



NAVIGATE

BEING RENEWED IN MISSIONS

God invites us to be involved in the advance of the gospel into our neighbourhood and relational networks, into Aotearoa, and into other nations. Recently I realised that two well-known Bible passages contain this global view. In John 3:16 we see how God's love for all nations (the world) motivated the gift of Jesus' life for the salvation of all who believe in Jesus. When we pray the Lord's prayer, we pray for God's will to be done in all nations. It is too easy to translate 'world' to only mean our small corner of the globe.

In January 2000 my family moved to Fergusson Hall where I worked as manager of this Hall of Residence for Massey university students. I remember praying for the gospel to transform the lives of students in the Hall, and for these students to carry the message of Jesus around New Zealand and to other nations. Students who came to faith at Fergusson Hall and grew as believers went on to carry the gospel to many parts of Aotearoa and into several countries in Asia and other parts of the world.

When we pray only for our neighbourhood, for our city, or even for our nation are we settling for too small a thing with God? Could God's message to the prophet Isaiah be a message to us too?

"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." - Isaiah 49:6

I find the challenge of reaching my immediate neighbours with the Good News about Jesus can diminish my vision for the gospel advancing into other nations. I need reminding of this global vision and for this to inform my prayers again as it did when I moved to Fergusson Hall.

A friend recently said, "the gospel without cross-cultural missions is like living in a stuffy room". We need to open the windows and let the fresh air in. May this issue of Navigate renew your vision and heart for cross-cultural missions and for the nations.

Yours,

Simon

Simon Cayzer
National Director



RENEWED IN MISSIONS: GOD IS WITH US

GOD CALLS US TO BE HIS WITNESSES BUT DOES NOT LEAVE US TO GO IT ALONE

BY BRIAN WACHTER

In Matthew 28:18–20 Jesus commissioned His disciples to make disciples of all nations, to baptise them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, and to teach them to obey everything that he commanded them to do. He completes this charge with a promise—a promise that **He would be with them** (and by inference us) to the end of the age. This promise is significant in that it assures us that we do not need to try to carry out this commission on our own.

A similar promise to the disciples from Jesus is found in Luke 24:49, “*And behold, I am sending **the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.***” Here the promise is the Father will be with them as they proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness of sins to the nations beginning in Jerusalem.

In Acts 1:7, Jesus answers a question from the disciples about the restoration of Israel’s kingdom explaining that it is not yet time for it to be restored (cf. Acts 3:19–21). However, as Luke records in Acts 1:8 (read below), the time for the mission of Spirit-empowered witness to the nations has come. Isaiah had already promised that God’s Spirit would empower his people to testify for him to the nations, even “to the ends of

the earth” (Isaiah 43:10–12; 44:3, 8; 49:6; cf. Acts 13:47).

The promised **Holy Spirit would be with them** and empower them as they fulfil the charge to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. The disciples received the Spirit from Jesus to enable them to be His witnesses. They went out to the world with the gospel message: that Jesus has come but has now died, risen to life, and ascended to heaven.

God’s people now are promised the presence of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit in this mission of living as His witnesses, proclaiming the gospel, and making disciples of all nations. God knows we need His help. What a tremendous encouragement this should be to us as we carry out this mission of spreading the gospel from where God has planted us—to the ends of the earth!

The Spirit empowers us in reaching the world for Christ. The same Spirit who enabled the prophets to speak for God, the same Spirit who anointed Jesus for his mission, the same Spirit who empowered the first followers of Jesus for their mission in Acts, is the same Spirit who empowers us to reach the world today.

As the Spirit empowers and renews us for mission - let us be faithful to transmit the gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom in His power in our local cities, to the surrounding areas, to our nation, and to our world—around the globe. 🌐

ACTS 1:8 YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES...

“BUT YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES ON YOU; AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH.”



IN **JERUSALEM**
OUR LOCAL CITY

IN **JUDEA**
OUR SURROUNDING AREA

IN **SAMARIA**
OUR NATION — NEW ZEALAND

IN **THE WORLD**
OUR WORLD - AROUND THE GLOBE

Good News

FOR EVERYONE
EVERYWHERE.

LUKE 2:10

FROM THE MANGER TO THE NATIONS

BY LIANA FLANAGAN

When you think about Christmas, perhaps your mind doesn't instantly turn to thinking about mission. And yet mission is embedded in the angel's proclamation of good news to the shepherds at the first heralding of Jesus' birth. Jesus would be *good news* and this good news would be *for all people*.

I was thinking about good news recently during a walk with a non-believing friend. During our walk, I was able to rejoice with her in a seemingly miraculous outcome for her family member that I had been praying for (and remind her that I had been praying for this). I also shared about God's grace in helping me to overcome a personal challenge. It occurred to me that in doing these things I was, in a small way, also proclaiming the good news.

Our nation of Aotearoa New Zealand is about as far-flung as you can get from where those shepherds first heard the good news. But as we "live and disciple among the lost," as our Navigator calling statement describes it, we can proclaim God's good news as we see and experience it to the people on our streets, in our workplaces, our schools, sports teams and families.

Remember that the birth of a fragile baby born to peasants was an incredibly humble start to something as unfathomably large as the redemption of the world. So, this Christmas, can we share God's good news from our own lives, no matter how small and insignificant our stories seem? Good news is meant to be proclaimed! Only God knows how He will use our small offerings to bring His good news to all people. 🙏



Do you have a longing to invest in the spiritual growth of someone else but don't know where to start? We want to equip and support everyday people to learn how to disciple others in the midst of ordinary life. We are offering an online discipleship training course that will run over 10 months in 2023. Participants can expect to spend approximately 10 hours per month, which will include Bible study, coaching, book studies, and online meetings and discussions—all with the goal of helping you disciple someone else. Open to all ages.

For more information, go to navigators.org.nz/everydaydiscipleship or email Liana at liana@navigators.org.nz 🙏

RENEWED IN MISSIONS: TWO TRIPS IN 2023

KEEPING THE NATIONS IN FOCUS IS THE GOAL AS WE PLAN TWO TRIPS FOR 2023—JOIN US!




When we're reminded of the goal of taking the gospel to the ends of the earth, quite often our efforts of reaching our family and friends where we are can seem insignificant. But when these global efforts are connected to how God is reaching the nation of Aotearoa New Zealand, they take on a much greater significance. To keep our eyes on the goal of reaching those who don't know Jesus in our nation and the nations of the earth, we are planning two missions trips in 2023. Please pray for our planning and trips.

Our first trip will be a students trip to Fiji that will take place in late June-early July. We are trusting God for 4-8 university students to join us on this trip. We will be partnering with Graeme Sterne and the Fiji

Navigators work.

Our second trip will be a trip to South Asia (country name withheld for security reasons) and will be open to anyone who is part of Navigators. Our focus will be on unreached peoples. We will travel as 'tourists' to this country. This trip will take place in October-early November depending on participants availability. (Will send details to those interested.)

Know a student who is keen to travel to Fiji? Know someone (maybe you?) who is keen to join our team to South Asia? Please contact Brian Wachter at brian@navigator.org.nz for more information and details on both of these trips. **For planning, please register interest to Brian by December 16th.** 

RENEWED IN MISSIONS: FAMILIES & RELATIONAL NETWORKS

JOIN US AS WE LOOK AT AND STUDY TOGETHER OUR NAVIGATORS CORE VALUE #8— HOW GOD USES FAMILIES AND RELATIONAL NETWORKS IN DISCIPLING THE NATIONS


Have you ever thought about the importance of families and relational networks have in the advance of the gospel? What part (if any) did your family and close friends play in your journey to God? What emotions surface now at the thought of the gospel impacting your family of origin?

1. **READ: Genesis 18:17-19.** From this passage and your knowledge of Abraham and Sarah's legacy, what part did Abraham and his descendants play in discipling the nation of Israel?

2. Jesus and His disciples believed that affecting one person with the gospel opened the door to affect that person's family and network of relationships, if he/she stays connected relationally. Choose two of these stories. Summarize one or two insights about discipling the nations through families and/or friendship networks.

READ: Mark 5:18-20; Acts 10:48; & Acts 11:11-17

3. The believers in the Greek metropolis of Thessalonica exemplified a relational community that God used to influence the spiritual fabric of that capital city and its surrounding geographical regions. Before you read about them, locate Thessalonica, Macedonia, and Achaia on a map of that area. As you read about them, take notes on what you learn from the Thessalonians that we could ask God to do in our own lives, families, neighborhoods, and ministries. **READ:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; 2:13,14; 3:6; & 4:9-12.

PROJECT: Ask several friends who or what influenced their coming to faith in Jesus. Listen for any influence of family and close relationships. Jot down their responses. Does this fit with your view of how the gospel spreads? Why or why not? Why not grab a friend and study and discuss this topic together. 



To Know Christ, Make Him Known, & Help Others Do the Same.

The Navigators of New Zealand Incorporated is a registered charity in terms of the Charities Act 2005. Registered Charity Number CC11416. All donations over \$5 qualify for tax credits. Donate online at: www.navigators.org.nz/donate

Navigate is a publication of:
The Navigators of New Zealand Inc.
PO Box 5344
Papanui, Christchurch, 8542
Email: info@navigator.org.nz
Web: www.navigators.org.nz
Phone: 022 351 1355