

Interserve Day

This year's Interserve Day was our seventh. The first one took place in 2007 with about 50 long-term supporters in attendance.

Last year's saw a huge turnout for Libby Little, and this year we had a crowd of 160 (substantially more than in 2011). We welcomed a more diverse age and ethnic mix among supporters, friends, enquirers and those simply curious about Interserve and missions; they came from as far afield as Christchurch and Dunedin.

Paul Bendor-Samuel, our International

Director, shared exciting and probing Crossroad Challenges for our journey ahead, and there was a smorgasbord of reports and stories from the field, fellowship, good food, a children's programme and also a marketplace with some excellent wares!

Next year's Interserve Day will be held on 10 May, 2014. Our guest speakers will be Pat and Paul Stock, from IS Pakistan. They are involved in a powerful ethnomusicological disciple-making ministry amongst the tribal peoples of the Sindh, so reserve the date now and don't miss out on a great day. ☞

Personnel gathering

When we launched Building the Next Generation we planned very few pieces of the process ahead of time, apart from a gathering for personnel leaders.

We were certain that new ways of understanding our place in God's mission would inevitably impact the way we recruit, select, place and support staff and Partners. The personnel gathering, held in the Netherlands in April, strongly affirmed this.

It was an excellent meeting with lots of positive feedback from the 60+ participants gathered from across the Interserve world. There was refreshing corporate worship and challenge from the Word, and prayer permeated the whole event. We experienced a genuine spirit of unity across National Offices and Country Teams, with a lot of fun and laughter thrown in, and many used the word 'family' to describe our sense of community.

Significant time was spent thinking about the profile of the Interserve staff member and Partner of the future. We had a lot of fun drafting recruitment slogans in the light of this profile. The emphasis came through clearly on Christ-like character, teachability, missiological competency, skills and attitudes for working with the church, and a passion for growing as disciples and making disciples. ☞

Paul Bendor-Samuel, International Director

40 years of service

At the end of March, the IS Europe Board met for the 26th and last time, and we looked back with deep appreciation on Annie and Ed Kramer's 40 years in the Interserve family.

When the Kramers applied to join Interserve (then BMMF) in the UK 41 years ago, they were told that, in order to be accepted, they first had to establish an IS Netherlands Committee that could send them to Nepal.

After many years in Nepal, the Kramers returned to the Netherlands and established the IS Europe Committee as a sending body for Europeans from countries with no National Office, and for the last 12 years they have given wise, faithful, tireless and sacrificial leadership to promoting mission to Asia and the Arab World. ☞

National Office closes

In August 2012, the South Africa committee concluded that God was releasing them from Interserve and calling them to serve the South African church through new doors.

We acknowledge the service of the many who have been National Directors and part of the committees over the years. We bless them as they move toward the outworking of the vision God has given them.

We believe God still has purposes for Interserve in South Africa and we are exploring what that might look like, particularly with a view to partnership. Please pray for God to open those doors that draw us into His greater purposes. ☞