



# GO INTO

Spreading the Gospel where it's thinnest

## Bem Vindo Haere Mai

I, Marcelo, am a mechanical engineer from Brazil, who worked for over 15 years in the manufacturing industry. Becoming a believer at 17, I've planned my life so that one day I could live as a voluntary missionary. My wife Lucimara was an administrator for 16 years before becoming a nurse. Since her youth, Lucimara has had a passion for mission. Her first experience in missions was amongst the Quechua people of Peru.

We got married in 2000 bringing our two single plans into one. Although we were busy with our careers, we were very involved with evangelism and discipleship. In our Baptist Church we served in many ministries such as leadership, worship, preaching, teaching in Sunday school and the operations team. All of these experiences, both professional and in ministry, served as preparation for our call to serve God in missions nationally and cross-culturally.

In 2006 we attended the annual WEC Brazil conference. Here we came to know a lot more about cross-cultural mission and especially mobilising. We could see many opportunities where we could serve with WEC. We returned to our home town and shared with our church about these opportunities. The church joined us in praying to discern God's will.

The next year we started as WEC Associate Workers, mobilising part-time for missions in Sao Paulo state. Each year we travelled to Belo

Horizonte to attend the WEC Brazil conference. Day by day the Holy Spirit spoke to us about working full-time in mission. I gained further insight on trips in the northeast of Brazil and in Mozambique. These visits were really useful in extending my knowledge of life on the mission field.

Finally, in 2012, the time came to make a decision. We decided with our church that it was time to leave our careers and join WEC full-time. In 2013 we moved to Belo Horizonte for the Candidate Orientation course before starting to serve as a full-time missionaries mobilising the Brazilian church.

It's so encouraging to see Latin Americans join God's mission among the least-reached peoples of the world. Brazilians have a huge capacity and passion for mission. For many decades we mainly received missionaries. But nowadays there are over 5,000 Brazilian missionaries serving cross-culturally and WEC Brazil is one of the fastest growing branches of WEC worldwide.

New Zealand has a strong mission history and a unique contribution to continue to make. God has always called the whole church to be involved with him. Now we as a family have the challenge of mobilising for missions in another language and country. We are excited and thankful for this opportunity among the Kiwi people.

Marcelo, his wife and two children arrived in NZ at the end of March. Marcelo has joined the Mobilising Team, with Lucimara focusing on her English studies for now. We're thrilled to have them aboard!

Marcelo and Lucimara



WEC International



reaching people | planting churches | mobilising for mission

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## R.P. M. in mission

So, you're part of a mission agency? Wow, there are so many! What do you do? Good questions.

Internationally WEC has answered with R.P.M. - Reaching People, Planting Churches, Mobilising. The how of all of this is incredibly varied, but let's first break down the what.

Reaching people refers to crossing cultures to proclaim the gospel and make disciples. As an organisation our priority is those with limited or least access to the Good News.

Planting churches is about all of us contributing to the process of gathering disciples around Christ, establishing new churches where there are few.

These first two bits most people get. It's the "mobilising for mission" part that leads to the head scratching. Mobilising is a bit of an in-house term. So when someone says they're a mobiliser, what do they mean? Even those mobilising can find it hard to express the scope of their role. An Aussie colleague noted that, like roustabouts in a shearing shed, it can include pretty much whatever needs doing to keep the process moving. Mobilising begins even before an enquirer or church makes contact. It involves promotion and mission awareness, church relations, coaching, and helping people discern a "best-fit" mission placement. This edition takes a look inside the incredibly important role and lives of mobilisers, as well as offering a fresh spin to the big question of, "How do I know God's will for my life?"

Who knows. God may well be calling you to join His mobilising team!



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## A Mobila - what?

I'm a "mission mobiliser." It's an introduction that can create interesting conversations – or end them! Curious? Let's begin by unpacking the "in-house Christianese." Traditionally mobilising was a military term, referring to the process of moving resources and personnel to the battlefield. Without mobilisation, battles couldn't be fought, wars wouldn't be won.

Mobilisation was much more than getting troops to the "front line." For every soldier who fought, at least 10 more people were actively involved "behind the scenes" supplying strategic support.

Currently, "to mobilise" is to awaken, inspire, gather, prepare and orientate people to important action or specific service.

Mission mobilisation then, is pointing and connecting people who know Jesus to people who don't. Mobilisers seek to inspire, engage and equip people (and churches) to be more involved in God's Great Commission. This includes global and local cross-cultural mission. It can be short-term, long-term, full-time, part-time, even in your spare-time! The ultimate goal though is to foster a "World-Christian culture" in the Church; one that connects believers with God's priorities and mission in every season and sphere of life.

Those who are unable to "go" are still encouraged to be vitally involved with God's mission. We hear about giving to mission, praying for mission, and sending and caring for missionaries well. In recent years we've also recognised welcoming migrant and refugee peoples. I'd like to add mobilising people for mission to the World Christian lifestyle.

At WEC NZ we believe every Christian, regardless of personality type or skill set, can be a mission mobiliser. In some sense all of us are already mobilisers; that is, we tell people about the stuff we love, aiming for them to be just as excited about it, as we are. Mission begins with God. Therefore mobilising people is sharing God's excitement for all peoples in such a way that disciples can't help but catch the passion.

So, where do we begin? It could be encouraging a person with mission interest or potential to take the next step; perhaps informing them of a specific mission opportunity, a recommended resource or training. It might be helping people see the



Biblical basis of mission, or explaining the needs of a particular religion or people group. Sometimes it's as simple as introducing a person to a full-time mobiliser such as myself. I then have the privilege of opening their eyes to how they can be involved, and partnering with their church to enable them to do so.

It's a ministry of multiplication, and we long to see more mobilisers across NZ. We need your help to mobilise people to spread the gospel where its thinnest. Contact us if you'd like to be resourced for this crucial role.

See: "Go Mobilize" booklet pdf for more. It's a great resource from the team at Center for Mission Mobilization [www.mobilization.org/resources](http://www.mobilization.org/resources)



Eric serves with our mobilising team both here and abroad. Away from helping people and churches he can be seen hanging out with his girlie tribe, or following football in the colours of Tottenham.

Eric



## The Reason Why

A contemporary expression of mission is the "church to church" partnership. There's much value in such cross-cultural relationships. Like most things however, it has its pitfalls. "Jimmy" explains further...

I'm a missionary in South-East Asia. Blessed in coming from a Christian family, the gospel and missions have been familiar to me for as long as I can remember. Scripturally, mission refers to being sent - God sends (mobilises) people who know Jesus to people who don't, and so can't worship God. Missiologically we call those with least-access to the Gospel "the unreached."

The country in which our family lives has more than 130 people groups with 200 languages. Some groups are already evangelised, but the majority people group remains largely unreached. With over 40 million people, they are one of the biggest unreached people groups in the world.

Are there no missionaries? Yes, but most choose to work with local churches mainly comprised of minority peoples.

You might ask, "What's wrong with this?" Isn't this an ideal model? It can be, but only if local believers and churches have a passion to

purposefully go to the unreached peoples. Sadly however, this rarely happens.

For example, a Kiwi church supports a local pastor from a tribal people group. He shares his vision about a school, and later about a Bible college and dormitory. He is seeking financial support. The NZ church may think, "God has blessed this ministry. What started from a Bible study grew and developed into a small Bible school, and now a Bible college."

At times the reality is quite different. In some cases the pastor simply gathers his own family, relatives and friends. They are all Christians. They know the truth already. Sure, they benefit from the training. But they are generally uninterested in other less-reached people groups. The more supporters the pastor has, the more people will come. He becomes a hero in his village, and other local pastors attempt likewise.

Maybe my perspective is too extreme, but one local pastor I met illustrates this point. Knowing he'd worked with an international mission agency, I thought he would understand mission. I asked, "What's your opinion of the majority people group?" Instantly he answered, "They're bad people. We're Levites because God chose us. But God gave up that people. Why do we share the Gospel with them? Even our Father gives up."

Not all pastors here have this attitude. But let's make sure we remember the least-reached when discerning who and what to support. Ministry to those furthest from the gospel is difficult; yet we dare not give up! We desperately need to mobilise more people here. Can you and your church help with this?

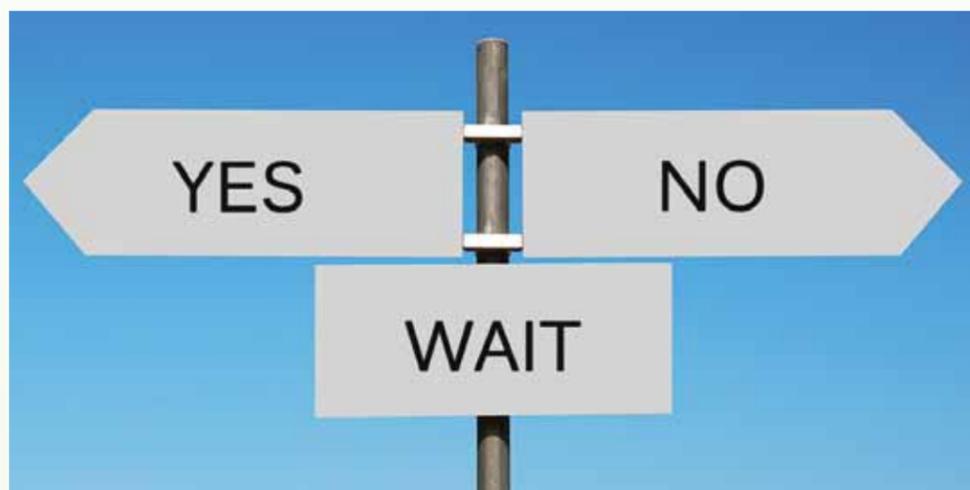
"Jimmy" and his family originally from South Korea, are helping out in NZ for a bit before returning to S E Asia.

Jimmy and family



# God's Mission + My Life = ?

A recent study asked hundreds of missionaries, "What was the biggest factor that launched or mobilised them to become a long-term cross-cultural worker?" In first place, 98% of respondents stated that guidance or a sense of call from God was crucial. "The only thing able to overcome all the obstacles is a deep conviction of God's leading" said one respondent.

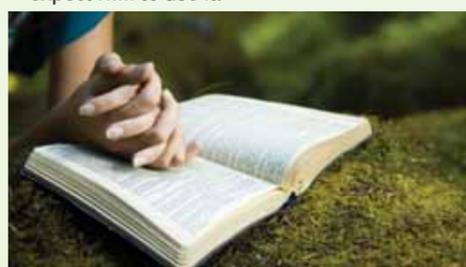


I don't think I've ever met a Christian who didn't want to follow God's will for their lives. But I've met plenty who were seemingly stuck trying to figure out what God's will for their life was. It's a question that has dogged Christians over the years. When asked, I often say, "If you're genuinely seeking God, accepting advice from godly counsellors, and courageously moving, then the chances are you are on the right track!" There's an old saying that, "God steers a moving ship."

Some years ago, WEC legend Stewart Dinnen wrote a little book called, "How are you doing?" It was a practical checklist of sorts for a number of areas of the Christian life. One chapter focused on knowing God's will. We've taken some of Stewart's questions, rephrased them a bit, and presented them here to help.

- This one is pretty obvious, but still has to be asked. Am I right with God and with other people? Has all known sin been confessed and repented of? (Is. 59:1-2) We can't realistically expect answered prayer and clear direction with "stuff" between us and God. Jesus was very clear about the need to be right with others (Mt 5:21-28, 6:9-15). This is our starting point.
- It might seem strange to ask, but, is God's will truly my highest priority? Jesus calls us to "seek first God's kingdom." When we do this, he says, everything else will be taken care of. That's a great promise, but first comes the kingdom.
- Is waiting on God a habit I have formed? Keep the matter consistently before God; work things through in His presence. Acts 13 gives a great example of this happening. As the disciples prayed and fasted, the Holy Spirit revealed the plan.
- Do I have the peace of the Holy Spirit? (Col 3:15) Sadly, too many people have later said, "I had an uneasy feeling about this", but went ahead anyway. The Holy Spirit brings assurance, confirming what God is saying, or using other ways to direct us e.g. through circumstances or the words of others. Don't move without it!
- How am I putting aside "worldly concerns"? (1 Jn 2:15-16) It can be really easy to convince ourselves we have pure motives. We must ensure our faith steps into mission aren't motivated by things such as a desire for travel, adventure, prestige, or an unhealthy "saviour-complex."

- Who else is involved in this decision? Share your journey with trusted and mature others. (Pr. 12:15) At the least this would normally include your pastor, small group leader, or missions director, and probably family. Listening to their input, even if you don't like all they have to say, will help in your discernment.
- What objective signs can I point too? (Ju 6:37-39) Sometimes we need more than just our thoughts and impressions. Ask God for something objective, outside of yourself, as a sign or confirmation of what you believe God is saying to you.
- How has the Holy Spirit equipped me? Knowing your spiritual gifts can be a good insight into what God may have in store for you. Alongside your gifts comes knowing your personality and your passions. Often when these come together, we truly find our niche. Sure, it's unlikely we'll land first time exactly where we will end up. No doubt we'll serve in tasks or places outside of our gifts and passions along the way. Remember Joseph? Nevertheless, know yourself.
- How much time am I spending in Scripture? (Ps 119:11) One absolute certainty is that the Holy Spirit will never lead us in any way that is contrary to the counsel of God's word. Be wary of isolating "special verses" to guide you, but expect Him to use it.



- Am I prepared to step out in faith? (Lk 5:4; 9:62) Without faith it's impossible to please God (Heb.11:6). There comes a point when we must step out, test the waters, set our sails to the wind, or however you like to put it. Let God's love be bigger than our fear, our courage greater than the knockers, and boldly follow.

Some parts of God's will are clear and obvious – holiness, living justly and generously, sharing our faith and serving others. These illustrate marks of ordinary discipleship and take place wherever we are. Many of us though sense a call beyond where we began our Christian life. Learning to discern and follow His leading will inevitably take us beyond ourselves, connecting us in ways to His mission beyond what we could have ever imagined. This has been true for my colleagues and I. What chapters I wonder, are yet to be written in your book?

If this was helpful, you might like to grab yourself a copy of Dinnen's book. The following chapter lists 21 (tongue in cheek) lessons on how to avoid becoming a missionary! Struggling to work this through? Drop us a line and we'll happily walk this road with you – it's what we do!

David heads up our mobilising team. He and His family have been seeking after God's will and been led to people and places beyond their wildest imagination. Encouraging others on their journey is a highlight of his current role.



David



# SITsvacant

Are you interested in doing something different for a month, a year or more? We have many openings for people to join our teams – just give us a call or come for coffee and a chat.

**Here is a small sample of opportunities: –**  
 Web design - An arts business is looking for a graphic designer to help with website development. Mandarin is helpful, but not necessary.

A small business manufacturing wooden educational resources is looking for a trades/handy person (single or married) to join their team in Asia; preferably long term. They are after someone who can help train local workers; patient and adaptable, with a keen interest in building relationships.

Experienced Tiler: To fit bathroom and kitchen ceramic tiling. This could include ministry opportunities in the local community depending on experience. August 2016 onwards for up to 1 month. Must be willing to live in simple conditions.

Many health professionals are needed: optometrists, dentists, nurses, doctors, midwives, if you're after a change or hearing God's call please come and ask.

One particular need is for midwives to help with a birthing programme in an Asian town. Influential women will be taught midwifery skills and then train women in their own villages. 4 months service is ideal.

How about developing leaflets and/or videos to be used for promotional and/or prayer purposes? If you have a knowledge of open-source software (e.g. Scribus, Gimp and any open-source video editor), you could be our person for the job.

The following teaching positions need to be filled for 2017/2018 in a Central Asian High School (grades 7-12): English Literature and English Language, TEFL, Mathematics, Social Studies and Humanities, History and Geography, and Science.

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](#)

# NZoutlook

How did you get to where you are? It's a great question to ask in any field of endeavour, especially when you're starting out.

In mission, studies have shown that beside the sense of personal call, one of most common responses to that question is because of the influence and example of someone already in mission. Perhaps this came in the form of a short term visit to a mission field, or a visiting missionary or mission rep speaking to your church. Very few if any get there on their own.

Good mission involves three parties (I'm taking God's involvement as a given!); the church, the missionary and the agency working collaboratively for the Kingdom. Each brings their gifts and talents in order to complete the task – ma whero ma pango ka oti ait e mahi – with red and black the work will be completed

In response to God, we at WEC take our role seriously, seeking to serve and mobilise the NZ church locally and globally. We are available to serve you and your church as we seek together to spread the gospel where it is thinnest. Together, let us go further than we have before.



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

# A Spanish Ceilidh...

Perhaps the most exciting thing about short-term missions is that you never know what's next - for instance 'Stripping the Willow' at a Ceilidh in Spain! Helping prepare for this event in the little town of Ribadeo was definitely unexpected, but so much fun! My first taste of haggis (really nice), making hall decorations and watching a bunch of enthusiastic Spaniards coming to grips with the complexities of Scottish dancing was not only exhausting, but absolutely hilarious.

Then speaking English over coffee or wine with locals at the English chat group (best coffee ever in Spain - wine's pretty good too). Many in Spain want to learn English so they can get better jobs. My English is fine, my Spanish not quite so. Trying to explain things in Spanish without waving my arms around and raising my voice; that was taxing. Trying to understand what people are saying when they speak so much faster than you can think - most frustrating!



And what about God in all this? He's definitely there - that's why there's a team in Ribadeo planting a church; laying strong foundations for a people to come and be living stones - that His Truth, His love and His presence can be made known; to love the warm, hospitable and generous people here who don't yet know Him. There's no room for super-spirituality here - genuine people literally give their lives for His Kingdom. It is a battle sometimes. To be a part of that - even just small part, was a privilege and an adventure. You don't have to be young to have an adventure with God - you just have to be available.

Romy, from Tauranga trekked to Spain. Taking advantage of her retirement, she spent several weeks in Spain helping out with English classes and being an encouragement to our team there.



Romy

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# Semester two coming up!

