

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF INTERSERVE NZ

As I write I have just returned from a week overseas helping to mentor next gen course writers for discipleship and leadership materials across Asia.

What a privilege to work with 24 others from 14 different nations in an enterprise serving around 100,000 students! A number were Interservers and it was so easy to be with them. Our whanau weave is strong yet flexible, warm, spacious, and so diverse. This is true of Interserve NZ also and it has been a privilege to see another year through with the office team, our partners in NZ and overseas, council members and you, our supporters. We are stronger for being many, and all united in Christ.

Last year I asked you to pray for the Finance and Administration committee as we searched for a new chairperson. The decision was made to disband the committee as we gained a very experienced Operations Manager – the result of an extremely constructive 360 review of our National Director. Grateful thanks to Bruce (FAC chair) and his team for their years of commitment! Johannes will now be able to dedicate some of his time to local and international missional innovation. If you would like to partner financially with him in that, please let the office know. Going forward, please pray with us for new members for our Council (let me know if that could be you).

As we faced a budget that was going to be deeply challenging, as well as new and time-consuming compliance rules with the Charities Commission, there was much to be concerned about last year. We are deeply grateful that the outcomes on both are quietly positive. (See the financial report inside, as well as explanation of new reporting requirements). Thank you.

The calibre of our partners, many of whom have lived through extremely difficult situations and yet responded with integrity and courage, is remarkable. Your prayers for and support of them is really appreciated.

I am mindful that during this last year some have passed on. I want to note Ian Kemp and Kathleen Nicholls, mighty totara of Interserve internationally. We remember their families.

Last report I spoke of hopes for the next steps in our bicultural journey.

We are grateful for some Māori friends partnering with us during a retreat in August that included council, office and Country Team which started to lay the foundations of Māori wisdom infusing our intercultural life together.

Kia tau te aroha noa o tō tātou Ariki, o ʻIhu Karaiti ki a tatou katoa.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all.

Rosemary Dewerse  
Chair, NZ Council

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2016

2016 represents another year where God's faithfulness to Interserve NZ has been very evident.

In spite of ever-present challenges, our committed donors and supporters have given faithfully and sacrificially in response to great need and opportunities. Thank you for your faithful partnership with us!

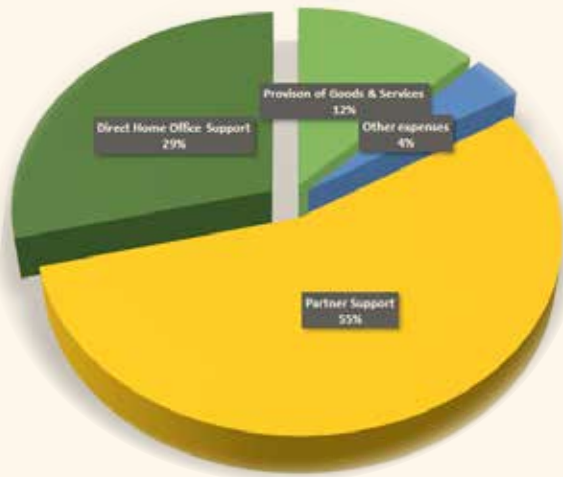
Our Partners and On-trackers have served with diligence and obedience in many of the hardest places in the world, and your support and God's faithfulness, protection and provision have made that possible.

2016 was the first year we've been required to report our financial results in accordance with new financial reporting standards for charities in New Zealand.

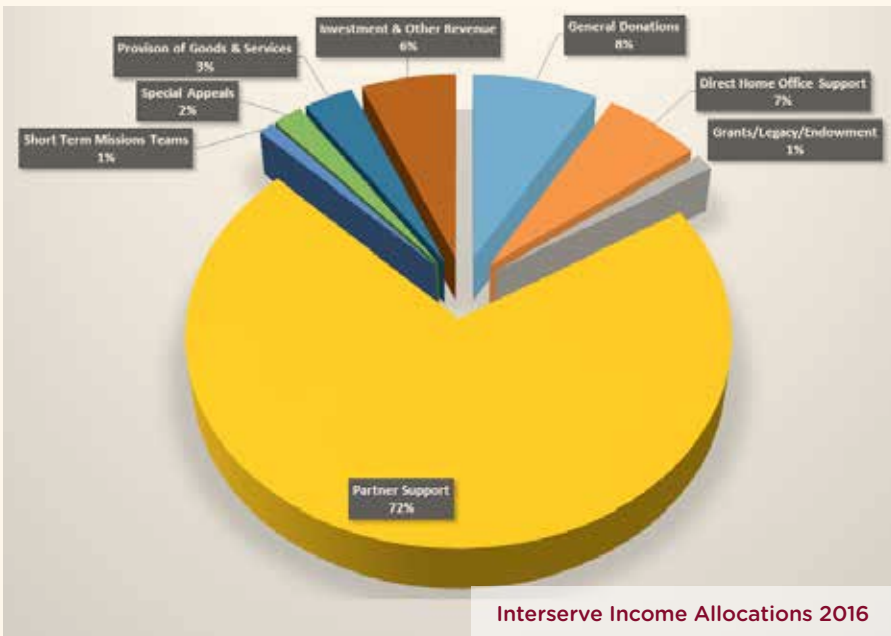
These new standards required substantial changes to the format of our reporting, as well as some changes to the accounting policies applied to prepare those reports. In particular, funds raised for expenditures in future periods such as upcoming home assignment expenses are no longer deferred until future periods as was standard practice for Interserve and many other charities. These amounts are now included in income when received, and this impacts on our financial results for 2016.

Our 2016 accounts report a surplus of \$242,145 compared with a deficit of \$24,561 for 2015.  
2016 Income: \$1,346,244  
2016 Expenditure: \$1,104,099  
2016 Surplus: \$242,145

Almost one hundred thousand dollars (\$98,469) of the total surplus of \$242,145 is support reserved for future expenses to bring partners



Interserve Expenditure Allocations 2016



Interserve Income Allocations 2016

back for home assignment at the end of their present term of service overseas. So the extent of the surplus is not as significant as it seems at first glance. Our practice continues to be what we've done previously, raising funds throughout the time of service overseas to cover the total expenses – including troughs and peaks that occur when extra travel and repatriation expenses arise.

We are very encouraged by increased support for the New Zealand office expenses. This has traditionally been our most challenged area, with partners on the field generally being fully supported. In 2016, our deficit for this area was \$15,823, compared with \$48,674 in 2015. Please pray for further support for this essential part of our operations, and for continued wisdom to manage this effectively.

Our full audited financial statements now also include non-financial measures of our progress in light of our objectives and purpose as an organization. This is an additional requirement under the new financial reporting regulations. As usual, these full audited financial statements are available upon request. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me through the Interserve NZ office.

We continue praying for a new generation of partners and supporters with a vision for the hard places. Thank you for your part in the Interserve NZ story in 2016!

Blessings,  
Allan Grav  
CA (Canada & New Zealand) Treasurer

2017 (JUNE, FOR 2016) NL ANNUAL REPORT

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tāto katoa. Greetings, and much gratefulness to all of you who form part of the Interserve Aotearoa NZ community!

We look back on 2016 as a year where we saw God being wonderfully near, supporting and providing but also stretching us in new and exciting ways. As I am reflecting in our August/September Prayer Guide, we are being woven into the grand narrative of God's mission on Planet Earth, a weave (represented by our new organizational logo) that is open, loose, with plenty of breathing spaces and definitely unfinished as yet.

The Maori whakatauki 'Nāu i whatu te kākahu, he tāniko tāku' (literally translated as 'you wove the body of the cloak, I made the tāniko (a range of weaving patterns) border') presents us

with a marvellous metaphor for that. While much of our organizational work, and the efforts of Council, seek to give shape, definition, and some measure of healthy boundary to who we are and what we do, there is definitely a sense that we are on a journey of discovery as well. And for that we need to be open, to be able to push and revisit what was established practice in earlier days. This is happening in our NZ Country Team, where we see great work being done amongst the Muslim community of this nation. We are continuing efforts to resource and invest missional thinking and practice into the churches of Aotearoa. We work with the next generation, as well as with Diaspora, and have seen encouraging doors open amongst our Kiwi-Koreans. And we have started to participate in international work to research and discern where God may be leading his mission-enterprise in a constantly changing world – so many new opportunities to bear witness to the peaceable kingdom and the wonderful name of Jesus!

Our office team has changed quite a bit, with both Lisa (Communications) and Vikas (Admin & Reception) leaving us after many fruitful years – we are deeply grateful for all they brought to us. Susie (Personnel Director) went on maternity leave and re-emerged convinced that she wanted to be a committed mum but still have a stake in the community, so is now involved with special projects. Anna and Anne, who joined us as maternity cover, now hold the bulk of the personnel work; Deby took a part-time communications role; and Andrew has come on board in a new role, as Operations Manager and 2iC – a tremendous gift to us all. While there are still some clear holes to fill, and part-time has become the new normal, our sense of team has only grown stronger and deeper, and we are grateful.

Amid change and the ongoing weaving efforts of God, our core holds steadfast. We are called and committed to God first and foremost, to worship and bring glory to his name alone. We are called to share the 'aroma of Christ' with those least able to access or experience it, amongst the peoples of Asia and the Arab World. And we are called to do this freely, without expecting pay or return, serving only Christ and not our own interests. For all your commitment and support, your encouragement and cheering, we are immensely grateful. We couldn't do it without this amazing community. Thanks for standing tall!

Ahakoa he uaua, kia kaha, kia toa, kia manawanui! Although there may be difficulties, be strong, be brave, be patient and take heart!

Johannes Balzer  
National Leader, Interserve Aotearoa NZ

NON-FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

In 2015, the New Zealand Government enacted changes to the Charities Act 2005, which had several implications for Interserve NZ.

Firstly, it meant that as a Tier 4 charity (over \$1 million in expenditure), we are now required to have our accounts audited by a qualified auditor (as defined under sections 35 and 36 of the Financial Reporting Act 2013). Secondly, we are now required to report on non-financial performance as well as our financial performance so that a more rounded view of the entity can be presented to interested parties.

An organisation such as Interserve NZ is clearly more than just dollars given or spent. Thus, important as the financial numbers are, they do not tell the real story of why we exist and do the work that we do, or why people like you are willing to donate your hard-earned money to support Interserve NZ and its partners. The real story is of course about the partners in the field, living and working amongst the communities that God has called them to, to build relationships and help meet in their own small way the multifaceted physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the community.

Staff are deeply involved in every step of what is a very non-linear cycle when it comes to sending people out to do the work God has called them to. In fact, the role of the Interserve NZ staff could be thought of as being very much akin to a circular economy. They deal with new enquiries about the possibility of working overseas, helping and walking alongside those in the preparation stage; then they commission those departing for foreign shores; they support (with administration and pastoral care) all our partners in the field, especially when the inevitable issues or unexpected situations arise; and, of course, they help and equip those returning and settling back into their 'normal' life back here in New Zealand, before starting the cycle again.

Andrew Mulcahy  
Operations Manager

# GO NEWS



OCTOBER 2017 | NEWSLETTER



## God's Heart For The New Migrant

### PARTNER NEWS

**‘The stranger who resides with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.’ Lev 19:34**

God's heart for the new migrant to the land was to help them become a native among the indigenous people. Aotearoa New Zealand had 46,146 Muslim-background people living here in 2013. In addition to the Muslim residents, there are 12,000 Muslims studying in our educational institutions. Many of them live with Kiwi families where they observe Christian living.

Our new Neighbours are used to strong community life, generous hospitality and a people-oriented culture in contrast to our Kiwi time-oriented culture. In the last

few years a pioneering movement called Friends of Friends Fellowship (FFF) has been birthed; it seeks to support the communal needs of Muslim migrants. A typical fellowship provides a weekly gathering for Muslim seekers with a small team of Christians, to worship, pray, study holy scriptures and talk about Isa/Jesus in a contextual way. Prayer not only covers personal needs, but also asks for peace for families and nations in war-torn Islamic nations.

Food, hospitality, post-Ramadan and birth of Isa feasts, picnics, hiking, visiting, birthday celebrations, are all aspects of the FFF experience. Deep friendships develop with our new friends as they call us their new family in New Zealand. When their parents come to visit them, they bring them to FFF to show them their wonderful new, godly friends. FFF is a safe, caring, generous and kind-hearted place for our new migrants to explore life and faith in NZ, free from the negative stereotypes of the media.

The acceptance and love they experience helps them to no longer feel like strangers residing in our land, and they start to become natives among us.

### Prayer points:

1. Pray that our new Neighbours will experience a revelation of who Isa/Jesus the beloved is. (1 John 5:6)
2. Pray that more Christians will respond to the call of the Spirit to join or pioneer an FFF to make more safe communities for our Neighbours. (Acts 10:17-20)
3. Pray for the support and spiritual protection of the FFF labourers (Matt 9:37-38), and of MBB's who are the fruit of this ministry.
4. Pray for our new Neighbours who become followers of Isa that they will be protected from spiritual attacks and loneliness.



## From the director



*Shashi Christian*

**Diaspora – a term referring originally to the dispersion of the Jews beyond Israel, then to the spread of any people from their original homeland. The history of our planet is filled with the movements of peoples, for any number of reasons, both good and challenging.**

As we read Scripture we discover that our God cares intensely for vulnerable people – orphans and widows, the poor, and strangers (i.e. foreigners). The Israelites, intensely preoccupied with their own kingdom and place in history, did not easily grasp the need to care for this last group, and often felt justified, under the old covenant, to draw a line between themselves as God's holy people and the tarnished pagan world all around them. 'Do not be defiled...' was the catch cry of the day.

Yet, as we dig deeper into God's Word, we see that His love indeed burns for all peoples; and that His seeking out a covenant with one was meant to demonstrate His passion and care for all. 'Let all who are thirsty – and all means all – let all come and drink from the waters of life for free!'

Sadly, we see too many Christians preoccupied with maintaining the status quo, the world order as is, shuttering down national borders and protecting what we have – as opposed to the way of Jesus, giving away freely, inviting those from the highways and byways to His banqueting table. Deep within we resist that call to be and act like Jesus, to 'devalue' our treasures on earth, and to share with all those in need. Let's be honest – to 'go sell all and then follow' is not a popular message in our consumer-driven society. Yet there is an invitation to take steps in that direction, to at least start on that road – and perhaps we then discover grace to love the stranger as ourselves?

May the invitation in this GO News to be 'active in God's mission' resonate deeply in our hearts so that the most vulnerable of our world will know beyond doubt they are welcome at God's table!



## A Heart of Compassion

### PARTNER NEWS

**By God's grace I recently spent six weeks in the Middle East, where God used my pharmacy background in two clinics.**

The team in the first clinic, which served refugees primarily, was small, comprising only six full-time staff (along with several part-time medical staff), half of whom were refugees themselves.

The male receptionist was an engineer back home but could not practise in his new country of residence so was learning administration skills. He struggled with his new role and missed being able to work in his professional area of expertise. However, as a believer in Christ, he joyfully expressed his gratefulness for where God had placed him and served faithfully. He dealt with patients in a very kind, gentle and compassionate manner.

I also witnessed the way the clinic management team, a missionary doctor and his nurse wife, treated their staff with such love and compassion as if they were one family. I often saw the female staff hugging the head nurse and saying

she was like their mother.

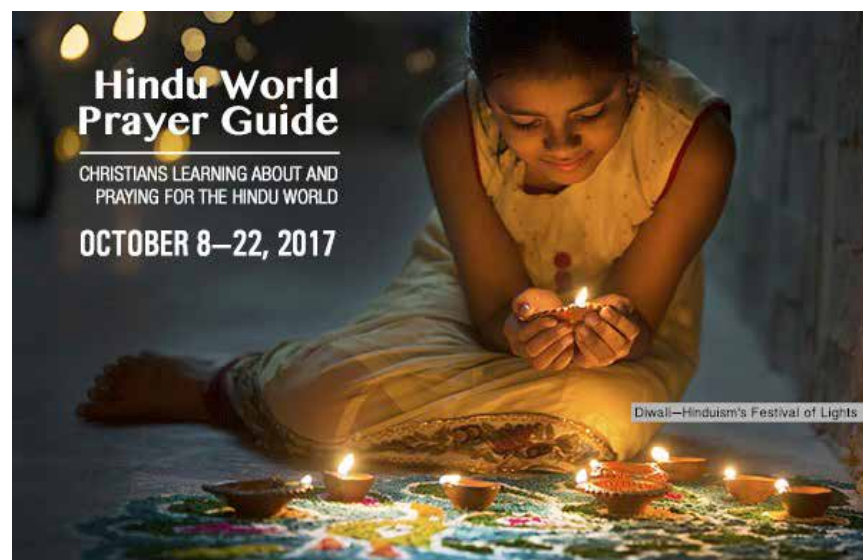
One weekend, I attended a health outreach conference where a speaker from Syria shared that, though the country is now in ruins, Father is at work there. "Despite the earthquake, we can see God's presence. Despite the darkness, the light of God is showing. Heaven will not be closed in Syria." While this speaker shared, the two Syrian staff became very emotional and the head nurse leaned forward and put her arms tightly around the Syrian lady in front of her to comfort her. Not yet a believer, this lady was open to the Gospel, and I sensed that Father's love expressed in her Christian colleague's love and compassion was touching her heart.

"The work doesn't stop at the clinic door. We visit their homes..." It was clear that the most important work for us wasn't to heal bodies but to save souls, that we health professionals are not called just to provide and advance medical care but to make disciples. God places us where He wants us to be His light through genuine loving relationships with people who are yet to experience His saving grace.

May Christ help us to have a heart of compassion like His for those who need it most and may we be willing to be His channel of love and hope to the suffering world!

## In Partnership

### INTERSERVE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SIM AND MISSIONS INTERLINK



## D for Diaspora

**Here in Aotearoa New Zealand in recent years we have been witnessing a significant cultural, racial and ethnic shakeup of society.**

As immigration continues to increase and Aotearoa becomes more multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multicultural, the churches and mission agencies within our cities and communities need to grapple with this change. It creates opportunities to be disciples and make disciples of Jesus Christ from all nations within Aotearoa.

Since 2001, I have engaged in diaspora ministry through building relationships within migrant communities, learning about various faiths and the methods that work within our context. Diaspora ministry provides valuable insights, such as 'start simple' and be intentional about getting to know at least one other

group in your community. Ministry with people is not a fast-food outlet: be prepared to grow slowly. Always be mindful and try to put yourself in the other person's shoes. Learning some simple greetings and phrases helps to begin a relationship. I have learnt that being hospitable is not just about sharing food but about sharing stories of life, faith, special days, as well as simple acts of kindness.

In a local congregation where I served, we tried starting our worship service with greetings in many languages; celebrating special days and festivals; inviting people to say the Lord's Prayer and sing songs in their first languages. We hosted an open day on Sundays to explain what we do on Sunday morning at church. We made family the focus in Sunday services by including all ages, and we used symbols, fabrics and colours that celebrated other cultures.

How do we make disciples among the diaspora communities? The

**We are excited to introduce you to the first ever 15 Day Prayer Guide for the Hindu World (8-22 Oct, 2017).**

We are inviting Kiwi Christians to join with others from around the world to pray for our one billion Hindu neighbours during the period of Diwali in October.

Matt 4:16 (NIV) is the focus verse: "The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

For more information, please visit the dedicated website, which includes a YouTube video clip to promote the Prayer Guide: [pray15days.org](http://pray15days.org)

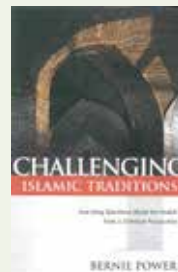
You can also contact us on [pray4hindus@missions.org.nz](mailto:pray4hindus@missions.org.nz)

traditional methods of sharing the gospel have been to use tools like the Four Spiritual Laws. What I have learnt is that those tools are good for worldviews based on law and guilt, but many diaspora communities come from honour and shame worldviews. Sharing the story of Jesus with Hindu friends with emphasis on His uniqueness has helped them to become followers of Jesus. Many Hindu friends have accepted a gift of a New Testament, which they read daily, and they pray to Jesus.

Engaging in any missional activity requires us to devote time to prayer. Today take the opportunity to pray for your migrant neighbours and bless them. Ask the Lord to help you see the people He has brought to your doorstep and to help you grow in love for the Lord and your neighbour!

**Shashi Christian**  
([shashi.christian@sim.org](mailto:shashi.christian@sim.org))

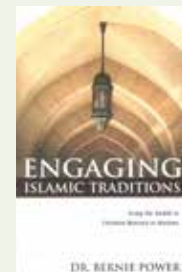
## Book Corner



### CHALLENGING ISLAMIC TRADITIONS

"The Hadith are Islam's most influential texts after the Qur'an. They outline in detail what the Qur'an often leaves unsaid. The Hadith are a foundation for Islamic law and theology and a key to understanding the worldview of Islam and why many Muslims do the things they do. This book subjects the Hadiths to a critical analysis from a biblical perspective."

**Bishop Michael Nazir Ali**  
Director, Oxford Centre for Training, Research, Advocacy and Dialogue



**Author Bernie Powers holds degrees in science, arts and theology. His doctorate focused on the Hadith. He served for over twenty years as an Interserve partner among Muslims in Asia and the Middle East. Currently he lectures in Islamic Studies at the Melbourne School of Theology, Australia.**

### ENGAGING ISLAMIC TRADITIONS

"The Hadith have long been neglected by Christians, yet they may hold the key to reaching Muslims with the good news of Jesus Christ. In this ground-breaking book, the earliest traditions of Islam are assessed from a biblical perspective. Insights into the Islamic worldview and potential springboards to Christian truth are uncovered along the way."

**Dr. Warren Larson**  
Professor at Columbia International University Seminary and School of Missions.

## Web Resources

**thepilgrimage.net.nz** A set of 5 remarkable leaflets to share with a Muslim friend. Non-confrontational, yet true to Scripture, developed in Aotearoa NZ.

**missionexus.org** A major go-to for all manner of mission resources. A treasure trove to explore!

**ibecventures.com/ibec-ventures-videos.htm** An interesting collection of various BAM (Business as Missions) videos - stories to browse, learn from, and rejoice over.



## Vacancies

### URGENTLY REQUIRED

**Finance Director, or qualified Accountant**

Someone with the accountancy and computer skills to lead or support our national finance team.

**Paediatricians required**

South Asia, up to 2 yrs+. 150 bed hospital with a holistic health approach. The work entails a mix of clinical service provision, research and training.

### OTHER VACANCIES

**INDIA, IT expertise** – please come for a 2-3 month stint to help a partner organisation upgrade their systems.

**SOUTH EAST ASIA.**

**Administration**, 12mths-3 yrs, mature Christian, working in a team with 20 local staff on a project to build capacity among villages.

**UNITED KINGDOM. Hospitality**, 12 mths – 2+yrs. A couple to live on-site and function as Community Hosts, mature Christians, passionate to nurture community and build cross-cultural relationships.

**THAILAND. Theology/Church**,

up to 2 yrs. Counselling or pastoral care background, providing ministry and practical support to displaced persons, facilitating Bible studies in the Urdu language.

**SOUTH ASIA. Registered**

**Surgeon**, 2+ years. Performing elective and emergency surgery, teaching and mentoring junior doctors in an NGO hospital.

**SOUTH ASIA. Nurse**. Serving in a Christian school, providing care and health advice to students and staff on site.

**Thank you from the team at Interserve**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Interserve Day 2018 | 5 May 2018**



**Interserve**

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