

# Catch your second wind

“  
Started work at 18...  
married at 21...  
kids in quick succession...  
25 years in the job...  
kids all grown up...  
ready to start a new chapter...  
”



Barbara & Lindsay

Is this YOU? We plan our studies; plan for work; plan for marriage; plan for a family...and then... plan for retirement...but what about that missing 'chapter'?

In 2003, as soon-to-be 'empty-nesters', Lindsay and Barbara Fell were prayerfully investigating ways to use the next stage of their lives to impact the world for the Kingdom of God. As long-term supporters of overseas mission, God had already captured their hearts for involvement in the Great Commission but the burning questions were 'How?' and 'Where?'

This was the motivation that led the couple, who attend Rochedale Baptist Church, to start Second Wind Network, an organisation that exists to help Aussie believers in their 40s, 50s and 60s engage with God's global plan.





'The initial search was for ourselves – finding God's place for us; where we might fit and if we could make a contribution,' Barbara said. 'This involved many hours of research on-line, asking questions face-to-face, seeking out people who knew more than we did. We discovered that finding answers was difficult and that it would have been wonderful if there had been a place to begin the process which was easy to access and which provided some research tools. "You can't make decisions on the basis of information you don't have" was a statement that resonated deeply with us.'

Second Wind Network now provides pathways into mission through 28 mission agency partners. Research tools and an introduction agency for mission are available online and information is readily available about cross-cultural opportunities locally and globally. Almost 90 people have volunteered in some way through the network.

'One third of the world will never hear the name of Jesus unless someone crosses a cultural barrier to tell them – and many people in the 40+ age group could do that – short, medium or long-term,' Lindsay said.

'Many Christians in this age group don't buy into the media's image of older people - there's more to life than taking expensive holidays and then living in a retirement resort. They want their lives to make a difference and with so many people still to hear the gospel there are endless possibilities – locally and globally,' Barbara added.

'This age group has so much to offer – professional, work and people skills, as well as flexibility, time and life experience. They have ministry skills and faith, and want to share with others.'

Roz, previously a secondary school chaplain from the Sunshine Coast, has joined International Nepal Fellowship and is using her skills as a pastoral care coordinator for expatriate staff working in Nepal. She says that on the Second Wind site, 'I discovered a position that seemed to match not only my qualifications but also my desire to take Isaiah Chapter 61 seriously. I remember saying – "Now that is the job I would love to do!"' And she's been doing it now for four years.

Keith, who also attends Rochedale Baptist, has a very different story. Some years ago he had an accident which curbed his mobility and he found himself spending more and more time online. Then Second Wind Network introduced him to Campus

Crusade for Christ which has an online outreach ministry and needs people who can answer questions about Christianity and disciple people via email. Now Keith is using his time and skills to reach people all around the world and he can't believe the opportunities that have opened up for him to share his faith.

Peter and Diane became involved with Wycliffe Associates, using their various skills in the Solomon Islands. Peter, a builder, was involved with the final construction stages of building Wycliffe volunteer accommodation for the Solomon Islands Translation Advisor Group and Diane used her library and administration skills to help with translation tasks. She continues to have some input remotely via email.



Farmers are also needed. One Queensland farming couple are currently winding up their business in preparation for a long term move to Central Asia with Global Interaction while another is investigating a support role for residential staff with HCJB in the Kimberly.

TESOL also opens up many possibilities. Robin and Aileen realised that they had connections with non-English speaking people in their local community and decided to acquire TESOL qualifications which have been used locally with refugees and international students. They also go to South Korea periodically where they teach English to Korean missionaries in training who will join ministry teams where the main communication language is English.

Second Wind Network has an 'introduction agency' for mission at [www.secondwind.net.au](http://www.secondwind.net.au) and also circulates information by email. They are also available to address church meetings, home groups or drink coffee with anyone who would like to ask questions, either individually or in groups.



Linda (Gateway Baptist) in Cambodia

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[www.secondwind.net.au](http://www.secondwind.net.au)