



An evangelistic outreach in Uganda that one of our short term team members, Rev James Coleman, was privileged to preach at, which resulted in planting a new church of 80 new believers.

Annual Report of International Needs New Zealand  
for the year ended

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“We are the merchants of hope” said Principal Youth Court Judge Andrew Becroft addressing the National Youth and Lay Advocates Conference in July 2015. “It's my prayer and my dream that we can be lighthouses in the justice system.”

Merchants of hope. When my wife Jan and I visited Fiji in February this year, we came face to face with needy people whose response to help provided with assistance from International Needs was "It gave me hope".

For all of you who gave, who went, who prayed – who believed; all of you who served in one way or another in the work of International Needs, thank you.

Merchants of hope everyone.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Sara', written over a light grey, textured background.

Peter Sara

Chair



## **Report from Gradon Harvey, Executive Director**

### **2015 at a glance...**

Last year we had our 40<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations, and it was at the celebrations that we had our first AGM where we had separated our work of evangelism and church planting, from our child sponsorship and community development work.

This was largely due to an expectation from Inland Revenue Department, that if we were to give tax rebate receipts for our overseas donations for community development and child sponsorship that we needed a clear separation from our evangelism and church planting work.

As the International Needs Charitable Trust was set up 40 years ago with an evangelism and church planting focus, we then created the International Needs Humanitarian Aid Trust for our community development, disaster relief and child sponsorship work.

There were other reasons for us setting up another trust. We are finding that we are being financially supported by people who have given to disaster relief or through the web who have no Christian connection – nor do they want one. Yet in essence nothing has changed as our partners overseas that oversee child sponsorship and community development projects are the same people, doing the work the same way as they have always done as seems right to our leaders overseas.

A number of years ago a survey was taken of all the IN Church planters/evangelists throughout the world, to estimate how many people had heard the gospel for the first time in one week. Around 10,000 a week was the estimated number. This means around half a million people a year were being reached then. That's impressive statistics (even though it's only an estimate) especially as we now have more people in the field, who are usually found in very remote and impoverished areas.

We have had a great year this year in New Zealand with another 18 church planters being funded better or are newly supported, bringing the total to 82 workers. Some of these were seriously underfunded, when out of the blue one day, one kind person decided to help these men and woman by funding eight of the neediest for three years. You have no idea how much these men and women appreciated the help they got. They all live sacrificially and frugally. I have had the privilege of meeting many of them.

I need to point out that one of our major supporters funds 40 of these workers, and pays for school fees of 29 church planters children, in case you think we are doing really well in this area!

One incident that was so encouraging this year happened when the Coleman family visited Uganda in January. Part of their visit was connecting with church planters, who were in the middle of an outreach to a witchdoctor-controlled village. The Colemans were invited to go door-to-door with a team praying for the sick and sharing their faith. Then in the evening there was outreach event, where James Coleman

was able to share the gospel through a translator, and 80 people responded with a new village church beginning the next day. How cool is that!

We were able in 2015 to finish off fundraising 20 motorbikes for Ugandan church planters, funded "peace booklets" for the Gallipoli ANZAC celebrations that were given out to people coming for the commemorations, and raised money for more Bibles in Bougainville. We are currently funding the building of a guest house, which will in time be a great source of funds for church planter's wages in Bougainville. We helped build a church in PNG at place called Amomonta and then raised money for its pastor to get a motorbike to not have to walk three hours from his village to preach there.

We sent money for a church planting project in Northern Ghana. This is a summary written by Cromwell Awadey *"At the end of the entire Project, we can praise God for the following outcomes; over 198 adult souls were won together with a large number of children. Two churches which were hitherto dormant were strengthened, and four new churches planted."*

At the end of November, we funded outreach to the remote islands of Nuiatopotapu and Nuaifoóu in Tonga with Team Xtreme (part of YWAM). The outreach lasted longer than the month they had planned because the weather was too rough for boats to come and collect the team.

We also had five short term teams to India, Philippines, Bangladesh and Uganda and one couple on "transmission" where people stay for up to three months, with one of our partners helping out where they can contribute.

In 2015 we raised just under \$2,000 for Steiger, towards an outreach to youth in NZ during the summer vacations using their band "no longer music". They reported many new believers but also encountered a lot of opposition from drunken youth in some places.

International Needs is blessed with a great board of Trustees and a dedicated staff, surrounded by outside help from experts like Samantha (journalist), Beau (graphics and magazine layout), Zhuming (our website) Rachel (quarterly reports) and Tarang (software programmer). Special mention needs to be made of the extra work that Gail Halsted gave to separate International Needs into two very different Trusts during the year. We also welcomed Ruby Cooke, our first ever Intern, and sadly we farewell Hilda O'Neil our office volunteer, who has recently found employment.

May the Lord in 2016 raise up many more supporters, so our church planters/evangelists can do the work they've been called to, to see changed lives and transformed communities.



Gradon Harvey

Executive director