

# Serving Him

**SIM**  
Serving In Mission UK

Summer 2021

Kara takes  
the light of  
the world  
to Ghana

P10



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



# Good news for everyone

## We've moved!

As lockdown began to ease, our central offices moved to a new location.

Our new address:

**6 Trust Court  
Histon  
Cambridge  
CB24 9PW**

Contact  
**enquiries@sim.co.uk**  
or call  
**01223 788288**



Please join us in thanking God for our new offices and pray that we may be good stewards of it for the service of mission, both here in the UK and across the globe.

**SIM**  
Serving In Mission UK

Please no visitors yet, as renovations are underway!

**R**ecently, I sat with 80 Arab-speaking Christians serving across Europe and the Middle East, who had signed up to our **HowWillTheyHear** new Mission Academy. (Read more on Page 6)

It was so encouraging to witness first-hand the way God's Spirit is at work through these believers to reach, build, and send a new generation of disciples rooted in the Scriptures.

The New Testament records how God's Spirit worked through the people he set apart, to spread the good news of the crucified and risen Jesus and to gather believers into Christ-centred churches.

Pioneering mission flows from the commission of Jesus Christ, who empowers his people to spread the Word and proclaim God's mighty works – driven by the same truth Peter preached in that

first Christian message at Pentecost: 'For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved.' (Acts 2)

This is why I'm convinced that no one should live and die without hearing about Jesus – along with all our contributors who wrote articles for this issue and the faithful witnesses featured, who face all kinds of hardships and make personal sacrifices to follow Jesus.

As I write, we're looking forward to churches emerging from the pandemic and I'm also delighted to announce that SIM UK now has a new permanent base in Cambridge (see panel left) to meet the needs of mission in the 21st Century.

We pray the significant benefits of our new base will

enable us to continue serving churches that seek to cross barriers with the gospel and to make disciples amongst communities where Christ is least known and the church least resourced.

We look forward to welcoming you to our new SIM UK home (once the renovations have finished) and getting to work in creative ways with all our partners in the months and years to come.



God bless you.

**Steve Smith**  
UK Director

**P.S. I'd love you to sign up for our weekly prayer email, SIMpray. Just go to [sim.co.uk/simpray](http://sim.co.uk/simpray) or email [linda@sim.co.uk](mailto:linda@sim.co.uk)**

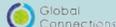
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member of **evangelical alliance**  **Global Connections**   
together making Jesus known

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# Where is Christ least known?

SIM focuses its ministry resources amongst communities where Christ is least known, but where are these communities? asks SIM UK Director Steve Smith.

**‘When can you send us a missionary?’ and ‘We’d like to get to know your Jesus – please could you come?’ are questions SIM’s teams of workers hear in places where there’s either no church, or it doesn’t have the resources to cross existing barriers with the gospel.**

The apostles reported the same dynamic when Greek speakers came to Philip and asked, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ (*John 12:20-26, see verse 21*)

Although they were from different backgrounds to the first disciples, they’d heard enough to want to know more

and in today’s world, there are still people waiting to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus with faith, hope and love.

SIM focuses its ministry resources amongst communities where Christ is least

**Today’s communities where Christ is least known can be found in cities where there is a strong gospel witness**

known – wherever there is no local church, no mission worker serving them, or little access to the Bible and gospel

ministry resources.

This is the case in rural Niger and also, in parts of Great Britain. In both settings, there are whole neighbourhoods of people where Christ is not known, or even named.

## Barriers

While past generations spoke of regions beyond missionary movement, today’s communities where Christ is least known can be found in cities where there is a strong gospel witness, just as much, for example, as in the rural communities of Mongolia.

That’s why we need a new generation of faithful witnesses to address the barriers yet

to be crossed in our diverse towns and cities – the sprawling suburbs, as well as the rural villages.

This will require churches and networks to break out of our current models of evangelism and church-planting and find new ways

**We need a new generation of faithful witnesses to address the barriers yet to be crossed**

of crossing cultural differences to reach people’s hearts and minds with the transforming truth of the gospel.

We need to give a compelling demonstration of the gospel through the way we relate together as believers and how we reach out in diverse societies. By 2050, 30 per cent of the UK population will be from ethnic minority backgrounds – up from 11 per cent in 2011.

In 2000, white worshippers were 87 per cent of churchgoers; then 73 per cent by 2020 and is expected to be 67 per cent by 2030, with believers from ethnic minority backgrounds representing 22 per cent.

Just as the apostle Paul taught the Corinthian church that they were ‘called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus

Christ, both their Lord and ours’ (*1 Cor 1:2*) we too in 21st Century Britain need to intentionally develop Christ-centred community that rejoices in the gospel taught by the apostles and pursues mutuality in the gospel that the apostles instructed. (*1 Cor 14:1-26*)

In his providence, God is providing his UK churches with believers from diverse background for the missionary task Christ has given his followers to work out mutually, with gospel unity in him.

The global scattering and gathering of south Asian Christians is a good example of this. We find communities of diaspora Christians from

**We need to give a compelling demonstration of the gospel through the way we relate together as believers**

India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Nepal active in their faith across the world, whilst those remaining in-country often face persecution.

## Future

Previous mission thinkers talked about degrees of cultural separation between the evangelist and the community in which they are working.

Today’s missional church must now address the intercultural task of showing and telling the gospel amongst increasingly diverse

**We in Britain need to intentionally develop Christ-centred community**

communities – amongst groups of people who have limited access to the gospel.

There are communities where the church is not reaching, and no missionary is serving, all over the globe. SIM UK exists to help churches send many more believers to work amongst these people worldwide.

Those communities are also right here in the UK – even though the background noise of the media can so easily drown out the voices of those who want to know more. The challenge to be faced in our own backyard cannot be underestimated and the global church wants to help.

Jesus taught that his people listen to his voice and follow him because they recognise his voice and that he has others he must bring into his gathered people. (*John 10:1-18*)

**The church has a future while we practise an obedience of faith that both takes Jesus at his word and takes his word to people waiting to hear.**

# New academy opens

By Peter Samir

A mission training school is preparing new believers in Europe for refugee ministry in their communities.

**W**ith more than seven million refugees in Europe, the HowWillThey Hear (HWTH) project has a passion to give people the skills they need to share the gospel with refugees living in their communities.



Peter Samir is a SIM UK mission worker serving with the HWTH project

The Mission and Leadership Academy for MBB (Muslim background believers) opened in February, with more than 80 registered Arabic and Farsi (Iranian background believers)

students – from eight European countries – signing up.

More joined in week two, including four men crowded

around a single mobile phone in a refugee camp on the Greek island of Samos.

Students meet online every

Saturday and again during the week, to reflect on the main study themes of the four-month course:

- Biblical dimensions of missionary work.
- Cultural and anthropological dimensions in European society.
- Challenges of the Christian faith in front of atheism and eastern religions.
- Tentmaking and the financial independence of the missionary.

The mission school is aimed at new believers, those who want to get involved in

missions among refugees, or those already serving refugees.

With great feedback from the students, we pray they will know

their calling and discover what the next step is for their lives.

Contact [peter@howwilltheyhear.net](mailto:peter@howwilltheyhear.net) to see how



HWTH can help your church raise leaders among new MBB believers.

## Please pray

**For the pastors, leaders and teachers** and those who are mentoring and supporting students in prayer.

**For each student** to use their training to reach more refugees and make more disciples by God's grace and power.

**This influx** of new potential mission workers will be a valuable resource to our local ministry partners seeking people to join them.



# Tomorrow's mission begins today



In her role as Innovation Manager, Chloe Blainey says there are many exciting and creative possibilities in how the good news can be shared by the 'next generation' of mission workers.



## 'next generation' appear?

For me, it is both the children of today, who will become tomorrow's adults; but also, the emerging world of technological, cultural and social developments that these young people immersed in a newly-digital world have created.

In SIM UK's strategic review, the question weaving its way through many threads of listening and research, has been: What does the next

**I wonder what you think of when the words**

generation of SIM UK look like? – both for the workers we send, but also the ways we equip, serve, and work with the UK church and mission members.

**Generation Z** (aka Gen Z) succeeds Millennials and refers to those born between 1995-2014. According to social scientists, Gen Z-ers are 'digital natives' and activists for development and improvement (as characterised by teen icons such as Greta Thunberg).

**Generation Alpha** follows on from Gen Z and refers to the first generation born entirely in the 21st Century.

Early trends show digital ease and world-changing attitudes in Generation Alpha are only set to continue as technology becomes increasingly part of everyday life – already a large proportion of seven-year-olds are able to code or use robotics.

When we match these attitudes and skills to the work of sharing the gospel, there are many exciting and creative possibilities of how the good news can be shared.

But we need to think how SIM UK will adapt to the rapidly-changing future, whilst remaining committed to its core purpose of sending

and receiving workers who make disciples.

- How can we use the gift of technology to mobilise and train digital natives?

- How can we use the passions for social justice or the environment, alongside the sharing of the good news?

We long to see children engaged with mission from an early age, praying for communities around the world, or imagining ways they would want to serve Christ when they grow up.

That's why in September 2020, we launched our monthly prayer resource SIMpray Kids in order to help the next generation pray effectively for gospel needs around the world.



Those born into Generation Alpha have never known a world without smartphones or social media

(Do sign up via our website, at [bit.ly/SIMpray Kids](https://bit.ly/SIMprayKids)).

Becoming a Christian at university after the gospel was shared with me by a fellow student whose family served in Nepal, helped mission awareness to be there from

my first days as a believer.

How grateful I am that God led me from there to have the privilege of thinking about how SIM can best envision the next cohort of workers and supporters!

But it's not just youth we see as the 'next generation'.

There are also those who have retired early – bringing a desire to use skills and

experience from diverse careers – as well as many other interpretations of 'next generation', based on diverse vocations or backgrounds.

SIM UK would love to see others enabled to be the next generation by the removal of any barriers that currently make them think mission isn't possible for them.

It's already an encouragement to see members of the next generations sent to SIM teams around the world, even during a time of pandemic.

However long they stay, may their experiences not only benefit the communities

## Please pray

**For the SIM UK** review team as it considers how best to recruit, train and prepare future mission workers.

**For God** to be causing the children and youth in the UK church to consider their part in the Great Commission.

**For our many** next generation workers already in service to be built up, developed, and used mightily for God's purposes.

they serve and make disciples in, but also equip and envision the next generation to mission support and service – just like the fellow student who shared the gospel with me.

**SIM UK's five-year plan – see Page 16.**

## Is God calling you to mission?

Why not contact enquiries [@sim.co.uk](mailto:@sim.co.uk) or call **01223 788288** to talk things through? Or turn to **Page 26** for a selection of current opportunities to serve with SIM.



Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. *Ephesians 3:20-21*

# Worth waiting for By Kerry Allan

Never during the past three years did Kara Baah stop trusting God would open doors for her to move to Africa and begin her ministry – in his perfect timing.



**D**espite travel restrictions and trying to raise support during a global pandemic, 27-year-old physiotherapist Kara Baah remained patient and faithful during a time of waiting to join the SIM team in Ghana.

“Seeing how God worked it out has really grown my trust as he journeyed with me and prepared me over the past three years,” she says.

When SIM UK had to hold its orientation for new workers online, Kara took it in her stride and saw it as a blessing.

“Meeting members of staff made me feel better connected to the organisation and I enjoyed learning about spiritual vitality and resilience as I waited to leave the UK,” she recalls.

“Throughout the months of uncertainty, I felt very supported and encouraged

by the church and by the prayers of my family, friends and SIM.”

Kara finally arrived in Ghana at the beginning of 2021 and although her new rural lifestyle is a far cry from bustling city life, she remains excited about pursuing her passion for cross-cultural mission during her two-year placement in community health ministry.

“My first three months will be spent learning the local language and I plan to go out every day to practise what I learn as I greet people and start a conversation with them,” she explains.



“I was asked to do a painting for the Therapy Wellbeing room at Barnet Hospital and above is what I created. It was a lovely way to worship God as his creation was slowly revealed on canvas. He’s an amazing God and I pray this painting will minister to patients as they see it.”

You can take a look at Kara’s work at [emergingartistplatform.com/karabaah](http://emergingartistplatform.com/karabaah) or on Instagram [@k.baah\\_creates](https://www.instagram.com/k.baah_creates)

“My first impressions of Tumu where I’m living, is that it’s larger than I expected and the goats and sheep look alike! I know it will be a challenge adjusting to the hot, dry climate that will impact my capacity to do things, as well as learning how to switch to a slower pace of life.

“However, I’m looking forward to meeting new people, making friendships and learning how to prepare local dishes. I’m also excited about understanding the culture more and joining in with what God is doing here.

“My work in community health education will combine my health background with

discipleship and I’m open to God using my fondness for youth work and creativity during my time in Ghana.”

Before leaving the UK, Kara worked as a physio-therapist on the Covid wards at Barnet Hospital (see above).

“God’s peace during my

time of support-raising was a great blessing and doing virtual Bible study with some of my oldest friends during lockdown helped me process some of my feelings during the hardest months and maintain a healthy and consistent relationship with God,” she recalls.

Art and poetry is also an important outlet for Kara, who is sent by St Barnabas Church, north London, and much of the self-taught contemporary visual artist’s work is coloured by her deep Jamaican and Ghanaian roots.

“When my plans were disrupted, a good friend encouraged me to use my passion for art as one way of raising some support and I found using my creative skills very liberating,” she reveals.

“Art is a great tool for whilst I have a very basic grip of the language and it can be used to bless others, as well as a way for me to process what God is showing me. There was never a doubt that my paints and sketch book would be coming with me to Ghana!”

## Please pray

**For Kara** to adjust and transition well as she joins the SIM Ghana team.

**That new relationships** will lead to good conversations and opportunities for Kara to share the gospel.

**For Kara** to be sensitive to how God wants to use her skills in Tumu; to bless his people and to draw them closer to him.



**THE LORD** has provided a new, permanent home for SIM UK in Cambridge; in an area steeped in Christian heritage.

**SIM UK** has already welcomed one couple and one family to the UK to serve alongside the UK church reaching out to multicultural communities this year.

**41 PASTORS** and children's workers from 19 churches across ten denominations in Ghana, attended the first training session for clubs designed to build spiritual foundations in the home.

**A NEW** radio broadcast teaching slot has been secured in west Africa to share 'The way of righteousness', the life and ministry of Jesus and Genesis with a little-reached people group.

**20,000** Kurdish-Arabic Scripture calendars have been distributed across the Middle East.

**DESPITE** closed borders, two new mission families and one long-term medic were granted special permission to serve at the Good News Hospital in Madagascar.

**SIM UK** welcomed six individuals and two families to our third online orientation course, preparing new workers for service overseas.

**GOD** is at work, drawing people to him in a community in central Africa, which two years ago, had no Christian witness. Doors are opening to neighbouring communities.

**SIM UK** ran its first inter-cultural mission training course for churches and Christian organisations and its first re-entry seminar helping workers resettling in the UK to transition well.

*Give thanks*

God has been at work throughout the global pandemic. You can watch a video of 12 months of pandemic praise here: <http://bit.ly/PandemicPraise>

**FOR THIS REASON, SINCE THE DAY WE HEARD ABOUT YOU, WE HAVE NOT STOPPED PRAYING FOR YOU.**

COLOSSIANS 1:9

# To all nations

**SIM**'s goal to cross barriers to share the gospel with communities where Christ is least known remains unchanged in a post-Covid world.

Through its **Faithful Witness** initiative, SIM brings together multicultural workers to share the good news of Jesus in difficult places – from the quickly-developing city, to the remote mountain village – wherever there is no church and very little Christian witness presence.

For more than 125 years, SIM has been responding to Christ's call to spread the Christian message to 'all nations' and everyone is invited to join in the Faithful Witness project – from praying, to giving or going.

Find out more at: [sim.co.uk/faithful-witnesses](http://sim.co.uk/faithful-witnesses)

## PRAY

SIM believes in the power of prayer and that without it, we can do nothing. Contact SIM UK to receive updates or a prayer guide.

## GIVE

God has blessed us with funding to launch this initiative, but we need additional financial assistance to support our Faithful Witness teams. Turn to Page 27 to donate, or go to the SIM UK website to buy a Faithful Witness alternative gift.

## GO

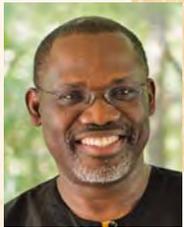
The Faithful Witness initiative already has 38 workers on board – 15 already in place and 23 due to start. However, we are looking for more workers to join these pioneering teams. If God is calling you, or you would like to know more, contact [global.faithfulwitness@sim.org](mailto:global.faithfulwitness@sim.org) to be connected with a mobiliser.

**Page 14:** SIM International Director Joshua Bogunjoko explains why he has a heart for SIM's Faithful Witness initiative. >>

## FAITHFUL WITNESS TEAMS ARE DEVELOPING IN THESE 8 LOCATIONS



**FAITHFUL WITNESS**  
IN FORGOTTEN COMMUNITIES



# To be a Faithful Witness

SIM International Director Joshua Bogunjoko grew up in a village that was once a least-reached community and explains why today he has a heart for SIM's Faithful Witness initiative.

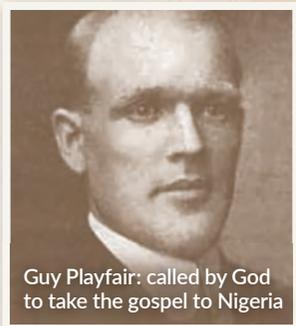
**I** come from Nigeria and many years ago, we were the communities where Christ was least known.

In 1911, Guy Playfair (below), a champion athlete from Canada, decided to take the gospel to Nigeria, instead of competing in the Olympics.

In 1913, he walked into my village and shared the good news of Jesus with us.

At that time, my village was known as a place of occult practices and folk Islam. My own family were Muslims and worshipped idols and I grew up in a home where you could still see the idols around. But God blessed this work and brought my family to salvation.

Crossing barriers to communities where Christ is least known has been the DNA of SIM from the beginning. It is who we are;



Guy Playfair: called by God to take the gospel to Nigeria

it is how we're made; and who we're made of.

We are committed to places where Jesus is not yet known. That was the experience of my community and that is my heart today and the heart of all those who serve in SIM.

Playfair had responded to Jesus' command to be his witnesses – even to the remotest part of the earth (Acts 1:8) and a few years later, God called out to a teacher called Elizabeth Webb, also from Canada, who came to Igbaja in Nigeria and it was there, God used her to disciple me when I came to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ while in high school.

God raised them up to bring the good news of Christ to my community – the people who were living in darkness at that time.

My wife Joanna and I responded to God's call to go to communities where Christ was least known and we praise God for the privilege of serving the people of Niger over an 11-year period.

Today, Niger is still a country where Christ is least known and there are many more around the world.

That's why we talk about

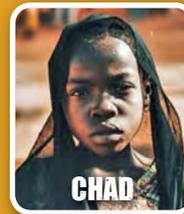
'faithful witnesses' in places where Christ is least known. They are the forgotten communities. Seventy per cent of the world's mission workers are in places where there are many churches and believers and only three per cent are in places where there is no gospel witness; no churches and no believers.

SIM believes it's important to respond to the call of Jesus to be witnesses to him to the ends of the earth and if you want to really honour Jesus and obey his command; Where will you want the next mission worker to go and where will you go?

**SIM's desire is for our teams to build trust and lasting relationships as faithful witnesses in places where there is no gospel; no believers and no mission workers.**

**We pray people will get involved by:**

- Praying for a least-reached community and team.
- Sharing with their church or community.
- Supporting a Faithful Witness worker.
- Serving on a Faithful Witness team.



CHAD

The team in **Chad** has been welcomed into a new village of nomadic people, who have recently settled. Pray for protection and perseverance for Christians in this area experiencing persecution for their commitment to follow Christ.



EAST ASIA

For more than 100 years, workers have been ministering among this people group in **East Asia** to share the gospel, but have often faced persecution. Pray God will raise up pioneering workers who are patient and persevering.



MALI

A small number of Hassaniya believers are keen to partner with our team in **Mali** to reach out to this community. Pray for a transformation of the Kayes region and for peace and stability in the country.



MIDDLE EAST

A team is forming to work alongside a SIM worker, who has been serving alone in this **Middle East** region for more than 20 years. Pray workers will prepare well in this sensitive context and be able to use their professional skills to serve this neglected community.



NIGERIA

The majority of Christians in **Nigeria** live in the south, so we are partnering with two SIM churches (planted back

in the 1950s) to send people to the north and work among the nomadic Fulani people. The first five families to join include 12 children. Pray they settle well and adjust to new locations, schools, cultures and foods.



NORTH AFRICA

Our team in **north Africa** will be made up of French-speaking African pastors, who are able to be in this particular country under a visa. Pray for workers building support teams in partnership with their sending churches and praise God for the success of campus work with international Christians studying here.



ASIA

10 more workers are needed to join the team in **Asia**, where the team leader is already in place. Workers will focus on developing missional business strategy and building bridges into the community. Praise God for opportunities to connect with a local Bible college in this region.



THAILAND

The team in **Thailand** will focus on sports, community health education and English language learning ministries, through doors that God has already opened in other areas of the country. Pray workers will quickly build relationships of trust with the community.



**FAITHFUL WITNESS**  
IN FORGOTTEN COMMUNITIES

Find out more: [sim.co.uk/faithful-witnesses](http://sim.co.uk/faithful-witnesses)

# The bigger picture

Whilst our vision is remaining the same, our strategic review considers how we respond to a changing world and stay well-placed to serve the church in its mission to the nations.

Over the past five years, we've been excited to see how God has enabled us to fulfil our vision to work hand in hand with churches to send and receive gospel workers who make disciples in communities where

Christ is least known.

"In 2019, we began to start seeking from God what he'd have us do in the next five years – not realising the world was

about to change as dramatically as it did in 2020!" explains SIM UK's Personnel Director Deborah Agnes.

"In many ways, Covid-19 has only emphasised the gospel needs of the billions who are living and dying

without Christ around the world. It's also opened all our eyes to the opportunities – and limitations – of a world that's digitally connected.

"Our strategic review has been focusing on how we identify, recruit, equip and send the next generation of gospel workers into communities where Christ is least known.

"It's proved a timely exercise and we look forward to sharing where it is taking us later this year," adds Deborah.

## Please pray with SIM UK for:

**Wisdom and focus**, yet openness to opportunities.

**Relationships** that allow us to understand and serve a wide variety of mission-hearted evangelical churches in the UK.

**The people and resources** we need.

**Covid-19 has only emphasised the gospel needs of the billions who are living and dying without Christ.**

# Your gifts can make a difference

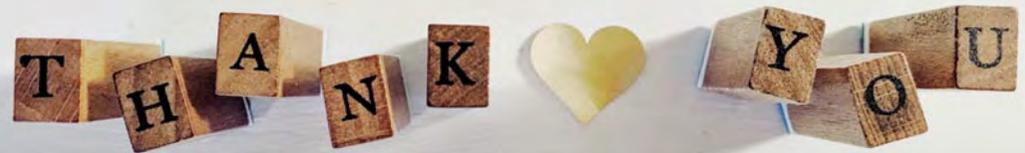
Whether you decide to make a one-off gift or a monthly donation, thank you! Together, we are the voice and hands of Jesus to those who don't yet know him.

Our **GIVING WEEKS** aim to raise money and awareness for **FOUR KEY AREAS** of world mission with SIM UK:

- Sending and training mission workers.
- Mobilising and resourcing churches for cross-cultural ministry.
- Supporting existing ministries worldwide.
- Partnering with churches and organisations.

Whether it's sharing our stories on social media or with your churches and helping us to spread the word, or choosing to make a gift to global mission, your support will make a big difference.

Joanne Cornish  
SIM UK Relationship Development Lead



A huge thank-you to everyone who contributed to the first Giving Week at the end of March. We raised more than £32,000 which will make a real difference to our ability to equip and support our workers.

We hope you'll decide to get involved in the next two

**GIVING WEEKS**

APRIL 26 – MAY 2

MAY 24 – 30



SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS

# A divine appointment

Respected and experienced missiologist Ram Strestha decided to leave a fruitful ministry in south Asia to serve in Rochdale as part of SIM UK's Engage programme.



## How did you become an Engage worker?

In 2018, I attended the SIM General Assembly in South Africa and met SIM UK Director Steve Smith, who told me about Engage, saying: 'We need people like you, who could come to the UK to serve alongside the churches to plant churches by reaching out to diverse people groups.'

The Engage programme extends partnership with the local church and places candidate as per their needs. My heart was so thrilled with this news, as I'd been praying to God to serve as a mission worker for more than 10 years.

I felt God's call in my life could be fulfilled through the

Engage strategy to bring gospel workers from the majority world to serve the diverse people groups growing in the UK.

It so happened that all the team members of EA SIM were at the General Assembly and I shared my vision. After few months of official procedure, I was accepted as a candidate.

## Why choose to serve in Rochdale?

I was connected with Antioch Network by SIM UK to work with them, since they had various church-planting projects in Greater Manchester.

After visiting different places with my wife Keshari,

God spoke strongly in our hearts that we should look for an opportunity to serve in the Rochdale area because it is a multicultural town with people from many nations, e.g. Iran, Pakistan, India, Romania, Iraq and many African countries.

## How did Covid-19 affect your plans?

At the end of our exploratory visit to the UK in 2020, suddenly, the government of Nepal closed the airport five days before we were due to fly home.

Kind and gracious friends sent gifts of money to meet our immediate needs and opened their homes to us.

We are also grateful to SIM UK who paid for PCR tests and the airfare to return to Nepal while we waited for our visas.

## God spoke strongly that we should look for an opportunity to serve in the Rochdale area

When the vaccination rollout began and the number of Covid cases started reducing, SIM UK and Antioch Network invited us back to the UK. Thankfully, we were able to alter flights to arrive a few hours before the new 'red list' quarantine regulations were introduced.

## What is your ministry?

Rochdale has the highest level of asylum seekers anywhere in England and the majority of residents are completely unchurched, so I am involved in community mercy ministry; sharing the gospel on the streets and in the markets, while meeting the needs of refugees and vulnerable people.

## Rochdale has the highest level of asylum seekers anywhere in England

I'll also take up a teaching role at Bible studies and preaching. We want to build a network among Pakistani, Bhutanese and Indian Christian leaders, but our strategy isn't to use the

church to congregate people for worship because the building has become barriers for many ethnic groups.

## What are you most looking forward to?

We're very much looking forward to the time when we can move around freely and

to go through.

We were so excited when we finally got to move to the UK for mission service, but were worried about contracting Covid whilst travelling. We trusted the Lord for his provision and know he will continue to be with us because we are



Ram and his wife Keshari are sharing the gospel on the streets of Rochdale

talk to people! We'll invite people to our home for meals because food plays a vital role in building relationships.

As we learn and adjust to a new context and culture, it will be a joy to meet people and build relationships.

## What have you learned in the past year?

While stranded in the UK, we stayed in three different places over six-and-a-half months, but I know God is in control and watches over us in our times of trouble. God sends his people to help and support in times of hardship and I've learned to depend upon the Lord in whatever circumstance I may have

obeying his call for his mission.

**No Covid – or anything greater than it – can affect the plan of God and he will make things happen in his appointed time.**

## Please pray

**For Ram's and Keshari's health.**

**For the couple's son, daughter-in-law and daughter, left in Nepal.**

**For Ram to build strong partnerships with Christian leaders in Rochdale.**



# ‘We are witnessing unprecedented times’

By Kerry Allan

The Middle East is home to some of the most unreached people groups, but there’s never been a better time for faithful Christians to live among them and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

**F**ive years ago, SIM merged with Middle East Christian Outreach and thanks to SIM’s network of sending offices, people from anywhere in the world are able to serve in the Middle East, alongside experienced colleagues who understand the needs of the region and its people.

The vision of SIM Middle East is to see the region transformed as lives are changed by the love of Christ through the message of the



gospel – and its priority is to partner with Middle Eastern Christians as they minister to their neighbours with this message of hope.

SIM’s team in the region currently has members serving in six countries, but the goal is to expand ministries into

several more countries in the region as they serve with others to bring good news to those living and dying without Christ.

Stephen, who leads SIM’s work in the Middle East, says these are times of great opportunity: “We are witnessing unprecedented times.

“Many of our ministry partners say they’ve never known a time when so many people are asking questions and searching for truth. In one very closed context, a partner was overjoyed to report that more have come to Jesus during the Covid-19 season than at any prior

time. The Lord is at work in remarkable ways!”

As elsewhere, the pandemic has prompted many churches and ministries in the Middle East to develop online outreach and discipleship tools. And because lockdowns have meant many in the region spend even more time online, these tools are being used to reach many.

One partner church recently ran online seminars to train 350 leaders in how to lead effective online discipleship groups.

Technology will undoubtedly continue to move gospel work forward in the Middle East, explains Stephen.

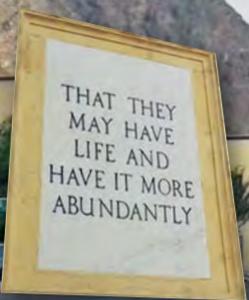
“We and our partners won’t be returning to what we thought was normal after Covid. There’s a determination to build on the digital



strategies sharpened during the pandemic to share the gospel with non-believers, to unite believers and to grow the church in the Middle East.”

The region is now one of the approved Faithful Witness locations, offering a new opportunity to bring people “from every corner of the globe” to minister to those living without hope.

“We want to build an intercultural team of up to 10 people to move to a new area to serve a neglected community, working with partners to reach people who for too long have been deprived of hope.”



**Is God calling you to share the gospel in the Middle East?**

**There are key areas of opportunity for:**

- Language learners
- Teachers, including theological educators
- Healthcare professionals
- Development workers
- Compassionate ministries
- Business, professionals

**Contact [enquiries@sim.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@sim.co.uk)**

**Please pray**

**For flexible and godly people** to respond to the Lord’s call to serve in the Middle East.

**That believers in the Middle East** will be bold in sensitively answering and discipling those who are seeking.

**For people in the Middle East** to find hope, identity and security in Christ.

# Intercultural ministry training up and running



Tim McMahon is a SIM UK mission worker dedicated to ministry training

More than 40 leaders in UK churches and SIM workers leading multicultural teams in the UK and overseas met online for our first intercultural mission training workshop. Tim McMahon reports.

**Understanding how culture affects community is absolutely necessary when working in increasingly diverse communities. This is why SIM UK seeks to build teams of multicultural mission workers for gospel ministry.**

A team of genuinely united people – from every tribe, tongue and nation – celebrating and sharing their different cultures as they serve Christ, is a powerful witness. It provides a close-up look at authentic Christian community for those we seek to reach with the good news.

But unity in diversity is not easy to do: UK churches and ministry teams are seeking help to become truly intercultural.

SIM has the people and experience to give biblical guidance and practical tips on how to be unified in Christ ministry.

**Super helpful session, filled with practical wisdom and important truth.**

and multicultural SIM mission teams demonstrate the diversity of cultures the Lord has allowed to develop in his world.

In March, SIM UK held the first of four intercultural ministry training workshops.

Dr Ken Baker (below) SIM's Global Training Director, has many years' experience helping north American churches and SIM mission teams as they embark on the transition from being largely monocultural to becoming truly intercultural.



He has identified the biblical principles that motivate such change and developed practical training resources to help churches and ministry teams make the transition.

Tim McMahon, a mission trainer for SIM UK, and Insur Shamgunov, (right) founder of a missionary training college in Central Asia and a change management

**Really great training; challenging and inspiring. Thank you.** Linda, Hope Church, Luton

consultant in the UK, merged Ken's training material with their experience to provide biblical and practical training.

The first workshop involved presentation of biblical teaching, discussion in breakout groups, doing a personal intercultural competency assessment, and watching a video that helped participants 'feel' as well as understand the principles presented.

**Other areas covered by the training include:**

- The biblical imperative for intercultural community.
- Understanding culture and its effect on community.
- The need for attitude change and the rejection of cultural supremacy.



**This gives churches a great opportunity to consider how it might better reflect God's Kingdom of all nations.**

Adrian, Assistant Pastor, Woodford Evangelical Church



## Please pray

**Give thanks** for the training to equip people to better reach across cultures with the good news.

**That participants** will implement the biblical principles and practical wisdom shared.

**For churches and ministry teams** to be aware of their cultural blind spots and to make the necessary changes so genuine intercultural community develops.

# Back to normal?

By Joanne Cornish

Wayne Sutton, senior pastor of Carrubbers Christian Centre in Edinburgh, describes how the pandemic helped refocus questions of community within his church.

**I**n the first weeks of the pandemic, Wayne Sutton says his church was like many others, scrambling to find a way to do and to be church effectively.



“There’s only been one or two brief periods when restrictions prevented us from going outside – we could usually

“We knew we had a week to get things online, so we just recorded the sermons from home,” he recalls.

“After a few weeks, our music team began recording items for a service playlist and our kids’ teams created a fantastic programme with teaching, songs and fun weekly challenges. Later, we fine-tuned our live-streaming process, along with others in our EoSGP (East of Scotland Gospel Partnership).

“Yet, our wake-up call came when we realised people missed feeling like a family. With activities at different times across the week, they missed the togetherness of our community. We asked everyone to join the 10.30am livestream and then for the house groups to meet directly afterwards on Zoom.

meet in pairs outside – so we’ve tried to maximise on that and in one sense, church has become more intimate, more family-like and inclusive.”

Now in a post-Covid world, Wayne says it will be important for churches to be more intentional and

## Church has become more intimate, more family-like and inclusive

proactive and to remember “mission is sharing Christ and our life of faith,” adding: “We see every service uploaded as a mission opportunity, when anyone can now use Christianity Explored online, or invite neighbours round to their garden.

“We’re using some of the same digital tools as before, but in a different way and how it helps us to have better

contact with our gospel workers, like those serving with SIM UK.

“Palm Sunday was our first time back in the building since December and we hand-picked groups we felt would find it most helpful.

## We see every service uploaded as a mission opportunity

“We invited all our young people who haven’t been able to meet up with their peers and we had parents in tears about how precious it was for their teens to be thought of in that way!

“Covid has been a profound wake-up for us and over the year, we’ve found our focus shifting and the key questions now are about: How do we actually want to do church?

“We’re still looking at how to keep the intimacy of smaller gatherings when the church can regroup; how the church can unpack the sermon together in housegroups directly after the service and how to invite everyone back sensitively.”

# Meet our workers

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

## Emma Wright



**Sent with EMI.**

**Where are you serving?** Cambodia.

**What are you doing?** Working as an architect.

**Pray:** For support-raising (only starting this journey), renting the house, and hopefully getting the Covid vaccine before I go! On top of this, just to know God’s guidance and to prepare me (and my family at home) for the changes ahead.

## Simon & Allison Harrison



**Sending church:** Avenue Community Church, Leics.

**Where are you serving?** Ethiopia.

**What are you doing?** Medical (Simon) and educational ministry (Allison)

**Pray:** For our interview process; that God would continue to lead and guide us and help us in our preparations and support-raising. Please also pray for my (Allison) British citizenship to come through speedily and for my orientation as I start at Bingham Academy in August.

We thank God that our parents are supportive of our plans, even though it means far less time with their grandchildren.

## David Thompson



**Sending church:** Christian Fellowship Church, Belfast.

**Where are you serving?** Zambia.

**What are you doing?** Serving as a physiotherapist in Mukinge Hospital.

**Pray:** For peace regarding financial provision and to get a career break from work for the four months I hope to be away. That I would continue to prioritise my prayer and quiet time with God and against distraction and for a boldness to show the love of Jesus in the opportunity I have to serve overseas.

## John & Hannah Williams



**Sent with Reach Beyond.**

**Where are you serving?** Central Asia.

**What are you doing?** Medical ministry.

**Pray:** For God’s financial provision so far and for providing great connections with people and the opportunity to speak to church groups on Zoom. Please pray that we continue to trust in God with timing of our house sale completion and when we should depart. And pray for time with friends and family and to be able to leave well.

## Esther Enwezor



**Sending church:** King of Kings Tabernacle, RCGG, Essex.

**Where are you serving?** Ghana.

**What are you doing?** Working with vulnerable women.

**Pray:** For God’s will and wisdom for the future and that I would be well supported, both in prayer and financially.

# Come and serve with SIM

## Your journey into mission starts here...

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

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

# SIM

Serving In Mission UK



### Outreach and discipleship ministry in Botswana

Ministry ID: 7703

Belonging to a culture that's considered to be one of the oldest in the world, the indigenous San People have lived in the difficult terrain of the Kalahari Desert for thousands of years. There are few believers and most are young in their faith. We need people with skills in evangelism, Bible teaching and the creative arts, to serve this least-known community.



### Community outreach in north Africa

Ministry ID: 2601

Do you have a passion for teaching? We are looking for people to serve alongside the local church in formal and informal education, as we engage closely with the community, pursuing opportunities for discipleship.



### Youth ministry in Ecuador

Ministry ID: 1304

SIM is passionate about equipping and discipling young believers in their faith. We have opportunities in student, sport, and art ministry among the youth in Ecuador.



### Media ministry in Kenya

Ministry ID: 8901

Do you have skills in storytelling, media, or the creative arts? SIM Stories is an exciting storytelling ministry that aims to encourage and strengthen the global church, inspiring them to engage in mission.



### Church-based partnership in west Africa

Ministry ID: 2010

Cross-cultural mission and vision is largely lacking in a region where cultural barriers hinder the spread of the gospel. Do you have a heart for the unreached and to partner with local churches? We have opportunities in teaching, finance and missional business.



### Varied ministries in Madagascar

Ministry ID: 2046

Join SIM's team in Madagascar as it reaches out with the good news to people on the island and beyond. We have opportunities in various ministries, including equipping church leaders where there is little theological training; rural village outreach; vocational training; health care and rural development.



### Health care in Liberia

Ministry ID: 7009

We are looking for people with a heart to serve God using their skills and training in medical ministry at the ELWA Hospital, Liberia. You will be serving poor and marginalised communities where Christ is least known, providing affordable, high-quality health care while demonstrating Christ-modelled compassion to every patient.



### Medical work in west Africa

Ministry ID: 1412

Are you looking to serve the Lord as you care for the people of west Africa? We have opportunities to use your medical, administrative and practical skills to serve God in a challenging, yet promise-filled place.

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- Faithful Witness in Forgotten Communities – Page 13 (Project 99746)
- SIM UK GIVING WEEK – Page 17 (see back page)
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