

Tribute to Ray Windsor

On 10 August 2011 in Auckland, New Zealand, Ray Windsor – long-time Partner, loyal supporter, and former General Director of Interserve – passed into his well-deserved eternal home.

Ray was born in 1928 to a family committed to cross-cultural mission. Excelling in every goal he set for himself, Ray could have been a concert pianist or a national rugby player but he chose to study medicine. He gained distinction in the medical world by participating in NZ's first open heart surgery, and his medical career beckoned him to further heights. But in 1963, in obedience to the call of God, Ray, his wife Gwen and their five children, set out to India, as newly appointed mission Partners with BMMF.

In 1968 Ray helped form the Emmanuel Hospital Association, which pioneered the

shift from mission hospital-based care to community-based healthcare.

In 1970 Ray was elected as the General Director of BMMF. For the next 12 years he led the mission to new levels of service and cooperation. And in 1983, in recognition of Ray's services to the Indian people, he was awarded the distinguished Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth.

From 1982 to 1985 Ray was Principal of the All Nations College, a missionary training college in the UK, but resigned to return to NZ to care for his ailing mother.

He never lost his passion and commitment to mission, even in later years when he was restricted by Parkinson's disease. He was a true kaumātua (elder/leader) and man of mana (inspirational authority), an inspirational example of a truly God-fearing servant leader. ☞

A daunting challenge

Earlier this year, a British supporter helped raise over £4000 for Interserve's work by taking on the Bike America Challenge.

Andrew Lawrence, a 25-year-old bank worker from London, cycled from California to New York in just three weeks, riding a grand total of 3,097 miles (almost 5,000 kilometres).

"It was an incredible journey. I had just reached a motel in Missouri when the tornado siren went off. The tornado hit the

town five miles away - where I was supposed to be staying - and destroyed lots of the buildings."

Andrew came to know about the work of Interserve through 2009 Walk for Justice campaign initiated by IS England and Wales. "I was really impressed with the amazing work that Interserve does in countering injustice in many parts of the developing world," said Andrew, "and that is why I decided to support them." ☞

Key shift in mission thinking

One of the key messages emerging from Interserve's International Leaders Consultation in May was about shifting the way we think about mission.

For over a century the world mission movement has been motivated by one verse above all others, "Go and make disciples of all nations," with 'go' as the key word. However, this is not the whole story of mission; Acts 16:9 offers us a better paradigm for the 21st century, the invitation to, "come over and help us."

The invitation to 'come' recognises that God is the real missionary, and that He is already at work amongst those to whom we go. We are invited to join Him, which immediately puts us in the right posture for cross-cultural ministry, that of humility and service. There is no place for arrogance when we respond to His invitation to join Him in His work: it is all privilege, listening, learning and obedience.

The invitation to come also affirms that God has established His church and we are called to partner with and serve it. Yes, it may be fragile, fearful and unfocused but it is still God's chosen instrument for witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in that place.

Serving the church has always been a central component in the DNA of Interserve. Together we must work this out afresh at a time when mission is less about the command to Go and more about the invitation to Come. Come, let's respond to the invitation! ☞