our lives to become less ‘me-focused’ and more ‘God-focused.’ Without these changes, we wouldn’t be the people we are today, nor able to encourage others because of them.

More importantly, they’ve grown our faith and understanding of who God is. The very nature of God fills us with awe, and draws a holy response from us - the more we experience, the more we trust in him and can step out into the unknown.

In our observation, having “hung in there” means we’re better positioned to adapt, to see through to what really matters, and serve with greater effectiveness.



### Team Waikato

Our greatest current challenge is making strategic choices about how we remain involved with the locals, whom we first came to serve. Our primary role now is as team leaders, with many more expat workers than before. Yet because of our time here, ministry options abound. People regularly request our expertise, meaning we often find ourselves in equipping roles. All the while we relish any opportunity to share with those who haven’t yet heard the gospel.

The greatest joy we have is encouraging new arrivals that they’ll get over their current struggles, and then seeing them find effective ways to minister. It has also been truly amazing to witness both the Lord’s strategy and fruit in longstanding relationships with locals.

After so many years, we’re probably at our most productive. We’re having the most influence and seeing the most fruit of our careers.

Two couples, each with over two decades service in security sensitive nations, share candidly about life and ministry in the now.



# Little Miss M

Little Miss Missionary was very excited. After some time of mission interest and cross-cultural involvement, she'd grasped God's call to the Lost People of Misplaced-Belief Land. Her church, in which she'd served enthusiastically, confirmed this call. Further prayer and an exploratory trip overseas helped her decide to join WEC International. She was ready to start her three-month orientation.



### Stage 1: Candidate Orientation

Little Miss Missionary looked forward to meeting the other candidates and WEC staff. She enjoyed learning about relating cross-culturally, looking after herself far from home, the church planting process, and lots more. Even Crisis Management was enjoyable, albeit scary.

Building relationships with the other candidates was a highlight. Except for Little Miss Irritating, who was, well, irritating. Eventually with the help of Mrs Candidate Director, Little Miss Missionary learned a lot about herself, including that she was a little bit like Little Miss Irritating sometimes! Learning how to be more like Lord Jesus Christ became integral to her preparations.

### Stage 2: Launching Overseas

Before heading to the Lost People of Misplaced-Belief Land, Little Miss Missionary firstly returned to her home church. They wanted to commission her as one of their missionaries. She shared about God's mission and her vision, with church and other interested groups. Amazingly, people committed to walk the journey with her in prayer, practical and financial support.

This was a difficult time for Little Miss Missionary as she spent a lot of time with Ms Grief and Mr Loss. She had to say goodbye to her parents and other family members, to her friends and her church fellowship. She also had to say good-bye to lots of places which were important to her. She was pleased to spend time with Mr Member Care from WEC and Mrs Encouragement from her home church.



### Stage 3: Cultural Adaptation

Little Miss Missionary was now fully immersed in mission. She'd joined WEC, been sent by her church, and even had a fridge magnet with her picture on it! Now she was part of a multi-cultural team. So she set about learning the language of the Lost People and adapting to life in Misplaced-Belief Land. Little Miss Missionary soon found this very challenging. She became acquainted with Mr Too-Difficult-for-You and his good friend Mr Discouragement. In time they introduced her to Little Miss Homesick. "You'll never learn this language," said Mr Too-Difficult-for-You. "You'll never be comfortable around these people," whispered Mr Discouragement. "You'd be much happier if you gave up and went home," suggested Little Miss Homesick.

Once again, Little Miss Missionary was thankful for the support of her team, as well as Mr Member Care and Mrs Encouragement from home. Together they reminded her that these characters were in fact in her head, that they weren't to be trusted, and that even Little Miss Homesick wouldn't hang around for long.

### Stage 4: Home Leave

Over two years had passed, and it was time for home leave. Little Miss Missionary was looking forward to seeing her friends, family and church again, and the folk at WEC NZ. She'd be able to tell them all about life in Misplaced-Belief Land, about some of her special friends whom she was telling about Lord Jesus Christ, and especially the story of Miss New Believer whom she was discipling. In addition, she was excited about rediscovering her homeland and getting some rest.

Mr Member Care had arranged for her to spend time with Ms Debrief, which turned out to be very helpful. She was prepared for Miss Reverse-Culture Shock when back in NZ, but she hadn't expected time with Mr Discouragement. Sometimes when meeting with old friends, she found Mr Discouragement and his friend, Mr Not-Interested were there. Thankfully many in her church and those in WEC were interested and encouraging. They helped her to have a refreshing and beneficial home leave.



### Stage 5: Fruitful Service & Care

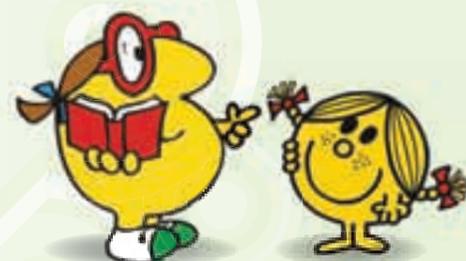
Upon returning for her second term, Little Miss Missionary was pleasantly surprised how much more at home she felt in the Land of Misplaced-Belief. In time she was asked by Mr Responsibility to lead one of the teams. She was quite nervous about this. Mr Too-Difficult-For-You reappeared, and she felt her name should be Little Miss Silly for even thinking about leading a team. However, Mr Member Care reminded her of times she had led in the past and the words of Lord Jesus.

Together with the affirmation of others, and a sense of calling, Little Miss Missionary accepted the role and flourished. She continued to enjoy her regular chats with Mrs Encouragement and Mrs Accountability back home.

### Stage 6: Resettling in NZ

After Little Miss Missionary had been far from home for a long, long time, she felt God telling her it was time to return to her own land. Eager but a little apprehensive, she became reacquainted with Ms Grief and Mr Loss. It was extremely difficult to say goodbye to her special friends in Misplaced-Belief Land.

She was grateful for the support of Mr Member Care, Mrs Finding-Your-Place, Mr Welcome-Back and friendly others. With their help she made a good adjustment and found her niche in a vibrant local ministry. She also enjoyed telling Little Miss Enthusiastic about her missionary adventures. And soon Little Miss Enthusiastic felt a call from God, spoke with her church, and gave Mr Mobiliser at WEC NZ a call.....



Joseph, part of our Candidates Orientation team, has served in Central Asia and has a soft spot for Liverpool football.

Joseph



# sitsvacant

There are just so many opportunities for becoming involved in God's mission, it's hard to choose just a few to advertise. Are you taking a gap year? Have some time where you'd like to do something a bit 'out there' and challenging?

You could teach English in Central Asia for a year, or take some courses at a University there, meet people and introduce them to local believers there.

When our teams have their annual conferences, we need willing people to help with the children and youth. If you have a few weeks, enjoy having fun with kids, and have some creativity, how about helping in Cyprus, Thailand or Central Asia? Options exist in June-August '17, and Jan-Feb '18. Other slots exist too. Perhaps you could go as a small team with friends? It's a phenomenal service and you get a great idea of what mission life is like.

How about Cuba in July? Join a multi-cultural team in the summer organized by the WEC Latino branch.

We also need people with the following skills: tiling/plumbing, carpentry, decorating; midwives; and IT people with experience in CMS, presently Drupal, LAMP, Virtualisation and Open Source development.

Finally a biggy – Hostel Parents – this requires a 1-year commitment from July 2018. This involves a variety of responsibilities but the main one is that you need to enjoy working with teens and have some administrative skills. Let us know if you are that special person/couple/family who could fill this role for a year.

## God's mission

### Your life

### Let's talk...



Visit [www.wecnz.org](http://www.wecnz.org) to check out the full Opportunities Database, or call us on 0800 46 46 86 to explore the options.

More Info

# NZ outlook

Leave your profession at the door and go!

Mission is a lifetime adventure. For many of us, our picture of a 'missionary' is someone who gives up their occupation, and goes overseas to evangelise and disciple others. For many this is true. However, it is not the only truth! Firstly, as we know, mission today is 'from everywhere to anywhere.' My wife and I have been committed to mission for 38 years, most of that time living in New Zealand. I remember well the Lord impressing on us 'the nations are here.' The overseas-born population of our city of 80,000 come from over 130 different nations. Displaced from their own culture, many are in need of practical love and kindness, and open to the good news of Jesus. Right here, right now!

So what about leaving our occupational skills at the door? Given that the vast majority of unreached people live in nations where 'missionary' visas are not granted, why not ask the question, "How can we bless these nations in practical ways?" What expertise and skills do they need? What immigrants are they welcoming? Then use the training, skill and experience that God has developed in us to bless the nations - becoming a living 'Letter from Christ...written not with ink but with the Spirit of the Living God' (2 Cor 3:3). Rather than a just a phase, let's keep this up for a lifetime.



Martyn used to chair WEC's Business Consultancy Group. Coming from an executive business and pastoral leadership background, he's passionate about helping people and organisations with Member Care and Missional Business.

Martyn



## Dr Go

WEC's been working in the small West African nation of Gambia for 50 years. I participated in medical work, but witnessed a number of other WEC-run programmes; youth work, educational projects, Bible translation, and vocational skills training.

Similar to GP clinics here, people arrive at the Sibanon Health Centre in the mornings, with the more complex cases referred onto the team's doctors. There are a small number of inpatient beds, for those requiring a higher level of treatment. They also run the CARE programme, working with HIV patients as well as antenatal care and deliveries. Most staff were trained onsite, predominantly Muslim locals, working alongside an international WEC team.

While in Sibanon I had the pleasure of meeting many amazing people. One, a young Christian woman in her twenties, had such a wonderful spirit. Living in an arranged marriage to a Muslim



leader, she was divorced for becoming a Christian, left to raise her young son on her own. She first trained as a nurse assistant in a WEC nutrition centre, later training in Sibanon as a nurse. Together we helped establish a ward focusing on sufferers of chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and heart failure. This project was initiated by an inspirational retired GP from the UK.

From the orientation in NZ, to Gambia and back again, it was a wonderful experience! Having only worked for secular DHB's in NZ, I was blessed to be immersed in a Christian organisation, surrounded by individuals with a passion for mission. You may wonder if you have any skills to contribute. For me, even my limited computer skills were as much use to the team as my medical skills. Gambia's a great choice, but wherever God calls, don't hesitate, go!

Lydia, a young Northland GP, wanted to expand her experience while making an eternal difference. In 2016 she volunteered at a busy Gambian clinic for four months.

Lydia



## Block Courses



- Children in Crisis (Mod 3, Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Children) - Becky Bee 27-31 March
- Romans - Russell Thorp 27-31 March
- Diaspora Ministry - Dr David Cashin 24-28 July
- Spiritual Warfare - Dr David Cashin 31 July - 04 August

