



# Kiwis on a MISSION

By Gemma Margerison | Editor

New Zealand has a diverse and ever-increasing list of mission and ministry organisations working within and outside of its borders. From worldwide initiatives such as TEAR Fund to local specialisations like Auckland City Mission, dedicated Kiwis are working around the clock to bring hope to those in need.

## Leprosy Mission New Zealand

Leprosy Mission New Zealand is a Christian overseas development organisation that works with leprosy-affected families and their communities. Established in 1912, it is one of the most enduring charities in New Zealand. Leprosy Mission New Zealand directly supports six countries where leprosy still exists - China, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Papua New Guinea.

“Although thought of as a disease of the past, there are 5 million people affected by leprosy in the world today. The physical and social impact of leprosy is very real for people like Kiran,” says Communications and Marketing Coordinator Tracey Adamson. “Kiran is a 15 year old girl living in rural India. Her journey with leprosy began when she saw ants biting her hand, but felt nothing; she knew something was dreadfully wrong. Her mum and dad pleaded with a local doctor to cure her, but she was not given enough medicine. Kiran’s need had become urgent; she had a clawed hand from leprosy. Kiran’s hand has now been straightened through reconstructive hand surgery.

“New Zealanders can get involved in making a difference for people like Kiran by assisting The Leprosy Mission with a Street appeal on Tuesday 30th July, joining their *Running 4 Rights* team in fun walk/run events or travelling to Nepal as a Youth Advocate.”

## Interserve

Interserve is an interdenominational mission organisation which seeks to bring God’s love to the people of Asia and the Arab world through word and action. Their mission partners use their professional skills, such as medicine, teaching or business, to share the love of Christ with the people with whom they live and work, acting as salt and light in some of the hardest places in Asia and the Arab world. Wherever people are cut off from the Good News by barriers of gender, culture, religion or nationality, Interserve works at bridging the gap.

Interserve was formed in 1852 by visionary British women who challenged the norms of their own society in order to help alleviate the suffering of Indian women, many of whom lived their entire lives in seclusion in women’s quarters with no access to education, medical care, or the message of Christ. Interserve was the first interdenominational mission society in the United Kingdom, a pioneer in women’s medical missions, and was instrumental in convincing Queen Victoria to grant official sanction to the training of women doctors in the United Kingdom.

“Interserve works in a wide variety of partnerships where we share similar values: with local and national churches; with ministries, other mission groups, and increasingly, with emerging mission movements in the majority world; with educational and medical institutions, social and development agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs); and with the business community. Throughout its history Interserve was instrumental in developing, and partnering in, joint agencies working with a common goal in places like Nepal (UMN), Bangladesh (HEED), Mongolia (JCS), and others in various nations of North Africa, the Arab world and Asia,” says Lisa Holliday.

“Interserve’s aim is to get followers of Christ involved in His global mission. Our focus is cross-cultural, and on the hard places; amongst the neediest, most marginalised, and least reached; and in a wide variety of missional involvements, overseas, whether short or longer-term. Short-term placements are available for anytime from one month to two years, and we currently have three short-term team planned for North Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East.”

However, there are also opportunities to be involved - with mission, and with Interserve - right here in New Zealand. These include joining in with their Prayer Groups or prayer network, supporting Partners or projects, and linking in with their Business as Mission, Consultants in Mission and Mentoring for Mission networks.

## Teen Missions International

Teen Missions International has been giving teens the opportunity to put their enthusiasm, energies and passion into serving the Lord and assisting missions around the world during their summer vacation time for over 40 years.

In 1986 the organization was incorporated in Australia making it possible for Kiwi and Aussie young people to serve God and get to know Him better. “The programme consists of ten days training at The Lord’s Boot Camp on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast, three weeks on the field, on a project ranging from building to evangelism, followed by a four-day debriefing,” says Elizabeth Little. “Teams planned for 2013-14 will go to Madagascar, Germany, Philippines, Tonga, Cambodia, India and Samoa; they run over Christmas and into the New Year.”

## OAC Ministries

OAC Ministries, formerly Open Air Campaigners, is an organisation of evangelists. “Our mandate is to take the gospel to the world of the unbelieving, and to equip believers and churches to do the same,” says Lew Meyer.

OAC has 9 branches in New Zealand, though some have only one evangelist. We are in Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Manawatu, Hawkes Bay, Wellington, Nelson, Canterbury and Otago.

“Our evangelists are all committed to outdoor evangelism in streets, parks, markets, beach missions etc. We are all required to be active members of local churches. We work in other areas including prisons, schools, High schools, Universities and Technical Institutes, camps, youth groups, churches, and retirement homes,” says Mr Meyer. “We also equip fledgling evangelists in evangelism both in New Zealand and Fiji. OAC has branches in about 30 countries.”

All OAC evangelists are part of the NZ Association of Evangelists and OAC are looking forward to taking advantage of the bicentenary of evangelism with outreaches to “heartland” New Zealand next year. “We have also just launched an outreach training series called “Ignition”. This is to equip churches and believers to better understand and share the gospel,” says Mr Meyer.

## World Vision NZ

World Vision NZ have just closed their Trade Me auction ahead of their celebrity hike up Africa’s highest peak, Mt Kilimanjaro, to launch World Vision Micro. Rhys Darby, Mahe Drysdale, Boh Runga, Kerre Woodham and Juliette Haigh auctioned themselves off for World Vision from May 27 and are set to scale the mountain from June 19.

“Bidders could choose from five exclusive auctions, including: a personalised voice message from Rhys Darby; a rowing lesson on Lake Karapiro with Mahe Drysdale and Juliette Haigh; an opportunity to have Kerre Woodham MC an event; or a piece of Boh Runga’s own-designed jewellery plus a pamper pack from Trilogy,” says Media Advisor Chloe Irvine. World Vision was also auctioning off a trip with CEO Chris Clarke to see a Microfinance project.

Kerre Woodham says, “This year, I was intending to take a sabbatical from public speaking. But then I was asked to climb Mt Kilimanjaro with Team World Vision to raise funds and awareness for microfinance. So I’m dusting off the sequins and hooking up the booster bra and will make myself available for a one off MC-ing gig.”

World Vision Micro will enable Kiwis to go online and choose an entrepreneur to support from Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya or Cambodia. While the celeb team is in Tanzania, they will also meet some of the entrepreneurs World Vision Micro will be supporting. “I can’t wait to meet the aspiring entrepreneurs and hopefully raise a lot of money to help them out,” says Mahe Drysdale.

These are just a few examples of the work being done by missions and ministries throughout New Zealand and abroad. *Christian Life* aims to support and encourage these and other organisations through advertising and editorial. For more information please contact the *Christian Life* team.



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