

Serving Him

SIM
Serving In Mission UK

Autumn 2021



Nomusa gets cooking for Christ

P15

Convinced that no one should live and die without hearing God's good news

41

ENQUIRIES AND APPLICANTS IN THE PIPELINE, INCLUDING 15 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

108

SENDING CHURCHES SIM UK IS CURRENTLY WORKING WITH

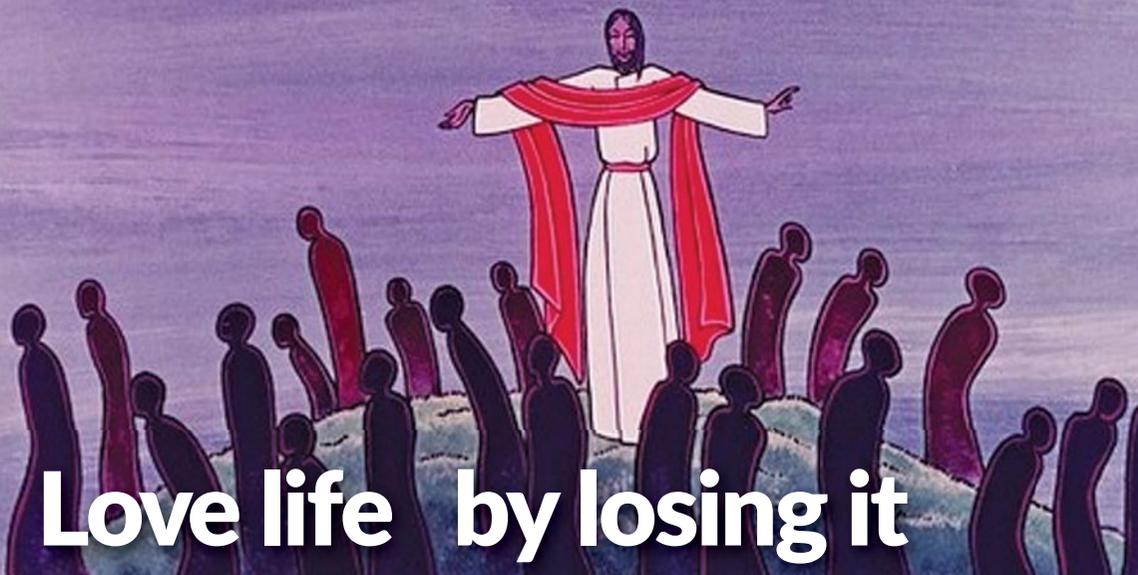
34

COUNTRIES WHERE SIM UK WORKERS ARE SERVING

150

MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES FROM THE UK IN ACTIVE SERVICE

SIM
Serving In Mission UK



Love life by losing it

It's a widespread myth that mission is the work of the zealous few; not the whole body of believers.

Sitting around the table or virtual room with folk serving overseas, there's one quality that always stands out to me in the lives of Jesus' faithful followers – sacrifice mixed with joy.

Jesus leads the way in this. It was for the joy of presenting his people perfect before his heavenly Father that he endured the cross. He despised the shame of it, but is now seated on the throne of heaven. The life he had on earth was worth losing for the life he won for his people in glory.

Jesus' faithful followers are similarly marked. The heartfelt joy many SIM workers have in the risen Jesus is often marked by trials and accompanied by wounds of sacrifice in this life. I'm conscious of those feeling the

pain and sorrow of their sacrifice even as I write.

They have not seen Jesus Christ, but they love him. They may not have seen fruit from the seeds of God's word sown in the lives of people, but they believe in Jesus and possess a joy that is often inexpressible and irrepressible because of its source and substance – the glory of God in Christ.

This is the way God calls his whole church to live in Christ. The joy of joining with his people from all nations leads us to give ourselves for the good and salvation of others. The life we have on earth is worth losing for the life God stores up for his people in glory.

One of the genuine privileges of our work is to sit together with gospel

workers, churches and their leaders to listen, pray and open up the Bible together as we seek God's empowering for the work ahead.

This magazine is a window to those conversations. In each article, you'll notice the way Jesus works in and through regular Christians. Every believer is called to carry out our lives for the spread of the gospel. God doesn't call spiritual elites to make disciples, this is the calling of his whole church.



Steve Smith
UK Director

P.S. I'd love you to sign up for our weekly prayer email, SIMpray. Just go to sim.co.uk/simpray

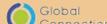
- 4 Centred on Christ
- 6 Case study: Hope Church, Luton
- 8 RESOURCED! Our new email gives you materials for mission
- 12 Answers to Prayer
- 13 Record number of workers join SIM
- 14 Project focus: South Africa
- 18 Q&A with SIM's Global Director of People Development
- 20 Case study: Dentist Simon given OBE for dental ministry in Liberia
- 23 Meet our workers and read their prayer requests
- 26 Come and serve with SIM

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Centred on Christ

Help equip your church to reach diverse communities with the gospel

By Steve Smith

We love putting our people and expertise to work on behalf of churches, Bible study groups and families; especially to provide vital help to pray and reach out with the gospel across cultural barriers both today and in the future.

Here's a selection of resources we've produced with friends and partners to help churches develop in this area and overcome barriers to

making disciples of Jesus in communities across the UK where there is little or no knowledge of Christ.

For kids and families – God on Mission

Churches are Christ's body in our communities in which he calls us to practise life-on-life discipleship with young people and their families.

If you take a look at SIM Kids, our online hub for families and youth workers,

one thing you will find is a four-week Sunday school or family programme highlighting God's great rescue plan for our world through Jesus Christ.

In a spiritual climate of increasing hostility to Jesus and his teaching, we hope this resource will help sow the seeds of mission resilience in the next generation.

For ministry teams – Mapping Intercultural Mission

As the UK grows in cultural and social diversity, we need to better understand how churches in the UK are engaging among communities from different backgrounds and pursuing the kind of mutuality Paul envisaged in *1 Corinthians 14*.

In autumn 2019, we launched a project in collaboration with AIM Europe, AWM Pioneers, OMF and London City Mission (right), to help

identify key factors that will help us provide the support churches across the UK need as they respond to the gospel needs on their doorsteps.

We are excited to learn together – and from one another – in Christ's mission to ensure everyone has the opportunity to hear the gospel, respond with faith and become a full part of Christ's local body.

For ministry leaders – Intercultural Training Workshops

Over the last few years, church leaders have consistently asked us to help them and their congregations with the cross-cultural outreach opportunities they see in their communities.

Understanding how culture affects community is vital when working in an increasingly diverse Britain and why SIM UK seeks to help churches and ministry teams develop in this area.

During lockdown months, more than 40 leaders from



UK churches, and half a dozen SIM workers leading multicultural teams in the UK and overseas, met online to participate in the inaugural

'This training is both theological and practical and gives churches a great opportunity to consider how it might better reflect God's kingdom of all nations.'

Adrian, Assistant Pastor of Woodford Evangelical Church

workshop of SIM UK's intercultural ministry training.

The training is built on many years' experience of helping churches and mission teams around the world, as they embark on the transition from being

largely monocultural to becoming truly intercultural.

We're passionate about making this training more available to churches as needed and knowing that by the end, each participant

will be well underway to lead change in their church, organisation or network.

Do have a browse on our website www.sim.co.uk and if there is something missing, or you are looking for something specific, let us know. (Our contact details are on Page 3).

See Page 6 to read how one church is facing the ongoing challenges of intercultural mission.

SPREAD THE WORD!

We have a new email for churches called **Resourced!** that gives you materials and ideas to help your church grow in cross-cultural ministry. Please let your churches know about it and encourage them to subscribe. **More details and how to sign up on Page 8.**



Hope for all nations

Tony Thompson, of Hope Church in Luton, reflects on the challenges of leading a multicultural church and how SIM UK can help.

Luton is my hometown, which I left as an unbelieving teenager and returned as a church leader when my wife and I arrived with a small group of friends 18 years ago, to plant Hope Church.

It's taken me many years to even start to come to terms with what it means to lead a church in a multicultural town like Luton. Most students in our schools are Muslims; white British people are in the minority overall and their

numbers are declining.

The nations keep arriving on our doorstep, which gives the church a unique opportunity, but also presents many challenges. At first, our church-planting team was both naive and ill-equipped to rise to the challenge. We're now in a much better position to respond, after many years of serving the community. Membership and leadership are now only 50 per cent white British, with many Africans, Caribbeans, Asians,

and other Europeans as part of the family. The other ministry leader alongside me is an Asian Christian woman. We also have a wide spread of people from across social classes, including the most powerless in society.

Learning how to build honouring relationships where we learn from each other's cultures *within* the church has given us tools that are essential to build relationships with those who are different from us *outside* local church.



It's enabled me to establish strong friendships and work together with other faith leaders from across the town, including leaders of mosques and Black majority church leaders.

Building a church that values unity amid diversity has been key. The SIM training course has been a great help as we continue to grow in this area. The course creates an opportunity for myself and my team to grapple with the issues involved with others seeking the same end and to receive input from those further ahead on the journey.

We've learnt how deep-rooted prejudices are and how they've been established over multiple generations and can't therefore be quickly uprooted.

We were supplied with a survey to help grasp where

the leadership team felt the church was in relation to unity amid diversity and were then encouraged to do the same with a representative sample of those from ethnic minorities. To our surprise, those from minority backgrounds thought we were doing better than the leadership team did!

We've come a long way, but we're under no illusions about how far we still must go. The default is to be a

Building a church that values unity amid diversity has been key

church with a white, middle-class culture, which other cultures accommodate themselves to.

We want to move away from this, but we're learning that it's an ongoing challenge and one in which we need all the help we can get. It's one that I believe is essential if we are to fully represent Christ in Luton.

It's a challenge that more

and more churches will face in the future, as the UK becomes more like Luton, and there seems to be a growing number of church leaders wanting to make this journey. I'm sure that SIM has a key part to play in this.

Contact **tim.mcmahon** @sim.co.uk to discuss how SIM UK can help your church in this ministry and also for details of upcoming inter-cultural mission training courses.

Please pray

Give thanks for the unity and diversity of Hope Church.

For UK church leaders to rise to the challenge of reaching their multicultural communities with the gospel.

For SIM UK to help them view this challenge as a unique opportunity.



RESOURCED!

A quarterly email, sent directly to your inbox, to inspire and encourage churches to be more mission-minded

‘We want to see more churches equipped and able to reach out into their communities.’

Our first instalment of a new email for churches landed in July, highlighting activities to help Sunday schools, intercultural mission research and prayer videos from least-reached countries.

“We want to see more churches equipped and able to reach out, cross-culturally, into their communities.” explains Joanne Cornish, Head of Relationship Development, and it’s our prayer that RESOURCED! will help individuals and churches across the country engage with the multicultural and diverse communities on their doorstep.

“As an organisation that’s been sending, training, supporting and receiving workers in ministry for nearly 130 years, we feel called to share our experience and make these materials freely available as engaging directly

For families and children’s groups

- Children’s Bible studies.
- Arabic Sunday school materials.
- Articles on growing up abroad as a **Third Culture Kid**.
- **SIMpray Kids:** monthly prayers for a mission family overseas.

with churches is a core part of SIM UK’s operations.

“Our resources will help churches become more mission-minded and better able to support their members serving overseas, so please do encourage your churches to subscribe.”

For churches and leaders

- Videos on our ministries and projects.
- Recorded talks in the audio archive.
- Intercultural mission workshops.
- ‘Mission Matters’ Bible studies.
- Country prayer videos and powerpoints.
- ‘How to’ articles, e.g. setting up international cafés.
- Research reports on UK intercultural ministry.

Sign up to get
RESOURCED! at
sim.co.uk/support/

A measure of success?

By Kerry Allan

God is just as active in our day-to-day lives as in the milestone events, say Mark and Helen Azzopardi.



‘What does success look like?’ is a question SIM UK workers Mark and Helen Azzopardi feel has been following them since they arrived in Ecuador and into a new culture with new responsibilities, new colleagues, and new expectations.

The couple have joined the SIM team in Loja, working with the local churches and planting and strengthening

rural churches in south Ecuador. Their main ministry is teaching in the missionary kids’ school and working with the El Sendero (*The Way*) youth ministry, which looks to disciple young people as they grow in their faith and also help reach those aged between 15 and 25, with the gospel.



“Before moving, we were full of anticipation for ministry and life here,” says Mark, “and excited to see how God would use us. It was easier in some ways to imagine what the end result might look like, rather than considering the small steps and encounters that would lead us there.”

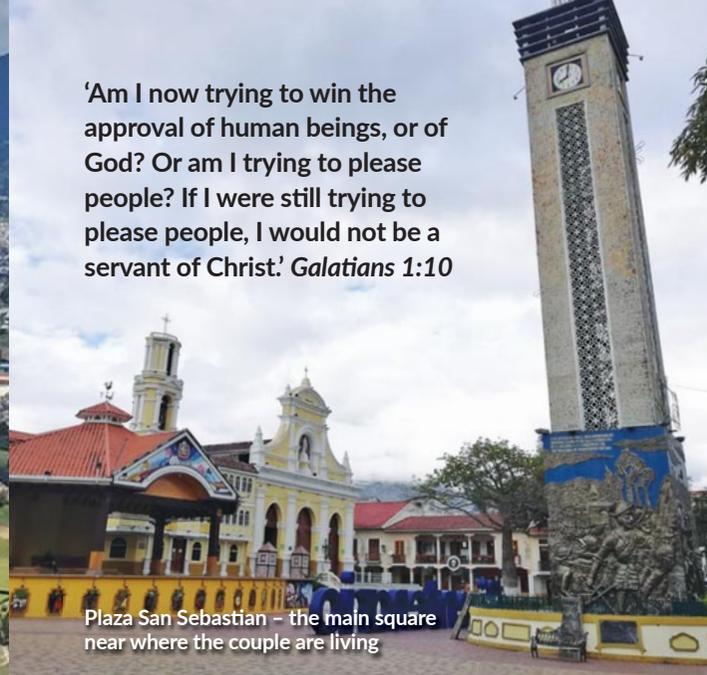
The couple, sent by Carrubbers Christian Centre in Edinburgh, admit they sometimes found it too easy to feel discouraged, when they asked themselves: ‘Why aren’t we fluent in Spanish yet?’ or ‘Why don’t we know more young people?’.

“The way we choose to define success can have a huge impact on not only how we see the world, but also see ourselves ultimately as people of success or failure,” admits Mark.



The sign at the old city gate

‘Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.’ *Galatians 1:10*



Plaza San Sebastian - the main square near where the couple are living

“I think many will agree that at least in the western world, success is popularly measured in numbers – bigger = better. The unusual thing is, that God seems to have a completely different way to measure success. Jesus teaches us in the Parable of the Talents in *Matthew 25*, that God isn’t interested in numbers, but instead faithfulness.

“We’ve seen that it takes time to build relationships and establish a trajectory for ministry, so rather than feeling disheartened when these things don’t happen instantly, it’s been an encouragement to rejoice in the small events such as a positive conversation with a local pastor, small-talk at the market, or being invited to a local’s house for lunch.

“We can see through all of this that God is helping us to build connections and little by little, give us a vision for what our life and ministry will be.” Helen agrees, adding: “Our God is just as much involved in the ‘day-to-day’ of life as in the milestone events. We seek to be his ambassadors with each person we interact with and with each occasion that happens.”



English and media ministries

EACH WEEK, the couple help with El Sendero’s English-speaking club REFF (Reflection, English, Friends & Fun) which is open to all young people who would like to learn and practise their English by discussing meaningful topics about life.

The club provides a natural platform for SIM workers to help young people in the city in a practical way, but also to build friendships and share their faith with them. Mark is helping El Sendero as it develops a media ministry and plans to use social media to reach even more young people in the city and the province of Loja.

“We’ve already produced a video to help the English learners in our REFF group with the differences between American and British English and have had an amazing response so far,” says Helen, who taught the British English alongside her American colleague Susan.

“Our hope and prayers are that making videos like this will help build the reputation of REFF and attract new people.”

Please pray

Give thanks for the great gospel opportunities that a media ministry brings and for a full-term person with a passion for media to join the SIM team.

For Helen as she meets with other teachers to agree a plan for the next school year.

That Mark and Helen would seek to be faithful servants of Christ above “successful” participants in the world.

UK – The Lord provided £89,500 during our Giving Weeks to enable SIM UK to continue supporting, equipping and caring for our mission workers serving worldwide.

EUROPE – One refugee, imprisoned for a short period during lockdown, requested Bibles in several languages to share with inmates and shared his faith with them.

ASIA – The finance has been provided to run an online training programme for church planters in Central Asia.

AFRICA – Melusi Christian Community projects in South Africa daily share devotionals, songs and prayer with volunteers. Four baptisms have resulted.

UK – 40 UK churches completed SIM UK's training workshop series on how to be effective in intercultural ministry.

SOUTH AMERICA – Social media ministry that teaches the Bible and shares the gospel with the youth of Loja has been well received. The potential is huge.

GLOBAL – Sports Friends reports that practical services offered during lockdown have turned hearts towards Christ and the number of young people wanting to join teams has increased.

UK – 18 people joined SIM UK online in June for orientation, preparing for ministry on four different continents.

AFRICA – The Good News Hospital in Madagascar has been approved to become a Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons (PAACS) training site from January 2022.

MIDDLE EAST – Each day, a chapter of the gospels is read aloud and distributed via WhatsApp by one church. It is the first time many have read through the gospels in a consecutive way.

GIVE
THANKS

18 19 20 21 and counting...

The coronavirus is not thwarting God's plan for mission, says Linda Hunt, Prayer Coordinator for SIM UK.

Despite fear, restrictions, and difficulty surrounding travel over the past 18 months, God is still stirring up his people to cross borders to share his good news with those who are living in spiritual deserts.

"It's amazing that we have the most people applying to serve long term that I can remember," says SIM UK's Personnel Director, Deborah Agnes.

"Eighteen new workers joined our summer orientation. They will be serving on four different continents with their families. At the same time, we're helping seven mission workers from Nepal, East and West Africa and Columbia settle into the UK," she adds.

Teams serving in secure locations that normally struggle to recruit workers are also reporting an increase in

enquiries. Faithful Witness teams serving in locations where previously people have not heard the name of Jesus are being welcomed, and people are turning to Christ.

We praise God for these answers to prayer but recognise that there is a spiritual battle being fought and we covet your prayers for all our new workers. (*Meet our workers on page 23 and read their prayer requests*).

Despite these encouragements, there are still entire communities that have never heard the name of Christ. The need is great, and the workers are few.

Please join us in praying regularly for the work that God is doing through his people serving around the globe. Visit www.sim.co.uk/SIMpray to receive our weekly prayer email with requests from the field, as

well as mission-focused articles and regularly updated prayer resources.

Please pray

For protection and boldness for each new believer in communities normally opposed to the gospel message, and for roots planted deep in Christ to grow and be strengthened in him.

For each multi-cultural team, sharing the good news of Jesus, to have unity in shared vision and gospel values.

That the Lord of the harvest would continue to mobilise his people.



Home is where the gospel is

Geanne, from the Netherlands, felt called to serve the Lord for a year in South Africa in 2015, but it turned into a long-term ministry after she joined a small mission that helps families living in the poorest communities.

By Kerry Allan

Geanne Van Maanen (right) felt called to serve the Lord in South Africa during her last year at university in the Netherlands.



“The plan was to be there for a year, but it turned out to be longer than planned and after five years, my church advised me to find an organisation with a bigger network, which is how I ended up joining SIM UK in March!” she explains. Geanne works and lives at the Melusi

Christian Community, situated in Dundee, in the heart of Kwazulu-Natal. Its motto is: ‘*Serving Christ, serving others*’ with the aim of giving practical help to families living in nearby

squatter settlements and seeing communities transformed by the gospel.

Geanne supports local church activities and community projects, including the Food4Work programme, where every day, unemployed men and women travel to Melusi to work in the large vegetable garden or community kitchen and help with other practical tasks.

They receive their wages at the end of the day in the form of a food parcel, and as well

as being able to provide for their families, they are able to hear the gospel.

“Every morning, we start the day with a short devotion, a song and a time of prayer,” says Geanne.

The impact of showing God’s love is evident and none more so, than when Melusi held its first baptism service after the end of the Covid lockdown.

“Four people were baptised – each with their own unique story and powerful testimony – and it was so special to see how God is changing lives,” she recalls.

Geanne was also able to resume her children’s ministry, which includes organising three kids’ clubs a week and a bi-monthly



teenage Bible study programme.

“I was so glad to see our kids and teenagers again and realise how important it is to teach the truth and share the real story of Jesus as the living hope – especially for the teenagers who feel they have no prospects for the future,” she says.

And although there is still

much uncertainty, Geanne says she feels blessed in her life and ministry: “I love to be outdoors and to be active and although we know things might change again, we trust that God is leading and guiding us. It’s such an encouragement to know he answers prayers and is working in the hearts and lives of people here.”

Mama Nomusa’s story

Mama Nomusa’s house is located in the middle of one of the poorest areas that Geanne visits.

“For years, our team has been ministering to the people

in this area and many were friendly and invited us into their homes to read the Bible and pray with them,” says Geanne.

“But Mama Nomusa always hid when she saw us coming. Everybody knew and feared her, because she was the traditional healer (sangoma) of the village. Deep inside, she knew that Jesus would challenge the spirits that lived inside of her and why she wouldn’t show her face to us.

“Her name Nomusa means grace, but the meaning of her name was far away from the

reality of what was happening in her life.”

After a little girl drowned in a bucket of water in Mama Nomusa’s yard, the village accused her of murder and turned against her.

“Nomusa was desperate,” recalls Geanne, “and decided to invite us into her home to pray for her. Afterwards, we began to visit her regularly and share the gospel with her. Slowly, something started to change in Nomusa’s heart.

“A few weeks after the tragic accident, we were surprised when we entered her little



Continued overleaf >

house and everything was cleaned up, with white sheets laid over the bed and the chair.

“As we came in, she said: ‘This is the day! Today, I want to give my life to Jesus. I don’t want my old life any more, I want to have a new life!’”

During another visit, the team saw Mama Nomusa had cut off all the bracelets and strings that had been around her neck and waist – the signs of her former life as a sangoma.

“This was a brave step,” explains Geanne, “because Zulu people believe strongly in the protective powers of those strings and bracelets, but Nomusa knew Jesus was the one who was protecting her now!”

From that day on, many things changed in Mama Nomusa’s life.

“She started working five mornings a week in our community kitchen and it’s special to see how full of joy she is when she comes to work in the morning,” says Geanne.

Mama Nomusa also cares for many of the local children who are neglected and last year, even started a small children’s church at her house.

“She doesn’t just tell the children about Jesus, she also cooks a meal and feeds them all afterwards,” adds Geanne.

“Although there are times when she still struggles with her past and life isn’t always easy, Nomusa knows that God is faithful and she has grown so much that every Wednesday, we have Bible study at her house for all the neighbours who would like to join!

“God didn’t just shine his light in Nomusa’s darkness, she began to shine her light in the community around her and even in Melusi.”

Please pray

Give thanks for Geanne’s faithfulness.

For God to call more workers and South Africans especially, to join the team.

That local people will be set free from ancestral worship and for Jesus to become a reality in their lives.



Thobeka’s story

I can’t remember the exact date I met Thobeka, but I’d known her grandmother for many years. This elderly lady used to be the village drunk, but would always come to our weekly Bible study held in her neighbour’s small house.

In 2016, this gogo’s (Zulu for granny) life changed drastically when she had an encounter with Jesus and was baptised.

Not only did she change

inside, she changed outwardly too. She testified to her husband and he too became a Christian. Together, they wanted to live according to what the Bible tells us and even got married, after confessing they had always lived together without legally being married.

They then began to minister to the children in their community by cooking a meal twice a week and having a little creche at their home.



Thobeka’s baptism – a moment full of joy!

It must have been at that time, their granddaughter Thobeka came to stay.

It was great to see this couple growing in their faith and always wanting to know more! But every week, there were always a lot of children around, so we decided to split up and have a programme for the children outside, while the adults continued their Bible study inside.

Because of our limited knowledge of the Zulu language, we were in need of a translator to tell the Bible stories to the children. When we told the grandmother, she sent Thobeka outside to help us.

Being a young teenager and not used to so many white people around, she was very shy in the beginning, but as time went by, Thobeka grew in confidence and each week, helped us to tell the story to the children and sometimes even translated during the adults’ Bible studies.

Then one day, Thobeka came to church with her grandparents, although we didn’t know what was going

on deep inside and whether she wanted to accept Jesus, or was still holding on to her old ways and culture.

During last year’s lockdown we didn’t see

much of Thobeka and lost a bit of contact, but after we resumed our teenage Bible study, she’d come with her friends every Friday afternoon.

Thobeka bravely started to testify what had happened to her

One afternoon, we spoke with our teenagers about what Jesus can do in your life and that he can change us. At that moment, we asked them if they’d experienced that and Thobeka bravely started to testify what had happened to her.

Because of the ancestral beliefs many Zulu people

have, Thobeka described how she used to get attacked by evil spirits at night, who told her to perform ‘scary things’ and pushed her to hurt people.

Finally, she decided to tell her granny what was happening and together, they prayed the spirits would flee. In those times of prayer, Thobeka finally gave her life to Jesus.

Some months later, Thobeka testified again, telling everybody in church what Jesus had done in her life. We baptised her that same day and it was a moment full of joy!

This shy girl, who almost didn’t dare to stand in front of a group, is now leading the kids church at her home and telling the children a Bible story every week. It’s truly a testimony of what God can do in people’s lives – especially among children and young people – and we’re so thankful for Thobeka’s story and the hope that many more teenagers’ lives will be transformed.

Please pray

That God will protect Thobeka as her faith grows.

For many more teenagers to get to know Jesus and start to serve him.

That God will shine his light in Melusi’s poorest communities and young and old will come to know him.





Hyon Kim, Peter, Charlotte and Katie

Q&A with Hyon Kim

Hyon Kim serves in the role of Global Director of People Development and lives in Canada

How did you come to Christ?

I was born in Seoul, South Korea, but my parents emigrated to Canada when I was two. Growing up as an immigrant in a non-Christian family had its challenges but I am grateful for the ways God used it to build my character. When I was 12, I followed a bunch of “cool teens” to a youth outreach event. To my surprise, I came home with a new and forever friend in Jesus.

In my early 20s, I sensed God’s call to mission. I initially resisted, telling God he couldn’t trust my small faith. But God reminded me that it was about his faithfulness alone. Ever since, I have held onto the awesome promise of God’s faithfulness.

Tell us a little about your family

My husband, Peter Chu, is a trauma surgeon and Bible teacher at Tyndale Seminary. He and our girls, Charlotte, 12, and Katie, nine, are my

cheering squad. They also help bring me back to earth and keep me real.

What did you do prior to your current role with SIM?

I practised as a palliative care physician. Seeing people dying and grieving taught me about the importance of living for the right things wholeheartedly. I am passionate about lifelong learning and have masters degrees in theological studies and public health.

We baulked and asked, ‘Where on earth is Niger?’

How did God lead you and Peter to SIM?

Peter and I both felt called to medical missions and tried to discern a community where God’s call, the local needs, and our skills lined up. When SIM’s Galmi Hospital in Niger was proposed, we baulked and asked, “Where on earth is Niger?” Yet the three things lined up, so we went to Galmi.

What key things do you hope to achieve in your time/your role with SIM?

That God will use our People Development and Care Team to help SIM’s people grow as a community of kingdom workers growing more like Jesus. We seek to help people grow in their relationship with God, with people, in ministry skills and effectiveness, and in their well-being and resilience.

What inspires you when life gets difficult?

God’s loyal, faithful, dependable and never-changing love gives me strength. God’s promise that



all that he is, he will always be, gives me great hope.

There are also days when God uses a Bach piano concerto and our family’s ‘emergency’ frozen chocolate raspberry cake to let me know he is near.

What do you do when you’re not working?

I spend time with Peter and our girls. I intentionally keep up with close friends, mentors, mentees, and a spiritual director. I am happy with a good book, a long walk and quiet time with the Lord.

What is your favourite Bible verse?

There are many days when our circumstances make no ‘worldly’ sense. That’s when *Proverbs 3:5-6* comes to mind, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

I also appreciate *Psalms 13*, “How long, O Lord, will you forget me forever?” Laments remind me I am not alone in my human struggles and that my relationship with God must be real.

What piece of technology could you never do without?

Foam ear plugs. The free orange ones you get on airplanes are the best. I have them throughout my house. They create spaces of silence in a world that doesn’t stop talking. (If you don’t want yours, can I have them?)

How can we pray for you?

Pray for godly wisdom and courage to carry out my role. Pray God would be pleased to help me, my team, and all SIM’s people grow more like Jesus for his glory.



Couple have plenty to smile about

Back in the summer, Simon and Grace Stretton-Downes led a dental outreach to an area of Liberia that is almost entirely Muslim.

By Kerry Allan



For the past four years, Simon and Grace Stretton-Downes have been serving at the Eternal Love Winning All (ELWA) Hospital in Liberia's capital Monrovia.

There are currently only a handful of dentists and dental nurse practitioners to meet the vast dental needs of Liberia's five million population – a place where people die from infection caused by dental abscesses.

Guinea. As the crow flies, it is only 163 miles – but 250 miles by road. On a good day, it is a ten-hour drive; on a wet day two to three days, but the team were able to avoid the gruelling road trip and board a one-hour Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) flight.

The last leg was a 45-minute drive to Barkedu, a small, dusty town and home to the Manya people, who are almost entirely Muslim with just a handful of believers in Jesus.

Every day, the team walked to the Government

The couple are sent by St Gregory's Church, Crakehall, North Yorkshire, and this June, embarked on their biggest dental outreach trip yet.

The team headed north to Voinjama, a town up in the far north of Liberia, just a few miles from the border with

Simon leads the team at Trinity Dental Clinic, while Grace works, some of the

time, as a nurse at the hospital. Periodically, the couple travel to rural communities to show Christ's love by offering free, basic dental care.



Outreach team Daniel, Charles, Wannie, Simon, Musa, Grace and Winifred about to board an MAF plane

Health Clinic, where they set up portable dental chairs and laid out their 'field kit', washing the instruments in the 'palava' hut and using a pressure cooker on a charcoal burner to sterilise them!

Although there were only 12 patients on the first afternoon, numbers soon grew and more than 150 patients were eventually treated, with some even having to be turned away on the final morning.

Continued overleaf >



LIBERIA

A F R I C A

Some patients had endured pain for months or even years. Several attributed their dental infections to a curse from a local witch. With permission, each one was prayed for, and an evangelist colleague Musa, himself a former Muslim Imam, shared the good news about Jesus with them while they waited – some even came back a second time to hear what he had to say. What an opportunity!

At the same time, Grace carried out diabetes screening for those aged over 40 and gave them much-needed dietary advice in pictures and with translation.

Please pray

That the lives of many individuals and communities will be transformed through the dental outreach trips.

For wisdom as Simon and Grace seek a longer-term solution to meet Liberia's dental needs.

For John Mark Sheppard as he heads an SIM project to translate the whole of the New Testament into the Manya language. He is aiming for completion by the end of 2021.

To support dental ministry in Liberia, turn to Page 27

“The team worked their socks off and many Manya heard the good news and saw it demonstrated,” Grace says. “It was so satisfying to see those we have trained take responsibility for treating their own people and being an instrument of God’s blessing.”

THE FINAL SCORE

12 patients with 22 extractions	Day 1
30 patients with 104 extractions	Day 2
69 patients with 186 extractions	Day 3
40 patients with 122 extractions	Day 4

TOTAL

151 patients with a massive 434 teeth extracted



Simon's OBE 'surprise'



As well as the success of their latest outreach trip, Grace and Simon celebrated the news that Simon was awarded an OBE in the Queen's birthday list for 'services to dentistry in Africa'.

Simon helped plan, equip and train staff for the new Trinity Dental Clinic, which opened in March 2019 (The original, smaller clinic, established in 2008 was demolished during re-development). Another Liberian staff member is currently studying for a dental degree in Kenya.

In a country where there is a serious lack of dental care, Simon has also launched plans for a dental therapist training school to equip and support students to work in rural regions of Liberia where there is currently no dental care. This has involved discussions with the Liberian Ministry of Health to gain appropriate permissions, as well as Universities in both Liberia and the UK. It will be a significant investment of time and resources.

Simon says, “Receiving this honour came as a complete surprise, I thought it was a scam when I first received the email. However, the whole Trinity dental team is delighted that they have been recognised in this way. We pray it will bring greater awareness of the dental needs, facilitate the plans to respond to them and bring glory to God.”

'I thought it was a scam'

Meet our workers

Praise God for our latest workers being mobilised into global mission. Do keep them in your prayers and if you would like to be a prayer partner of any of them individually, then please sign up on the SIM UK website at www.sim.co.uk/prayerpartners

SIM

Serving In Mission UK

MEXICO

Maribel Easton

Sending Church: Thornton Heath Evangelical Church, Croydon.

Where are you serving? Mexico.

What are you doing? Supporting the work of the Predica Vida Bible College, as well as serving in the local church.

Pray: Pray for those who will be attending the Bible college, that they will apply what they have learned and not go back to bad habits. Pray for the churches in Mexico that they may be feed with sound doctrine and biblical teaching. Pray for my husband David's Spanish to improve nicely; for guidance in regard to our children's future education and for our visas process to go smoothly.



MADAGASCAR

Joel & Joyce Chin

Sending Church: Eden Baptist Church, Cambridge.

Where are you serving? Madagascar.

What are you doing? Anaesthetist Joel and Joyce, a GP, are serving on the medical team at the Good News Hospital in Mandritsara.

Pray: For Joel's specific role in helping to set up the hospital's high dependency unit. Please pray that we can be up to speed with language learning, and for our children to adapt well.



THAILAND

Martin & Juliet Thompson

Sending Church: Emmanuel Church Oxford.

Where are you serving? Thailand.

What are you doing? Working with Sports Friends.

Pray: For us as we learn a very challenging language; as we deepen relationships with the Sports Friends team and as Martin seeks to apply his mentoring skills and gifts to a Thai context. Also, please pray for our children as they settle into a new school and living in Thailand. Please pray for Juliet as she helps the family connect with the community and searches for opportunities to serve.



Continued overleaf >

GREECE

Al & Rachel MacInnes

Sending Church:

Hope Community Church, Cambridge.

Where are you serving?
Greece.

What are you going to be doing?

Joining the small ECM (European Christian Mission) team in Athens. Rachel will continue her work with HowWillTheyHear – a collaboration of mission agencies (including SIM and ECM) – that want to see refugees and migrants in Europe reached with the good news of Jesus. She will also be involved in helping welcome and care for new mission workers coming to Greece. Al will be working alongside Greek evangelical churches to encourage outreach and church-planting across the country.

Pray:

For Rachel and I to make swift progress learning Greek as a ministry priority. For our visa and entry requirements, so we can arrive by September and for our daughters, Charis and Lois, as they begin attending an intercultural school where teaching will be in Greek.



MALAWI

Sandeep Wildman

Sending Church:

Emmanuel Church, Canterbury.

Where are you serving?
Malawi.

What are you going to be doing?

My husband Ben and I are looking to serve in Malawi. He is part of Sport Friends SIM and I will be joining him, hopefully in a healthcare-related role.

Pray:

That I wait on God's timing as I wait to hear from the team in Malawi regarding possible roles for myself.



ZAMBIA

Lauren Graham

Sending Church:

All Saints' Church, Belfast.

Where are you serving?
Zambia.

What are you going to be doing?

Providing whatever care I can at the newly-built theatre block and ICU unit at Mukinge Mission Hospital, Zambia. I will also be helping to train local ICU nurses and getting involved with ministries at the nearby nursing school for students who come from all over the country.

Pray:

That fundraising would go well and that God would be using this time to strengthen me and prepare me for my time in Mukinge and through that I would be a witness to those at home as well. Pray for the times when I feel overwhelmed or completely out of my depth that I would trust this can only be done through his strength and not my own. I give thanks that God allows us to be part of his plan to spread the gospel.



KENYA

Alex & Astrid Milne

Sending Church:

Fountain of Life Church, Norfolk.

Where are you serving?
Kenya.

What are you going to be doing?

Helping to equip the Kenyan church in making disciples and planting churches.

Pray:

For the necessary finances to go to Kenya and live in Nairobi. Our youngest son, Emmanuel, will be coming with us and would like to go to boarding school. Please pray that our three older children, who will be staying in the UK to pursue their studies, will adjust well to living without their parents. For God to use us to help equip his church to make disciples and that we see a movement of disciple-making both here in the UK and in Kenya.



WEST AFRICA

Matt & Lisa Wallis

Sending Church:

Avenue Community Church, Leicester.

Where are you serving?
West Africa.

What are you going to be doing?

Serving with the SIM team where Matt hopes to use his physiotherapy skills in training and providing care for those most in need. He would also like to be involved in supporting short-term mission workers and helping to revitalise medical clinics in the north of the country. Although Lisa will most likely be caring for our three children initially, she hopes to use her Arts in Trauma skills to serve the many people who have experienced trauma.

Pray:

That we will settle well into life in West Africa and developing a clearer vision about how God specifically wants to use us in his mission. For people to support us in prayer and financially, and to trust in God's provision for us.



SOUTH ASIA

Luke Waldo

Sending Church:

All Souls, Langham Place, London.

Where are you serving?
South Asia.

What are you going to be doing?

Providing project and operations support for the various ministries in the south of the country.

Pray:

There is currently a freeze on the mission visa I need, so please pray that it becomes available in time. Pray that I can trust and wait on the Lord during this time of uncertainty and that prayer would be central to me.



ZIMBABWE

Russell & Lydia Ritter

Sending Church:

Jubilee Church, Liverpool.

Where are you serving?
Zimbabwe.

What are you going to be doing?

Working in Karanda Hospital, Zimbabwe, with various SIM ministries.

Pray:

Pray that we can help extend God's kingdom in Zimbabwe.



If you would like to be a prayer partner please sign up on the SIM UK website www.sim.co.uk/prayerpartners



Come and serve with SIM

Your journey into mission starts here...

More details of current ministries shown here are available online at sim.co.uk/opportunities. You can also search by country, skill/interest or duration.

Why not contact enquiries@sim.co.uk to talk to our team and discover which ministries and locations may be best suited for you?

SIM
Serving In Mission UK



English language teaching in Thailand

Ministry ID: 2056

You will be part of a dynamic team of volunteers dedicated to sharing the love of God with students through the community, where you'll be teaching English and building relationships among the people of Ayutthaya.



Outreach worker in Canada

Ministry ID: 9312

This is a great opportunity for younger workers who have a heart to reach the marginalised in society. There are opportunities in women's ministry, youth work, sport and music ministry to build relationships in ethnically-mixed communities.



Teaching at an international school in Ethiopia

Ministry ID: 8615

Do you have skills in teaching? Your experience could be a blessing to both children of missionary families and local students. Our SIM school, Bingham Academy, is looking for elementary/primary, high school and special needs teachers to help students thrive.



Refugee Ministry in Europe

Ministry ID: 9103

Since the beginning of 2014, more than two million refugees have arrived in Europe. Many come from countries and contexts considered difficult to reach with the gospel. Join the HowWillTheyHear team as it works alongside local churches in reaching the migrant and diaspora communities.



Helping churches in East & Central Africa

Ministry ID: 301

We believe in strengthening and equipping the church to send their own cross-cultural workers. We are looking for people with a heart for discipleship, Bible teaching and pastoral experience in mentorship.



Medical Ministry in West Africa

Ministry ID: 1412

We are looking for people with a heart to serve God using their medical skills and training in one of our hospitals. You will be serving poor and marginalised communities while demonstrating Christ-modelled compassion to every patient.



Varied Ministries in South Asia

Ministry ID: 4901

We have varied and flexible ministry opportunities working amongst the poor and unreached people groups of South Asia. We have opportunities to provide craft and agricultural training in rural environments or run local clinics in the role of community health worker.



Sports Ministry in Bolivia

Ministry ID: 9304

Do you have a passion for sports and discipleship? Come join our Sports Friends team in Bolivia where you'll be working alongside the local church in Christ-centred sport ministry, building relationships, proclaiming the gospel, discipling believers and planting churches.

Standing order mandate *or visit www.sim.co.uk/standing-orders*

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Educating for Eternity

Carachipampa Christian School (CCS) is a PK-Grade 12 school with 240 students and 28 teachers located in the beautiful Cochachabamba valley of the Andes Mountains.

The school is in desperate need of staff for **January 2022** in the following positions:

- ▶ Grade 3
- ▶ Middle/High School English, Maths, Science
- ▶ Elementary PE
- ▶ Computing (All Grades)
- ▶ High School Chaplain
- ▶ Librarian
- ▶ School Nurse



Please email

Sarah Snapp, Director, Carachipampa Christian School,
for more information director@carachipampa.org

CCS is committed to seeing students transformed by Christ and equipped academically to impact their families, society and the world for God's glory



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