



GO INTO

Spreading the Gospel where it's thinnest

By Whatever Means

Paul determined in his generation to utilise any means to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Faithful disciples throughout following generations have continued to do the same. Today's gospel bearers utilise the tools of today to ensure that all have the opportunity to hear.

Digital technology is almost inescapable today. We use our phones, not only to chat or text, but to catch up on the news, record family milestones, stay abreast of our work and fill in time with an abundance of entertainment. While many of us confess to too much of the latter, Kingdom minded people around the world are harnessing the power of the cell phone to take the gospel to the hardest to reach peoples. Read on to hear stories from around the globe on how technology is serving the Kingdom beginning in North Africa.

This is a fascinating time to be working with the nomads of the Arab world. For thousands of years they have set up their encampments in the same spots. These locations are tribally based and, most importantly, situated near a spring, well or oasis. Gradually though, our friends started setting up their tents in new locations - sites never previously used. What changed?

Technology!

Rather than riding camels these noble desert nomads are now much more likely to be seen driving pickups on the highway with a camel hobbled and kneeling down in the bed of their truck. Instead of setting up tents where they can get water, Bedouin drive to desert oases to fill their water tanks which are then placed next to tents and sheep pens. What guides the decision on where to set up camp? Would you believe cell phone reception? One of the most important things on a Bedouin's mind when determining where to set up camp is how many bars of coverage they'll get!

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Remembering the Forgotten

Evangelism projects for North Africa often focus exclusively on the Arabic language. Too often, in our opinion, the work of proclaiming the gospel seems to ignore the linguistic complexity of the target region.



In recent times a significant step forward was made when the Kabyle people (Berbers of northern Algeria) were reached with the gospel.

There has been a movement of God among the Kabyle groups in northern Algeria. 30 000 plus hours of evangelical content has been disseminated in Kabyle. This compares with less than 500 hours in the five other main Berber languages of North Africa. We believe that the enormous harvest of souls going on among the Kabyles is directly linked to availability of evangelistic videos in their own language. We hope to help prepare a future harvest among the other largely unreached groups by:

- The identification of suitable evangelical videos that could be dubbed in these languages
- Producing project proposals and sourcing funding for each project
- Working with native speakers of these languages for translation and dubbing work
- Supervising the technical work, the video editing, and its publication on YouTube and elsewhere

Please contact us through our website www.ffvmedia.xyz for more information.

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)



WEC International



reaching people | planting churches | mobilising for mission

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By Whatever Means *cont.*



The impact of the mobile phone revolution struck home to me one cold autumn day at the mourning tent for Abu Ali, who had died the day before. This is the most Bedouin of Bedouin traditions. As day moved to night, Abu Mohammed took the honoured role of master of ceremonies. Abu Mohammed is the quintessential Bedouin - a grey-haired man living far out in the desert, a proud hunter and poet. At some point that night, in the midst of regaling the guests with his poetry and tales of desert travails and triumphs, Abu reached into the folds of his robe. What he produced was eagerly passed from hand to hand around the perimeter of the tent. When the mystery object finally reached me, I was astounded to see a high-end mobile phone. The screen showed a homemade video of Abu Mohammed's desert kills, his scoped hunting rifle and more - all set to the music of a popular Bedouin tune.

This became a "kairos moment" for me. Here in the most Bedouin of settings was a most honoured Bedouin of Bedouins using modern technology to tell his tales. God instantly made it clear to me that if this is how the Bedouin were going to share their stories one to another, how much more should we be taking advantage of that technology to share His Story with them!

Since then we have seen a woman's physical life spared and her soul saved as we were able to bring the clip of the woman caught in adultery from the Magdalena Film into an intense situation where this widow was found to be pregnant out of wedlock. While our one-on-one conversations failed to break through, seeing that video on a phone pulled from

our pocket affected our friends and neighbours in a deep way. We have sent mobile-ready outreach media to Chad, where not only did our missionaries find great interest in the media but even the local Imam began selling mobile-ready clips of the JESUS Film from his local kiosk.

We live in a world where 81.6% of non-Christians do not personally know a single Christian,¹ yet most have a mobile phone in their pocket. This offers peculiar challenges and opportunities. WEC International has taken a prominent role in addressing these challenges and opportunities via a leadership role in the Mobile Ministry Forum (www.mobmin.org). We cherish your prayers that we will follow the Lord's leading in leveraging mobile technology for connecting the Church with the lost and seeing them transformed into disciples of our Lord and Saviour.



¹<http://www.gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/research/documents/StatusofGlobalChristianity2018.pdf>

Keith is the director of Mobile Advance (www.mobileadvance.org), an initiative of WEC International. Keith has assisted in the implementation of mobile ministry initiatives in more than 35 countries and has helped in the development, testing and promotion of various innovative mobile ministry approaches. Keith previously served as a missionary and team leader for ten years in the Arab world.

Keith Williams



Behind The Scenes

I was fortunate to grow up in a church where missions regularly featured. At each September's missionary conference, speakers from across the globe would tell their stories, challenging us to become involved. Joy Taylor, a dear saint who had dedicated her life to mission in the Congo, was always available to talk, pray and encourage. Seeing the photos of missionaries around the church inspired me to dream of becoming part of God's story too.



Knowing I wasn't an upfront person, preferring to work in the background, I wondered if there could be a place for me?

After school, I studied engineering thinking this would open doors to unreached nations. Each year I helped with the logistics for our annual beach mission. These times gave me a taste for what I believed my life was all about. I began to see I could have a place in God's plan of salvation.

While distractions abounded as a student and young graduate, I remained focussed on missions. Inspired by the Move Out conferences, I undertook several short-term trips, primarily to Ecuador as a radio engineer. I enjoyed these ventures so much I accepted redundancy from my job to embark on full time missions work. Just as I had trained as an engineer, I knew I needed training in mission, so I attended WEC's Worldview College in Tasmania. Two years later I was off to Quito.

Ecuador was great. I enjoyed working on radio transmitters and developed my IT skills. Even better was meeting and marrying Anilu, a local

Quitena lady. In 2004, we reluctantly agreed to relocate to Australia. Though it was still a continuation of my radio work, God had to make it clear to us that this was the right move. My new role highlighted my need for further IT training, so, after 3 years it was back to school. During this time, firstly Worldview and then WEC Australia invited me to assist with their growing IT needs.

IT support is crucial in the ongoing work of mission. Some develop apps, others make evangelistic and teaching resources available. I maintain and develop systems to ensure secure communication is available to our teams around the world. Our people need to access strategic information and communicate with colleagues without compromising safety. I've experienced their joy and relief at having access to specialists who can help them navigate technology and make the best use of today's tools to enhance their effectiveness in ministry.

I'm experiencing the truth that there is a place for us in God's plan to reach all peoples. I'm unlikely to speak to large crowds, but I know that by using the gifts God has given me many will join me in eternity worshipping the King. If, like me, you're a more practical, behind the scenes person, don't hesitate to call the team in Gordonton. Chances are there's place for you too.

Dave was born in Christchurch, studied at U. of Canterbury, and has worked in NZ, Ecuador and Australia. He is the IT Manager for WEC Australia. He enjoys conversations about Debian, CentOS, Koozali SME Server, SOGO, Drupal, and the Open Atrium Distribution. Dave lives in Tasmania with his wife Anilu and 2 kids.

Dave Yetman



Taking the Next Call

I was born in New Zealand so that makes me a Kiwi. Right? Then how is it that I struggle to answer the question 'Where is home?' It's because I lived in Tanzania for three years as a missionary kid, spent a few years in Finland and served seven years in Arnhem Land amongst the Aboriginal people. I've found this to be a common experience of many cross cultural workers.



Listening to God's Word via Solar Power Player in Arnhem Land

Even as a small boy living in Tanzania, God showed me that He wanted me to serve Him cross-culturally. Following school I studied Computing and also gained my commercial pilot's licence. I was in a challenging IT working environment when God said 'Move!' I moved to Eastwest College in Gordonton to study and prepare for ministry as a pilot with MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship).

I totally recommend the training I received at Eastwest. I was also blessed to meet Tiina. At the completion of our studies we married and were accepted to become MAF field staff in Arnhem Land. To our surprise, though, it was not in flying but a pioneering role using technology as a tool to spread the Gospel and to share resources for discipleship.

From 2011 to 2017 we lived among the Aboriginal people. Using technology, such as solar powered players loaded with the Gospel, we saw the joy of people hearing God's Word in their mother tongue.

One thing was very clear in Arnhem Land - there was so much to be done, however the labourers were few. BUT technology could really help!



A Solar Power device loaded with God's Word has huge potential

One day a lady came in from a remote village by plane and asked for a Bible. I gave her a solar powered audio Bible. As she turned on the device and started hearing God's Word being spoken in her own mother tongue, her face was filled with a rich smile, tears streaked her cheeks and she said with passion: "I hear God's Word in my language!" She asked for more players to give to other members of her family. This was a defining moment for me as I realised that time really is short and we must be intentional in using the tools that we have in our hands to let people know that God desires a relationship with them.

In 2017 we had a strong conviction in our heart that our time among the Aboriginal people was coming to an end. This has led us to join WEC. We believe as a family that God has called us to use our skills and experiences to connect people with Jesus in West Africa.



MicroSD cards a great way to share the Gospel



Children at a kids club watching a Gospel Media story in their heart language

A new exciting venture is being birthed within WEC West Africa and we feel privileged to be moving into this vital ministry. MARC (Media for Africa Resourcing and Consultancy) is strategic, as African people are generally from oral cultures and statistics show that nearly 40% of the population are illiterate.

Mass communication in Africa happens via radio, films and mobile phones. The demand for resources (music, videos etc.) is enormous. This provides an excellent opportunity for sowing the Word of God where there might not be a physical presence of believers.

WEC workers in Africa have already been using various media to share the Gospel among the unreached. But there is a demand for more and better contextualised resources, translated scripture, scripture in song, stories, tracts, testimonies and teachings in audio and audio visual formats.

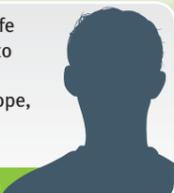
We live in an era where technology plays such a big part in our daily lives. Now more than ever mission agencies rely on technology. Without the use of database tools, publishing software, social media platforms and the web, WEC and other mission agencies would not be as effective. Technology is also completely transforming the way missionaries are able to do ministry, multiplying our fruitfulness many times over. A well designed website which points people to the truth of Jesus, a social media channel that provides a forum for discussion, a Micro SD card that is distributed with the Jesus Film on it, or a solar powered player allowing people to hear and interact with God's Word in audio format are all examples of how technology can enhance our ministry to those who know little about Jesus.

What tools do you have that could be used in ministry?

Are you an IT professional? Are you willing to serve God with your skillset in a different culture? The truth is your experiences could be used to serve others! Nearly every mission agency is looking for IT experts. They don't just need people to keep computers and networks running but people with a passion for technology as a tool for seeing God's Kingdom grow. Technology in a missions setting plays a vital role as it's getting harder for workers to be physically present in many places. Technology can break through these barriers. Maybe you have what it takes to be part of something new!

The author, together with his wife and two children, is on his way to West Africa where they seek to communicate the message of hope, love and truth via technological tools and teaching.

Michael Smith (pseudonym)



IT Support Technician – New Zealand

Do you have computer technology abilities and training? WEC New Zealand needs you to join their IT team! Keep the movement's electronic communication...

ICT Teacher – Senegal

Bourofaye Christian School provides a safe, inspiring, Christian environment for children of missionaries, enabling their parents to fulfil their...

IT Support Technician – Brazil

Do you have computer technology abilities and training? We need you to join the community at WEC's missionary training college in Montes Claros. Look...

Evangelist through computer training – Ghana

Join a team reaching out to young people and their families in both urban and village settings. Use computer training and other education as a bridge...

Computer User Instructor – Chad

Could you teach basic computer classes and share your faith with adult students? This ministry helps Chadians to learn how to use basic software and...

Software Engineering Project Manager – Central Asia

Join seven other software developers in this research and development company, established in 2009 to use IT to give locals the educational...

Director of International IT Ministry – Singapore

WEC is looking for a full-time IT Director with a calling, gifting and passion for mission involvement, and with the knowledge, experience and wisdom...

iOS / Android App Developers – East Asia

Add a new dimension to WEC's evangelism in East Asia, by helping our team to make evangelistic and discipleship audio-visual material available as an...

CiviCRM Developer – Australia

CiviCRM systems are functioning in various contexts internationally across our organisation, serving our missionaries and their supporters. You...

Visit www.wecnz.org to check out the full Opportunities Database, or call us on 0800 46 46 86 to explore the options.

More Info

When Paul gave his list of gifts to equip the saints in the Ephesus church he kept it short; apostles, prophets, evangelists and teachers. Have you ever thought, "Well that is not my gifting so I am not sure how God can use me today"?

Have a look at our web site under opportunities. You will see a myriad of positions advertised -

accountants / computer instructors / administrators / builders / copywriters / ceramic tilers / mobilisers / maintenance worker / researcher / kitchen manager. The list is endless. Your gifts and skills are important to God's work.

God can and will use you if you are available and reasonably flexible. If the world is to hear the "good news" a good support team is essential. If you think you fit more in a supporting role there are opportunities for God to work in you and through you.

God wants to see thriving indigenous churches planted in the hard to reach places; people from every ethnic group loving Jesus. This requires people using their skills and gifts in many different areas. Without the appropriate support staff, the job becomes very difficult and in some cases even impossible. You might be surprised where and how God can use you as part of the team. Check out our website or even better give us a call and let's chat.



Ross and his wife have served in Asia and are now based in Gordonton keeping things running in IT and around the property.



Ross

Media Support part-timers

It is exciting to hear about folk who are able to contribute their skills and knowledge in ways that are satisfying, creative and fruitful. Here are two stories to inspire you.

Charben Alilio (Filipino-British)

I found out about WEC through my church friend Chris, who is WEC's Media and Communications Team Leader in the UK. She knew I was studying design and motion graphics and asked if I'd like to help WEC with some design work. I wanted a role that let me really serve God, so I said yes. It was a real answer to prayer. I love being able to use my skills in mission. I am a multidisciplinary designer so what I am capable of doing, I do. From graphic design to motion graphics, from video editing to illustrating. It's great! I get to work for a Christian organisation, spreading the gospel, and at the same time, I am able to focus on my family and my other interests.



Simeon's story

For the last two years, I have been a WEC associate, working with the Media and Communications team in the UK. Since I joined the team, our biggest project has been to reimagine our website. We commissioned an external company to design and build the site. They listened very carefully to what we had to say and produced a terrific site, which really highlights who we are and what matters to us as a movement.

My role has been to write and edit the material on the website and to work with the designers on a strategy for social media. I am excited because this is about so much more than the website in itself. It is about engaging a wider audience and ultimately getting more people involved in mission through WEC. Since the site launching two years ago, we have had hundreds of enquiries. It is so encouraging to see that kind of response!

"My role has been to write and edit the material on the website"



WEC NZ offers a range of GLO-CAL Workshops to equip your church for cross-cultural mission.

Check the website for details, or contact the Mobilising Team and book yours early!



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