

Serving Him

Winter 2018



SERVING IN MISSION
SIM



Greece is the word
in refugee ministry P4

Nigeria street boys
come to Christ P8

Pastor Mansoor is
gospel role model P13

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

How many evangelicals?

Population Evangelicals

China

POPULATION 1,330 M

Evangelicals 5.7% 75.3m

Pakistan

POPULATION 184.7 M

Evangelicals 0.6% 1.1m

Benin

POPULATION 9.2 M

Evangelicals 8.3% 767,500

Nigeria

POPULATION 158.2 M

Evangelicals 30.8% 48.8m

Niger

POPULATION 15.8 M

Evangelicals 0.1% 21,500

UK

POPULATION 62.1 M

Evangelicals 8.8% 5.5m

USA

POPULATION 317.6 M

Evangelicals 28.9% 28.9m

Greece

POPULATION 11.1 M

Evangelicals 0.4% 41,300

Source: operationworld.org

Cover: Claire McKeown with street boys in Jos, Nigeria. See p8

How will you answer God's call to action?



These are challenging times for churches in Britain as we seek to obey Christ's great commission.

More than 70 per cent of the UK population aged 16–29 now identify as agnostic or atheist and Christians are feeling the force of the secularising agenda.

We need to deepen our dependence on the person and message of Jesus.

That we live in an increasingly multi-ethnic society is a source of great encouragement.

Gatherings of Christians in the UK are now connected with people from communities where Christ is least known in extraordinary ways.

Earlier this month, I sat with missionaries working with Sorani-speakers in Iraqi Kurdistan and in Manchester. Both teams told stories of conversion to Christ and joyful healing of relationships through faith in the gospel.

In the UK, we believe it's

an urgent priority to increase the evangelistic impact of church ministry with increased sending of Christians from diverse backgrounds into global mission. This vision is very much in keeping with where the Lord seems to be prompting his people and church in the UK.

Amid the God confusion in British society, many in the church feel that whole-of-life discipleship is pivotal and want to build a community of disciples. Across denominational boundaries, evangelical churches are rallying around the flag of disciple-making mission.

We started life 125 years ago as the Soudan Interior Mission, but now send mission workers to every inhabited

continent on earth. Our commitment to pioneering mission requires us to find new ways of reaching people with the gospel in hard-to-reach places.

There are more than 3.1 billion people in the world who have never had the chance to hear the gospel message. By prayer, what can we do to reduce that figure towards zero?

Please consider supporting this work and referring people to us.

We serve a missionary church which is asking for help in being faithful disciples who make disciples in, to and from multi-cultural Britain. Together let us play our part in raising up many more workers for God's harvest field.



Steve

Steve Smith, UK Director

PS: I'd love you to sign up for our weekly prayer email, SIMpray. Just go to sim.co.uk/simpray or email kevin@sim.co.uk

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UK/Europe Headquarters
Serving In Mission, Wetheringsett Manor,
Wetheringsett, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 5QX
t: 01449 766464 | e: info@sim.co.uk
w: www.sim.co.uk

Ireland
285a Woodstock Road, Belfast BT6 8PR
t: 028 90 451451 | e: info@simireland.co.uk

For further information, contact the Serving In Mission office, or your nearest regional representative.



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Greece is the word

Chagor and Rahel share gospel with refugees in Thessalonika

By Tim Allan

Across-cultural couple with a passionate heart for outreach among Muslims are about to start work among Middle Eastern refugees in Greece.

Chagor, who comes from South Sudan, and his European wife, Rahel, embody the aims of the #HowWillTheyHear campaign, set up last year with the express purpose of sharing Christ with refugees and migrants.

The couple have been led by God throughout their adult lives and marvel at the way he has brought them together.

Chagor, who speaks fluent

Arabic, was himself a refugee from the Sudan war, fleeing first to Egypt and finally ending up in Israel. Rahel was once a member of All Souls Church, London and was also involved in Muslim outreach at Speakers' Corner before going to teach in Israel.

It was there she met her future husband and they discovered their shared gospel passion for Muslims.

Rahel said: "We never heard a special call to go to Greece but it has been on our hearts for many years to serve God in mission and to bring the gospel to the unreached,

particularly Muslims. So when the evangelical church in Greece was asking for people who speak Arabic, and have a heart for Muslims and refugees, it seemed like the perfect fit.

"Praying about it, we felt peace in our hearts to take the step of faith.

"God has opened many doors for us since, so that we are sure to be heading in the right direction, with our shepherd going ahead of us."

The couple, with their three children all aged under seven, are being sent through SIM Switzerland, having built a support base there.

They are settling in Thessalonika (above) and will be working among Yazidi, Afghan, Syrian, Iraqi, Iranian and Pakistani refugees through a church which also runs two daycare centres.

Chagor first visited the ministry early this year and



the couple then saw how God was leading them into it.

He will work alongside the American pastor, translating sermons into Arabic and then working as his assistant.

He will visit refugee camps through the week, building relationships and encouraging anyone who shows an interest in Jesus. He will be part of both the evangelical church, which meets in the main town, and a Yazidi church, which meets about an hour away.

Rahel will have her hands

full with the children but hopes to begin teaching English at the daycare centres and will naturally get involved with friendship evangelism.

She said: "The Yazidi church needs people who can speak Arabic so they can build relationships with people.

"The Yazidis are an ethnic Kurdish minority from Iraq and Syria and are followers of an old Persian cult - a mix of Christianity, Islam and Zoroastrianism. Since August, 2014, they have been victims

of an on-going genocide at the hand of the Islamic State.

"Every Friday evening, a small congregation of Yazidis meet for a service. Some of them have become Christians and others are curious to find out more. The sermons are in English and are translated by short-term workers, so Chagor will help with both translation and preaching.

"The daycare centres open two days a week and provide everything from food to English classes, from second-hand clothes to laundry facilities, as well as being a place to hang out and talk."

The couple have no doubt their ministry will develop as they get more and more involved with the church and the community.

What will never change though, is God's profound love for these refugees and their passionate desire to share Jesus with them.

PHOTO: DAN LUNDBERG BIT.LY/CCLCAZ

Please pray

- For Chagor, Rahel and the children to settle well in their new community and be a blessing to refugees.
- For good relationships to develop between the family and the migrants and refugees in the camps.
- That God will be glorified through all the Greek evangelical church is doing among Muslims and Yazidis.

Godly principles lead SIM into the future

After 125 years, we are ready for challenges ahead

By Tim Allan

The transformation of Serving In Mission in the last 15 years has been as great as at any time in our 125-year history.

December 4 marks the 125th anniversary of our founding and, as part of that commemoration, former UK and International Director Malcolm McGregor has picked out 10 key SIM principles which have stood the test of time.

They have been shaped by our past and by the people who have served with us. They will shape our future as we press on to take the gospel to the 3.1 billion people in the world who have never heard of Jesus.

1 Faith and sacrifice

These are key hallmarks of SIM. Our founding fathers, Rowland Bingham, Walter Gowans and Thomas Kent, demonstrated that when they landed in what is now Lagos in 1893. Gowans and Kent died within two years; Bingham took six years to establish the first inland mission station at Pategi. Everyone who serves makes sacrifices of one kind or another. Like Gowans and Kent, many people have given their lives in gospel service.

2. Dependence on God through prayer

Our people always look for God's leading. They put the gospel ahead

of institutional self-interest. Our tagline is 'By Prayer' and we seek to live up to it. Prayer is foundational.

3. Gospel and all its power

We both proclaim the gospel and take action. Malcolm said: "The greatest human need is for people to know God but facing a daily struggle to put food on the table can prevent that message getting through. It is absolutely vital that we both proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and take action to support those who are struggling."

4. Central role of the church

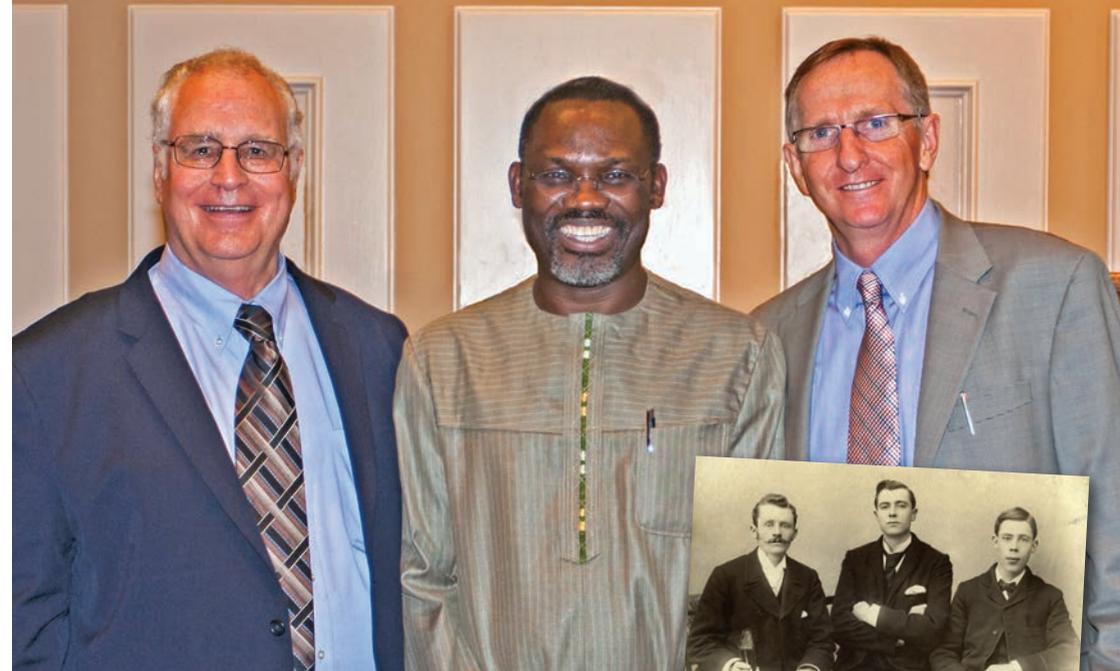
We want to see Bible-believing churches planted, equipped and growing. It's through the church that missionaries are sent and that new believers are disciplined.

5. Leadership Development

We invest in this because we know effective organisations need good leaders. We have also focused on doing leadership transitions well, because they can often cause great difficulty in organisations.

6. International and Global

We didn't start out very international — Gowans and Bingham were Canadian and Kent an American — but we are now very diverse indeed. We build multi-cultural, multi-ethnic



teams at every level. Malcolm said: "When I became International Director in 2003, my leadership team was made up of Americans, Brits and Australians. They were all tremendous people of God who graciously agreed to step aside to allow younger people from other cultures to come in. We are now much more diverse, with people from many cultures in leadership."

7. Theological convictions

At a time of significant theological drift, SIM is solid on affirming Biblical truth. As we wrestle with the issues, we welcome people from many denominations and church backgrounds who are united by Biblical convictions.

8. Kingdom Mindset

We put the vision and mission of God first. We long to turn over ministries to local control and seek to do so as quickly as possible. We want churches to become viable

quickly, rather than being constantly by others.

9. Firm Financial Policies

This is dry but vital. We must be prudent, accountable and transparent. We haven't earned the money people give us; they entrust us with it to spend wisely for God's purposes. SIM has robust policies.

10. Open to Change

We want to be like the men of Issachar (1 Chronicles 12:32), who joined David and 'understood the times and knew what Israel should do'. We have an openness to God's spirit and look to fulfil his good purposes, even if that means changing the way we do things. This is epitomised by the fact that we are now led by a Nigerian, Joshua Bogunjoko, whose family first heard the gospel through the work of SIM missionaries and is the first non-Westerner to lead SIM.

Top: Jim Plueddemann, Joshua Bogunjoko and Malcolm McGregor - SIM's last three international directors

Above: SIM's three founders, Walter Gowans, Thomas Kent and Rowland Bingham

Want to serve with SIM? See pages 22-23

Jos street boys are coming to Christ

Immerse intern Claire helps launch pioneering new ministry

By Tim Allan



Mohammadu's story

Mohammadu was one of the first street boys to come into the Gidan Bege orphanage.

Aged about 10 or 11, he attended very regularly and was different to many of the boys, in that he really listened to the Bible stories and took them in. One week a leader called Yusuf gave a talk on forgiveness. Afterwards, Mohammadu asked Yusuf if he could find out more about Jesus; he wanted to know Jesus. Yusuf said he should come back at a different time, outside of the sessions. Yusuf wanted to be sure Mohammadu's desire was genuine and not just a way to gain favour. Wonderfully, Mohammadu did come back and Yusuf has started discipling him. Mohammadu has started walking with Christ and is eager to know more. He has been taken off the streets and is living in the orphanage, all the while growing in his love of the Lord.

Hungry and neglected street boys in Jos are being given the gospel in a pioneering new ministry.

The Gidan Bege orphanage, part of Serving In Mission project City Ministries, is reaching out to them by offering some of the most basic care imaginable.

Claire McKeown (above right with some of the street boys), has just returned from Jos after spending nine months in the region on our Immerse mission intern programme. She explained: "The orphanage had been offering the boys food but wanted to do more than that. "So they decided to open up a room in the orphanage so that the boys could come in for two hours a week, take

a shower, get a haircut, get their nails cut, be taught how to brush their teeth and also get some food.

"As part of the programme, they would also be told a short Bible story and encouraged to think about who Christ is and how he could transform their lives.

"I was there the first week it started and we had about 20 boys. But as word spread and the ministry developed,

we started seeing more and more come in so there are now about 100 each week."

No one knows how many street boys — and it is almost exclusively boys — there are in Jos, which is the Plateau State capital. The city lies on the edge of the area in which Boko Haram has been active and there have been sporadic outbursts of violence over several years.

Some of the boys live in

large dormitories and are 'cared for' by a few adults. Very often, those adults will demand a share of whatever the boys can get during the day, whether that be food, drink or money from begging.

Very few of the boys have had any schooling and are highly vulnerable on the streets. They can be lured into all sorts of illegal activity and are prey to many temptations.

The boys who come into Gidan Bege are aged anything from 5–15 but, in truth, no one really knows how old they are, or even who they are. Few of them know when their birthday is, while many claim to be called a different name each week.

Claire said: "Some of them are worried about being

discovered going into a Christian orphanage so never tell you their real name, others just think it's fun to keep you guessing.

"But each week we sit them down, take care of their basic needs, and then show them a Bible-based DVD.

"Someone will then give a short talk, based on the DVD, and we might also give them some advice on personal hygiene."

At first, the boys' behaviour was terrible, mainly because so few of them had ever been to school that they simply had no idea how they were supposed to behave.

But, with a good deal of prayer and patience, their behaviour has improved to the

point where most now sit and listen to the talks.

Claire was one of two missionaries and six local staff involved and admits her battles with the Hausa language caused problems.

But even though she only had limited ability to communicate with the boys,

she had no doubt God was at work.

She said: "It was amazing to see him working through me, even with my very limited ability to speak to the boys.

"I taught them how to do a high five and some of the English alphabet — I tried to show them God's love in action. It truly has been a life-changing experience for me and I really loved those boys."

Want to serve in West Africa?
See pages 22-23

Please pray

- That the street boys would keep coming to the sessions and be impacted by the Bible teaching.
- That Gidan Bege is able to sustain the ministry despite the many financial challenges and other demands.
- That more mission workers would be raised up, both in Nigeria and from overseas, willing to serve in Jos.

Sally is sharing Christ as she teaches English

By Tim Allan

More and more people are desperate to learn English and that is opening up gospel opportunities around the world.

Nowhere is that more true than in central Asia, where millions of young people are learning English at universities and being taught by Christians.

Sally originally went to the country as a mission worker, intending to learn the majority language and culture with a view to doing gospel outreach among students.

But after a slightly tricky start, she realised the best way she could stay long-term was to get a job in the country — and her ability to both speak and teach English was all-important.

She said: “My original plan was to spend 10 months learning the language and culture and then see where God was leading me.

“I didn’t find living in the country easy at first but as my language skills developed so it got easier and I really started to feel as though God wanted me to stay.

“I started looking for a job teaching English at a university and God led me to where I am now, teaching oral English to second-year students who want to become primary school English teachers.

“The work can be hard, because I’m dealing with classes of sometimes 30 students, but God is opening up opportunities for me to



PHOTO: MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION BIT.LY/CCLCAZ

share the gospel with people in amazing ways.

“For example, the students are very keen to learn about Western culture and our big celebrations, like Christmas and Easter.”

While most of her students, who are aged around 18 or 19, know who Father Christmas is, hardly any of them have heard of Jesus. And the idea of celebrating Easter is all but unknown in this part of Asia.

That offers Sally great scope to introduce the gospel into her teaching.

As she explains Christmas, she can do nothing else but to tell the story of Jesus’s birth and why it is so significant. And it is simply impossible to make any sense of Easter without explaining his death and resurrection.

Sally said: “Like most young people, my students

love weddings but have no idea why so many Western weddings are in churches. That gives me another chance to talk about Jesus.”

Sally also hosts smaller study groups, in which she offers students the chance to develop their language skills. She makes it clear that these extra-curricular groups are open to the whole class, but usually only a few students go along.

She said: “It’s in those small groups that I can start to build relationships and invite some of the students to my home for a meal, or to join me in some of the other things I might do at the weekend, like volunteering in an orphanage.

“By building relationships, doors are opened to explain more about why I do what I do and what has brought

me to their country. I can also introduce them to local believers so they can see the gospel is available to all.”

Sally has built connections with local believers and works alongside them in orphanages and with children in rural village schools.

She knows this is long-term ministry and that God will work through many people to bring people to him in Asia. But she is ready

for the long haul, committed to doing his work in a country she has grown to love.

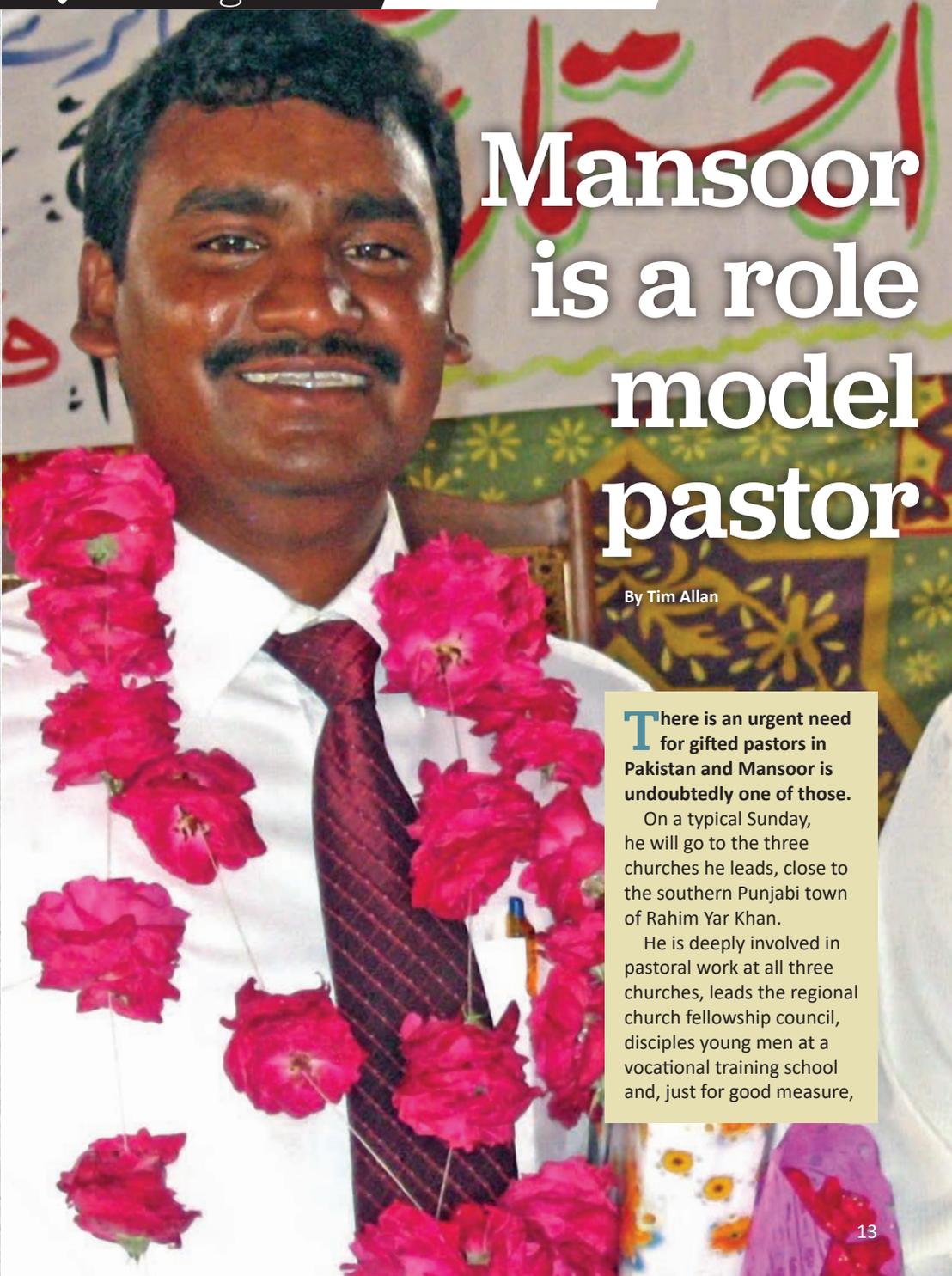
She would love to see more people coming from the West to share in the work of encouraging local believers and sharing Christ with those who don’t know him.

For more information about opportunities to serve go to sim.co.uk/opportunities.

Please pray

- For Sally to keep trusting in Christ and being a beacon for him in a place where so few have heard of him.
- For her students to be open to learning more about Christ so that one day they might be courageous enough to put their faith in him.
- For more Christian teachers of English to be raised up for the gospel work in Asia.

Want to serve in Central Asia?
See pages 22-23



Mansoor is a role model pastor

By Tim Allan

There is an urgent need for gifted pastors in Pakistan and Mansoor is undoubtedly one of those.

On a typical Sunday, he will go to the three churches he leads, close to the southern Punjabi town of Rahim Yar Khan.

He is deeply involved in pastoral work at all three churches, leads the regional church fellowship council, disciples young men at a vocational training school and, just for good measure,

Give thanks for the people we have been able to connect with at our 125th birthday celebrations in London, Glasgow and Manchester. We have five more events before Christmas.

Thank you for your prayers for our short-term teams this summer. Give thanks that one family and two individuals are now considering longer term service as a result!

We launched our SIMply Tea fundraising pack in September. Praise God for those who have signed up to hold tea parties. Pray these may increase awareness of gospel needs worldwide.

The digging of a well recently gave a mission worker in central Africa the opportunity to share the gospel message with 30 men. Praise God and pray that some of the men would seek to learn more about their saviour, Jesus Christ.

answers to prayer

Twelve new believers in Asia have been baptised recently. Pray for more workers willing to invest in the long-term development of house church leaders in this region, many of whom are first generation Christians and eager to learn.

Since the #HowWillTheyHear campaign was launched a year ago, one team, two couples and two women have been sent from the UK to take the good news of Jesus Christ to refugees and migrants in Greece, Germany and Italy!

Give thanks for the Pastors' Bookset Conference which took place in Namibia earlier this year. Praise God that many have a heart to reach young people and pray as further seminars are delivered this month to help with this ministry.

Praise God that donations from listeners to Mosoj Chaski, the Bible-based radio station which broadcasts to isolated communities in the Andean mountains, have saved it from closure. Pray many more will be encouraged in their faith through this ministry.

The summer programme at Mekelle Youth Centre, Ethiopia welcomed 75 children, 75 per cent of whom opted to stay for the Bible club. Pray that seeds planted would root and grow in a place where so few people know Jesus Christ.

As Christmas approaches, we look forward to celebrating the gift of Immanuel, Christ with us. Give thanks for all those who have accepted his precious gift this year, and pray that many more will do so in the coming years as more mission workers are sent from the UK.

also runs a school connected to one of his churches.

His journey from farmer's son to Christian pastor is testament to the work of God and to the wisdom of many mission workers who have helped him along the way.

Serving In Mission's Clive Barker, who knows Mansoor well, said: "In many ways, he is a model for the way in which we are trying to help the Pakistani church grow, both in numbers and in spiritual maturity.

"He comes from a nominally Christian background but was identified by his church and family as being a potential pastor at an early age.

"He had been through basic schooling and when he was in his early 20s he went to the Zaraphadh Bible School in Islamabad to study on a three-year diploma course.

"When he graduated, he might have wanted to stay up in the big city but his family encouraged him to come back to Rahim Yar Khan and we're delighted he did."

Pastor Mansoor was

ordained in 2010 and his ministry has grown and grown since then.

He started by being sent to work in small, rural villages — not the most glamorous of postings but one the Pakistani church saw as vital.

He was well placed to do the work because his family had by then moved into the city, so he had a central base from which to travel out.

Since then, he has developed his leadership skills and is now a key figure in the local Pakistani church. He is also blessed by the fact that his wife is a nurse, who earns a salary large enough to free him from the need to get full support from his churches.

Clive said: "Pastor Mansoor is very open to receiving help from missionaries and to learning from them. He very much leads the work but is happy for us to be involved.

"As a leader of the wider fellowship, he's encouraged us to carry on with our leadership training programmes for pastors.

"We bring pastors together



Pastor Mansoor leads a Bible study at a tailoring class

Please pray

• For more pastors like Mansoor to be raised up in Pakistan and that they can be equipped, discipled and trained well.

• For Christians in Pakistan to feel part of God's global church, even though they live in a country in which they are a minority.

• For God to call more mission workers to serve in places like Pakistan, where so few people know Jesus.



from all over the area and from different ethnic groups to study together, enjoy fellowship together and to share their problems. We encourage them to pray together and for each other.

"The local church leaders, including Mansoor, will usually tell us what sort of training they think their pastors need and then together we work out a programme.

"We try to deliver the training over two days and

sometimes they can even bring their wives and families."

This work is even more remarkable because there are huge barriers between the pastors' ethnic groups — the Punjabi, the Marwari and the Mengwal. Traditionally, people from those groups would barely speak to each other, so the fact that the pastors are meeting together is a huge testament to the power of the gospel.

Mansoor's aim is to grow his

churches, both in numbers and in the spiritual understanding of their members.

He is now playing a key role in a church plant in a city five hours to the north of his home, where there are few evangelical churches. He leads several Bible studies a week and also disciples young men who are learning motorcycle maintenance and tailoring skills on courses run through

an SIM project. All that is in addition to pastoring his three congregations, one of which is more than 100 strong, preaching and leading the local church network.

He is truly gifted but the challenge for mission workers in Pakistan is to equip and disciple more pastors. As they are taught, so the kingdom of God will grow in a land where few people know who Jesus is.

Want to serve with SIM? See pages 22-23

Mama Panket is cooking for Christ

Grandmother feeds Parakou schoolkids with pancakes and the gospel

By Tim Allan

A remarkable grandmother is doing amazing gospel work among children in the Benin capital of Parakou.

Mama Panket (right), as she is known to all the local children because of the homemade pancakes she sells in the market, is tirelessly devoted to running a series of kids' clubs.

Emily Kirkpatrick (below right, with Mama) has just returned from nine months in Benin on Serving In Mission's Immerse programme and said: "Mama is amazing and it was a joy to work with her. She has such a heart for the children and just loves telling them about Jesus.

"She says she's an 'old woman' but I guess she's in her early 50s. She was a great inspiration because she just wants to share the love of Jesus with everyone she meets — and especially the children."

Mama Panket lives on her



own in a small, two-room mud-brick house in Parakou. She has just a table, two chairs, a bed and a cooker.

Her father worked for missionaries in Benin and she has been a Christian most of her life.

She gave birth to three children, but one died at a young age and the other two are now adults and have their own homes and children. To the outsider, her life looks like a constant battle to make ends

meet. In sometimes searing 35°C heat, she cleans the SIM Benin offices three days a week and also cooks and sells her delicious pancakes.

But still she finds the time and energy to run three separate kids' clubs, one of which can sometimes have 100 youngsters aged from

5-14 running around the SIM compound.

Emily said: "When that big kids' club is on, she goes down



to the schools at home time and encourages the children to come along.

"The format is usually an hour of play, then a drink and pancakes, followed by a Bible talk. The kids, most of whom come from Muslim families, listen intently. She always asks if they can remember last week's talk and, maybe because it is an oral culture, they often can.

"One child, who spoke barely any French, heard a Bible story in French one week and then recounted it almost word for word in the local Bariba language the next.

"In such an oral culture, it's a great way to check that the stories are being listened

Please pray

- Give thanks for Mama Panket's passionate commitment to Christ and to the children she serves.
- For more Christian workers to be raised up willing to serve in Francophone West Africa.
- For the children who come to the kids' clubs to grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus.

to and understood, so there's no doubt that God's word is spreading in Benin."

Mama Panket currently has help from one mission worker but, in the past, has run all the clubs single-handedly. Her passion for the gospel and her trust in Jesus keep her going.

As she says: "God has given me a great heart for children. He sustained me through the

loss of my own child and now these children give me such joy. I want the children to focus on Jesus and to see what Jesus has done for them."

That simple gospel conviction sums her up and encapsulates SIM's core purpose — telling people who have never heard of Jesus who he is.

Want to serve in West Africa? See pages 22-23



How your prayers are saving lives

By Linda Hunt

I am constantly reminded of the power of our almighty God and how he hears and responds to all our prayers.

As Serving In Mission's Prayer Coordinator, it's my privilege to read through the prayer letters of our missionaries but they don't always make easy reading.

Sometimes there are stories of hardship, difficulty and spiritual battle but the letters that bring me great joy are those which show clearly answered prayer.

Here's a fantastic example from one of our colleagues in the USA:

Jon Banke met a Christian group in Niger on their way to minister alongside a group of Tuareg believers in a small Tuareg village. They invited him to join them. Although he doesn't speak Tuareg, Jon agreed to go. The team encountered a Fulani man there and Jon was the only one on the team who could communicate with him.

Jon said: "This man and I were getting to know one another. Then suddenly, I felt the Holy Spirit say to me: 'Ask him if he wants to hear the good news.' I was



hesitant. In fact, I was really nervous. I sort of argued with God — this wasn't the best setting, surely there was a better plan. The Holy Spirit persisted: 'Now!' So I asked...and the man said: 'Yes'."

Later, Jon learned what was happening behind the scenes. The Bankes' supporting church maintains a calendar, praying on different days of the week for different missionaries. On the day he was speaking with the Fulani man, Jon was the one on the prayer list. What's more, he learned a group had met to pray for

him that Saturday at 9am. "Allowing for the time difference," said Jon, "they were praying for me at the very moment I felt led to ask him: 'Do you want to hear the good news?'"

Stories like these keep our team rejoicing and encourage us to pray on. If you would like to pray and praise with us, you can sign up for our weekly prayer email at www.sim.co.uk/SIMpray

If you'd like to join a team of prayer warriors near you, supporting the work of those on the mission field, please contact Serving In Mission (kevin@sim.co.uk) and we will connect you with a group.



Why business is good for mission



What image springs into your mind when you hear the word 'missionary'?

Perhaps it's an elderly person, a nurse or teacher by training, devoting their life to serving a community and seeing people come to know Jesus. Maybe it's a Bible teacher, training others in understanding Scripture.

Rarely does the image of a business person come to mind.

And yet...

Did you know there are more than 50 countries in the world which no longer grant visas for missionaries, but are actively looking for those with business qualifications to come and trade, train and coach?

The creation of sustainable jobs is one of the world's greatest needs, giving us tangible ways of loving our neighbours whilst building authentic relationships in which to share Christ.

Serving in Mission's partner ministry, Mission through Business (MtB), has just run an event at which the speakers included:

- a fisheries expert passionate

to see churches being planted amongst unreached communities in SE Asia

- a trader into central Asia who is heavily involved in the distribution of Biblical literature
- an IT CEO based in east London who disciples vulnerable and diverse people through apprenticeships.

SIM now has more than 70 workers owning and running missional businesses, aiming to build bridges into communities who know nothing of Jesus and make disciples.

Could it be you are in business, and never thought you could be on the front lines of God's disciple-making mission?

Maybe you know someone who is being

prompted to look at the next step in his or her life. If so, email us (info@missionthroughbusiness.org), or go to www.missionthroughbusiness.org. There's more and more training available here in the UK and we'd love to connect you with others and talk through how God could use you.

There are more than 50 countries in the world which no longer grant visas for missionaries

 **mission through business**
 Opportunities now available:
Management accountants
Entrepreneurs
Agri-business experts
Trades-people

Want to serve through business?
See pages 22-23

Pioneering pastors are trained and equipped at Guescheme

By Tim Allan

A tiny Bible school in a remote part of Niger is having a profound impact for the gospel.

Guescheme Bible School has just two classrooms and one small staff room. The nearest paved road is 20 miles away.

There is a single accommodation block for four families — the other students have to build their own houses — and a small chapel, which doubles as a second classroom. The staff — one couple and three single

men — are rarely, if ever, paid. The students, almost all of whom come from subsistence farming households, are meant to pay fees but few do.

That the Bible school exists at all is testimony to the enduring work of missionaries and the local evangelical church. Together, they have created an institution which is turning out trained evangelists and pastors, who are confident in handling the word of God and explaining it to others.

Jonathan Burt, a Serving

In Mission worker who has been in Niger with his wife Elaine since the 1980s and helps teach at the school, said: “These evangelists go out from the school and are prepared to live and work in very remote, rural communities. They are doing pioneering work among people who have never heard the gospel.

“There aren’t many Bible schools in Niger and the others tend to produce graduates who want to work in urban areas, where the standard of living is higher. Without our school, the rural population would not hear the gospel.”

The school has produced up to a dozen graduates a year but now might only have four or five. But however many

they produce, they are all well-equipped evangelists.

And each one goes out to work on his own, with just the support of his family, as he seeks to plant churches in places where there are, as yet, no Christian believers.

When the school first started in the 1990s, it only operated during the short Nigerien dry season, a time of year when there is less work to do on the land.

Back then, all the students had to build their own accommodation nearby, homes which were often little more than grass huts.

Today, the final year students live in the school accommodation — four two-room, single-storey dwellings.

Usually, the husband and wife sleep in one room, the children in the other.

There are plans to build another accommodation block but the school needs to raise funds. They were given enough by overseas supporters to put in the concrete slab floor, but are now looking to raise another £3,500 to build the walls and roof.

The school now offers a four-year course. First-year students come with their families and set up home nearby. They go home for the October harvest and again at Christmas but otherwise are in school full-time.

Jonathan said: “We

encourage the students to get other people to do their planting so they can keep studying, but they all go home for the harvest.

“The men usually bring their wives to school with them, so we also teach them the basics of what their husbands are learning. It helps prepare them as couples for a life of ministry.”

The commitment and dedication of students and staff at Guescheme is clear evidence of God’s enduring grace and his love for the people of Niger.

The school may have almost nothing in terms of worldly resources, but it is rich in God’s resources and its gospel impact will continue for years to come through the pastors and evangelists it is producing.



Jonathan Burt with students (left), their houses (top) and a graduation class (below)



Want to serve in Africa?
See pages 22-23

Please pray

- For more Bible teachers to be raised up willing to serve in remote locations like Guescheme.
- That the graduates from Guescheme will plant churches in places where no one has heard of Christ.
- For God’s resources to be used wisely and for his glory through the work at Guescheme.



Member Care Worker South Asia, two years plus

The team is looking for someone with a servant heart, whose major concern would be to care for the field mission workers, being a listening ear and counsellor, helping them serve stronger and longer.

Midwife Nigeria, one to two years

You would use your midwifery skills to train national staff in modern methods of maternal health and improve standards of care. This is a new role in the north of Nigeria in a predominantly Muslim area.



Café manager

Greece, one year plus
Could you run a daily coffee house ministry for refugees? Use your skills to coordinate volunteers, organise artistic venues and ensure those who attend the many evangelistic events are followed up.



Church planter Peru, two years plus

God is on the move in the Cotahuasi Canyon of Peru, but there are still remote villages that remain unreached with the gospel. Could you disciple new Christians, identifying potential leaders and establish new churches in those places?

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



ESL Teacher Middle East, one to two years

Teach English to local adults at night and learn Arabic yourself during the day. A fantastic opportunity to learn more about a complex culture and build deep relationships for the gospel.



Photo journalist Central and SE Asia, negotiable

Using your skills in photography, could you tell the story of people, ministries and projects in Asia? Your work would be used to mobilise prayer, people and finance for central and south east Asia.

Intercultural worker Germany, two plus years

Working alongside the church, you will reach out to refugees and migrants, many of whom come from countries which are closed to the gospel message. Arabic, Farsi or Dari language skills are useful but not essential.



Builder South Sudan, one to two years

You would help rebuild South Sudan's infrastructure, which has been destroyed by years of civil war. Working alongside South Sudanese nationals, you will build relationships with them and share your faith in Jesus Christ.



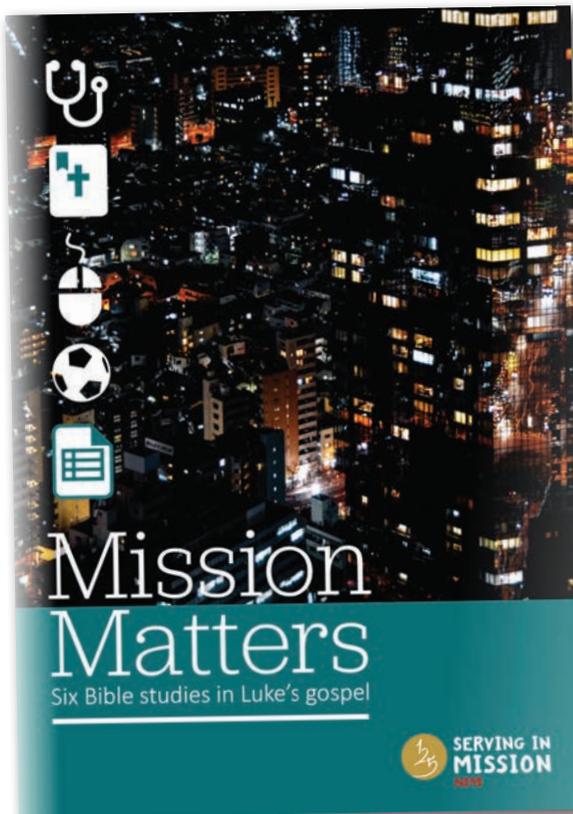
We can help equip your church for mission

We've got a bank of free resources to help equip your church to engage in God's global mission.

We've highlighted three here, but we also produce monthly prayer powerpoints on specific countries, a weekly prayer email

and monthly prayer points which are distributed by post.

For more information about any of our resources, or to sign up to receive them, please email SIM UK's Communications Manager, Tim Allan (tim@sim.co.uk).



Mission Matters Bible studies

This is a series of six Bible studies in Luke's gospel, designed to help people gain a better understanding of God's global mission.

They are intended for use in small groups, or by individuals. Written by SIM UK's Director, Steve Smith, they are easy to use and contain helpful leaders' notes to ensure all the key points are covered.

We will happily send out single copies for free, but if churches wish to use them for all their home groups then we would ask for a donation of £1 a copy to cover costs on orders of 10 or more.

To get your free trial copy, or if you have any further questions, just email SIM UK's Communications Manager Tim Allan (tim@sim.co.uk).

2019 SIM Prayer Guide

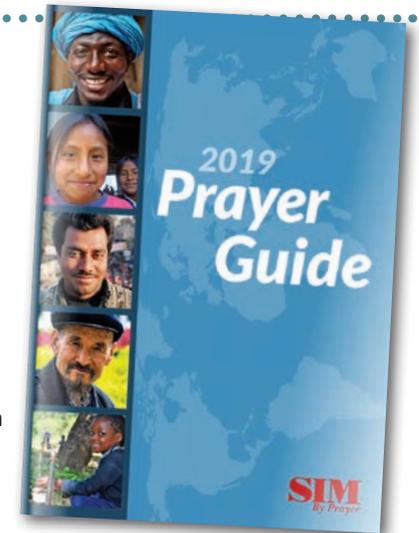
Our new annual prayer guide has just been published and gives you day-by-day information to fuel your prayers for global mission.

The 242-page guide contains details of almost all the countries we work in, the ministries we are involved with and the people groups we are praying for.

There are prayer points for every country and the information is organised in such a way that you will be able to pray for different countries on every day of the month.

The guide used to be very restricted in circulation because it contained names of mission workers in secure countries. But we have decided to remove all mission workers' names so that the guide can be distributed and used widely — we want to see more and more prayer for our work!

The guide is free but we would ask for a £5 donation to cover post and packing if you'd like us to send you one.



God on Mission Sunday school lessons

There are four complete sets of Sunday school lessons free to download from our website at sim.co.uk/Godonmission.

We have worked with our friends at Mustard Seeds to produce the resources, which come complete with all the craft and other ideas you need to lead compelling lessons.

All the material is free to download and will give you a great understanding of just how good the Mustard Seeds material is.

God's teaching on mission is clearly and faithfully communicated. We very much hope you will use the materials to help inspire a new generation of mission workers from your church.

If you have any questions please email SIM UK's Communications Manager Tim Allan (tim@sim.co.uk).



Meet new workers

Emily Henry

Church: Larne Baptist.
Where will you be serving? Jos, Nigeria.
What will you be doing? Initial vision trip to discern future ministry focus.



Pray: For wisdom in how to get involved in ministry and for protection spiritually as I go through this process.

Tricia Barrow

Church: St Marks, Gillingham.
Where will you be serving? As part of the SIM UK team.



What will you be doing? Health Coordinator.

Pray: That I will balance my time well as I get to grips with the role and understand it better.

Chloe Blainey

Church: Eden Baptist, Cambridge.
Where will you be serving? In the SIM UK office.
What will you be doing? I am Executive Assistant to the Director, Steve Smith.



Pray: That as I settle into SIM I would develop good relationships with the SIM family worldwide. Pray too that I am able to focus on serving God in my administration, seeking to follow his will.

Pete & Katy Myers Josiah, Seth and Levi

Church: Christ Church, Cambridge.
Where will you be serving? Burundi.



What will you be doing? Pete will teach Old Testament and Hebrew. Katy will have a ministry outside the home, probably in a library or a soup kitchen.

Pray: That the Lord will provide all we need to leave in January, 2019, confirm our ministries and help Pete complete his PhD. Pray the boys will transition well.

Pauline Stammers, who served as a missionary in the Middle East from the 1930s to the 1970s, has died aged 106.

Her heart for the Middle East was stirred by a preacher she heard during a Scripture Union meeting in 1928.

From that childhood inspiration, she later joined the British Syrian Mission, which then became MECO — the mission agency which merged with SIM in 2016.

She served as a teacher in Syria, Lebanon and Cyprus, working with the Druze community and then teaching Arabic to new mission workers.

In an interview in 2016, she said: “In



Obituary: Pauline Stammers

Damascus, I taught at St Paul’s School, which was in the old Christian quarter of the city just off Straight Street, where the apostle Paul once stayed.

“It was all so easy back then — we had complete freedom to share the gospel and talk about Jesus.”

Pauline died a few days after her 106th birthday at her home in Suffolk. Her funeral was at All Saints Church, Kenton on October 2, but there will be a memorial service on Saturday, November 17 at 1.30pm at Rishangles Baptist Chapel, IP23 7JZ. Only family flowers, gifts for SIM, Torch Trust and CHIPS.

Sign up today for your SIMply Tea pack



We launched our SIMply Tea fundraising initiative in the only possible way — with our very own SIMply Tea party.

We welcomed some of our former mission workers, supporters and staff to our Suffolk headquarters at Wetheringsett Manor and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of tea, cake and scones last month.

Everyone who came had the opportunity to take a SIMply Tea fundraising pack, which has everything you need to put on your own tea party.

The idea is that you invite friends over, share tea and cake and together learn more about Serving In Mission’s global gospel work.

The pack contains a poster, invitations, bunting, a money box and a useful checklist to make sure you’re fully prepared.

There’s also a memory stick with videos of our work, which you can

show either at your SIMply Tea party or your church. We want to help more people understand the huge global need for Jesus, especially among those communities where he is least known.

We also want to raise funds to help us send more workers to places where people are living and dying without ever hearing the gospel.

As you talk about global mission over tea, we hope more and more people will be inspired to pray for our work, to support our work financially and even to become mission workers themselves.

To order your free fundraising pack, simply email me (amelia@sim.co.uk) and ask for one.

By Amelia Catling





Give a
gospel gift
this
Christmas

Change lives around
the world
with your giving

sim.co.uk/gifts



SERVING IN
MISSION
SIM



CELEBRATION

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 evening 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.

Belfast November 2, Strandtown Baptist, Belfast. 7.30pm.

Birmingham November 20, St Stephen's, Selly Park. 7.00pm.

Bristol November 21, The Elmgrove Centre. 7.00pm.

Southampton November 22, Portswood Church. 7.00pm.

Cardiff November 28, Grangetown Baptist. 7.00pm.

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



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