

HEARTBEAT *for* HOPE *with the Hochstetters*

Sharing Christ's Love with Refugees in Sydney

May 2020

THE NEWS YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR!

We are excited to announce that we have been accepted as Candidates of WEC Australia. Since the announcement of the closure of International Teams Australia in March (please see our [March 2020 newsletter](#) for more details), we have been in negotiations with [WEC Australia](#) for us to join as missionaries in order to continue the work of **Sydney Refugee Team** with their support.



After many meetings and a lengthy application process, we are now able to **officially announce** that this is going ahead! We are currently designated as **Candidates** in orientation. After we complete a number of training modules we will become **New Members** for 2 years before we are accepted as Full Members.

WEC Australia

WEC (Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ) is an international organisation whose primary aim is to share the gospel of Jesus with those who have never heard.

WEC Australia is based in Strathfield in Sydney.

WEC was started in the last century by C.T. Studd (incidentally, Joel did a project on him in middle school!).

WEC is 1800+ people from over 50 nations working in over 80 nations.

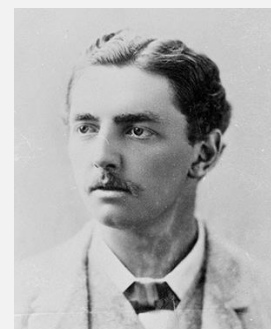
WEC is a fellowship of Christ followers who are willing to go anywhere in the world that he asks us to go...

"To see Christ known, loved, and worshipped by the unreached peoples of the world."

WEC is committed to finding new, creative and culturally-relevant ways of sharing the hope of Christ.

Why WEC?

We (Caroline and Karl) are committed to continuing to minister to refugees in Sydney with **Sydney Refugee Team**. Having talked to the leadership of WEC, it is apparent that God has been leading them to participate in ministry with refugees in Australia. We see God's leading from both sides that WEC is a good fit for the ministry. Additionally, we have known a number of WEC members (aka WECers) over the past 10 years and they have had a positive influence on our spiritual journey into mission. It is our observation that WEC has strong, prayerful leadership and good membercare. We believe these are important characteristics of a mission organisation.





Our **Freedom to Flourish*** ministry has been sprouting and growing in the midst of the pandemic.

We now have a functioning new website:

freedomtoflourish.org.au



Caroline has continued to provide **counselling** to some clients online instead of face-to-face. This medium has its challenges – especially when co-ordinating with a couple and an interpreter!

The most exciting development is the progress of our therapeutic community garden called “**The Restoring Garden**”



We will use the garden for our garden therapy program that is catered to dealing with survivors of trauma.

The program includes learning activities like grounding, meditating, coping skills, narrative, sharing stories, short and long term goal setting, and many others, while practicing it all as we put our hands into the soil, care for our produce, and also experience the garden as observers.

The garden will be opened one day a week for the community to gather, maintain and work in the garden, grow herbs, fruit and vegetables, and harvest the produce which is then shared by the participants.

As restrictions on gatherings are relaxed in coming weeks, we look forward to welcoming our refugee friends to enjoy the garden space, and welcoming the Holy Spirit to bring restoration and healing.

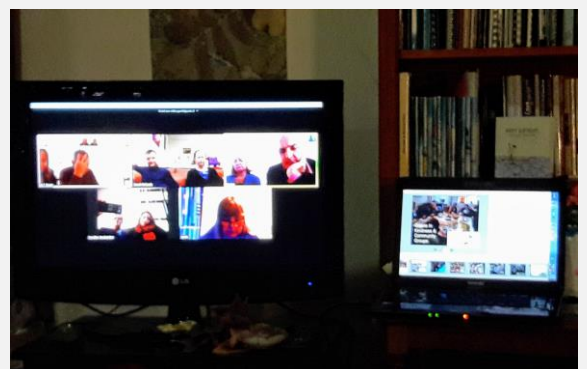


* Freedom to Flourish is a joint venture between Pioneers SUMMIT, SIM and SRT.

Planning for the Future

Last week we had 2 meetings (online) with some of the team from WEC, getting to know each other, sharing about existing ministry and brainstorming hopes for the future. There is much to do as we seek to integrate the ministry of SRT into WEC. We are excited that there are people from WEC who are keen to participate in our ministry – bringing new ideas, gifts, and skills.

There are many challenges – especially in transferring over financial structures – but we are seeking to continue much of our existing ministry and, where possible, do it even more effectively.



Winding up of International Teams Australia

Even though it has been exciting to talk about the possibilities as we integrate with WEC, it has been a sad time for us as we farewell the International Teams Australia office staff. We had a “farewell morning tea” over Google Meet as the office staff finished up at the end of April.

If you are interested in the history of International Teams Australia since 1991, please read the [compilation of stories and memories](#) in celebration of the ways God has moved through the people and ministries ITAU.

This picture is representative of the gradual (and not so gradual) winding down of the ministry of ITAU.



Dates for your Calendar

SRT Prayer Meeting

Last Monday each month

7pm-8pm

Please Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96620696531?pwd=Qk5iMkMvRkFzZ2xTQ2dzaXJNT3lwQT09>

Meeting ID: 966 2069 6531

Password: 452450

Church "Visit"

Carlingford Baptist Church

Sun 31 May 2020 10am

carlingford-baptist.org/english-service/

Refugee Ministry in a COVID-19 World

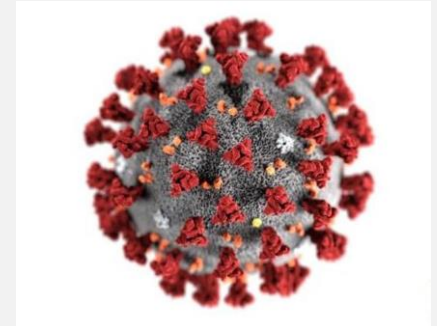
Much of the ministry that we normally do is built around relationships. So when we are required to be physically separated from others this can be a challenge. Initially, we had to cancel all face-to-face meetings, including groups, and home visits. We even needed to cancel our Food Parcel ministry for a month due to unavailability of volunteers and a space to sort the food.

We tried to maintain contact with our refugee friends over video calls, phone calls, or text messages. As many are now aware this is just not as good as meeting face-to-face. And when English is not your first language this becomes even harder!

While many people have been helped by government stimulus packages such as Job Seeker and Job Keeper payments, those who are on temporary visas such as Bridging Visas, TPVs and SHEVs receive no help – so if they are out of work they have nothing to live on. We have had an increase in our discretionary giving expenditure to help people who are struggling.



Recently we were recommended a food ministry that is pre-packing food parcels for families. This has enabled us to purchase food and deliver it to the families directly – without the need for a team of volunteers to sort it first. In this way we have been able to re-establish providing food to a number of families in dire need. As the visiting restrictions have been recently eased we have been able to have some limited visits as well. This was a welcome relief for us and the families we visited. Last week we had the privilege of sharing a meal (after sundown) with a family who are fasting for Ramadan.



Praise God With Us For:

- Acceptance as Candidates with WEC
- The ministry of International Teams Australia over the past 29 years
- the excitement of new beginnings
- God's faithfulness and protection of us all
- Digital technology to assist communication during Covid-19 restrictions
- Being able to recommence food delivery to families in need
- Continuing development of Restoring Garden
- Opportunity to invite friends into the garden and starting first group
- Donations of gardening supplies and sourcing of recycled material, as well as those volunteering their time

Please Pray for:

- those who are struggling during this COVID-19 season
- our integration of Sydney Refugee Team into WEC
- Our team in the challenges of this COVID-19 season in communicating, supporting and bringing the hope of Jesus to families and individuals
- Caring and spiritual conversations between companions and their linked families in the continuing uncertainty
- Wisdom how best to serve, support and empower people at this time and as we transition back to some face to face ministry
- Planning for future groups, programs and ways of supporting new migrants, and refugee friends
- Continuing counselling with social distancing regulations and transitions back to face to face

Financial Support of Karl & Caroline

We are so thankful to God for all the people who have faithfully supported us in prayer and financially over our past 6 years with **International Teams Australia**. We will continue to need support as we move to **WEC**. If you are currently a supporter you will receive a letter soon with details of how to change your payments to **WEC**. The details are also given below. If you are not currently a supporter, please consider donating. We are currently approximately **\$20k per annum short of our budget**.

Direct Deposit

Account name: WEC International
BSB: 032-069 (Westpac) **Account number:** 990010
Reference: Hochstetter + your initial and surname

Please email Brad Parker at finance@wec.com.au with details of your support.



Credit Card/Direct Debit

There are 3 ways to give with your credit/debit card:

- **Register online** via [Ezidebit](#). Please use **Reference: Hochstetter**.
- **Phone** Jim Lambie on 0412 825 271 or **email** finance@wec.com.au to commence your giving arrangement with WEC.
- **Complete and return** the attached [Ezidebit form](#), though please ensure you do so in a way that keeps your credit card/bank details safe.

Please **advise iTeams** at gifts@iteams.org.au that you have done this and they will terminate your recurring giving. To ensure continuity of support for us, iTeams will continue to take your current payment until you advise them of the new arrangement with WEC, or to otherwise stop. Support received through iTeams will still make its way to us. If there is an accidental duplication of payment during this changeover, iTeams will happily refund on being notified.

Cheque

Please make cheques payable to "WEC International" and send to:

Member Finance
WEC Perth
PO Box 1292
East Victoria Park WA 6981

Please ensure you include your details and who you are donating to.

As missionaries serving with WEC we do not receive a salary. Rather, we trust God to provide a team of individuals and churches to help meet our financial needs of living and ministry expenses. We could not be here without the support of people who partner with us both financially and through their prayers. If you would like to join our partnership team, then please email us and we will add you to the team. You can also contact WEC directly.



To donate go to:
wec.com.au/donation
and specify
Reference: Hochstetter



Sydney Refugee Team
is a ministry of



WEC AUSTRALIA