

Missions Interlink (NZ)

Bulletin

February 2009
Supplement



Missions Interlink

**Kiwis Partnering in
God's Mission**

New Zealand's Mission Networks

Mission Organisations
Aid Ministries
Advocacy & Funding Agencies
Training and Equipping
NZ Focused Ministries
Personnel Care Givers
Mobilisers
Churches & Church Mission Teams
Like-minded Groups and Individuals
with a heart for Christian missions

Sharing
the *Good News*
In, from and to
New Zealand

www.missions.org.nz

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Community Outreach / Explore

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(Brochure. Please print copies or forward this MI
Bulletin to those who might benefit from an MER.)



Missions Interlink (NZ) Bulletin

February 09 Supplement

Director: David B Hall
Chairman: Wayne Freeman
Vice-Chairman: Jamie Wood
Treasurer: Max Palmer
Administrative Assistant: Lydia Hall
Bulk Purchasing Program: Ted Crawford
Project Catalyst: Darren Birch
Accounts: Trevor Baldwin
Advisory Team: Wayne Freeman, Jamie Wood and Johannes Balzer
NEW: Consultant: Gordon Stanley



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 Ted Crawford (former chair)
 MI Bulk Purchasing Program
 Ian Dally or Gordon Stewart –
 Laidlaw College
 Mark Fox - **MAF**
 Wayne Freeman (Chair) - **Wycliffe**
 Chris Grantham – **MECO**
 David B Hall – **Missions Interlink (NZ)**
 Christine Harding - **OMF**
 Helen Lewthwaite – **Spreydon Baptist**
 Steve Maina - **NZ CMS**
 Suzanne – **MARN**
 Peter Mihaere - Tranzsend
 Max Palmer – Life Resources
 Matthew Perry - **WEC**
 Stephen Tollestrup – **TEAR fund**
 Nigel Webb or Gordon Stanley - **SIM**
 Neville Wilson (formerly with YWAM
 and Habitat for Humanity)
 Jamie Wood (Vice Chair) – **Pioneers**

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Disclaimer - the views expressed in the MI
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 Missions Interlink or those connected with MI.

As the lists of those killed in the Victorian fires continues to increase, names of known Christians are becoming clearer. There may be others not yet identified, but these are those known at the time of publication of this article. Kim Cain, Communications Director for the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, said at least one Uniting Church member - an elder at Kinglake - has died in the fires and many U-Church families have lost their homes and farms.

The Hon Peter Costello MP announced in Federal Parliament, that a friend of his, David Stokes perished while defending his farm at Upper Plenty. "I shared many camps with him when working for OAC (Open Air Campaigners) Ministries. I want to say to Jenice and his family that our thoughts and our prayers go to you. He was a loving father, a faithful husband, a committed Christian and a hardworking farmer. We do not know why he was taken but our hope and our consolation is in our faith and his faith. These are questions that we will never be able to answer."

It has been reported that the team and six residents of Betel Australia, Marysville, a ministry of **WEC International**, only had time to jump into cars with the clothes on their back, such was the speed of the approaching fire. One lady Bian Tan (63) perished in the fire.

Jason Lynn used what he thought was his last breath to tell his wife and children he loved them. The father of two and neighbour of deceased newsman Brian Naylor lay on the muddy banks of his dam, clinging to life, as the Kinglake bushfire raged around him. His harrowing ordeal began on Saturday afternoon when the Kinglake fire descended on the small town.

Mr Lynn's wife, Ruth, 39, fled with their two children, Joshua, five, and Julia, three, hours earlier for the safety of Yea. But Mr Lynn stayed behind using fire pumps, generators and sprinklers to protect his cedar house. But when he saw the flames crashing through the trees Mr Lynn knew he was in for the fight of his life. "You do fire guard meetings and they show you what it (fire) is like", Mr Lynn said. "It comes along the ground but this thing just came in the sky on the trees. "When I was in the fire I thought 'this is just like hell'."

As the fire advanced Mr Lynn tried desperately to save his home, throwing buckets of water on the flames after his fire pump and hose exploded in the heat. Gas tanks at his house exploded around him before the fire finally reached his house and caused it to erupt in a ball of flames. With nothing left to save, Mr Lynn made a break for the safety of the roof of his shed. "I burnt my hands, even with gloves, just opening up the door to get in the shed," Mr Lynn said. "I got a ladder and climbed up with buckets of water. The fire was all around and I was trying to put that out, but the shed caught on fire from inside. It just exploded."

Mr Lynn's prized racing car and cherished tools his father left him before his death were consumed in the fire ball. A wall of flame pierced the roof of the shed and blocked Mr Lynn from escaping off the roof and down the ladder. "I just hung on to the spouting and the spouting fell down and I just collapsed down on the ground," Mr Lynn said. "I still had enough energy, so I just started going towards the paddock. "I just got to that point when you are running and running and you can't run anymore. There was just no air, it was like you were breathing vapour."

Crawling on his hands and knees through thick smoke Mr Lynn felt his way along the ground to the dam at the back of his property. It was then his boss Ziad Ghobril phoned him and urged him to use every last ounce of energy to make it to the safety of the dam. "I just kept going and I could feel the bank of the dam," he said. "I felt like passing out so I didn't go in the dam very far, I just lay in it and put my head in the mud on the side." Mr Lynn laid in the mud in the dam for one hour waiting for help to arrive.

He kept his mobile phone pressed against his head as friends and his local minister Shane Lepp prayed for him and tried to keep him conscious. "I thought I don't know how much longer I can breathe for. He said "I don't know if they phoned again . . . I was sort of delirious. "They were trying to tell me stuff and I just said 'just listen to me. Tell my wife and my kids that I love them'. I said I can't hang on much longer." Mr Lynn doesn't remember much of the next few hours except for the sound of voices on the other end of the phone, and the howling and screaming of animals burning to death in nearby paddocks.

"I could hear horns and stuff buzzing but I couldn't shout out", Mr Lynn said. "The next thing I heard someone say 'I found someone down here'. "I just remember feeling their glove on my face. "He said to me 'if you are still alive now you'll be all right', " Mr Lynn said. "He said if you have made it this far you'll be right." Mr Lynn's rescuers carried him out on a blanket. The father of two spent the next three days in the Northern Hospital in Epping. Mr Lynn yesterday thanked the fire fighters who saved his life and the staff at the hospital. He said it was a miracle he was alive and it was by the grace of God that he survived.

Source: Religious Media Agency

YWAM Australia staff care for refugees of fires

By Robert Itzin

Here is just one of many examples how Christians are helping the victims of the fires.

AUSTRALIA (Assist News Service) -- With huge tracts of land still smoldering and fires still raging, YWAM workers in southern Australia are on the frontlines caring for survivors of fires that have taken over 200 lives and left thousands homeless. The fires have destroyed some 750 homes and wiped out entire bush villages north of Melbourne in what has been described as the worst natural disaster in Australia's history. YWAM Melbourne staff are caring for refugees who have lost their homes, establishing prayer booths alongside local churches, and making their skills available to overstretched government officials.



YWAM Australia's mercy ministry, Australian Relief and Mercy Services (ARMS), has launched an emergency appeal to help get volunteers into the bush fire areas to assist in clean-up operations. Funds raised through this appeal will help pay for teams to deploy and stay in the affected areas. Excess funds will be donated to the Salvation Army bush fire relief efforts. Donations to the appeal can be made through the ARMS website at www.arms.org.au by credit card or PayPal.

Please pray for the people of Victoria at this critical time.

Christian Growth

In the last MI Bulletin we included a page with lots of facts showing the growth of Christianity around the world. For some, that much detail can be a put off. For others – like me – it's fascinating info.



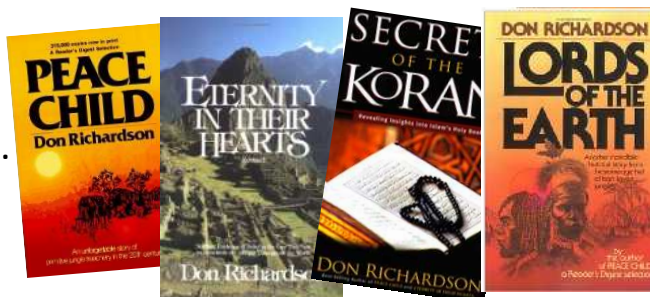
Let me share **one example** of Christian growth that I think you will find encouraging: One Asian nation, not known to be very open to Christianity (name withheld for security reasons), had its first national gathering of Christian university students just seven years ago. A grand total of forty students came. Each year the number who came has grown significantly. The most recent gathering had 15,000 Christian university students attending. Please pray for their safety and for God to use them in the various market places of this nation.

Don & Carol Richardson

Christchurch – Week of May 2...

Tauranga – Week of May 9...

Auckland – Saturday 16 May – All Day **Missions Seminar**





Patrick McDonald
from the Viva
network
www.viva.org is
visiting us for a

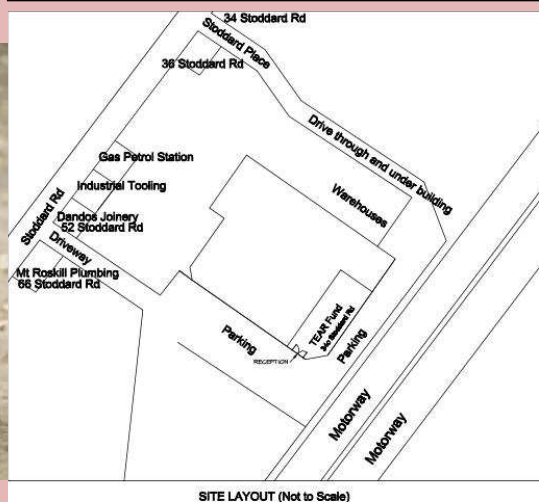
few days next week. Viva is the largest international network of Christians working particularly with *Children at Risk* ministries. Viva has networks in North America, Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia. The networks work collectively for resource sharing and advocacy goals on behalf of poor children, internationally or domestically. International members include Compassion International, World Vision, TEAR Fund, World Concern, World relief and hundreds of grass roots organizations.

Currently they are considering establishing an Oceania network. Interested? Know someone who might be? Please join us at our new TEAR Fund offices (see map).

Wed. March 4th 10am - 12 and find more about what Viva is doing worldwide and how a network can serve your ministry. [Stephen Tollestrop]



New TEAR Fund Location



AUCKLAND INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Once a year, people from almost every nation, tribe and tongue gather in Mt Roskill to celebrate Auckland's cultural diversity. Experience the sights, sounds, food, culture, arts and crafts of North Africa, Middle East, Central Asia, India, Eastern Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Sunday 29 March, 10am - 5pm, War Memorial Park (behind the Wesley Community Centre), 740 Sandringham Rd Extension, Sandringham, Auckland (free entry). This is a fantastic cross-cultural experience. Support the Combined Roskill Churches pavilion featuring a stage with Christian cross-cultural performers, and marquees featuring Christian community based services, hospitality and literature. Cross-cultural items URGENTLY needed for the stage - contact Michael Simkin on 021 153 1920 or email msimkin@perspectives.org.nz if you can help. For more information visit www.perspectives.org.nz/auckland-cultural-festival or <http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/whatson/events/cultural/Default.asp>.



OTHER 2009 EVENTS

WELLINGTON 16 MAY
PALMERSTON NORTH 18 JULY
CHRISTCHURCH 5 SEPTEMBER
AUCKLAND 31 OCTOBER

eXplore
down to earth mission

Interested in a better understanding of holistic mission?
Wondering what to do with your interest in cross-cultural mission?
Then eXplore is for you!

Hear first-hand experiences and share a great lunch at this one-day event sponsored by tranzsend and Interserve. Together we'll eXplore topics such as getting ready to go, what culture and contextualisation are, what business has to do with God's kingdom, and what down-to-earth mission is all about. Contact us to sign up today.

COMING SOON

WHEN
9.30 am - 5.30 pm
21 March 2009

WHERE
The Missions Centre
591 Dominion Road, Balmoral
AUCKLAND

COST
\$20* (earlybird: register by 6 March)
\$25* (register after 6 March)
Includes entry, materials and great ethnic lunch.
Registration is essential. * \$5 discount for non-waged

09 690 0981
alison@interserve.org.nz

09 526 8444
carl@tranzsend.org.nz

tranzsend
New Zealand Baptists in Global Mission

INTERSERVE
..... hard place people

MI AGM Report

Summary of the MI AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Missions Interlink (NZ) was held on the 17th November at Pakaranga Baptist Church. Over 50 members attended, some ol' timers said it was the largest attendance anyone could remember. After prayer and a welcome by MI Chairman Wayne Freeman, Leilani Liew read the long list of apologies followed by the unanimous acceptance of the minutes of the last AGM.

The **Chairman's Report** focused on the new director of MI, the new members that have joined (individuals, organisations, churches and service providers), and the increased prayer emphasis within the missions community. The **Director's Report** included thanks to the many who have helped MI in the past, especially the Council and Advisory Team. There was some discussion on the new membership process and membership requirements. Both reports were unanimously accepted. The Chairman presented the **financial report** in the absence of Treasurer Max Palmer. After some discussion this report was also unanimously accepted.



Wayne Freeman

Election for MI Council vacancies. All five members of the "Class of 08" who came up for replacement were re-elected (MECO, SIM, Tear Fund, WEC and Ted Crawford). The director nominated three new Council members: Jim Chew (subject to review of his schedule for this year), Neville Wilson and Peter Mihaere. Written descriptions of each, including some of their



Jim Chew



Nev Wilson



Peter Mihaere

missions background, were provided for all in attendance upon registration at the door. It was noted that the MI Constitution requires representation of corporate members as well as gender and geographic representation. The director suggested that there should also be ethnic representation (not just Caucasians). From the floor came the recommendations that there be better youth and gender representation on the Council; that the Council provide better opportunity for MI members to participate in the nomination process of Council members, and also review the rotation process.

All three nominations were elected as *individual* members of the Council. (Note: A young female who serves nationally in missions had been asked to pray about serving on the Council by the MI director, but declined at this time because of her other commitments. Also note: After reviewing his schedule (with

Navigators Asia) Jim Chew regretfully declined to serve at this time, but remains very committed to MI.)

Jamie Wood (right) reported on the **Koroutahi Manifesto** and its presentation at the *World Evangelical Alliance* conferences in Thailand. Members were given the opportunity to sign this document to encourage more mission collaboration and see a new wave of missions from, in and to New Zealand.



The Charities Commission status of MI was presented by the Chair. Administrative Assistant Leilani Liew has provided the requested information. It was unanimously agreed to add the word "charitable" in the MI Constitution, clause 9.1.3. (Note: MI has since been granted full charitable status.)

Introduction of new mission leaders:

- MAF – Mark Fox was noted as taking over from Rick Velvin.
- OMF – Warren Payne introduced **Christine Harding** (right) who takes over from him on the 2nd February.
- MECO – Chris Grantham confirmed he is joining MECO and that the organisation is considering a change of name soon.
- Servants to the Urban Poor - Jono Ryan introduced himself.
- Mercy Ships – Graham and Sharon Walls now back in NZ, based in Penrose having moved the office from Tauranga.
- Asian Outreach is moving to Auckland. James Muir will remain in Tauranga as a Regional Representative, and Wesley Im will take a wider leadership role.
- Steve Maina will be arriving with family soon from Africa, replacing Tony Andrews of NZCMS.



Mission Notices:

- Janice Kent from Watts Insurance Company spoke about travel and liabilities insurance.
- *God's Awesome Book* DVDs were given as gifts to Barbara Walker and Warren Payne for their service on the MI Council.

The meeting concluded with prayer followed by a delicious Korean lunch and a few items from the *Bridge to Asia* group (a Korean mission team based in Auckland, part of Across Ministries / YWAM).

INVITATION: If you have a recommendation of someone for the MI Council, you can contact the MI Office or any one of the Advisory Team.

YOU ARE INVITED TO INTERSERVE DAY 2009



encouragement • information • prayer • fellowship
9.30am-3.00pm • Saturday • 4 April • \$25* per person
Royal Oak Baptist Church • Corner Erson Ave & Symonds St • Auckland
GUEST SPEAKER John Amalraj, National Director, Interserve India
Other speakers include Kiwi partners • All interested people are welcome to attend • Cost includes lunch • *Earlybird price \$20: register by 20 March
registration required • 0800 446464 • 09 6300981

We Need to Hear from YOU

8 Simple Questions

Response Form

Your response will help Missions Interlink to better serve the larger New Zealand missions community. Please take a few moments to print out this page, fill out the form (Please PRINT), and return it to Missions Interlink.

1. The main reason I'm part of Missions Interlink is: _____
Another reason (if any other) is: _____
2. We've been told that some of you who receive the *Missions Interlink Bulletin* pass it on for others to read. Approximately how many people read the MI Bulletin we send to you? ____
3. Do you get the MI Bulletin directly from MI? Yes/no ____ If no, then from whom? _____
4. If you could change one thing about Missions Interlink, what would that be? (please PRINT)

5. Which of these areas are you regularly involved in? (Tick whatever applies to you.)
Mobilizing for Missions____, Mentoring people for Missions____, Missions Training____, Member Care____, Personnel Development____, Agency Leaders____, Missions Administrators____, Agency Staff____, Aid Agencies____, NZ-Focused Ministries____, Gov't. / IRD Relations____, Missions Fund-Raising____, Missions/Local Church Relations____, Missions IT____, Writing Missions News____, Marketplace Missions____, Praying for Missions____, Church Missions Committee____.
Other (please print) _____
Other (please print) _____

6. Which of these do you already have a good network with? (put 1 for your main network, 2 for second... Leave blank if you do NOT network significantly with others in that category.)
Mobilizing for Missions____, Mentoring people for Missions____, Missions Training____, Member Care____, Personnel Development____, Agency Leaders____, Missions Administrators____, Agency Staff____, Aid Agencies____, NZ-Focused Ministries____, Gov't. / IRD Relations____, Missions Fund-Raising____, Missions/Local Church Relations____, Missions IT____, Writing Missions News____, Marketplace Missions____, Praying for Missions____, Church Missions Committee____.
Other (please print) _____
Other (please print) _____

7. Which of these would you like to network with? (put A for your top preference, B for second...)
Mobilizing for Missions____, Mentoring people for Missions____, Missions Training____, Member Care____, Personnel Development____, Agency Leaders____, Missions Administrators____, Agency Staff____, Aid Agencies____, NZ-Focused Ministries____, Gov't. / IRD Relations____, Missions Fund-Raising____, Missions/Local Church Relations____, Missions IT____, Writing Missions News____, Marketplace Missions____, Praying for Missions____, Church Missions Committee____.
Other (please print) _____
Other (please print) _____

8. I feel I can best serve the larger missions community in NZ by ... (please PRINT)

Please print your Name: _____, City / Town: _____

Email: _____, Phone _____ Mobile Phone: _____

Primary mission agency or group you're connected with: _____

Please send the form to Missions Interlink either by snail mail, or scan and send as a jpg attachment to:
info@missions.org.nz. Thank you for helping us serve the New Zealand missions community better.

Missions Interlink, PO Box 59049, Mangere Bridge 2151 New Zealand

QUOTES FROM PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS

The retreat was one of the highlights of our home assignment.

We felt very much loved, cared for and understood.

Excellent for acceptance, non-threatening space to download, and some new insights.

I valued the long unstructured times.

I learned so much and found it a time of healing and refreshing.

Should be compulsory for every missionary on Home Assignment!

MAY Retreat: 3rd – 8th May 2009

Location: Lake Taupo Christian Camp

Cost: \$350 per person

OCTOBER Retreat: 27th Oct – 1st Nov 2009

Location: Lake Taupo Christian Camp

Cost: \$350 per person

These biannual retreats (May & October) are “live in” and the fees cover all your costs (apart from travel costs).

We **appreciate** that the charge may seem high, but in fact it is subsidized. For many missionaries who attend, their mission agency or sending church pays their retreat fees.

Timetable details, a list of what to bring and a map will be supplied upon registration.

RETREAT FACILITATORS

(selected from)

STEPHEN & JOCELYN HEAD

Members of WBT (Wycliffe) since 1978, seconded to Heartstream Resources, a group dedicated to caring for cross-cultural workers.

ALLEN & CHARLOTTE TEAL

The Teals have been involved with World Outreach for more than 35 years. Allen is the *Operations Manager* for WO New Zealand. Charlotte is a trained counsellor who now runs her own private practice in South Auckland. Together they offer Member Care, debriefing, and Missionary application interviews.

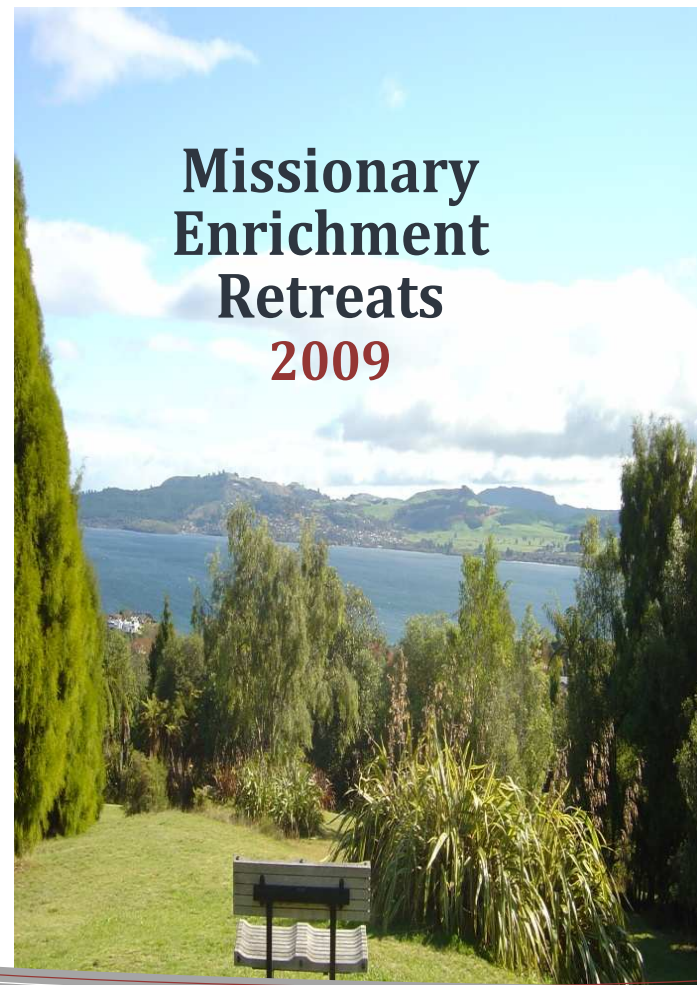
HUMPHREY & LOIS BABBAGE

Humphrey and Lois served in Papua New Guinea for many years and later trained as counsellors serving at the Wycliffe base in Melbourne, offering counselling to applicants, students, admin and teaching staff and personnel on home leave. They are now semi-retired and live in Waikanae.

GINETTE EDMONDS

Ginette has served 23 years with OMF in Thailand planting new churches. These past 5 years she has served as OMF *Ministries Coordinator* in the South Island, mentoring and training potential missionaries.

Missionary Enrichment Retreats 2009



**MISSIONS
INTERLINK (NZ)**

PO Box 59049
Mangere Bridge
Manukau 2151

p: 09 275 8333
e: info@missions.org.nz
w: missions.org.nz

Sponsored by



Kiwis Partnering
in God's Mission

Missionary Enrichment Retreats

RECENTLY RETURNED MISSIONARIES AND MISSIONARIES ON LEAVE

MERs provide opportunity for you to reflect on your experience, evaluate how you have coped, and equip yourself for the future in a safe place away from pressure and with people who understand.

SKILLED FACILITATORS

Professionally qualified and mission-experienced people will gently guide the process, creating a safe place to share the good and the bad, to unburden and prepare for the future.

REFLECTION & WORSHIP

Plenty of time and opportunity is given for spending time with the Lord, alone and corporately to reflect, worship, and grow.

SHARED EXPERIENCES

The retreats provide a meeting place to learn from and share with fellow travellers who understand the issues you face in your field of service.

- As this is an intensely personal and reflective time, we do not provide childcare, but instead recommend that parents arrange to leave children with dependable relatives or friends. This enables both partners to get the most from the experience.
- Every effort is made for single missionaries to have their own room.

DAILY PROGRAMME

Each day begins with a devotional followed by two workshops on specific topics. These are followed by free time and opportunity to meet with one of the facilitators to explore personal issues. We will also have a guided *quiet retreat* segment.

*a range of topics relating to
missionary life will be covered*

SESSIONS WILL FOCUS ON DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE LIFE SKILLS SUCH AS:

- Communication
- Conflict resolution
- Appropriate assertiveness
- Spiritual resources

SOME WILL BE FOCUSED ON CHALLENGES SUCH AS:

- Dealing with "baggage" from the past
- Unfulfilled expectations
- Stress and burnout and
- Singleness issues and marriage strains

REGISTRATION

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Mobile: (____) _____

E-mail: _____

Organisation: _____

Country of Service: _____

Years of Service: _____

Arrival date in NZ: _____

I/we enclose a cheque for \$ _____

(A deposit of \$50.00 or the full amount made payable to Missions Interlink)

Post by: April 17th (for the May retreat) or
October 9th (for the October retreat)

To: Retreats
Missions Interlink
PO Box 59 0 49
Mangere Bridge
Manukau 2151

whatever your role, wherever in the world
you have been serving, mission service is unique
in the stress and blessings it brings

