

Serving Him

Autumn 2018



SERVING IN MISSION
SIM



**Why we want to
serve refugees** P6

**God is at work amid
South Sudan strife** P13

**Building a football
team for Jesus in Peru** P20

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

By the numbers

The refugee and migrant crisis has largely disappeared from the media but the crisis continues to grow, as these 2017 figures show.

68.5 million
people forcibly displaced
25.4 million are refugees
3.1 million seek asylum

52%
of refugees are under
18yrs

The number of displacements in 2017 was equivalent to 44,000 people being forced to flee their homes every day

Source: UNHCR



68%
of all refugees
come from
Syria
Afghanistan
South Sudan
Myanmar
Somalia

Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory

Psalm 115 opens with the immense declaration: **'Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory because of your love and faithfulness.'**

In this anniversary year, that is the cry of our hearts.

Serving In Mission is all about God receiving more honour and respect through people worshipping him in every nation on this earth.

It's because of who he is and what he has done through Jesus that we work by faith to win new believers in new communities who will gather in Christ-centred churches.

The news about Jesus is so good that we are convinced no one should go through life without hearing of God's loving kindness shown supremely in King Jesus.

The missionaries featured in this magazine all point you to God — not themselves — as the one who deserves the glory. Whether it's our

workers going to Greece and Germany as part of the #HowWillTheyHear campaign, or our international director Joshua Bogunjoko revealing his family history, or an 83-year-old Fulani man coming to Christ, or David White in South Sudan, they all want the glory to go to God.

Across every inhabited continent and in more than 75 nations, SIM teams are working together in communities where Christ is least known or named.

God is good, his rule is good and it's good for any society to live under the rule of his son. Here in the UK, we particularly need reminding of that truth.

We live in a society which

continues to push Christ and his followers to the margins.

The news of the crucified and risen Christ needs telling in ways that show his relevance and goodness. Sign up for our weekly email, SIMpray (go to sim.co.uk/simpray) to hear more.

Thank you for your partnership with us in the gospel task Christ gives his gathered followers.

Your prayers and your generous donations are helping churches send more equipped gospel workers to serve in tough places.

We thank God for all our mission members and join together in one voice to say: **Not to us, LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory.**



Steve
Steve Smith, UK Director

PS: Come and join us at one of the celebration events taking place near you this year. See page 28 for more information.

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Gospel priorities inspire our first campaign team

By Tim Allan

Taking the gospel to refugees and migrants lies at the heart of the #HowWillTheyHear campaign and a team of nine people are doing just that this summer.

The team members, led by Cambridge pastor Al MacInnes, come from a wide range of ages and backgrounds but are united by their desire to share the good news of Jesus in Greece.

Al, who is married to Serving In Mission mobiliser Rachel, said: "We'd love to serve the church in Athens and help as they share good news about where true hope can be found.

"We expect to encounter

some people with serious questions about suffering too and, although we may not know all the answers, we'd like them to know we believe the gospel can help deal with past suffering, with our present situation and give us hope for the future.

"As Christians, we also know something about belonging, about being part of a community of people who might come from very different backgrounds but who are united in following Jesus and have a home that is fixed and certain."



The team are spending 10 days working with a church in the port of Piraeus, just outside Athens, joining a ministry that has been going on for more than five years.

The church responded to the twin disasters of the refugee crisis and the collapse of the Greek economy by providing regular free meals and a place to rest.

Al, who leads Hope Community Church, Cambridge, said: "We got to hear about what this church was doing through the work of the #HowWillTheyHear campaign.

"They've been providing meals at the church but are just about to open a Mercy Centre, which will provide more of a base for the work.

"There will be showers and laundry facilities, as well as a place to meet together, to eat

Please pray

- That the team bonds well and be an encouragement to the Piraeus church's regular volunteers.
- That those who hear the gospel from the team would respond to the certain hope Jesus offers.
- That team members' churches will be inspired by the trip and want to play a greater part in God's mission.



Al MacInnes with (l-r, top row first) Laura & Sam Skeet, Isaac Beynon, Hanna Stuercken, Rebecca Hayward, Kim Smalley, Imogen Smith and Abbie Crawford

and to have a coffee, or just to rest and chat. We hope it will be open by the time we arrive and that we'll be able to build good relationships with the people who come."

The UK team is going as part of SIM's Explore programme, which aims to give people a taste of mission and to help them discover more about God's call on their lives.

The other members are Isaac, who has just finished his A Levels and comes from Cambridge; Sam and Laura, who have been married for 18 months and live in Waterlooville; Kim, who has taught in Spain and is involved in outreach ministry in Cambridge;

Rebecca, who is a teaching assistant in Cambridge and speaks Farsi; Hanna, who has been training at a Cambridge church for the last year; Imogen, who is a second-year biology student at Cambridge; and Abbie, who works at a church in Birmingham.

Al said: "We're looking forward to the challenge of working in Piraeus and, while we have a pretty clear idea of what we expect to be doing, other things will no doubt come up.

"We're there for 10 days and will put on an evangelistic drama and some music at the regular Thursday meeting, which usually has about 150 people. We hope to be at

the Mercy Centre every day and we'll also be doing craft activities with refugee women and children at a couple of other ministries in different parts of Athens."

The team will feed back to their various home churches when they return.

Al said: "We hope it will help us reach out better to those around us who are displaced and encourage those who might be hearing God's call to go and share the gospel cross-culturally, either at home or abroad."

To find out more about our Explore programme, to inquire about joining a 2019 team or forming a team from your own church, email Hannah Hitchin (hannah@sim.co.uk).

Want to serve in Europe? See pages 24-25

Why we want to serve refugees

Ana and Richard could retire - but our campaign has motivated them to go

Ana and Richard Selby have never really thought of themselves as missionaries.

Ana is a former chief executive of an NHS trust, while Richard has taught in a special needs school. As mature Christians, they know a bit about global mission, but had never considered that path themselves.

God, however, had a different plan so they are now about to set up home in Germany and begin gospel work with refugees and migrants.

Ana began her career as a nurse and, since retiring from the NHS, has worked for SIM UK, offering health advice to our mission workers.

She says: "Meeting the missionaries opened my eyes to what might be possible. I saw how God was using people and the gifts he had given them in a really tangible way.

"Then SIM launched the #HowWillTheyHear campaign and it resonated with me. That was



Ana (top left) and Richard with a friend in Heidelberg and, below, Richard chatting with migrants and a church leader

partly due to my own family history, because my father was a refugee from the old Yugoslavia in the Second World War and I also have a cousin who was a refugee from the Balkans conflict in the 1980s.

"The television pictures of people walking across Europe to find safety really struck a chord with me."

From there, Ana and Richard began their first tentative steps into mission. They discussed it with colleagues at SIM and then went on a fact-finding trip to Germany at the end of 2017.

Ana said: "I'm someone who likes structure and order, which is one of the reasons Germany appealed. We knew whatever was going on would be well-organised.

"We looked at a few ministries,

before settling on Heidelberg, where we'll be working through the Mosaik Church and reaching out to migrants and refugees."

Mosaik has been working with migrants since 2015, forming friendships through an international café and building teams to work among specific people groups.

Ana and Richard, who are sent by West Road Church, Bury St Edmunds, will join that work and hope to offer English classes as they try to engage with different people groups.

Ana said: "We are very open to God's leading about exactly what our ministry will look like. I have medical training and Richard has worked with special needs children so it may be we can use those skills.

"Many refugees are keen to learn

Please pray

- For many refugees in Heidelberg to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus Christ.
- For Ana and Richard to settle in and have clear guidance from God about how best to serve.
- That the German church would continue to welcome refugees with open and loving arms.

English because they know that could help them find work in the future.

"We could also help children with their homework, or run after-school clubs. We will trust God to take care of what we'll be doing."

The church's vision is to build ethnic groups of believers within the German church. There may be worship services with Middle Eastern songs, language and culture but the migrants will very much be part of the whole church.

Ana and Richard spoke very little German and have been taking language lessons, although many of their German colleagues and the migrants speak at least some English.

The couple, who are leaving grown-up daughter Kate in the UK, have committed to stay in Germany for two years and are now house-hunting in Heidelberg.

Ana said: "We feel God has led us to this decision so we are quite calm about it. It is wonderful to realise that people of our age and our stage of life can still be used in mission.

"We pray we will be of use to him and that many migrants and refugees will come to know Jesus through what we do."



Want to serve in Europe? See pages 24-25

I thank God for bringing my family into the light



By Tim Allan

Joshua Bogunjoko's story is a remarkable testimony to God's saving grace.

Brought up in remote, rural Nigeria, he now leads the very mission agency whose workers once brought his family to a knowledge of Christ.

He has gone from living in a tiny village in which every family had rejected Christ, to heading an organisation which shares the gospel in more than 75 countries around the world.

There can be no doubt God has been in control of his life, because the ways in which Joshua has intersected with SIM include:

- His family coming from a village first evangelised by SIM workers
- Him going to a primary school staffed by SIM-trained teachers
- Him going to a secondary

school started by SIM

- Him and his wife Joanna being in the first batch of international missionaries sent by ECWA, the west African denomination which grew out of SIM-planted churches.

He said: "That SIM should take the good news of Jesus to people who have never heard it is very close to my heart.

"But for SIM workers, and the grace of God, my family would not be Christians and we would still be in darkness.

"I cannot thank those workers enough for sharing Jesus with my family. I know what it means for a family to see the light."

Joshua's family came from the village of Owa-Orioke in central western Nigeria — a place where traditional

animistic beliefs and Islam held firm sway until the first SIM mission workers arrived in the early 20th century.

The reaction to the gospel was mixed. Indeed, the original village split into two, with those who accepted the gospel setting up home in Owa-Kajolo, and those who chose to stick with their old faith moving to Owa-Onire.

It is a huge testament to the gospel and to those early missionaries that the village which shunned Christ was not forgotten. Workers continued to share the good news with



Please pray

- Give thanks for Joshua and praise God for the way his family was brought to Christ.
- For Joshua and Joanna to have wisdom as they minister together across the world
- That SIM will continue to cross barriers with the good news of Jesus

beliefs were. Ogun means 'war' or 'god of war', while joko means 'to sit'. Ba means 'with', so the name Bogunjoko means either 'to sit with war' or 'to sit with the god of war'.

Joshua went to the local primary school, which was housed initially in the village church. Later the church and the community built a school, where almost all the teachers were graduates of SIM's teacher training college in Igbaja.

Joshua made a firm commitment to Christ in his second year at High School, before going on to university and qualifying as a doctor.

His commitment to mission was formed by some inspiring sermons and a book by Ingrid Tobish, *On Our Way Rejoicing*.

He said: "I read it for six hours on Easter Sunday, 1982 in Jos Airport.

The Holy Spirit spoke to me, saying 'if a family can do that for me, what about you?'"

He served at Evangel Hospital for several years in

the late 1980s and the early 1990s, before he and his wife, Joanna (*pictured left*) — also a doctor — were among the first international mission workers sent out by ECWA.

They served for six years at SIM's Galmi Hospital, in Niger, where Joshua eventually became the director.

In 2013, he was appointed to lead the organisation which had played such a huge part in his life — the first non-Westerner to lead SIM.

In a moving address to SIM's 2018 Global Assembly in South Africa, Joshua said: "In the power of the Holy Spirit, I will give my all to help SIM cross barriers to more families, more communities and more regions living as mine once did.

"I commit to this because I was made to praise him, I was made to glorify his name and in every circumstance to thank him. I was made to love him, to worship at his feet and to obey him, the Lord."

Want to serve in Africa?
See pages 24-25



‘Now I know why God allowed me to live to be this old’

83-year-old Fulani man comes to Christ and then shares the gospel with his whole family

By Tim Allan

You are never too old to hear the gospel and come to faith in Jesus Christ.

That was perfectly demonstrated in West Africa earlier this year, when an 83-year-old Fulani man came to Christ.

The man had converted to Islam when he was 17 and had lived since then as a follower of that faith.

His first contact with the gospel of Jesus came in January, 2018 when a Serving In Mission worker and a local Fulani believer turned up in his town.

The old man is a very influential figure. He is head of his compound, which consists of four mud huts, a surrounding mud wall and a grass shelter in the middle. He lives there with his two sons, their many wives and seemingly countless children.

Our mission worker said: “He was very open to hearing

about Jesus and extremely interested to learn about the gospel hope he offers.

“As we left, we gave him one of our little red radios, which is pre-loaded with the New Testament in the Fulfulde language, some Fulani dramas and some worship songs.

“We did not know what impact they might have but we prayed for the man and for his family.”

They hardly dared hope for what actually happened.

The man has now put his faith in Jesus and is telling everyone about it.

Our worker said: “Usually, when a Fulani person comes to faith they keep it very quiet and do not want to share it.

“But this man has been completely the opposite. He has told everyone, including his friends and his extended family! We heard about this third or fourth-hand from

other Fulani friends, so the fact that the news has spread so far shows he must have told everyone in the town,”

Every night, the man gathers his family around the radio and together they listen to the Scriptures in their own heart language. Their compound has no electricity, so they sit in the pitch black of night and pay close attention to the words.

Several of the children now know the words to the Christian songs and love to sing along with them. The man is eager to learn more and share more.

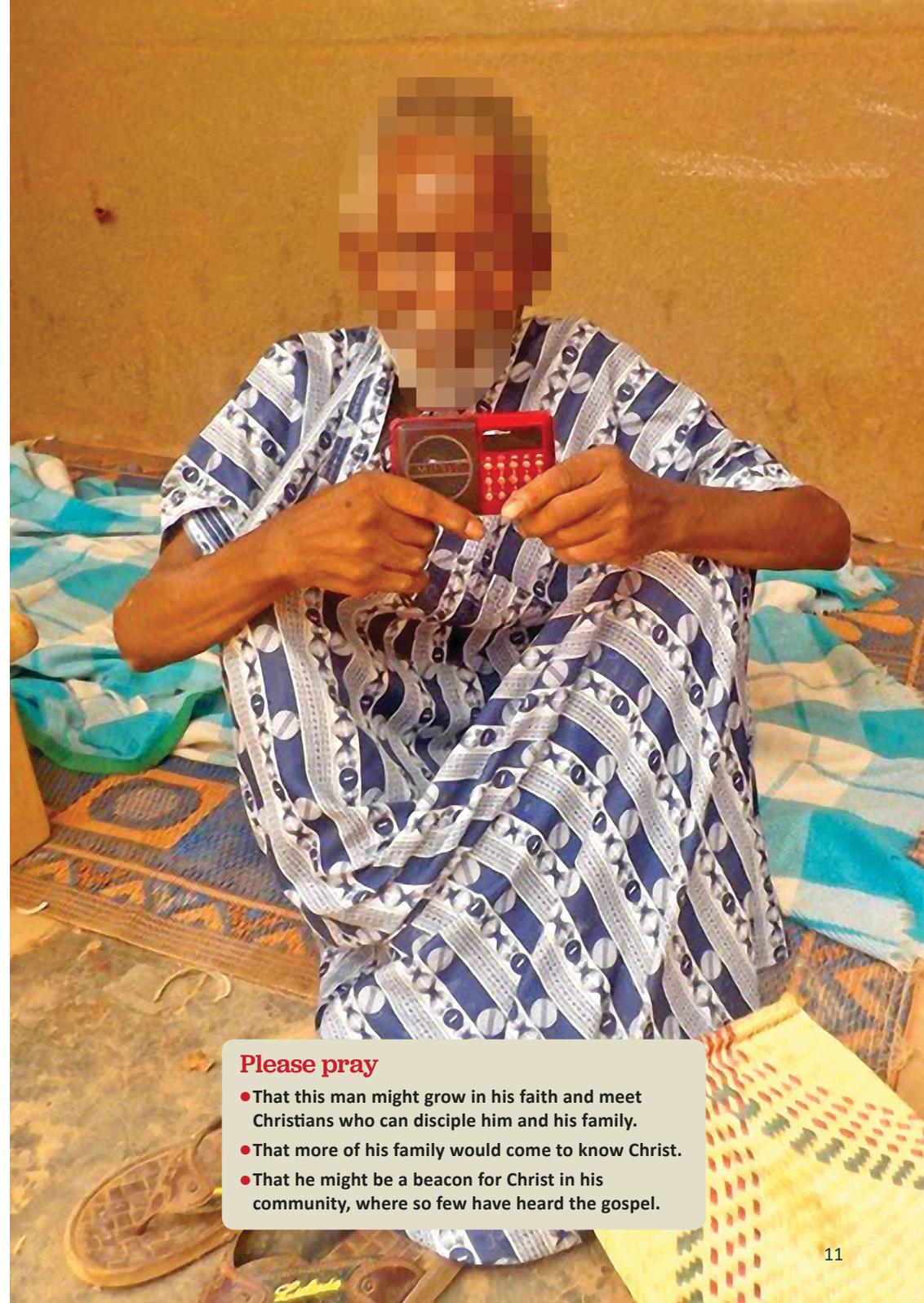
He has told his friends: “Now I know why God has allowed me to live to be this old. It’s so I might know the truth, and also share it with my family.”

Praise God for his awesome and inspiring work in this man’s life.

Want to serve in West Africa? See pages 24-25

Please pray

- That this man might grow in his faith and meet Christians who can disciple him and his family.
- That more of his family would come to know Christ.
- That he might be a beacon for Christ in his community, where so few have heard the gospel.





Joshua Bogunjoko, SIM's International Director has begun his second five-year term. Pray he will rely on God's wisdom, guidance and protection throughout his ministry.

Give thanks for the 12 people who attended our recent trauma healing course. Pray the Lord will lead each participant clearly as to where he wants them to use the skills learnt.

There are four Serving In Mission short-term 'Explore' teams heading overseas this summer. Pray the trips will help those going understand their potential for longer-term mission.

Give thanks for the relationships being built between Mekelle Youth Centre in Ethiopia and a local school for deaf children. Pray for deep friendships to be built, so the gospel can be shared and received well by the deaf children.

answers to prayer

Praise God for the 150 workers sent from the UK who share Christ with those they serve. Pray for them this summer whether on home assignment or serving overseas, that they would know God's presence and leading.

Give thanks that the Hausa language edition of the Africa Bible Commentary is now complete. Pray that, as it goes to print later this year, subsidies might be found to make it truly affordable for those for whom it was written.

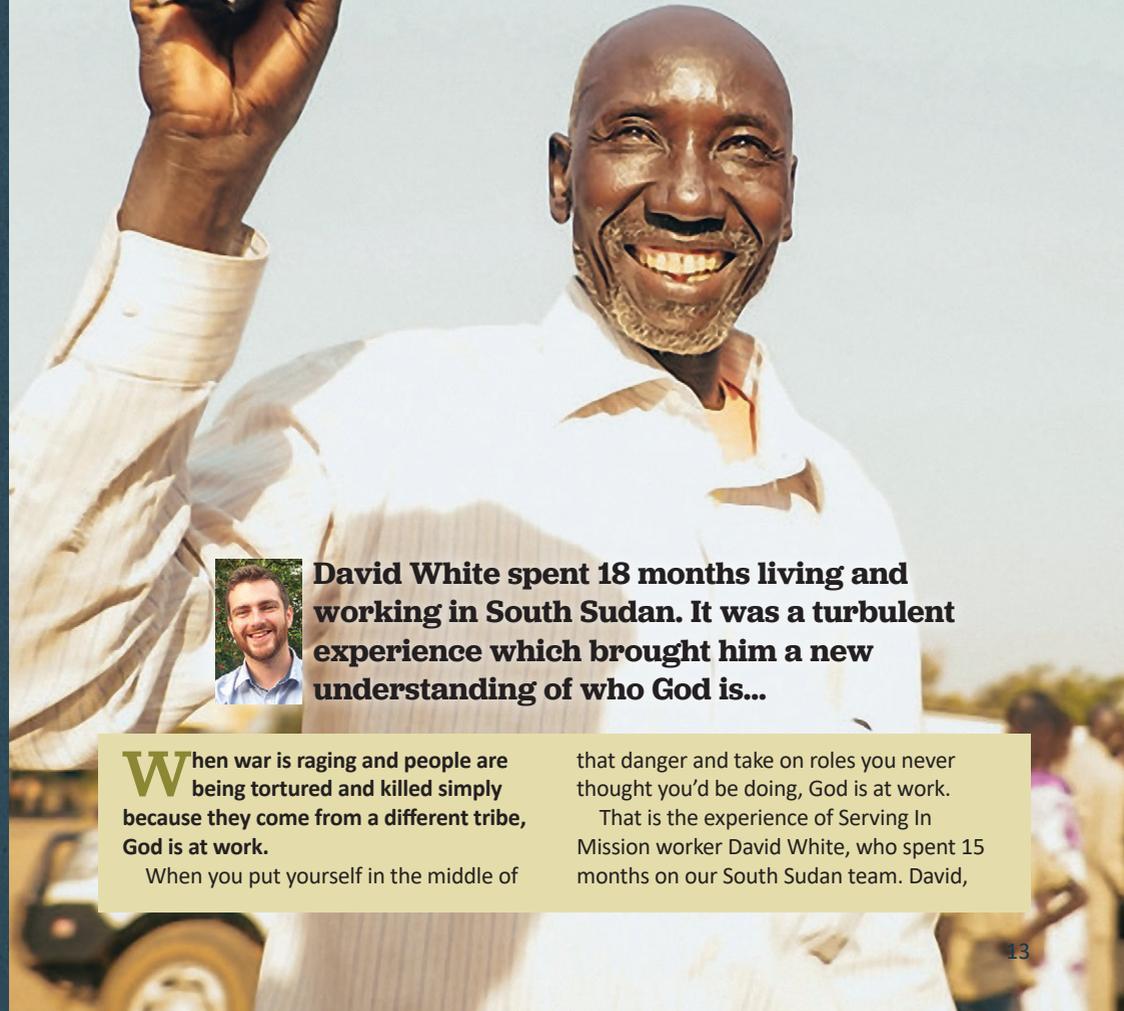
Claire McKeown and Emily Kirkpatrick have learnt a lot over the past year on their Immerse mission internships. Pray the Lord will clearly guide their future paths. Pray too for Eleanor Clibborn who continues her service in Bolivia.

Dr Ambaye shared her expertise with the staff at the Good News Hospital, Madagascar, enabling 35 fistula patients to undergo operations last month. Give thanks for the opportunity to pray with patients and share the eternal hope of Christ.

Praise God for the faithful gospel-hearted teachers who serve the children of mission workers around the world. Pray for them as they rest before preparing for a new term - and pray more Christian teachers would be raised up to serve in mission schools and colleges.

Give thanks for the unity shown when house church leaders from different tribal backgrounds met for encouragement and training in Asia last month. Pray they will continue to grow in their love for Jesus and for one another.

Amid the strife, God is at work



David White spent 18 months living and working in South Sudan. It was a turbulent experience which brought him a new understanding of who God is...

When war is raging and people are being tortured and killed simply because they come from a different tribe, God is at work.

When you put yourself in the middle of

that danger and take on roles you never thought you'd be doing, God is at work.

That is the experience of Serving In Mission worker David White, who spent 15 months on our South Sudan team. David,

who is sent by Hope Church, Glasgow had wanted to serve in South Sudan ever since he visited in 2010. He had set his heart on long-term mission among the various peoples of South Sudan and Sudan.

But God, through a challenging period spent working in the SIM compound on the edge of refugee camps in Doro, used David in unexpected ways.

He explained: "I spent nine months in Egypt learning Arabic and then went home for a break over Christmas 2016. That was when violence erupted in Doro and all the missionaries had to be evacuated to Nairobi, Kenya.

"I flew out in January, but I joined a team that was still dealing with the shock of evacuation. My intention had been to get involved with church-planting and discipleship in the refugee camp but it wasn't even safe to go back to the compound."

Within a month or so, the situation had improved in

Doro and David volunteered to be part of a small group which went back to assess the situation. Much of the compound had been ransacked and looted but the overall situation was calm, so David then joined the repair and rebuilding team.

Just two weeks later, the missionaries who had decided to stay returned to the compound, even though there was still a huge amount of work to be done.

As they returned, the various SIM ministries began to resume. The SIM Clinic and Nutrition programme started treating patients; the Water Project began repairing bore holes and providing people with clean drinking water; and evangelists returned to the refugee camps to continue sharing the gospel and training the church.

David's role changed too. He became increasingly involved in organising security for the SIM compound and ended up leading a team of 27 guards

who watched over things night and day.

He said: "I was asked to be operations manager for the SIM team, which involved a lot of logistics and planning.

"Besides leading the team of guards, I also had to assess whether it was safe for any of our mission workers to go out into the refugee camps.

"The team has some very talented and passionate evangelists, some of whom speak the language fluently.

"I could see that, in my changing role, I was enabling people with more gifts for evangelism among the refugees to go and do the work. I'm sure they were a lot more effective in that ministry than I would have been."

All of 2017 and early 2018 was punctuated by periods when the violence would flare up and then die down again.

In turn, people who were victims of violence would flee and then come back. In the complex political world of Sudan and South Sudan, tribal

David hears a refugee's story (above), while a local pastor celebrates receiving his Maaban Bible



loyalties fluctuated and more refugees would arrive in Doro from violence further afield.

But through it all, the ministry of taking the gospel to people who have never heard it has continued and even grown.

To take just one example, the secondary school which was once part of the SIM compound was completely ransacked in the first outbreak of violence. The response of SIM has been to work with the Sudan Interior Church to set up open-air primary schools.

David explained: "The schools operate outside so all they need is a blackboard and some chairs. If the people have to flee again, the school can effectively go with them."

David and SIM also helped provide food aid for internally displaced people and brought church leaders from rival tribes together.

He said: "We facilitated an inter-tribal trauma healing workshop for church leaders

Please pray

- Give thanks for all God has taught David during his time in South Sudan.
- For peace among the various tribes and factions so that people can live securely and safely.
- For God's word to spread like wildfire among those living in refugee camps.

at a time of great tension and animosity between tribes.

"The challenge of church unity is massive because tribal loyalties are so strong. This is often a barrier to understanding and accepting we are all one in Christ so it was great to see the leaders put that into practice."

Another highlight was being the final link in the chain of bringing a complete Bible in the heart language of the Maaban people.

David said: "This project has been decades in the making, with countless people involved. It was my very humbling privilege to be part of the team which delivered

the first consignment of those Bibles to the Maaban.

"They were overjoyed! Even non-Christians were delighted because having the Bible in their own language was a great cultural honour.

"It's my prayer that those who bought the Bibles would open them day by day and come to a living faith in Jesus."

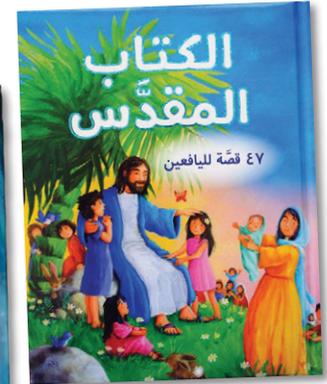
David's time in South Sudan ended earlier this year and there are questions about how the work can continue.

But one thing is certain — in the midst of turmoil and violence, God is growing his church and drawing people to him.

Want to serve in Africa?
See pages 24-25



Arabic Bible for kids is word perfect



By Tim Allan

The transforming power of God's word should never be under-estimated.

That was brought home to mission workers at a Middle East education centre, when they gave out children's Bibles, written in Arabic, to their students. One

child from each of the school's 27 families, almost all of whom are refugees, was handed a Bible and told to take it home.

But the next day, one of those very Bibles was seen lying on a boy's desk and the staff were worried it had been forgotten or, worse still, rejected by his parents.

One of the teachers explained: "Walking past the classroom just before our morning chapel, I saw the Bible on his desk and thought he must have left it there instead of taking it home.

"Then I realised that was impossible because we had gift-wrapped them and the children had

left with them still wrapped, so it had to have been brought back.

"That made me wonder if he was returning it because the parents did not want him to have it.

"The teacher in his first lesson asked him why he'd brought it back and he was a little embarrassed to answer, knowing that other children were listening.

"But as he started to explain that he and his mum had spent all evening reading it and that he wanted to continue reading it at break time, the rest of the class were excited to share how they had read it with their parents and loved it too."

All 27 families with children at the

school have been given a Bible. Each of those families is visited weekly and the feedback about the Bibles has been hugely positive.

One of the fathers even picked up on the Old Testament story of Joseph and applied it to his own life.

The boy who brought his Bible back to school has a younger brother and a baby sister, all of whom live with their mother while their father works away.

Their passion for the Bible, shared by all those at the school, is a powerful testimony to the ability of the word of God to transform lives and bring hope, even in the most difficult circumstances.

The children's Bible (page extracts above) is published by Ophir

Want to serve in The Middle East?
See pages 24-25

Please pray

- That the Bible stories would continue to impact children and their families in the Middle East.
- For teachers to have wisdom and grace as they discuss the Bible with refugee families.
- For God to raise up more Christian teachers to work in the Middle East.

Tell us a little about yourselves...

Yoseph Mengistu: I'm from Ethiopia, as is my wife Mekdes. We have a British-born son, Nathan Yoseph, 17. I have extensive ministry experience at local and national church levels and have taught at higher education institutes in England and Ethiopia. I'm passionate about multi-directional missions and non-western theologies. I'm an unrepentant Chelsea FC fan. I love good food, good company, good films, sports and books. We are members of Pinner Baptist Church, London where I serve as a deacon and preach/teach regularly.

Claire Newman: I work for Christians in Parliament and am involved in pastoral ministry with MPs and staff, as well as managing our events programme. I've done the Cornhill Ministry Training programme and was Internal Communications Director at Save the Children. I'm a member of Christchurch, Earlsfield, where I lead a home group and our Mission Committee. I love playing tennis and touch rugby, catching up with friends and playing with my two nephews who live around the corner.

How did you come to faith in Jesus?

Yoseph: As a child, I had severe epilepsy with seizures



SIM UK board (l-r). Back row: Yoseph Mengistu, Gill Phillips (now stepped down), Tim Cudmore (chair), Anthony Harris, Morag Gillies, Peter Shelley. Front row: Steve Smith, Nigel Younge, Anja Lijcklama à Nijeholt, Claire Newman, Mark Heasman and Jonny Dyer

Meet Yoseph and Claire, our new SIM UK trustees

every day. I wasn't expected to live beyond my teens but I was healed after the pastor at the SIM-related Kale Heywet Church in Addis Ababa prayed for me. That was 40 years ago and led me to a personal, salvific faith in Christ.

Claire: I grew up going to church and asked Jesus into my life as a teenager but university was a crunch time. While I kept going to church, I spent most of the week trying to ignore God. I realised I had to make a choice. I re-examined the evidence and could come up with no other

explanation than that Jesus was who he claimed to be, and that he really had died for me. From then on, my faith and relationship with Christ started to grow.

How were you involved with SIM before joining the board?

Yoseph: Ever since I came to Christ, SIM has been part of my life. I am the fruit of the sacrificial and exemplary ministry of SIM missionaries in Ethiopia. I was saved at, and am part of, an SIM-founded church; I was trained, worked with and

mentored by SIM missionaries at the Evangelical Theological College of Addis Ababa.

Claire: While I was at Cornhill, I also worked as a consultant and had the privilege of helping Serving In Mission set up the communications team and strategy.

What was the motivation for you joining the board?

Yoseph: Gratitude and vision. I am hugely grateful for all I have received from SIM and now have the opportunity to give something back. I also

believe wholeheartedly in the vision of SIM, to preach the gospel FROM, IN and TO the UK. Mission is now about receiving as well as sending.

Claire: I've always had a passion for cross-cultural mission and a desire to use my gifts and skills to ensure no-one lives and dies without the gospel – the heart of SIM's vision. I have lived in Uganda and France and have been involved in international student work. As a consultant, I saw the wonderful work of SIM, the commitment of the staff and missionaries, and

the inspiring vision to take mission into the 21st century.

What contribution do you hope to make to the future of SIM?

Yoseph: I hope to bring everything I am and have by his grace to the role. This includes, but is not limited to, my background, my education, my experiences, my talents and, dare I say, my weaknesses and failures.

Claire: I hope my business and ministry experience will help me bring valuable insights and that my background in communications and organisational development means I can add particular value in these areas.

How can we pray for you?

Yoseph: That God may graciously use, for his glory and the promotion of his kingdom, my whole being: everything I am and have.

Claire: That my prayers would be shaped by the way Paul prays and that 'I may have power together with all the Lord's people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ'.

Football-crazy Josué builds a team for Jesus

By Tim Allan

Josué has three major things in his life: Jesus Christ, his work and his football.

The 27-year-old lives in San Juan, one of the poorest parts of the Peruvian capital, Lima. His home is made of wood and mud and sits on the side of a hill.

He works nine-hour days, five days a week at a factory more than an hour away.

Like many Peruvian young men, he is passionate about football. Unlike many Peruvian young men, he is also passionate about Jesus.

A little over a year ago, Josué took part in a Sports Friends training programme, which showed him how to share Christ through his football.

He now runs a football team made up of players all around his age. They train three nights a week and on Saturdays. Every Sunday afternoon, they play a match.

The facilities are almost non-existent and the bumpy, unkempt

pitch makes the games even more unpredictable than usual.

On top of that huge commitment to his team, Josué opens his home on a Friday evening and invites his team-mates to a Bible study.

Serving In Mission's Matt Stone, sent by Barnabas Community Church, Shrewsbury, to work with Sports



Friends in Peru, joined one of the studies with his colleague Charles.

He said: "It was extremely simple, but that was all it needed to be. I think this is something that gets lost in our western culture of so much 'stuff'.

"There were six of us, we shared food and chatted about general life – sport got a mention, obviously.

"We only had one Bible between us but Josué had prepared a few notes so he could teach them. None of the three players there owned a Bible but they were willing to come on a Friday night to learn.

"Josué has effectively given up all



his free time to serve his team and bring the gospel into a place it could not reach without sport.

"He is an example on the field of how to play for the glory of God. He prays before and after each training session and includes a small study of a verse or a topic.

"Just imagine...if those three were to become Christians, then the team will have even more of Jesus in it, increasing the likelihood of more players turning towards the light."

Matt could see just how humbly Josué led the studies, patiently explaining the hope he has in Jesus to his team-mates.

Matt said: "Not many of his team follow Jesus yet but, with contact five or six times a week, they are going to

know about him. Josué is being well supported by his church pastor and is the embodiment of a living sacrifice. He understands his life is not his life, it belongs to God; that his time is not his time, that it belongs to God."

To find out more about the work of Sports Friends please visit www.sports-friends.org or email enquiries@sim.co.uk.

Josué takes a selfie of the group with Matt (far left)

Want to serve in South America?
See pages 24-25

Please pray

- That Josué would continue to be a beacon of gospel light to his team-mates.
- For the three team members who attend Bible studies to want to know more of Christ.
- For more people to be raised to work with Sports Friends.

Sha'ibou learns to read and then lives for Christ

By Tim Allan



Sha'ibou with SIM worker Jonathan Burt in his cornstalk classroom (above)

What is the Read & Live programme?

Read & Live is a literacy programme for Hausa speakers, using a primer full of Bible stories.

This attracts both illiterate students and primary school students who read French and but who also want to read in their mother tongue.

We need £65 a month to support each teacher.

For more than 30 years, Pastor Sha'ibou has stood firm for Jesus — a living testament to God's goodness through Serving In Mission's Read and Live project.

He leads a church of around 75 people and still uses the same Read and Live programme which helped him come to faith in the 1980s.

His passion for the gospel has seen him:

- Plant a church while at Bible college in Nigeria .
- Bring 11 members of his extended family to Christ
- Build a cornstalk classroom, where hundreds now learn to read and hear the gospel
- Help Christians stand firm in the face of persecution. Sha'ibou first encountered

the gospel in 1985, when he started going to Hausa literacy classes run by Read and Live. After a few of his friends became Christians, he went with them to the nearest church, a five-mile walk away.

Through that church, he made a full commitment to Christ — the first person in his extended family to turn from Islam to Jesus.

He grew quickly, going

first to a basic Bible School in Niger for two years, then leading a village Read and Live programme before four years of Bible College in Nigeria.

He planted a church in Nigeria as part of a holiday assignment. He was so impressive the Nigerian church district asked him four times to join them as an evangelist. But Sha'ibou's heart was always for his family, none of whom

Please pray

- For Pastor Sha'ibou's teenage daughter Lydia, who recently had an infection damaging the sight of one eye.
- For children who have trusted Jesus to do well in school, rather than drop out and so disappear from view.
- That more parents from the majority community will allow children to attend the Read & Live programme.

knew Jesus. He has since seen 11 members of his extended family, as well as his wife and children, come to Christ.

Sha'ibou started building the cornstalk classroom in 2013 — a neutral venue on the edge of town, where people of all faiths were happy to come for literacy and Bible classes.

He also has a habit of finding new church members. In 2014, for example, two non-Christian brothers came and asked him to teach their nine children both literacy and the gospel. Four of the children have since come to faith, as has one of the fathers. Sha'ibou continues to pray for and to visit the father who is not yet a Christian.

When a man in the church

died, his widow and five children could easily have fallen back into their old religion - but Sha'ibou stepped in. He has taken on the moral and financial responsibility of providing for them.

As guardian, he will have a major say in the children's future, especially over education and marriage, and he will keep them near Jesus.

Today, the church Sha'ibou pastors has around 45 adult believers at Sunday worship, plus 30 children.

And he still goes out with the Read and Live material, helping his people read and write, while also sharing the gospel with them. Like all the

Read and Live teachers, he is a true evangelist.

As soon as the students can read and write well, they take a course in John's gospel, which helps them understand who Jesus is. The teachers are alert to all the challenges people face and provide

both counsel and practical aid. As the students learn, the teachers spend time with them, building friendships and trust.

It is through such patient discipleship that people who live in places where Christ is least-known learn who he is; it is through such patient discipleship that pastors like Sha'ibou develop the gifts God has given them.

Want to serve in West Africa? See pages 24-25



English Teacher

Central Asia, one year plus

Teaching English in this culture opens up opportunities for friendship evangelism and student discipleship, directly influencing the next generation of leaders and building the local church.

Pioneer Church Planter Paraguay, two years plus

SIM Paraguay is planting churches in small, rural communities where the gospel has not yet had an impact. Could you make your home in an unreached community in order to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and ultimately establish a self-sustaining church?



Business Intern

North Africa, one year plus

Are you looking for a business internship as part of your degree course or as a step into industry? Use the skills you already have, while learning from others and building meaningful relationships with your co-workers. You will shine as a light for Christ in your workplace.



Medical & support staff Middle East, two years plus

Work at a sanatorium where the primary focus is on treating patients with tuberculosis and other chest infections. Most patients have lengthy stays, which allows relationships to develop. You must have a good understanding of Arabic or be willing to spend two years learning it before commencing this role.

Do you want to serve?

We have hundreds of opportunities and these are just a few. Go to sim.co.uk/opportunities to find more, or contact info@sim.co.uk to talk things through



Pioneer Church Planter Paraguay, two years plus

SIM Paraguay is planting churches in small, rural communities where the gospel has not yet had an impact. Could you make your home in an unreached community in order to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and ultimately



Arsenic Poisoning Prevention Worker South Asia, two years plus

Could you provide education and training about the dangers of arsenic contamination to vulnerable people and also research the best way to provide clean water? As you provide this service in the community, you will build meaningful relationships and talk about your faith.

Sports Friends Organisational Leader Senegal, two years plus

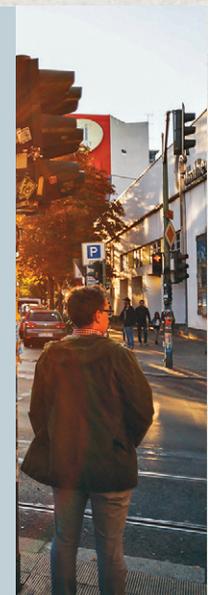
Established sports clubs are helping workers build relationships with young people and their families in order to share the love and word of God. Could you manage the administration and finances of these clubs and develop the leadership to see a sustainable nation-led sports ministry developed?



Refugee Worker

Germany, one year plus

Work with the church to share the good news with refugees and migrants. Being fluent in Arabic, Farsi or Dari would be useful but not essential. Opportunities range from friendship evangelism and trauma healing ministries to the training of volunteers.



Welcome new SIM workers

Eleana-Jayne Davey



Church: Beeston Free Church, Ghana.

Where will you be serving? Ghana.

What will you be doing? In Tumu I will be working with a colleague to disciple young women. I will then travel to Tamale and Accra, where I'll be working with the local church.

Pray: That I'll trust God for needed finances, and that I would be spiritually prepared for my trip; that my heart would be open to pour out God's love to the Ghanaian people, that I would be humble and follow his lead and sacrifice my own comfort for the sake of spreading the gospel.

Jean Williams

Church: Twynham Church for the Community, Christchurch, Dorset.

Where will you be serving? Italy.



What will you be doing? Working with refugees and migrants.

Pray: That I am able to learn Italian quickly and to settle into my new role quickly after I've arrived.

Thomas Jesudason

Church: St James, Barkham.

Where will you be serving? Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

What will you be doing? Helping out in youth ministry and sport activities with young people.

Pray: That God will prepare me in the weeks leading up to the trip and that the youth will benefit from my input and the team's Biblical teaching.



Andy Bradshaw Serving with EMI

Church: Parish of Herne Hill, Saviour's and St Paul's.

Where will you be serving? Burundi.

What will you be doing? I will be using my experience as a civil engineer in the construction industry to help the team responsible for the ongoing development of the Minute Hope hospital.

Pray: I will find ways to make a difference in this area of great need, to adjust to and respect the culture and that Sally (my wife) and I can continue to support each other while we are apart for several months.



Donald & Becky Kamese, Benjamin and Elliot

Church: Christ Church Earlsfield, London.

Where will you be serving? Guanajuato, Mexico.

What are you doing? Disciple-making while planting churches, running an English school, sports and drug prevention programmes, family conferences, vocational assistance and Bible training for local missionaries.

Pray: For people to join us. We need a dedicated team to help in teaching the Bible and one-on-one discipleship. We also need English teachers.



James*

Church: Cambray Baptist Church, Cheltenham

Where will you be serving? Middle East

What will you be doing? Helping to teach music and English in a small school and also assisting with a youth group and other work associated with a local church.

Pray: That I would trust God is in control and not worry!

Richard & Ana Selby

Church: West Road Church, Bury St Edmunds.

Where will you be serving? Heidelberg, Germany.

What will you be doing? Supporting a church working with refugees and migrants.

Pray: That the Lord would confirm his plans for us and that all the practical arrangements that will be made in good time to enable us to move to Germany.



Greece Team – Athens

Al MacInnes, pastor of Hope Community Church, Cambridge, is leading a mission team made up of Isaac Beynon, Abbie Crawford, Rebecca Hayward, Laura and Sam Skeet, Kim Smalley and Imogen Smith to Greece to work with refugees and migrants. See pages 4-5 for more details.

Pray: That the team will communicate well with each other and with the communities they are working among. Pray too they would be both bold and sensitive in sharing the gospel.

Ethiopia Team – Bingham Academy

Retired SIM worker Dorothy Haile is leading a team to run a holiday club for the children of new teachers at Bingham. Team members, including Dorothy, Jim Herrington, Marie MacInnes, Linnet Smith, Penny Hearn and Su Tedham, come from three different churches. They will be supporting Jemma and Tom Fifield, who work at Bingham and are sent by the parish of St Mary's and St Peter's, Bury St Edmunds.

Pray: For creativity, stamina and flexibility for the team as they run seven days of activities with 30 children. Pray too that God will use this trip to grow the children and the team members in their knowledge and love of him.

Central Asia Team

We have sent two people from the UK on a trip to learn about nomads in Central Asia. They will be away for four weeks and six weeks over the summer. For security reasons we cannot give further information.

Pray: For the team to stay healthy and that they will be able to cope with both the high altitude and the strange diet. Pray too that God will use this opportunity to shape their futures for his mission in the world.

Malawi Team

Ben Wildman, sent by St Nicholas' Church, Nottingham, is leading this team in August. It includes Morgan Smith, also from St Nicholas' Church, and Andy and Sas McConville, from St Michael's, Chester. They will be working with Sports Friends running a summer camp for young people.

Pray: For the team, both in the UK and in Malawi, that good relationships will be formed and a spirit of unity in Christ prevails as they come together. Pray too for good opportunities to show the love of Christ and speak of who he is with the young people, and that those who want to know more are followed up well once the camp is over.

*Name changed for security reasons

CELEBRATION

1

Come and join us across the UK

We're hosting a series of special events around the UK to mark SIM's 125 years of pioneering mission — and we'd love you to join us.

The celebrations will give glory to God for all he has done through SIM since 1893. We will honour all our missionaries — past, present and future; we will thank God for our partnerships with churches; and we will lay on food and music from around the world.

The venues have still to be confirmed but the dates are: Scotland, September 26; Manchester October 6; Northern Ireland November 2; Birmingham, November 20; Bristol November 21; Southampton November 22; and Cardiff Cardiff, November 28.

To reserve your place email Alan Nottage (alan@sim.co.uk)



CELEBRATION

2

Come and join us on September 1

We're launching our new SIMply Tea party pack with a special celebration in Suffolk on Saturday, September 1 — and everyone is welcome to come.

We'll be hosting our very own SIMply Tea party and showing off the new pack which is designed to make running your party as easy as possible. It has loads of helpful information and resources, including bunting, a sponsorship form and party invitations.

Our SIMply Tea party starts at 3:30pm on Saturday, September 1 at our UK head office — Wetheringsett Manor, IP14 5QX. Everyone is welcome and there will be games laid on for children. To book your place on just email Amelia Catling (amelia@sim.co.uk).



*For more information,
or to see how you could
get involved, contact
amelia@sim.co.uk*