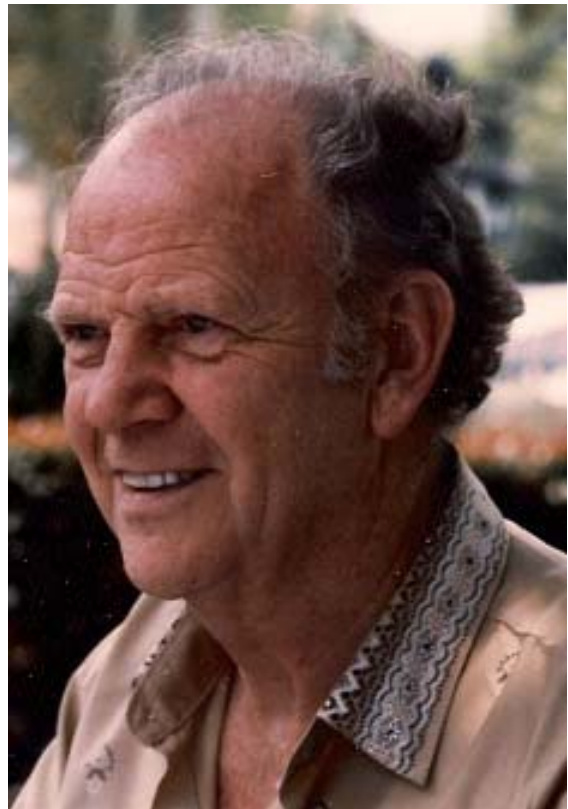


## In memory of Raymond Windsor (FRCSEd, FRACS, OBE)

At 9:30am on Wednesday morning, August 10, with his immediate family gathered around him and Handel's Messiah at its crescendo Ray Windsor – long-time partner, loyal supporter, and former General Director of Interserve (then still called BMMF) – passed into his well-deserved eternal home.

Ray was born 23 March 1928 on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait (north of Australia), to a family committed to cross-cultural mission. Ray excelled in every goal he set for himself: he 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 obedience to the call of God he offered himself to serve India's needy people instead.



In April 1963, Ray, his wife Gwen and their five children set out by ship to India, as newly appointed mission partners with BMMF. After language study in Landour, Mussoorie, Ray's first appointment was to work at the Chandigarh Government Medical Research Institute as a heart surgeon. He then took over the community hospital at Landour, and also nearby Herbertpur hospital, where he developed their services to the villages of that part of North India.

Ray's work began to widen as the Lord increased his vision. In 1968, Alan Norrish (Field Secretary for BMMF) asked Ray to help form the Emmanuel Hospital Association, to address the problems that mission hospitals were having: many were severely short-staffed and struggling to survive. The EHA integrated the medical mission movement with the indigenous Indian mission movement by developing Indian leadership and recruiting Indian medical missionaries to work in the hospitals. EHA also pioneered the shift from mission hospital-based care to community-based healthcare. It is certainly one of Ray's lasting legacies.

The gift and ability to motivate and coordinate disparate groups of people for lasting and effective Christian service did not go unnoticed: 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 many will testify to his gracious counselling and wise advice. And in 1983, a higher authority recognized Ray's services to the Indian people: he was awarded the distinguished Order of the British Empire by the Queen of England.

In 1982 Ray was called to be the principal of the All Nations College at Ware outside of London. Although he had no formal theological training, he was able to lead the college to become one of the most sought after missionary training colleges in the UK. In 1985, in a move many found difficult to understand but which ultimately showed his tremendous Christian character, Ray resigned from this very successful post and returned to New Zealand in order to care for his ailing mother, his first priority.

In the years that followed he never lost his passion and commitment to mission. From 1985-86 he was Executive Director of the NZ Evangelical Missionary Alliance (now Missions Interlink) as well as the Evangelical Fellowship of NZ. From 1987-93 he then became an Associate Director of the Missions Commission of the World Evangelical Fellowship (WEA). He was on the boards of a number of organisations; an active man with many and varied interests, but first of all was a deep commitment to his growing family whom he tremendously enjoyed.

In later years, and despite the inroads of Parkinson's disease with its increasing restrictions, Ray's true character shone forth as ever the same – truly interested in people, passionate about mission, loving music, and prayerful. I personally only knew Ray in his last few years, but I was very much taken by his keen interest in me as a person, his characteristically warm and caring manner, his gracious support of my role, and his unwavering love and involvement with Interserve and the mission of Jesus to the world. A true kaumātua (elder/leader) and man of mana (inspirational authority), an example to follow.

To Gwen and her family we offer love and sympathy in their loss, and our support for the future.

Thank you, Ray, for the inspiration you have been to all of us and for your example of a truly God fearing servant leader.

Johannes Balzer

National Director, Interserve NZ

PS. Ray's funeral service was recorded and is available to view on the internet at:

<http://www.vimeo.com/27844875>