

Put yourself in my shoes...

SIM

Serving In Mission UK

A glimpse into the lives of people from some
of the least-reached communities of the globe



Photo credit Syahdannugraha, Pixabay

Table of Contents

02 Central Asia - University ministry

03 South Asia - Vocational ministry

04 South America - Medical ministry

05 Middle East - Refugee ministry

06 West Africa - Media ministry

**The stories featured are based on the lives of real people*

Central Asia

Students often move overseas to study. University ministry is a tool used around the globe to share the good news with people from countries normally closed to mission workers. Pray that as students hear and respond, they will be challenged to take the message of Jesus to their own people.



Jing's story

In my final year at university, I made a friend, Kate, who told me about Jesus. She gave me a Bible, but I knew I couldn't take it home with me because if my family found out I was learning about Christianity, they'd disown me.

Before I left, Kate showed me a way to access the Bible online and after hours of reading together and me asking loads of questions, I realised I'd been following the wrong path and gave my life to Christ.

I'm now back home in Central Asia, but I feel lost. I don't know of any other Christians here; the bookshops don't sell Bibles; and the government has just banned them online.

I can remember some Scriptures and know Christ commands me to be bold in my faith, but I'm scared, so please pray for me.

Photo credit Sean Kong, Unsplash

South Asia

In some of the more marginalised communities around the globe, vocational ministries are used to teach a skill to provide families with a sustainable income. As relationships are built, the good news of Jesus can be shared.

Aabir's story

I've just finished a two-year course learning skills in mechanics. Now I can set up my own business in my hometown and help my community and support my family.

I gained far more than an education though. Each day, we had lessons from the Bible. At first, I listened to be polite, but as the months rolled by, I saw by the actions of my teachers, that they not only believed what they taught, they lived their lives according to the Scriptures. They loved and respected their families and showed me great kindness too.

Jesus has transformed my life. On graduation day, along with half of my class, I was baptised!



I want to share my love for Jesus in my community when I return and have been asked to consider starting a house church. I'm excited by this, but equally nervous – no one in my village is a Christian. Please pray for me that I will be faithful to what I have learnt; that I will read my Bible every day as I have been taught; and that my family and friends will be open to hearing about Christ's sacrifice.

Pray too, that my new business will prosper and that it will be a good place to share Jesus with others.

Photo credit Ehteshamul Haque Adit, Unsplash

South America

In many contexts, quality medical care is lacking. Unlike in the UK, Christian medics serving in hospitals or rural ministry contexts around the globe, often have the opportunity to share the love of Christ and pray with their patients.

Mateo's story



I was the first person to become a Christian in my community after some dentists visited our village and told us about Jesus. A lot of people rejected their teaching, but something made me want to know more.

I got talking to one of them and he told me some stories about Jesus using pictures that he left with me. The healthcare team visited the village again – it was such a joy to see them, but they are covering such a vast area, I wish they could visit more often. The Bible stories seem to come alive when they are able to spend time sharing with us and explaining God's word.

During their second visit, I gave my life to Christ. I try my best to share the picture stories with my family and friends, but I sometimes wonder whether I am doing it right.

'Father God, I thank you for revealing yourself to me and my family, and slowly to our community. Please Lord help me to lead my church well. Help me to understand your word and present it as you will. Thank you for the people who told us about you. Please Lord, somehow, let them multiply so they are able to spend more time with us. Amen.'

Middle East

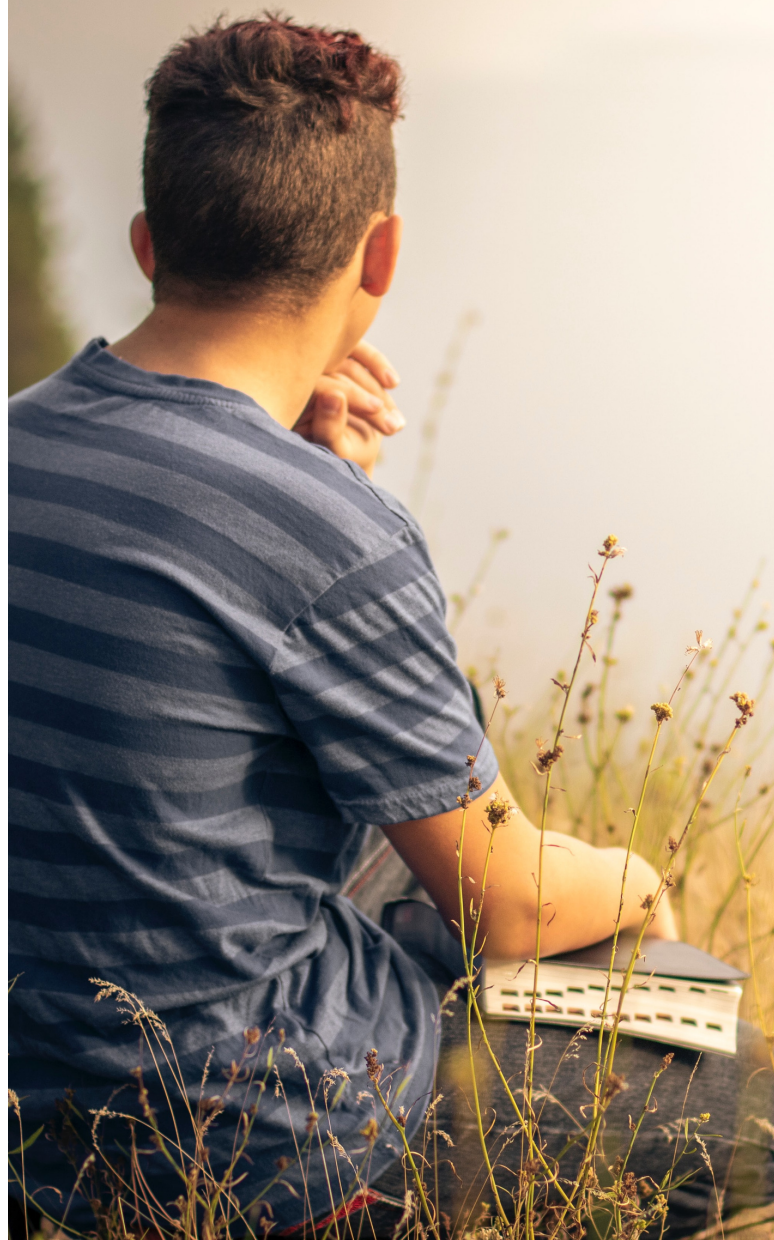
Refugee ministries that provide practical care, trauma healing, language classes and discipleship, can be used to share the gospel with people from countries closed to Christian workers. Pray the Holy Spirit will guide workers reaching out to vulnerable and often traumatised people.

Rafi's story

Militants entered our village. We had no choice but to flee, but we had nowhere to go. We felt so scared and desperate. My mother-in-law remembered friends who'd fled several years before and made contact.

It was a long and gruelling journey, and when we finally arrived, we felt broken, but were welcomed by friendly faces – a whole community of them! They provided us with food, clothes, toiletries and a place to stay. It was a relief having been met with such hostility on our journey here.

I was shocked when I found out they were Christians. This is not what I'd been told Christians were like! One man, Peter, invited me to read his holy book with him. He told me that it had only just been completed in my language.



I started reading about the life of Jesus and couldn't stop. Why had no one told me about Jesus before? I just wanted to learn more and more!

I shared the Bible with my family and they were hungry to learn more too. My mother-in-law, unlike many of the women from our country, is literate and is teaching the other women so they can read the Scriptures for themselves.

Our lives have been turned upside down – we have no permanent home or real security and yet we feel so secure and joyous in what we have found here. Praise God!

West Africa

Radio broadcasts of Christian messages are sometimes the only way nomadic people groups hear about Jesus. Broadcasts are used both to share the good news and encourage isolated believers.

Thabo's story

I am a Muslim background believer. My people are traditionally nomads – we travel around in search of grazing land for our cattle. This was my life until recently.

It was a Sunday and I had come into town to visit the market to buy some provisions for the week ahead. One of the market traders had a radio playing in the background. The voice on the radio was talking about Jesus, explaining that he was not a prophet, but that he was God's son. This is not what I'd been taught, so I argued with the trader about it. He gave me a little solar-powered radio and encouraged me to listen to more.

One evening, out in the desert, I was listening to the voice on the little radio talking about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and I felt challenged. What I was hearing made sense, but it went against what I'd been brought up to believe.



I spoke to one of my brothers about it. He was furious that I would question our faith. Things turned very nasty, very quickly, and I ran.

I found the market trader and he took me to stay with his friends. They are the Christians who record the radio programmes in my heart language. They have been very kind to me and read the Bible with me and help me to understand more each day. I know this is the right way, but it's so hard to turn my back on everything – my family, my friends, my way of life.

Please pray that others like me, especially my family, would hear and understand the message of the Bible. Pray the Lord will use me to tell my people about him. Pray for my protection as I seek to learn more and work out how to support myself.

*“How beautiful are the feet of
those who bring good news!”*

ROMANS 10:15



Photo credit StockSnap, Pixaby

SIM

Serving In Mission UK

www.sim.co.uk | info@sim.co.uk

