2018 Prayer Guide
2018 Prayer Guide
Introduction

“The vision of SIM is to see a witness to Christ’s love where He is least known, disciples of Jesus expressing God’s love in their communities, and Christ-centred churches among all peoples.”

The vision God has given to SIM over the past 125 years, and the vision He will continue to pour out for the next 125 years, can only be fulfilled by prayer. Otherwise, how could anyone expect to see a witness to Christ’s love where He is least known? In a world of turmoil, disease and depressing news, how could anyone possibly expect to see disciples of Jesus Christ expressing love in their communities? In a world of conflicts and hateful acts, how would Christ-centred, God honoring churches ever be planted among all peoples? There is one way: through answered prayer.

Let me tell you one story that lays the audacity of our vision alongside the faithfulness of God in answering prayer, even the prayers of total strangers. We all recall the terrible and sudden kidnapping of 276 school girls in Chibok, northeastern Nigeria, in April 2014, by the terrorist group, Boko Haram. Thousands have been killed by this group, and hundreds abducted. Soon a Trauma Healing workshop was arranged for the grieving parents of the missing girls.

One mother, Binta, was very depressed and discouraged at the workshop. A widow, she had given birth to 13 children but only two survived – one son and one daughter, now kidnapped. During the workshop, some of the fathers expressed their refusal to accept a baby born to one of their daughters, since the child had Boko Haram blood and would become evil and a terrorist. But by the end of the workshop, many had chosen to forgive Boko Haram, and asked God for supernatural help to accept these babies, as well as their daughters.

In June 2015, the SIM missionaries who led the workshop shared with their supporters about the horrific pain of these parents. One woman among them, Betsy, requested the name of one enslaved girl to pray for. The missionaries gave her the name, Amina, the daughter of the discouraged Binta. For the next 12 months, Betsy devoted herself in prayer for Amina, and for Binta to have the courage to accept her back – and the baby, too, if she had one.

In June 2016, across the cover of the world’s major newspapers was a photo: the very first Chibok school girl to be freed. Her name? Amina. A precious baby girl lay in her arms.
Betsy recalls that her ‘heart leaped for joy’. She contacted the missionaries who verified the identity. The missionary wrote, ‘The fact that in God’s sovereignty the first girl released, Amina, was accepted back so lovingly with her baby daughter in arms, by her mom who attended our workshop, is significant. It sets the tone and the precedent for other parents to accept children born out of Boko Haram imprisonment.’

I am convinced that Amina’s deliverance – in fact, that she was the first girl to escape – was an answer to the prayers of countless people, including Betsy, thousands of miles away. The cover story on world newspapers is a glimpse of a greater story authored by a God who chooses to work through the prayers of his people. It is a story not only about one captive freed, but about an entire community learning to forgive; it is the story of an SIM team, whose origins begin 125 years ago, perceiving God’s vision today through prayer and, by prayer, fulfilling it. A whole series of situations and actions was the direct result of prayer.

Each year we provide a Prayer Guide to enable prayer for SIM teams and ministries around the world. The Prayer Guide is not a routine item of publication for SIM. It is a strategic bridge linking those who already know Jesus with those who have yet to know Jesus. Because you, your ministry team, and your prayer supporters use this Prayer Guide, our seemingly foolhardy vision can be carried out with effectiveness behind the strongest barriers imaginable. If the barriers in contexts where terrorists flourish can be breached, how much more can the barriers be broken in any context, among any nation, people group, and community?

One year after Amina’s release, Betsy went to be with Jesus. She was joyful until the end, keeping up with news of the Chibok girls as more were released in 2016 and 2017. What would happen if Betsy, and people like her in churches around the world, had never been invited to pray? What stories might God yet author if we invite more and more people to pray in the next year? Please take this Guide, and invite others to join you in turning the pages of this book, and perhaps even the pages of history.

Joshua Bogunjoko
International Director
# Prayer Calendar

If you would like to pray through this Prayer Guide in a one-month rotation, use the numbers provided to the left of the country names as calendar days of the month.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East African Office</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghana</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinoamérica</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malawi</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mascarene Islands</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongolia</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mozambique</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namibia</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Africa</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senegal</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan and Sudan</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West African Office</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Malaysia</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zambia</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Friends</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Leadership and Services</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Service Centres</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIM Worldwide</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer for Renewal</td>
<td>138</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Introduction
Joshua Bogunjoko, International Director...

Foreword...

Purpose & Vision...

Core Values...

125th Anniversary Song...
Welcome to the 2018 Prayer Guide. The primary purpose of this book is to inform, inspire and invite readers like you to pray for SIM ministries and workers all around the world. This is a prayer mobilisation tool, and we hope you will use it as such.

Country information includes the team vision, types of ministry, prayer points, and descriptions of Communities where Christ is least known. The term “Where Christ is least known” is lifted from SIM’s Purpose and Mission Statement.

A diagram showing the different mission agencies that now make up SIM can be found at the back of the Prayer Guide.

A separate guide which includes personnel names will be available for internal use.

Please share this Prayer Guide freely with family, friends, supporters, and partners who would like to join in praying for what God is doing through SIM.
Purpose and Mission

Convinced that
no one should live and die
without hearing God’s good news,
we believe that He has called us
to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ
in communities where He is least known.

Therefore, compelled by God’s great love and empowered by the Holy Spirit...

- We cross barriers to proclaim the crucified and risen Christ, expressing his love and compassion among those who live and die without Him.
- We make disciples who will trust and obey Jesus, and become part of Christ-centred churches.
- We work together with churches to fulfil God’s mission across cultures locally and globally.
- We facilitate the participation in cross-cultural ministry of those whom God is calling.

Pray that the following vision will motivate our hearts in whatever context God calls us to serve and with whoever God calls us to partner with in His service.
Vision

The vision of SIM is to see
a witness to Christ's love where He is least known,
disciples of Jesus expressing God's love in their
communities,
and Christ-centred churches among all peoples.

By faith we see...

in the world:
A vibrant testimony to the gospel through character, word,
and action among communities where currently Jesus is
least known.
Followers of Jesus living out the gospel in unity and in the
power of the Holy Spirit, making disciples who trust Him,
obey Him, and play a full part in church life.
Churches serving their communities and reaching out with
the gospel locally and globally.

in SIM:
A community growing in faith, in obedience to Jesus, and in
ministry competence.
Workers crossing barriers with the gospel, being and making
disciples of Jesus, expressing his love and compassion.
Multi-ethnic and multi-skilled teams serving together in love
and harmony.
Courageous leaders investing in the development of others
for life transforming ministries.
Effective partnerships with Christ-centred churches and
organisations facilitating the spread of the Gospel.

in eternity:
The redeemed from all tribes, languages, peoples, and
nations worshipping the Living God.
We are a Gospel community that is:

1. **Committed to Biblical Truth**
   We are committed to biblical truth and joyfully affirm historic, evangelical Christianity. With courage, we declare to the nations the good news of new life in Jesus Christ.

2. **Dependent on God**
   “By Prayer” and in faith we depend on God for the provision of all our needs. We will demonstrate diligence, integrity, sharing, and accountability in cultivating and using the resources God provides.

3. **A People of Prayer**
   Prayer is foundational in our life and ministry. “By Prayer” we praise God, seek his direction, request resources, and call upon the Holy Spirit to empower our ministries.

4. **Mission-Focused**
   We are committed to the urgent and unfinished task of making disciples of Jesus Christ in all nations. In doing this we desire to work in loving, trusting, interdependent relationships with churches and other partners who share our vision.

5. **Church-Centred**
   We are committed to being a Mission that begins, nurtures, and equips churches to be the expression of Christ in their communities and to reach out with cross-cultural missionary vision and action.
Concerned About Human Needs
We humbly acknowledge that the ultimate human need is to know God. We also believe that He has called us to compassionate, holistic service in this broken world by alleviating suffering, fostering development, and affecting change in society.

A Christlike Community
We desire to be a transforming community dedicated to becoming like Christ in love, servanthood, holiness and obedience to the Father. We believe that following Christ's example means sacrifice, sometimes hardship, and perhaps even death.

A Learning, Growing Community
We believe in the worth and giftedness of each person in SIM and of those we seek to serve. We practice giving and receiving discipleship, lifelong learning, consultative leadership, mutual development, and training as enduring disciplines.

Strengthened Through Diversity
We are intentionally interdenominational, international, and multiethnic. We believe we will be more effective in ministry as we incorporate the richness of cultural diversity in SIM and celebrate our oneness in Christ.

Responsive to Our Times
We will respond with creativity and courage to evolving needs and opportunities under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. To be effective and relevant, our ministries, priorities, and structures are subject to ongoing evaluation and adaptation.
All Praise to God Alone
A hymn for SIM 125th anniversary

With thanks we look behind us
And see what God has done
Redeeming us from sin and death
Through Jesus Christ, his Son.
In faith, we look before us
And trust what God will do
As we are sent throughout the earth
Proclaiming the good news.

In love, He left his Father
To seek and save the lost,
Exchanging Heaven's pleasure for
The anguish of the cross.
In love, we leave our comforts
And count this world as loss
To share with those who have not heard
The wonders of the cross.

All praise to God; All praise to God alone!
By prayer, He faced affliction,
Fulfilled his Father's plan,
Knowing in the face of death
That He would live again.
By prayer, we cross the barriers
Of nation, tongue, and tribe
And make disciples of the Lord
To see Him glorified.

All praise to God; All praise to God alone!

In hope, we trust his promise
Our mission will not fail
For Christ the King will build his church
And hell cannot prevail.
In hope, we see the ending,
The Lamb upon his throne,
And all the saints before him sing,
“All praise to God alone!”

All praise to God; All praise to God!
All praise to God; All praise to God Alone!
Angola

Vision
In a culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse environment, SIM Angola partners with churches to make disciples of Christ in communities where He is least known, training and mentoring individuals and groups through diverse ministries, including agriculture, healthcare and teaching God’s Word.

Ministry
- Agricultural development
- Healthcare including surgical care, rural clinics, and obstetric fistula care
- Disciple-making
- VaNyaneka Bible translation and literacy program
- Theological education to local pastors and church leaders
- Youth ministry – training pastors and church leaders in youth ministry, and engaging with the youth of Angola

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

Psalm 96:3,4
Communities where Christ is least known

Ovangambwe
The Ovangambwe, a sub-group of VaNyaneka, live in southwestern Angola. Their lives revolve around keeping cattle. There has been resistance to the gospel, especially among the elders, who say they are too old and set in their ways to change. One church and three preaching points are established among this people group.

Ovamwila
The Ovamwila, also a sub-group of VaNyaneka, are largely rural subsistence farmers and often live fairly remotely. In recent years, many have come to Christ; however, the majority have not heard the good news. A project to translate the Bible is in a very early stage.

MuCubal and Muhimba
Living in the southwestern region of Angola, the majority of MuCubal and Muhimba live without the Gospel. They are semi-nomadic, and raise cattle and goats. The region in which they live often deals with drought and hardship. An effort is underway to send medical personnel to this region.

Pray for
■ continued good working relationships with Angolan church leaders in each area of ministry.
■ wisdom to meet the many challenges and demands on time and energy.
■ additional personnel, particularly in the ministries of health, theological education, and youth ministry.
■ new outreaches to the youth of Angola, and for people to come and train the local churches in this important opportunity.
Vision
By grace and in dependence on God, we facilitate more people, prayer, and funds towards making disciples of Christ in communities where He is least known.

Ministry
- to follow Jesus in his mission, both in Australia and overseas.
- to inspire, challenge, and partner with churches in order for them to fulfill God’s local, cross-cultural, and global mission.
- to inspire, mobilise, and assist in the preparation of workers to effectively cross barriers and make Christ known.
- as stewards, to provide efficient and effective support services to facilitate churches, missionaries, donors, and prayer partners to do their works of service.
- to promote prayer and opportunities for workers and funding towards vast numbers of people who are least reached, such as in the Middle East, South Asia, Continental Asia, Thailand, and Niger.

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Matthew 9:37, 38
Communities where Christ is least known

Children and youth
Traditionally a Christian nation with freedom of religion, Australia is becoming increasingly secularised. The dominant ideology has become an individualistic, New Age, ‘pick-and-choose spirituality’, with no accountability. While roughly two-thirds of Australians identify themselves in some way as Christian, only eight per cent regularly attend church. There is also an increasingly antagonistic attitude, including in the media, towards the church and its perceived intolerance and authoritarianism.

Immigrants, refugees, overseas students, tourists
With 28 per cent of the population born overseas, and more than 1.3 million overseas university students, Australia is one of the most culturally diverse nations in the world. These immigrants and students have brought a wide variety of religions with them. At the same time, sometimes they are more responsive to the Gospel than are people in their birth countries. Communities where Christ is least known include Jews, Malays, Sinhalese, Arabs, Iraqis, Turks, Japanese, Thai, Khmers, Bosnians, Persians, Kurds, Afghans, Hazaras, and Pashtuns.

Pray for
- Australian Christians to be bold witnesses, demonstrating the love of Christ to those who oppose them, and to be revived once again in their faith to cross barriers to make Christ known.
- all at SIM Australia to follow Jesus closely and receive his empowering to be effective and fruitful as we facilitate more people, prayer and funds for Christ’s local, cross-cultural and global mission.
- sending and supporting churches to increase their engagement beyond their individual missionaries, for SIM as we facilitate churches in cross-cultural mission.
- the Lord of the harvest to raise up more churches and workers for communities where Christ is least known, including the more volatile regions.
- more non-traditional missionaries (such as self-funders, people in secular employment, business people, university graduates returning to their birth countries, etc.) and openness and creativity amongst SIM teams in Australia and overseas.
Vision
We desire to see people from all backgrounds loving their creator with all their hearts, loving their neighbours as themselves, and forming into loving communities.

Ministry
Our expatriate team of more than 50 includes a large number of associates from other organisations that share our vision and methods of work. The team has representatives from 13 different countries and almost every continent.

SIM Bangladesh serves in the following areas:
- Teaching spoken English to the growing student population
- One-room primary schools for children who have been overlooked by the formal education system
- Literacy training and outreach among the illiterate
- Arsenic poisoning awareness and prevention
- The East-West Music School cultural exchange
- Ministering to sex-workers and their children in the city of Dhaka
- A Bible correspondence school that has been serving the Christian community since 1958

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
Proverbs 3:5
Communities where Christ is least known

Bengali
The largest community in Bangladesh is also one of the mega-people groups in the world. This group is made up of Muslims and Hindus, and much work has been done amongst them since the time of William Carey. We praise God for the growth in understanding of the Gospel amongst these people over the last 40 years, but when the levels of Christian conversions are compared to the size of the population, it can be discouraging. The Christian community in the country is often inward-looking, socially and culturally isolated and, more recently, persecuted as a minority. The capital, Dhaka, is made up of 16 million people.

Pray for
- people we encounter to be open to hearing and accepting the Word of God.
- our projects to be effective in meeting real human needs.
- our workers who are experiencing spiritual warfare in the forms of exhaustion, depression, and anxiety.
- a favourable relationship with the government.
Vision
In a spirit of collaboration, we see Benin churches becoming mature, missional, and dynamic, filled with disciples who are obedient to the Word of God, imitators of Christ, dependent on the Holy Spirit, and full of compassion. In unity, these disciples of all ages serve according to their gifts for the glory of God.

Ministry
- Disciple-making
- Bible translation and literacy
- Muslim evangelism
- Radio outreach
- Medical work
- Theological education
- General education
- Leadership development

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.
Isaiah 12:2
Communities where Christ is least known

Radio Listeners
Radio is a popular form of communication in Benin, because it is easy to access and does not require literacy. It is inexpensive to operate, relatively inexpensive to own, and often reaches over longer or more inhospitable distances than either print or television media. People also tend to perceive what they hear via the radio as official, true, and important.

SIM and the local church have been reaching communities in Benin over the radio for more than 25 years. At least 1,150 new messages across 18 different languages are recorded in our local studio each year. These messages are then collectively broadcast over 7,000 times per year via a number of different national and community radio stations. Our local radio coordinators and committees then follow up with interested listeners through phone calls, visits, and distribution of Bible study booklets.

Recently, there has been a renewed emphasis on making disciples in predominately Muslim villages in the Weno, Lokpa, Yom, Bariba, Fulani, Ditammari, Ifè, and Xwéda language areas. Several of the radio coordinators from these language groups have received training to this effect.

Seeking a ‘person of peace’ in villages is the key to creating meaningful, lasting relationships and affords the opportunity to talk about Christ. One of our radio workers recounts:

‘We made contact with a ‘woman of peace’ who has a thirst for the Word of God. This woman testifies that her village was hostile to the gospel, and today many misfortunes are falling on them. She recognizes that it is only Jesus Christ who can be the solution for her village and not Islam, to which they have long been attached. She says that she has formed a secret group ready for Discovery Bible Studies.’

Pray for:
- the pastors and radio coordinators who are involved in Discovery Bible Studies. Pray that God will direct them to people of peace and that appropriate meeting places can be found.
- our radio speakers, that God will guide and help them as they prepare new messages; pray for more workers for this ministry.
- our Bible translation teams, who daily need God’s wisdom and guidance.
- the leadership of the Benin team, as a new director is due to start in June 2018.
Bolivia

Vision
Convinced that no one should live and die without hearing God’s good news, we believe that He has called us to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in communities where He is least known. Therefore, compelled by God’s great love and empowered by the Holy Spirit:

- we cross barriers to proclaim the crucified and risen Christ.
- we make disciples who will trust and obey Jesus.
- we work together with churches to fulfil God’s mission.
- we facilitate the participation in cross-cultural ministry of those whom God is calling.

Ministry
- Ministries among the Tecana, Chiquitano, and Quechua groups
- Reaching out with the gospel to the urban unreached in Bolivia
- Making disciples among families, children, and youth
- Making disciples and educating children at Cochabamba Christian School
- Equipping churches and church leaders
- Missions mobilisation among Bolivian churches
Communities where Christ is least known

Tacana
Living in the Yungas region of Bolivia with a population over 18,000, the Tacana are largely agricultural. Their traditional, animistic beliefs are strong and place great importance on the chamanes or witchdoctors to provide herbal medicinal cures and to protect the well-being of the community and the universe. SIM Bolivia is looking for creative and effective ways to address this people group’s spiritual and physical needs. The SIM Bolivia team is working alongside a local couple who desire to reach their own people with the Gospel.

Miners of Potosí
Potosí is a city that clings to the side of a beautiful mountain, but many have died inside its mines. The miners acknowledge it to be the devil’s domain and daily make sacrifices to his image. Who can break down barriers to reach this close-knit, tough group of miners? Who can come to know the story of abundant life in Jesus Christ? Whose feet will be beautiful on that mountain, bringing the good news?

Pray for
- new missionaries to work in initiatives to the least-reached.
- grace, unity and cultural understanding, as we live and work in multi-ethnic and multi-generational teams.
- the SIM Bolivia team to be effective and intentional in making disciples of Christ.
- wisdom and sensitivity for SIM Bolivia leadership, as they give ministry direction and care to our team.
**Botswana**

**Vision**
By faith, we see:
- every person in Botswana having the opportunity to respond to the Good News, grow in obedience to God, and become part of a local church fellowship.
- a reconciled and strong partnership with Africa Evangelical Church (AEC) and other denominations, as SIM Botswana walks alongside these churches to fulfill the Great Commission.

**Ministry**
- Disciple-making and outreach among the remote desert dwellers of the Kalahari
- Bible translation into the !Xoon language, and oral translation of key Bible stories
- Children and youth ministry
- Outreach ministry through crafts

*And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”*  
**Romans 10:15**
Communities where Christ is least known

Remote Area Dwellers of the Kalahari Desert

The San are considered to be the oldest culture in the world. Beautiful San rock art can be seen throughout southern Africa, where the San lived as hunter-gatherers. The San are expert hunters with bows and arrows tipped with poison. Hunting is a collaborative exercise, and the meat is always shared amongst the group. Over the past 2,000 years, the San have slowly been pushed to live in the arid sands of the Kalahari Desert by Bantu tribes and white farmers, who took the more fertile land for their crops and livestock. Today, the San find it very difficult to maintain their traditional culture and lifestyle. Land that the San used to hunt on is increasingly being used for grazing cattle. In partnership with the Africa Evangelical Church, SIM has engaged with the !Xoon San of the Kalahari for over 30 years. For the past ten years, the ministry has been carried out by full-time missionaries living in the desert.

Pray for

- God to reveal his vision to expand and develop the ministry of SIM Botswana.
- a missionary willing and gifted to take over the role of team leader.
- the first Botswana SIM appointees, who are developing prayer partners and raising support.
- perseverance, encouragement, and fruit in the work amongst the remote desert dwellers of the Kalahari, and that the Lord would call and send more workers.
- children and young people to grow in their faith and apply biblical truths in their daily lives.
- people bound in animistic traditions to be set free.
Burkina Faso

Vision
We glorify God by making disciples of the people in Burkina Faso as we proclaim Jesus Christ and minister to human needs, in order to equip the local church for her growth, and partner with her as she ministers to people less-reached by the good news.

Ministry
- Prayer
- Fulani Scripture production
- English teaching
- Evangelism
- Medical centres
- Theological education
- Leadership development
- Fulani evangelism and discipleship
- Ministry to young women at risk
- Street boys ministry
- Community development
- Disabilities ministries

Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.

John 7:38
Communities where Christ is least known

The Jula

The Jula are an unreached Muslim people group populating parts of Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Guinea, and Mali. As Jula is also a widely spoken trade language, it is difficult to give an accurate number of the Jula population in Burkina Faso. Numbers vary from 670,000 to two million. Within this number is a cluster of smaller ethnic groups, who are also unreached. Islam traveled down the trade routes between the 13th and 15th centuries; the Jula traders absorbed Islam and spread it throughout West Africa. The Jula are proud of their Islamic identity. Embracing Christian witness is often seen as a betrayal of one's own people. In Jula, one asks if someone is Muslim by asking if they pray.

The Islam practiced by the Jula contains many elements of traditional African religion: amulets, fetishes, and even sacrifices. These practices are often tied to clans who have trusted in these objects and sacrifices in order to gain power, stay healthy, and reap a bountiful harvest. Jula identity is deeply tied to caste and clan. Clans are hierarchical as family heads carry the most weight in making decisions. Attempts to reach individuals with the gospel must consider the clan structure.

Pray that the chronological Bible storying groups in family courtyards would reach whole families with the gospel. Pray that heads of families will be transformed by Jesus.

Pray for

- our English, medical, and Girls Off the Street and Boys Off the Street ministries to demonstrate Christ’s love in ways that transform lives for Christ.
- the Fulani, whose traditional lifestyles are being challenged and changed by modernity. Pray that in the midst of these transitions, the Holy Spirit will transform whole communities, turning them to follow Jesus, and raising up godly church and community leaders.
- the Burkina church as it matures. Pray that SIM workers will wisely help build capacity in Burkinabe leadership and humbly follow the lead of Burkinabe colleagues.
- wisdom and discernment as we restructure our medical ministries to improve organisational and financial sustainability.
- insight for theological educators in how to teach in relevant and life-changing ways.
Vision
SIM’s global purpose is to:
- cross barriers to proclaim Christ.
- disciple believers into biblically healthy churches.
- work together with churches to fulfil God’s mission.
- facilitate participation in cross-cultural ministry.

SIM Canada expedites this by:
- sending missionaries from Canada around the world.
- receiving missionaries to Canada from around the world.
- serving as missionaries in Canada alongside the Canadian church.

Ministry
SIM Canada’s ministry priorities include:
- increased recruitment.
- better preparation of members for ministry.
- building stronger church and donor relationships.

Revelation 15:4
Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed.
Communities where Christ is least known

**Indigenous Canadians**

The First Nations, Inuit, and Metis peoples of Canada have been exposed to the gospel with mission work dating back to the time of early fur trading and subsequent colonisation. In recent times, however, the church has been portrayed largely in negative terms particularly over much publicised mistreatment of Indigenous people in residential schools, many of which were run by churches. In addition, the Christian message in many First Nations communities has often been misrepresented and misunderstood over the years, resulting in many ‘mis-reached’ rather than ‘unreached’ First Nations people and communities.

SIM Canada, other missions, and church denominations are attempting to address the ‘mis-reached’ in small but effective ways, both on First Nations reserves and in the cities.

Pray in faith that the real truth of the gospel will be both shared and accepted among the Indigenous peoples. Pray particularly for innovative ways for Christian workers to reach indigenous youth both within traditional church settings and outside of the church – whether on reserves or in the cities. Pray for reconciliation with the churches and indigenous peoples on wrongs and hurts of the past, and for true healing to occur. Pray that God will transform indigenous communities and that his name will be redeemed.

*Pray for*

- deepening engagement and partnerships with churches and donors.
- the growing ministry of reaching diaspora communities with the gospel in the increasingly multi-cultural cities of Canada.
- wisdom for the team engaging with numerous enquirers for missionary service in Canada and overseas.
Chile

Vision

■ to see an ever-increasing number of Christians maturing in Christ-likeness and becoming more active and effective in ministries.
■ to see an increasing number of congregations committed to the Great Commission, and trained on mobilisation support and missionary care.
■ to see greater and more effective cross-denominational and cross-organisational cooperation in world missions.

Ministry

■ Missions mobilisation
■ Partnership with ProVisión, a Chilean mission agency
■ Church leadership development
■ Disciple-making
■ Holistic rural development
■ Seminary by Extension to All Nations (SEAN)
■ Education and evangelism to kids at risk
■ Advisory to Koyamentu Foundation Training & Retreat Centre
■ Church planting among the upper class

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.

Ephesians 4:11-12
Communities where Christ is least known

The Chilean evangelical church has been part of a growing movement for many years. Thus our ministry focus is to come alongside the church to make disciples and develop leadership, enabling the church to effectively send and support missionaries.

Through the Chilean agency, ProVisión, Chilean missionaries are now serving in established ministries overseas, especially among refugees and displaced peoples, and Muslim and animistic groups in rural Africa and Asia. These missionaries will flourish in fruitful ministry as the Chilean church grows in its ability and commitment to provide sustained care and faithful financial and prayer support. Many young people called of God are preparing theologically and professionally to serve in difficult places, in order to share the hope of Jesus.

Pray for

- the well-being of Chilean missionaries, spiritually, physically, emotionally, and financially.
- the hearts of many more Chilean pastors to commit to the Great Commission, both in little-reached areas of Chile and overseas.
- denominational barriers to fade and churches to work together.
- the financial and personnel needs of the Chilean mission agency, ProVisión.
- Chilean churches to develop a culture of becoming and making disciples, and for ordinary Christians to teach, encourage, and serve one another.
- Seminary by Extension to All Nations (SEAN), as their ministry impact in the capital extends to the entire country.
- for indigenous Mapuche believers to be strengthened in their faith.
- protection for at-risk children, and that their contact with Christians will be a testimony of Christ’s love.
- the Koyamentu Training & Retreat Centre to facilitate renewal, transformation and training for Chilean churches and missionaries.
- church planting and evangelistic initiatives to see the little-reached, upper-class parts of Viña del Mar brought to Christ.
- marriage courses and men’s and women’s groups to reach non-Christians with the hope of the Gospel.
- the opening of ministry amongst university students.
China

Prayer Notes

Vision
China has millions of people who live and die, generation after generation, without meeting even one follower of Jesus. The vision of SIM China is to see people from all ethnic groups and languages in the less-reached regions of China worshipping around the throne of God.

Pray that we will:
- be salt and light in the nation; praying for the country, the authorities, and all her peoples.
- build up the church in China, independent of racial and linguistic boundaries.
- take focused action to see the church emerge among ethnic communities where people are living and dying without the good news of Jesus.
- participate in the mobilisation and preparation of workers being sent to God's harvest fields around the world.

Ministry
- Culture and language learning
- Friendship evangelism
- Church planting
- Disciple-making
- Teaching
- Business
- Equipping the church
- Health and compassion ministry

He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Luke 10:2
Communities where Christ is least known

Animists/ancestor worshippers
Many live in isolated rural areas, far from the major cities. They speak unwritten languages with no Bible. They need a Christian friend to share the good news with them in person.

Hui Muslims
The largest Muslim people group in China, the Hui, number 11 to 20 million, with few known believers. There is a need for ‘people of peace’ who will welcome Jesus followers to their communities and families.

Tibetan Buddhists
Trapped in spiritual darkness and fear, Tibetan Buddhists spend their lives trying to appease the spirits in order to gain merit for their future lives. Only the hope and freedom of the gospel can release them from their bondage.

University students
Millions of young Chinese study at universities across the nation. In this formative period of their lives, they are open to new ideas and new friends. What an opportunity to share about Jesus!

Uyghur Muslims
Fewer than 0.02 per cent of the 12 million Uyghur know Jesus. Only sustained prayer will break through the barriers that have isolated them from the gospel for centuries. Cultural, geographical, and spiritual barriers maintain that isolation even in the 21st century.

Pray for
■ more workers. We praise God for those who have joined us recently, but the task is urgent!
■ spiritual breakthroughs amongst those who live without Christ in Western China.
■ stable and sustainable visa options allowing long-term residence.
■ favour with local officials.
■ language learning, which is crucial for longevity and good communication.
■ the personal spiritual lives of our workers – joy, strength, and wisdom for each day.
Côte d’Ivoire

Prayer Notes

Vision
SIM Côte d’Ivoire glorifies God in working together with the body of Christ to make disciples from all nations and to equip them to transform societies.

Ministry
- Theological education
- Radio outreach
- Social enterprise and handicrafts
- Mobilising churches for Muslim ministry
- Church planting movements in West Africa
- Orphans and street children ministry

Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

John 4:35
Communities where Christ is least known

The Dioula Malinke
The Dioula Malinke are a Muslim ethnic group in Côte d’Ivoire. Ministries such as Maison Dorcas and the church planting movement engage with them frequently. We are looking for ways to partner with a missionary who works among this Muslim community in the north. Pray for new missionaries willing to work in this area.

Pray for
- effective use of broadcasting platforms, and for economical ways to broadcast from our stations up-country (Abidjan, Abengourou, Bouaké, Man, and Yamoussoukro).
- the new station established at San Pedro in southern Côte d’Ivoire in 2017. Pray for technical equipment and necessary support.
- the street children and orphans ministry, that many would be touched by the love of God.
- wisdom in how to encourage new missionaries to join us.
- believers, including missionaries, to model godly relationships and Christian compassion.
Vision
By faith, we see East African mission-minded churches fully engaged in global outreach, sending their missionaries to join mission communities around the world. Our purpose is to serve East African churches as they participate in global missions.

Ministry
The East African Office helps African churches mobilise, equip, train, serve, and send East African missionaries globally to serve with SIM and others in gospel ministry through:

- Evangelism and disciple-making
- Church planting
- Radio
- Leadership training
- Youth ministry
- Culture and language learning

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Isaiah 6:8
Day 6

Communities where Christ is least known

The Marwari
The Marwari are landless, agricultural workers in Pakistan who worship Hindu gods. Through the ministry of a missionary family sent from East Africa, many Marwari have turned to Christ and have been baptised. The work of the Holy Spirit continues, and hearts are opening to Jesus.

The Yao
To be a Yao is to be a Muslim. For centuries, the Yao people have been mixing traditional African beliefs with Islam to form a syncretic belief system. The Yao people were once the fierce slave hunters of the north. Today, most of the 500,000 Yao in northwest Mozambique are subsistence farmers; many are illiterate, with a low life expectancy.

Although missionaries have been working with the Yao for many years, the fruit of their labour has been slow to come. However, we believe that the time for the harvest has come. People are starting to hear and believe the good news of Jesus Christ, and churches are being planted.

Pray for
- Pakistan’s national stability, and for the challenges missionary families face in educating their children in that context.
- travel funds to reach out to many migrant Marwari, who go where there is employment.
- God to open the hearts of Yao leaders at all levels of their societal governing structure.
- God to open doors of ministry, as our missionaries move to a different Yao town in Malawi.
- the East African Office to work efficiently and with passion for facilitating ministry to the least reached.
- praise the Lord for screening committees to interview new missionary candidates in both Uganda and Kenya.
Vision
We envision churches in East Asia glorifying God by partnering with the global Church, SIM, sending churches, and our supporting constituencies in sending many missionaries to the least reached in different parts of the world. Together as God’s people, we commit ourselves willingly and joyfully to be involved in furthering the cause of the Great Commission through praying, giving, mobilising, and going.

Ministry
The staff of the East Asia Office coordinates the efforts of constituent sending entities and volunteer representatives in several East Asian nations, and provides services in the areas of:
- Promotion
- Mobilisation of churches and individuals
- Candidate screening and selection
- Mentoring and orientation
- Information coordination
- Church-mission partnership
- Member care
- Care for children of cross-cultural workers

As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

Matthew 10:7–8
Communities where Christ is least known

Muslim diaspora
Thank God for the many opportunities of globalisation. Though many governments have shut their doors to missionaries, thousands of their workers and professionals have gone overseas. As an engine of growth in the world’s economy, Asia sees many foreigners coming to our shores to work and to live. Almost every nationality is represented in all major cities. In particular, one group of diaspora that deserves our special attention is the Muslim diaspora.

It is often difficult for missionaries to enter Muslim countries and to make Christ known to them. But God has allowed Muslims to come to our cities in large numbers. For example, an estimated 400,000 Muslim migrants live in Taiwan, and more than one million in Malaysia.

Pray that churches and Christians will take note of the Muslim diaspora and engage them with the Gospel. Pray for God to send additional missionaries to these major cities to share the gospel with the Muslim diaspora while they are still relatively open and easy to encounter.

Pray for
- SIM East Asia to send 280 missionaries by the year 2021 to the least-reached places in the world.
- God to supply the needed funds for our projected growth, operation, ministries, and projects.
- smooth transitions and succession at different leadership levels.
Ecuador

Vision
As a team of Christ’s ambassadors, SIM Ecuador exists in love to proclaim and to live out his message of reconciliation. We do so in the power and for the glory of God. In partnership with the church, we want to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in communities where He is least known.

Ministry
- Waves of Hope radio station
- Evangelism, disciple-making, and training
- Church planting
- Mission mobilisation and Impacto Mundial
- Equipping Servants theological education program
- Growing Pastors bookshop and training centre
- Ministry to women and children
- El Sendero – youth ministry and student outreach
- Medical, counselling, and drama ministries
- Trauma Healing, earthquake relief ministry
- Internship training program
- Missionary children study centre in Loja
Communities where Christ is least known

Southern cantons of Loja Province
The town of Cariamanga is part of a new priority area of SIM Ecuador. Of the 77,000 people in Cariamanga, around 0.1 per cent are forming Christ-centred communities. Many people remain strongly tied to Roman Catholicism, although not knowing Roman Catholic doctrine very well. People practice a Folk-Catholicism, namely animistic beliefs mixed with traditional Catholic church life. Healers, shamans, and superstition are as important as the practices of the traditional church. These beliefs still impact the lives of evangelical believers, who face opposition when they deny the traditional beliefs of their family. Around 12 to 15 per cent of this area’s population are illiterate. Youth continue to move to cities. The few small churches that exist need resources and training in evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and doctrine in order to make an impact in their communities. The churches need a vision for the lost and scattered people of their own region. A major obstacle are the many present sects, which distort the teaching of the gospel and confuse the believers.

College students and youth
The need for gospel proclamation among the thousands of university students and youth between 15 and 25 years old in the city of Loja is receiving a greater focus. There is a clear vision to disciple university students and establish a ministry in the two main university campuses in Loja. Students and young workers are looking for a brighter future and, through relationships, we seek to reach this community.

Pray for
■ believers in rural areas to be courageous ambassadors for Christ.
■ efforts in rural Loja Province to connect and support churches through teaching, resources and outreach.
■ wisdom and direction, as we work with others to establish a ministry on the two university campuses.
■ continued work in urban areas, alongside the local church.
■ wisdom as we consider new ministries to least reached areas of Ecuador.
Eritrea

Vision
SIM first entered Eritrea in the early 1950s to partner with the Kale Heywet Church (KHC) but was expelled in July 2004. All SIM ministries have been closed, and evangelical Christians in Eritrea are undergoing severe persecution.

Today, SIM supports a radio ministry, broadcasting to Eritrea and Eritreans in the diaspora, in Tigrinya, a prevalent Eritrean language. The vision of this ministry is to use radio and other media to broadcast the gospel to the current generation of Tigrinya-speaking youth in Eritrea, Ethiopia, and beyond. Our vision is to see them on a discipleship journey where they enjoy personal fellowship with God, express an increased commitment to Him and his church, actively participate in making disciples, and become leaders of integrity.

Ministry
Radio Outreach

“Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life.”

Mark 10:29–30

Prayer Notes

8
Communities where Christ is least known

Afar

Early in their history, the Afar were greatly influenced by Islam and the religion is still held in high esteem. They do not eat pork, rarely drink alcohol and those who can afford to do so, make the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. However, many pre-Islamic beliefs and customs are still widespread among the Afar. For example, spirits of the dead are believed to be very powerful, and a “feast of the dead”, called Rabena, is celebrated each year. They also give annual offerings to the sea to safeguard their villages. Many people wear leather amulets that contain herbs and verses from the Qu’ran for protection.

Pray for

- God’s help to produce radio programs that will benefit people in Eritrea and beyond.
- more Tigrinya speaking workers to assist with recording and editing radio programs.
- youth to fully commit to life in Christ and journey with Him faithfully.
- financial support to sustain the radio ministry.
- church leaders in prison, their families, and for peace and stability in the Eritrea.
- Christians who are being singled out by their church affiliation and sent to prison, and for their children, who are being left behind with unbelieving family members.
- the children of those in prison, that they will continue to be able to see God as loving.
Ethiopia

Prayer Notes

Vision
Making disciples and multiplying churches where Christ is least known.

Ministry
- Church planting
- Media (print and radio)
- Theological education
- Missionary Kid (MK) education
- Muslim outreach
- Outreach to animistic peoples
- Disciple-making in urban contexts
- Medical ministry
- Youth and sports

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.
Luke 5:16
Day 8

Communities where Christ is least known

Animistic peoples
Many animistic pastoralists live in the lowlands, along the southern borders with Kenya and South Sudan. We hope to see a wave of disciple-making movements that will influence multiple peoples and flow over the borders to other related people groups.

Muslim peoples
Thirty-four per cent of the population of Ethiopia are Muslim peoples needing to hear the good news of the gospel of Christ: Somali, Afar, Argoba, Arsi and other Oromo groups, Guragae, Kereyu, Borana, Silti, and others.

Urban communities
The people of Ethiopia are increasingly urban, educated, middle class, young, and connected to the electronic world. At the same time, poverty continues to be a major issue. The urban population has increased to around 20 per cent in this primarily rural country, and the rate of change is increasing.

Pray for
- church planting movements among Muslim peoples (Somali, Afar, Borana, Argoba, Guragae, Oromo, etc.).
- recruitment of excellent teachers to serve at Bingham Academy with a passion for making disciples among students and advancing missions outreach.
- church planting movements among animistic pastoralists (Bunna, Hamar, Dassanech, Kwengu, Bodi, Gumuz, Mursi, and others).
- Teaching, discipling, and mentoring initiatives in Orthodox communities.
- Effective disciple-making initiatives in urban contexts.
Vision

By faith, we see God mobilising his children to share the good news of salvation with those whose hearts have been prepared by the Holy Spirit. SIM France is called by God to:

- mobilise Christians for and inform the church of opportunities in missions.
- train those called to serve.
- facilitate their task.
- support them through prayer and care.

We rejoice in the Lord each time God entrusts someone to us. We desire to be facilitators and encourage men and women to serve Christ when He calls them.

Ministry

- Mobilising for God’s service
- Equipping for ongoing ministry
- Sending missionaries to communities who live and die without Christ
- Maintaining contact with missionaries overseas
- Planting churches
- Ministering to international students

*It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else’s foundation.

Romans 15.20*
Day 9

Communities where Christ is least known

**Foreign students**
There are about 280,000 foreign students in France. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development for France declared recently that France intends to double this number by 2020.

In recent years, Chinese students have become the largest group (more than 50,000), followed by Moroccans (23,000), Algerians (17,400), and Tunisians (8,900). Almost 45 per cent of foreign students come from Africa, including the Maghreb.

There is an openness to the gospel among foreign students, but more workers are needed. Currently only one SIM worker ministers among foreign students in France.

**Muslim community in France**
The Muslim community in France is about seven to eight per cent of the total population (figure includes all the immigrants coming from predominantly Muslim countries). Studies give an estimate of 70,000 to 110,000 Christian converts among this group. A large part of the community is second, third, or even fourth generation immigrants.

The 2016 influx of refugees is challenging European Christians to find ways to show Christ's love. But following terrorist violence in 2016, the Muslim community has begun to question Islam. Muslim-background believers are often persecuted by their families and relatives, but the terrorist incidents have led to more opportunities to discuss our Christian beliefs.

**Pray for**
- revival of the missionary vision in the churches.
- partnerships with church denominations, Bible institutes, and other missions.
- sincere and ongoing commitment to missions among Christians.
- the development and autonomy of SIM Belgium ministries.
- an effective training program for spiritual growth.
- strength in prayer, good relationships with churches and potential missionaries, and fruitful ministry for those whom God sends.
Ghana

Prayer Notes

Vision
The vision of SIM Ghana is to see a witness to Christ’s love where He is least known in Ghana, disciples of Jesus expressing God’s love in their communities, and Christ-centred churches spreading the gospel in Ghana and beyond.

Ministry
- Outreach ministries
  - Outreach to Sisaala, Dagomba, and Fulani communities, where many live and die without hearing God’s good news
  - The Way of Righteousness radio broadcasts, provided for Muslim communities
  - Outreach in partnership with Challenge Enterprises of Ghana
- Serving and equipping the church in mission
  - Marriage and family ministry
  - Sports Friends
  - Partnership with the Good News Bible Church
- Mobilisation for mission
  - Collaboration in mobilisation with other like-minded organizations
  - Facilitating the growth of the Evangelical Missionary Alliance, in partnership with the Good News Bible Church
- Leadership and Services

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
Psalm 96:3
Day 9

Communities where Christ is least known

Muslim people of northern Ghana

The majority of the Sisaala and Dagomba people are Muslim, living in the north and northwest parts of the country. Many villages have no gospel witness. There is a high percentage of children in these communities, and reaching them is key. SIM Ghana is working with churches to share God's good news with children and help them grow in their faith. Children are permitted to hear the gospel, and our prayer is that they will understand about the Saviour who came to give them freedom.

Young men are being engaged through soccer clubs. God's love is being shown to outcast widows. The Way of Righteousness has been translated into indigenous languages and broadcast on local radio. SIM works alongside local churches to make disciples and equip local believers to minister to their own people.

The Fulani

The Fulani people in Ghana are another predominantly Muslim group. As migrants who have moved from other parts of West Africa, they have never had a recognised homeland in Ghana. They live in scattered settlements on the outskirts of villages, and are often treated as outsiders and viewed with suspicion and hostility. Some remain semi-nomadic, while others have become more established, employing others to tend their cattle herds. Education rates are very low. SIM Ghana is seeking to form a team of workers to begin ministry to the Fulani and to partner with like-minded organisations to share God's good news with the Fulani in Ghana.

Pray for

- personnel with a passion to join with us in our vision for each of our ministry focus areas.
- people to come and form a team to share God's good news with the Fulani.
- effective outreach to the Dagomba and Sisaala.
- children to be allowed to attend clubs, and that many will respond to the gospel.
- opportunities to partner with others to mobilise the Ghanaian church for mission.
- godly Christian marriages and families, equipped to minister to and disciple others.
- our leadership to be wise and godly, and our services to be helpful and efficient.
**Vision**
By faith, we see:
- the peoples of upper Guinea having the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus in a way they can readily understand.
- the Holy Spirit bringing many to salvation through Jesus.
- a vibrant, maturing Church overflowing with Guineans of all ethnicities, bringing Jesus’ transformation to upper Guinea and beyond.

**Ministry**
- Outreach and disciple-making
- Children and youth
- Audio media production
- Health teaching and community development

*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.*
1 Chronicles 16:24
Day 10

Communities where Christ is least known

The Deaf
There are an estimated 72 million deaf people, scattered across every nation on Earth, whose primary means of communication is one of the world’s 350 sign languages. Only about two per cent of them follow Jesus. Not even one sign language group has the entire Bible in their first language. Guinea’s deaf population (around 27,000 people) mainly uses an assortment of ‘home signs’, which only family and close friends understand. This hinders them from learning about Jesus in a way they can understand.

Muslims of Upper Guinea
Upper Guinea has been home to the Maninka people for centuries. More recently, people from Guinea’s largest ethnic group, the Fulas, have moved in and now call Upper Guinea their home. Each group is fiercely proud of its language, culture, and religion. Ethnic tensions surface from time-to-time. Those who consider following Jesus fall under intense family and social pressure to remain faithful to Islam. Despite this pressure, God is working, and there has been increasing interest what the Bible says. Micro SD cards with God’s Good News in Maninka are being widely distributed.

Pray for
- the Kids’ Club children and their families to be open to the truth about Jesus.
- missionaries who are currently learning a local language.
- isolated believers to find fellowship and have access to God’s Word.
- effective distribution of the radio series, The Way of Righteousness.
- the Lord to raise up godly believers on the university campus and in the workplace, who will love their Muslim neighbors and point them to Christ.
- deaf Christians to gain a vision for reaching the deaf in communities where Christ is not known.
India

Vision
SIM India sees the Kingdom of God extending beyond all barriers – religious, cultural, and social – as we partner with North India ministries, prepare leaders through training and resources, address social injustice issues, and guide new believers into communities of faith.

As we work towards this vision, we emphasise multicultural teams, holistic outreach, and business for transformation. We are thrilled that God is creating new opportunities for diverse peoples to taste, see, and hear of Christ’s love!

Ministry
- Helping churches grow through partnering, equipping, and making disciples
- Working with Indian partners to respond to poverty, health concerns, trafficking, and gender injustice
- Loving our Muslim and Hindu friends
- Leadership development and disciple-making
- Youth and children
- Partnerships with biblical, like-minded agencies and local fellowships
- University engagement

Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

Isaiah 12:4
Communities where Christ is least known

Tibetan Buddhists
With 100,000 of the world’s 6.2 million Tibetans, India is home to the largest portion of the Tibetan diaspora outside of China. India has been friendly to Tibetans since the Dalai Lama left China in 1959. Known as the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), the Tibetan government-in-exile is based in Dharamsala, in Himachal Pradesh, India. Significant numbers of Tibetans also live in Delhi, Dehradun, and Mussoorie. Thousands of children make the dangerous mountainous journey from Tibet into India each year to be cared for in orphanages, where they will have the chance to preserve their Tibetan language and culture. Pray that many Tibetans will come to embrace a destiny in Christ, as God raises up more Indian and expatriate friends to show them his love and truth.

Pray for
- SIM India to be a joyous community, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- our various Indian partners in their leadership training initiatives, so that the growing North Indian Church is strengthened with solid foundations for future witness.
- strength, perseverance, and boldness of vision for the Indian Church in an increasingly difficult political environment.
- God to call forth his children from among all the beautiful and culturally diverse peoples of North India.
- SIM India as we consider two new ministry initiatives — to Tibetans living in India, and to those in a western Indian state. Please pray for wisdom to discern God's leading, for personnel, and for strategic partnerships.
- more partnership opportunities to bless children and youth.
- wisdom and provision for our partners reaching out sacrificially to the poor and marginalised, and that communities and individuals would come to know the transforming love of Christ through these initiatives.
- more people to join in loving our Muslim neighbours. India contains the second largest number of Muslims in the world.
- growth and change in us and our Indian brothers and sisters as we journey together.
Indonesia

Vision
In partnership with existing churches and institutions, SIM Indonesia will reach out to the least-reached Indonesians by word and deed, meet their physical and spiritual needs, proclaim the good news of Jesus in their midst, and disciple them into Christ-centred churches.

Ministry
- Ministries of compassion
- Making Christ known
- Church planting
- Children and youth ministries
- Equipping and training pastors, ministerial staff, and local missionaries
- Enhancing and equipping churches, seminaries, and mission schools
- Missional business and tentmaking

And they cried out in a loud voice: “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”
Revelation 7:10
Communities where Christ is least known

A Community in West Kalimantan

The gospel has been spread consistently by missionaries for more than half a century in West Kalimantan, resulting in large denominations among some ethnic communities. However, one community, numbering 1.5 million people, has less than one per cent following Jesus. West Kalimantan has more than 15 theological schools, 120 church denominations, and more than 4,000 religious workers, yet less than one per cent of all Christians are reaching this large community. There are less than 20 people actively focused on sharing the gospel with them.

Those who share the gospel with them must understand that this group of people:
- identifies with Islam and is not open to other faiths.
- embraces folk tales and mystical things.
- is difficult for an outsider to influence, as the population lives in tightly-knit families and communities. It takes a long time to be accepted into the community.
- follows their own teachings and practices closely, and must be approached tactfully with new ideas.
- are usually open to those with whom they have cultivated a certain level of relationship.

Pray for
- pioneering missionaries to join us in this strategic work to least-reached people.
- suitable leadership from among the missionaries to be put in place in the near future.
- resources to develop this new country of service for SIM.
- unity in diversity in the team.
Kenya

Prayer Notes

Don’t you have a saying, ‘It’s still four months until harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.’
John 4:35

Vision
As we in SIM Kenya passionately pursue our divine calling, we see...

through our ministries:
- mature disciples making disciples of Jesus Christ amongst least-reached communities.
- Christian leaders influencing Kenya with integrity and biblical truth.
- missional churches partnering with us to proclaim Christ and express his love and compassion.
- Kenyan missionaries engaging in cross-cultural ministry locally and globally.

within SIM Kenya:
- flourishing, prayerful missionaries practicing disciple-making and accountability.
- multi-ethnic and multi-skilled teams serving together in unity.
- flexible, effective structures empowering missionaries for ministry.

Ministry
- Cell Church Kenya
- Disciple-making among children and youth
- Health ministries
- Life Challenge Africa
- Outreach to Muslim, Hindus, and Sikhs
- Sports Friends
- Theological education
- Trauma Healing
Day 11

**Communities where Christ is least known**

**Gujarati**
The Gujarati people number nearly 200,000, and primarily live in Nairobi, as well as along the coast. They originate from the state of Gujarat in India and are stereotypically considered to be good at business. In Kenya, roughly half of Gujaratis are Hindu, 13 per cent are Muslim, and one-third belong to other small Indian-based religions. While only 0.1 per cent of this community call themselves Christians, an even smaller number (0.02 per cent) are evangelicals. The Gujaratis’ close-knit family structures make it difficult for members to be open to new ideas from those outside their community.

**Sakuye**
With a little more than 30,000 people, the Sakuye are a small Cushitic tribe related to the Rendille. They live along the Kenyan border with Ethiopia, east of Moyale. They speak Borana, the main language of the region, and were traditionally nomadic herders, but have begun to practice farming. The Sakuye follow a syncretic mix of animism and Islam. They adhere to strict customs governing marriage and families. Just 0.4 per cent of Sakuyes are Christian, and no known evangelical believers or churches exist among them.

**Pray for**
- SIM Kenya leadership, as they pursue new platforms to work among the least-reached.
- more workers to form multi-cultural, multi-skilled teams to make disciples among least reached communities, especially the unreached groups of Kenya.
- unity in diversity as the SIM Kenya team serves alongside people from many nations.
- God to raise up the next generation of self-replicating Kenyan disciples of Jesus.
- Kenyan churches to be mobilised and empowered to reach communities for Christ, both in Kenya and internationally.
Korea

Vision
By faith, we see:

■ Strengthened partnerships with Korean and Chinese churches in sending, networking, equipping, and supporting missionaries to fulfil Christ’s Great Commission.
■ More Chinese and Korean missionaries, standing firm with the global body of Christ, training missionary candidates and developing missional churches.
■ Well-trained and equipped young people going out with the gospel, and serving, with their gifts and skills, those who need to listen and understand the gospel in their everyday life settings.
■ Foreigners in Korea coming to know Jesus Christ, experiencing life transformation through Him, and returning home with a new life goal — to be an ambassador for Christ in their communities.

Ministry
■ Mobilising through networking and partnering, and developing new partnerships with churches and supporters in Korea and China
■ Training candidates through home and field-based programmes
■ Providing member care and administration services
■ Developing ministry skills amongst home office staff

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5:21
Day 12

**Working along with the Chinese Church to make Christ known**

With excitement, we witnessed the Mission China Conference, which took place in September 2016. Outcomes of the conference included a clear mission statement and committed people responding to the call of global mission. We praise God for answering our prayers and rewarding the workers who invested constant effort to see this conference stimulate an increased commitment to mission. SIM Korea is wholeheartedly devoted to assisting the Church in steps towards a greater vision for the harvest.

**Communities where Christ is least known**

**New tasks to make Christ known to new settlers**

Korea is rapidly becoming a multi-cultural nation, with migrants making up nearly five percent of the population. Migrants, with varied backgrounds, find it hard to adjust to a different life context in Korea. Educating their children is a challenge, as the children learn, grow and integrate into different communities. Local churches have opportunities to accept, love, and care for these migrants, with the hope that they will come to Christ and become ambassadors of love and peace to those who do not know Christ.

**Pray for**

- the revival of the Korean Church for broader engagement in global mission.
- strengthened partnerships with local churches and mission agencies in Korea and China.
- wisdom and strength to work with the Chinese Church, as they desire to send more workers.
- foreigners in Korea to come to know eternal peace in Christ through his workers and to be witnesses to the gospel.
- existing mission training programs (SIM-ACTS English Mission Course, Mission Perspectives and Missionary Training Institutes,) and for new field-based programs that are being developed for missionary candidates.
- the spiritual and ministerial growth of the home staff as they serve the Lord and his servants.
Vision
By faith, we see:
- missionaries from Latin America, fully trained and supported, serving in many countries throughout the world.
- Latin American churches supporting their workers in prayer and finances, and with member care.
- SIM Latinoamérica walking alongside the Latin American church and its missionaries in the Great Commission.

Ministry
We’re building teams in each country to mobilise and send through SIM Latinoamérica.
- Latin America is divided into regions; each has a coordinator overseeing mobilisation in that region.
- Mobilisation materials have been developed through VAMOS (‘Let’s Go’), a magazine and training curriculum that reaches more than 20,000 readers in Latin America, focused on missionary training and mobilisation.
- SIM Latinoamérica seeks to partner with local sending entities where possible, and always partners with sending churches, helping them send workers to join SIM teams around the world.

**But I ask: Did they not hear? Of course they did: “Their voice has gone out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.”**

*Romans 10:18*
Day 12

Communities where Christ is least known

Most Latino candidates have a passion to go to the least-reached areas of the world. We are convinced that Latin American missionaries will contribute to the completion of the Great Commission. We have placed workers in the following countries, and more are joining each year:

- India
- China
- South Africa
- Mozambique
- Ghana
- Ecuador
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Mexico
- Peru
- Paraguay
- Uruguay

Pray for

- SIM Latinoamérica leadership, Julieta Murillo as director, and the region coordinators.
- unity and cooperation amongst sending agencies, the sending churches, and SIM.
- good member care for the Latino missionaries serving around the world.
- wisdom and good relationships with the Latino Church, as we offer training and mobilisation materials and walk with them as they send workers.
- God to raise up mobilisers in each country.
- the teams of mobilisers in each region.
- more workers from Latin America, and for the Church to grow in its missionary vision.
- success with visas, as we have several workers who are looking for ways to enter or to stay in their country of service.
- God to provide full support (prayer and financial) for his workers.
- wisdom and open doors for the mobiliser work in the Caribbean.
- for the Webb family in Colombia, that they may receive grace and wisdom for their work in that country.
Liberia

Vision
SIM Liberia, by faith and through prayer, sees growing and mature disciples of Jesus, loving their neighbours in service, and loving God in worship and obedience.

Ministry
- Equipping and training leaders in SIM partner churches
- Pastoral and theological education
- Trauma Healing training
- Bible translation
- ELWA Hospital
- Trinity Dental Clinic
- ELWA Radio (local FM and shortwave)
- ELWA Academy (775 Liberian students, pre-school through Grade 12)

As you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

2 Corinthians 1:11
Communities where Christ is least known

Mandingo (Manya)
The Mandingo people are located in north-western Liberia, near Guinea. They are farmers growing rice, peanuts, beans, and vegetables. Trading is important for them, and many travel far from home for trading purposes. Many Mandingo in urban areas work as shopkeepers or auto mechanics. Today, they are virtually all Muslim; however, their Islam is mingled with traditional beliefs. The Mandingo belief that spirits are good, evil, or mischievous is derived from Muslim teachings. Also, Islam approves the use of magic to obtain healing from disease, prevent misfortune, and assure prosperity and success. Only a few of the Mandingo are Christian believers, and there is no indigenous church yet established.

Pray for
- God to call more missionaries to Liberia, especially to add capacity to our ministries with partner churches.
- Liberian church leaders to be equipped through theological and pastoral training to withstand the onslaught of false gospels that cause confusion and dissension within the churches and society.
- the expansion of ELWA Hospital, to strengthen the healthcare system in Liberia while giving a gospel witness to Liberians who are suffering.
- God to provide abundant resources to support and sustain the ministries of SIM in Liberia.
- peace and stability in Liberia, as leaders elected in 2017 take their places, and that God would provide godly leaders.
Vision
By faith, we see:
- SIM missionaries thriving in their ministries, as they grow in their walk with God and cross barriers to proclaim the crucified and risen Christ.
- well-equipped church leaders serving their congregations and making disciples.
- united churches fulfilling Christ’s Great Commission, as they reach out to those who live and die without hearing God’s good news in Madagascar and beyond.

Ministry
- Medical ministry
- Community development
- Theological training
- Children’s and youth ministry
- Outreach

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

1 Peter 5:10
Day 13

Communities where Christ is least known

Comoros
The Comorians live on a chain of islands in the Indian Ocean between Madagascar and Mozambique. They can be found on all of these islands, and in Madagascar. The various Comorian groups take their name from the particular island on which they live, but the official name of the islands is the Federal and Islamic Republic of the Comoros.

Major challenges on the Comoros Islands include poverty, disease, and hunger. Educational levels are low, and less than half the population is literate. Although French and Arabic are the official languages, the Comorian speak their own Swahili dialect. Children are expected to help with the farming, fishing, and animal care. Polygamy is an acceptable practice among the Comorians.

The Comorians are Muslim, but occultism and spirit possession are mixed with their Islamic practices. Traditionally, they have been very resistant to any kind of religious change; however, they are gradually becoming more receptive to other ideas. Christian resources are limited, making the number of Comorian believers very small.

Pray for

- unity and reconciled relationships between the different evangelical denominations, and that they would join together to reach those living and dying without Christ in Madagascar and beyond.
- the Lord to call out missionaries to establish a local SIM administration that serves our missionaries with financial, administrative, and personnel services and leadership.
- a clear and courageous vision for SIM Madagascar, as it develops missionary strategies.
Vision
SIM Malawi is dedicated to sharing Christ’s love in Malawi in word and deed. We do this through the following ministries.

Ministry
- Pursue the unreached: plant churches among the Yao people and in stronghold areas of animist society, equip pastors and church leaders for Muslim ministry, reach out to Chinese and Indian communities in Malawi.
- Build the church: partner with the Africa Evangelical Church (AEC), the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi, and other denominations, to widen their scope of ministries through provision of training and teaching materials.
- Reach children and youth: expand Sunday school teacher training and children’s ministry coordination, develop ministries and leaders, including Sports Friends, and partner with Kids In Need Deserve Love and Encouragement (KINDLE) Orphan Outreach, and Sunday School Teachers United Movement (STUM).
- Impact the HIV and AIDS crisis: work with HOPE for AIDS, partner with medical organisations caring for HIV patients, assist in community programs, and support medical centres to develop their HIV and AIDS services.
- Advance mission: develop missionaries, encourage short-term and long-term mission engagement in the Church, and include missions in theological training.

“How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?”
Romans 10:14–15a
Communities where Christ is least known

Youth and Children
Young people under the age of 25 account for about 75 per cent of the total population of Malawi. Yet, we do not see the same ratio in churches. Many youth and children are not hearing the gospel, even in a ‘Christian’ nation such as Malawi. They are being influenced by the prosperity gospel mega-preachers. The youth are no longer simply following the beliefs of their parents or culture; they are increasingly impacted by secularisation, globalisation, and open access to technology. Young girls are particularly vulnerable in a context of poverty and HIV and AIDS.

Other faith backgrounds
In Malawi, there are many adherents, such as the Yao people, to other major world religions. These adherents maintain strong links with traditional African belief systems, which undergird much of Malawian society. These groups can be aggressive in their response to the gospel. Malawian Christians are fearful, reticent, and untrained in reaching out to each of these groups.

Pray for
- new initiatives to reach youth and children, through sports, school, and after-school ministries, especially among girls.
- more workers for ministry among the Yao, traditional religion adherents, and the Chinese and Indian diasporas, and for training in Muslim outreach, especially among women.
- pastors, lay leaders, and youth and children’s workers to be passionate for Christ and equipped to engage with the diverse and changing needs of their communities.
- a re-focussing on spiritual and physical intervention and care, as part of an effective response to the changing context of HIV and AIDS, and for a reversal of the growing numbers of young people affected.
- the awakening and mobilisation of the Church in Malawi to reach beyond church and national boundaries with the gospel of Christ.
- people to help in administration in addition to other responsibilities.
- our cross-cultural team to maintain and model unity and Christian fellowship.
Mali

Vision
We desire to see relational transformation of our community, through intentionally pursuing the lost and increasing the number of growing, reproducible Christ followers.

Ministry
- Prayer
- Evangelism and disciple-making
- Church planting
- Community health evangelism
- Bible and literature distribution
- Leadership development

“For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.”

2 Corinthians 2:15
Day 14

Communities where Christ is least known

The Maures (Moors)
The Maures are made up of Saharan and Arab-Berber people of Arab origins. They are the Muslim warrior movement called Almoravide, comprised of the Sanhadja, the Lemtuna, and the Zenetes. This group began around 11th century, and the Maures dominated Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, and southern Spain. The Maures speak Hassaniya. They live a nomadic lifestyle in tents, and are a closed society, structured into two major groups: the Zaouias of Tolba, who are marabouts (religious leaders), and the Hassans, who are warriors. The Maures raise camels and goats. They are also traders, blacksmiths, shoemakers, wood sellers, and griots (who make music with songs of epic warriors, love, genealogy and history). The Maures are 100 per cent Muslim, and belong to the Sufi Islamic brotherhood (with mysticism).

They practice pre-arranged marriage. A Maure woman can never marry against her family’s wishes. A dowry is given to her. Divorce is common. Because of the Maures’ nomadic lifestyle and raids among them, strict customs must be followed when different groups meet. They use different ways to express acceptance, rejection, and their level of involvement and interest, e.g. hand blows mean ‘I do not believe you’, and a finger in the ear means ‘I am not interested in the discussion’.

Pray for

- the Lord to open the hearts of the Maure to the love of Jesus Christ.
- the Lord to destroy the stronghold of Islam, mysticism, and animistic practices among the peoples in Mali.
- discernment, knowledge, and harmony among a church group and another entity who will embark on a vision and survey trip with our team among the Maure people in Mali in February 2018. Pray that our time together is productive.
- the Lord to raise labourers to serve in Mali.
- the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit to strongly rest on the few mature believers in Mali, so they are compelled to boldly share their faith with those who do not know Christ.
- God to increase house church movements in the Niamana area and that believers in these house churches will grow spiritually. Pray that house churches will increase numerically as well.
Mascarene Islands
Mauritius, Reunion, Rodriguez

Vision
By faith, we see:
- competent pastors and leaders rooted in the truth of the Bible, as they lead and teach their congregations.
- vibrant churches reaching out to those living and dying without Jesus in Mauritius and beyond.
- evangelical denominations united as they fulfill the Great Commission of Christ.

Ministry
- Disciple-making and leadership training in churches
- Children’s ministry
- Outreach

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.
1 Corinthians 9:22
Communities where Christ is least known

Hindus
The least-reached people of Mauritius are the Muslims and the Hindus. The Hindus in Mauritius originate from India. Many hierarchical and economic subgroups exist among them, the best known being the Brahmins, or priestly community. The Brahmins form the religious backbone of Hinduism. The Bhojpuris are an ethnic subgroup, and make up the majority of Indians in Mauritius. Hindus represent nearly half of the population in Mauritius.

Some scholars say that the number of Hindu gods exceeds 35 million. Most of the deities are believed to be both good and evil in nature. Hindus believe in reincarnation. Only the gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to break through these religious barriers that have kept the Hindus bound in spiritual and physical poverty.

Pray for
- God to show us a clear vision and strategy for SIM’s work on Mauritius and the other Mascarene Islands.
- godly wisdom and guidance in deciding whether (and if so, how) to register SIM in Mauritius so that visas and work permits would be granted.
- unity among the evangelical church denominations, and a common vision regarding those still needing to hear and understand the good news.
- those attending discipleship and leadership training to grow in their knowledge of God and their faith.
Middle East

Vision
Our aim is to encourage Christians in the region to continue to minister to their neighbours with the love of Christ and the message of the cross.

We're looking for people to join our existing teams to work well with local Christian leaders, model Christian integrity, and encourage and support local churches.

We want to motivate churches worldwide to pray effectively for the region, asking for the Holy Spirit to bring fullness of life in Christ into the House of Islam.

Ministry
We're preparing guest flats in a couple of cities to welcome new workers. We're looking for resilient people who can learn language and sensitively understand culture, live well in complex environments, and keep a biblical perspective on changing circumstances. Together, we:

- engage in church life and ministry.
- reach out with compassion, especially to people with disabilities.
- provide qualified education at all levels.
- equip people for ministry through theological education and training.
- operate effective businesses as a Christian witness.
- participate in Bible translation and distribution.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. 

Colossians 4:2–3
Communities where Christ is least known

Majorities
Islam is in the majority, and most people only know caricatures of Christian faith. While many are asking questions, they need to connect with Scripture, and with Christians who can explain Scripture to them. Satellite, internet, print and church initiatives are supporting the vital witness of national believers.

Maids
In many cities, there is a subculture of migrant maids, who often have no liberty and are abused physically and sexually. One of our colleagues distributes MP3 players to these maids, with Scripture and Christian songs in mother-tongue languages. Many are finding Christ as they hear and respond to these.

Prisoners
Prison visits are a key ministry, bringing opportunities to share Christ. Gifts of food, clothes, and the Word of God in print, DVDs and MP3s help prisoners find freedom in Christ and form fellowships within the prisons.

Refugees
Displaced people are in every area, and impact every ministry. As local churches reach out, people ask questions and respond to Christ’s love. Churches are learning to adjust, helping displaced Syrians to prepare for the day when they can return to live and work again in Syria. Educating displaced children sows seeds for eternity, and brings the gospel to families.

Pray for
- stamina and wisdom for local Christians, as they witness for Christ under pressure.
- patience and wisdom as we negotiate the challenges of residence.
- theological and practical ministry training to equip leaders to build Christ’s church in unsettled and sometimes volatile circumstances.
- people who will pray with and for Middle Easterners everywhere.
- flexible and godly people to respond to the Lord’s call to serve in the Middle East.
- relationships with local leaders and networks, as we explore suitable opportunities to serve with them.
**Mongolia**

**Vision**
The vision of SIM Mongolia is to glorify God by reaching the people of Mongolia with the gospel and making disciples in the Mongolian churches, so they become mature, evangelistic, and engaged in missions.

In response to God's love, SIM Mongolia desires to serve the Mongolian Church through loving and compassionate relationships.

**Ministry**
- Church planting and disciple-making
- Training next generation leaders in the areas of counselling, pastoral leadership, English teaching, youth ministry, and medical ministry
- Nomadic community outreach

*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

*Isaiah 43:19*
Communities where Christ is least known

Urban communities in Ulaanbaatar
Nearly half of the total population of Mongolia lives in the capital city, Ulaanbaatar. Culturally, the city is very different from the sparsely populated countryside. Revival came to this city in the mid-1990s to the early 2000s, as many showed interest in Christianity. Now, the city is rapidly secularizing, and a great need exists for new approach in evangelism and ministry.

Nomadic communities in the West
There are few believers in nomadic communities in western Mongolia, and those believers are isolated from other Christians by a nomadic lifestyle in a vast land. SIM ministers to these communities by partnering with local Christian leaders in western Mongolia.

Pray for

- more workers to come to Mongolia, to facilitate the growth of Mongolian churches.
- the revival of Mongolian churches. Mongolian Christianity is facing challenges of secularization and insufficient leadership. They need a new generation of servant leaders.
- a country director for SIM Mongolia, to lead a unified team and develop partnerships with local churches.
- follow up with local churches who are requesting mission agencies to reach out to communities.
**Mozambique**

**Vision**
SIM Mozambique longs to see people becoming reconciled to God, participating in Christ-centred churches, and living as God’s ambassadors throughout Mozambique and overseas. Our task is to make disciples, focusing on least-reached people in the north and equipping leaders for the Body of Christ.

**Ministry**
SIM works in northwest Mozambique, among many who still live and die without Christ. Our ministries include:

- Church planting
- Bible translation (Lomwe language)
- Theological training
- Children’s work
- Literature distribution
- Agriculture
- Youth work
- Disciple-making
- Sports ministry

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.*

**Isaiah 9:2**
Communities where Christ is least known

Yao
To be a Yao is to be a Muslim. For centuries, the Yao people have been mixing traditional African beliefs with Islam to form a syncretic belief system. The Yao people were once the fierce slave hunters of the north. Today, most of the 500,000 Yao in northwest Mozambique are subsistence farmers; many are illiterate, with a low life expectancy.

Although missionaries have been working with the Yao for many years, the fruit of their labour has been slow to come. However, we believe that the time for the harvest has come. People are starting to hear and believe the good news of Jesus Christ, and churches are being planted.

Makuwa-Metto and Makuwa-Chirima
There are about one million people in each of these groups. The Makua peoples are matrilineal, tracing their family lines through their mothers. Most people are subsistence farmers, working their fields only with hand-held implements, but there is a trend towards Makuas moving to the towns and cities. Most adhere to Folk Islam. In urban areas, where some small churches exist, there is a need for well-trained leaders.

Pray for
- more people to hear and accept the good news of Jesus Christ.
- more churches to be planted in rural areas.
- new believers to become faithful disciples and grow in maturity.
- SIM team members, as we open a new Bible school to train local church leaders.
- the Lord to protect and help the missionaries working in these areas.
- the Lord to send more labourers into this harvest field.
Myanmar

Prayer Notes

Vision
By faith, we see vibrant, healthy, and reproducing churches, growing in communities where Christ is least known, and crossing ethnicity, language, and hierarchy to worship Jesus together in Myanmar communities.

Ministry
- Church planting and disciple-making
- Relational community outreach
- Missional business

He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”
Mark 9:29
Communities where Christ is least known

Buddhist majority communities
The main ethnic group in Myanmar live primarily in the Irrawaddy River basin, and speak Burmese, the official language of Myanmar. The majority are Theravada Buddhists. They practice Buddhism along with nat (spirit) worship, which predated Buddhism. They try to appease the nats in order to gain protection from other evil spirits.

Communities in the hill country
More than 30 communities where Christ is not known are scattered around the nation’s central hill country. One town is strategically located among these farming communities. We desire to help provide a means of work and skills to these communities, including business.

Pray for
- the Lord to call people to Myanmar to share the love of Christ.
- the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of the majority people towards local Christians, most of who are from ethnic minorities.
- strong local churches to be raised up.
- the growth and development of the ministry teams.
**Namibia**

**Vision**
By faith, we see SIM Namibia partnering with churches and other organisations to reach children and youth, impacting people who are living and dying without Christ, and helping the church disciple people both inside and outside of it. By faith, we see new missionaries joining us in the work we still have before us.

**Ministry**
- Children
- Youth
- Muslim groups and other communities where Christ is not known
- Making disciples of the 90 per cent of Namibians who call themselves ‘Christian’
- Networking with and encouraging cooperation between churches and agencies

*God our Saviour wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

1 Timothy 2:3–4
Communities where Christ is least known

Children and youth

Following Namibia’s independence in 1990, a generation has grown up for whom Jesus is no longer relevant. About 55 per cent of Namibia’s population is aged 25 years and under, and most have not heard the gospel. Namibian youth are no longer brought up attending church as their parents were, and they see the morals and values that their elders preach hardly lived out.

Young people are increasingly drifting into a secular lifestyle. SIM works in community development with disadvantaged children, and, through ministry at the Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary (NETS), assists in equipping church leaders to grasp the opportunities to reach children and youth with the Gospel.

Pray for

- God to send more workers to Namibia.
- our team, as we look into new areas of outreach, especially in Muslim work.
- the churches in Namibia to hear God’s calling to missions both inside and outside of the country.
- pastors and other church workers to be effective in conveying the knowledge they have gained through the Pastors’ Book Set conferences.
Nepal

Vision
SIM Nepal exists to glorify God together by partnering with and empowering local churches, organisations, and communities through diverse ministries. As his followers, and as life-long students of language and culture, we:

- commit to partner with one another, local churches, and organisations, in order to promote Nepalis experiencing fullness of life through positive transformation.
- seek to humbly represent Christ in character, word, and action as a multiethnic, multi-skilled team, prayerfully serving as He leads, in order to glorify him through (and not limited to) health, education, development, disciple-making, training, and equipping ministries.
- cross barriers to demonstrate Christ’s love in communities where He is least known.

Ministry
- Health
- Education
- Rehabilitation
- Disaster response
- Community development
- Mentoring and disciple-making
- Training and equipping

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.
Micah 6:8
Day 18

Communities where Christ is least known

In Nepal, over 80 per cent of people are Hindu, 10 per cent are Buddhists, five per cent are Muslim, and 1.4 per cent are Christian.

People living in the Terai

The southern plains of Terai are home to more than half of the country's population, with a variety of caste and ethnic backgrounds and languages. Agriculture is the main occupation. Challenges include poverty, inequalities between the genders and castes, disasters (especially earthquakes, floods, and fires), and health and hygiene issues.

Of the nearly one million Muslims in Nepal, 97 per cent live in the Terai. SIM is reaching out to Nepalis from a variety of backgrounds and ethnicities in the Terai, demonstrating God's love through various transformative and empowering ministries.

People living with disabilities

More than half a million people are known to be living with disabilities in Nepal. The actual number is higher, because many are segregated from society due to stigma and shame. The spiritual beliefs of Nepalis have traditionally regarded disability as punishment for bad deeds in a previous life. People with disabilities are often treated as objects of pity; some are neglected and abandoned.

People with disabilities have more health problems, lower education levels, and higher unemployment levels than the rest of the population. They also experience higher rates of abuse, discrimination, and social exclusion.

Through partnerships, SIM is reaching out to those affected by disabilities by providing treatment, rehabilitation, vocational training, advocacy for inclusion and social participation, and psychosocial care and support.

Pray for

- work permits and visas; it is not easy to get these documents.
- Christians, as persecution has been increasing.
- Muslim people living in the Terai to experience fullness of life in Christ.
- political stability and safety.
- our various ministries, with the goal that Nepalis will be empowered and experience positive transformation.
Vision
To facilitate others in joining what God is doing around the world. We desire workers to be empowered to thrive and make a difference in communities where Christ is least known.

Ministry
- Encourage longer-term participation in mission
- Help our mission partners tell the story of what God is doing worldwide
- Strengthen current church partnerships and build relationships with new churches
- Empower the New Zealand Church for involvement in cross-cultural and overseas mission
- Ensure people are equipped and thrive in their ministries for as long as God would desire them to serve
- Partner with like-minded organisations and churches in promoting SIM New Zealand’s priority projects

He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Luke 10:2
Communities where Christ is least known

Maori
The Polynesian Maori people migrated to New Zealand in the 1400s to take advantage of the fishing and natural resources offered by the South Pacific islands. European explorers began arriving in the 1600s, and settlements started to form in the 1800s. New Zealand combines Polynesian and European heritage, making it an interesting and unique blend of cultures.

The Maori have long-established traditions of group singing, dancing, art, and crafts. Woodcarving is a notable art of this culture. Most of the Maori have urbanised, but many retain elements of their traditional history. They brought their belief in a plethora of Polynesian gods and goddesses to the islands. The Europeans brought their Christian beliefs to New Zealand.

Today, New Zealand is multi-cultural and religiously plural, in need of a consistent presentation of biblical Christianity. Recently, a fresh stirring of the Wairua Tapu (Holy Spirit) has begun amongst the Maori. SIM New Zealand serves the New Zealand Church by encouraging and equipping believers to build relationships with people of other faiths and ethnicities for the sake of the gospel.

Pray for
- 10 new prayer groups that will pray for our partners and New Zealand candidates monthly.
- an increase from 43 to 60 missionaries anticipating service of more than two years. We would like to achieve this by September 2018.
- 30 new workers each year who will be willing to serve for two months to two years.
- cross-cultural ministry, as churches reach out cross-culturally in New Zealand, creating space for different people in our churches.
- strategic partnerships with churches, to be developed through mutual relationships.
Niger

Prayer Notes

Vision
Making disciples where Christ is least known.

- We live in a world permeated by an evil that has invaded and corrupted every aspect of life, leaving mankind separated from the Creator and trapped in sin. We are convinced that the Gospel changes everything and sets us free. God has called SIM to help bring this life-changing message to Niger.

- We are convinced no one should live and die without hearing the Good News. Yet more than 17 million people are living and dying without Christ in Niger.

- We believe we are called to mobilise his servants to bring the message of salvation to Niger. We are called by God from all corners of the earth to serve as a diverse ministry team.

Ministry
Outreach: University Outreach Center (FEU), Literacy, Sports, People group focus, Translation, Media

Community Services: Galmi Hospital, Centre de Santé, de Leprologie, et de Fistule, Sowing Seeds of Change in the Sahel

Education: Training Christian teachers, ESPriT Seminary, Sahel Academy, Maza Tsaye Conference Centre

Leadership and Services: Administrative services (IT, treasury, personnel, directorate), SIMAIR, Guest houses, Leadership, Church-mission relations

And who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake.

Romans 1:4–5
Day 19

Communities where Christ is least known

University students

Students are open to new ideas and philosophies during university. Those attending the national university are also sometimes frustrated by the lack of resources, and by conditions that result in many days lost from classes. The Foyer Evangelique Universitaire (FEU) provides a quiet place to study and to access educational resources otherwise not available to students. In addition, the FEU hosts special evenings during which students can learn more about a topic of interest, and the gospel is presented. A cooking class has been started for women students. The FEU hosts English classes, which are valuable to students and help them develop the skills to understand online resources, which are often in English. Several missionaries have Bible studies with groups of university students. Several churches are seeking to include students in their activities and outreach.

Pray for

- the people living in thousands of towns and villages throughout Niger, where the good news of Jesus has never been heard – the Songhai/Zarma, Fulani, Gourma, Tamajaq, Hausa, Manga, Arab, and Daza people.
- students who visit the university centre, to be open to accepting Jesus as Saviour. Pray that the Holy Spirit will speak through the Bible studies. Pray for local churches to reach out to university students.
- widows helped through the Dorcas Project. Many were left without income when their husbands passed away. Pray that the women’s small businesses will succeed, and provide sufficient income for their families.
- administrative and management personnel for our institutions. This includes directors for CSL, DFC and Sahel Academy, a finance manager for Galmi Hospital, facilities managers for CSL-DFC, Galmi Hospital, and Sahel Academy, and a second treasurer for the SIM Niger office.
- Nigerien evangelists working in very difficult places on very small incomes. Pray that they can find secondary sources of income to provide for their families. Pray for their protection in the towns where they work.
- patients at our three medical centres, that they will hear the good news and follow Jesus. Pray for courage when they return to their villages. Pray that follow-up visits can be made to former patients who are now believers.
Vision
By faith, we see:

■ more than 75 million Muslims, and others living and dying without Christ in Nigeria, responding in faith to the gospel message, transforming communities as they find freedom in Christ.

■ missionary teams in every state in the north, partnering with the Church to reach the Hausa, Fulani, and Kanuri, where less than 10 per cent of the population are Christians.

■ the Church in one of Africa’s most influential and populous countries strengthened and equipped to transform society at every level, making a major impact in world missions during this century.

Ministry

■ Proclaiming the gospel, with a focus on Muslims in the north

■ Supporting and strengthening persecuted Christians and others affected by oppression and hostility

■ Bringing holistic healing to marginalised and vulnerable communities, and mentoring others to do the same

■ Empowering and making disciples amongst youth, in a country where 50 per cent of the population is under 14 years old

■ Equipping an enthusiastic Church through theological education and other disciple-making endeavours

As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

John 9:4
Day 19

Communities where Christ is least known

People of the north
An estimated 28 million Hausa live in Nigeria, with tens of millions more Fulani and Kanuri, the vast majority of whom profess Islam. Many Muslims are afraid to consider Christianity because they fear persecution. Indigenous missionaries are working among these people, yet many have still never heard the gospel. Additional workers are needed to bring the gospel message to the north, participate in holistic ministries of compassion, and encourage Nigerian missionaries in their outreach efforts.

Youth
It is estimated that almost half of Nigeria's population of 175 million is 14 years of age or younger. A vast number of the youth are non-Christians, and are affected by the messages of society. Many youth from Christian families aren't attending church; others are nominal Christians. The Nigerian church has begun to address this reality by teaching youth how to live godly lives in a rapidly changing world. Workers are needed to assist the church in reaching this community through genuine relationships.

Pray for
- Nigeria’s millions of Muslims to consider the truth of the gospel and encounter Christ.
- care and discipling for Muslims who become Christians.
- our northern initiative, and missionaries for new ministry opportunities in the Islamic north while the region is still open to the gospel (John 9:4).
- our internship program, as we raise a new generation of workers to engage in world missions.
- rebuilding of devastated communities and churches in the northeast and responding as Jesus would to famine and disease conditions in the region.
- effective ministry to widows, orphans, people with disabilities, the abused, and other vulnerable communities.
- persecuted believers to endure hardship and practice love and forgiveness.
- peace and reconciliation between Christians and Muslims.
- the Nigerian church to experience a powerful, Spirit-led revival.
- our missionaries, as they live and minister in this high-stress environment.
North Africa

Vision
Of the 96 million people in North Africa, only a relative handful worship the Lord Jesus Christ. We seek to creatively cross barriers into the Muslim world of North Africa, proclaiming the gospel where Christ is not known. By developing partnerships with like-minded organisations, we aim to accelerate placements of personnel where they are most needed. We envision expansion into the urban centres along the Mediterranean Sea through missional businesses and through professional consulting among the most vulnerable segments of society. We aim to establish ministries among the six desert tribes of the Sahara, comprising 7.5 million people.

Ministry
- Disciple-making and church planting
- Language-teaching business
- Sports and recreation manufacturing business
- Music business start-up
- Special needs ministry
- People at risk
- Missionary kid education

For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
Habakkuk 2:14
Communities where Christ is least known

Urban unemployed youth
In one country of North Africa, 33 per cent of youth are unemployed, with 40 per cent of university graduates unemployed. One of the university graduates said, “For us, unemployment is a kind of blasphemy. An unemployed is not a person... Society itself does not accept him. What is the use of that person?” (Breaking the Barriers to Youth Inclusion, p.24, World Bank 2014)

We are creating businesses focused on hiring young people. We are equipping and helping to establish them as productive members of society. We want to demonstrate the transformative impact of Christ, and see whole families follow Him.

People with special needs
In many Muslim cultures, special needs children are considered a source of shame. Mothers and daughters struggle to care for these children in unseen rooms without assistance or training. Many are suffering.

We have partnered with those whose vision is to bring the light of Christ into this darkness. They enable local initiatives, creating spaces for people with disabilities and their caregivers to grow, learn, gain skills, and simply be loved.

Nomads
Six of the 100 ethnic groups in North Africa are desert nomads. Very few workers are bringing the gospel to these 7.5 million people. Working with nomads is challenging, requiring creative solutions as to where we live and how we minister to them. We are finding ways to meet nomads from the coastal regions in the north, and from the southern Saharan countries.

Pray for
- God to use our new businesses to open doors for many other missional businesses.
- global business people to discover the potential of missional business and start new businesses in North Africa, as they invest and help us find more workers.
- more professionals to serve those with special needs, the dying, and people at risk.
- more workers to reach nomads, and for ministry opportunities to arise within those regions.
Pakistan

Prayer Notes

Vision
By faith, we look to God:

- to see strong churches actively established and sacrificially involved in missions, within Pakistan and beyond.
- to partner with these churches to see equally strong fellowships established where Christ is not known.
- to encourage and support Christian educators in raising educational standards for children and young people.
- to see poor and marginalized families better integrated into society, through education and medical assistance.
- to see new workers established in effective ministry in Pakistan.

Ministry

- Church planting
- Leadership training
- Rural education
- Rural medical assistance
- Disciple-making training
- Business as mission
- Bible college ministry
- Missionary children education
- Language and cultural learning
- Member care
- Welcoming workers from newer sending countries
- Christian schools
- Youth vocational training
- Women and children’s ministry

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us – so that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations.

Psalm 67:1–2
Communities where Christ is least known

Quetta Hazara
Believed to be of Mongol descent, the Quetta Hazara are mainly Shia Muslims. They have suffered greatly from terrorist attacks. Generally hard-working, they place a greater importance on education than other Muslim communities do. Some have come to faith. Praise God that some Pakistani Christians reach out to this community, which is currently difficult for SIM workers to visit.

Marwari Bhil and Mengwal
Predominately Hindu subsistence farmers with poor social standing, the Marwari Bhil and Mengwal people have limited access to education, health facilities, and water. SIM has worked with these groups since the 1960s, and is training leaders for small house churches, which have grown significantly in recent years. However, in vast areas, people have not heard of Jesus Christ.

The Gypsies of Lahore
The Gypsies often live on the edge of society in tents, and make a living collecting rubbish. Many Gypsy parents do not want to send their children to school, because they prefer for them to earn money for the family. Now, through SIM’s partner ministry, many young people are attending Sunday school and learning God’s Word.

Pray for
- visas for new personnel, and for visa renewals.
- further development of the current and future leadership of the field.
- ongoing training of Christian leaders.
- people from all ethnic backgrounds to know Jesus Christ.
- our involvement in supporting church ministries and outreach.
- our teams to have power and wisdom from the Holy Spirit.
- integrity and wisdom for government officials.
- those suffering through natural and man-made disasters.
Paraguay

Vision
By faith, we see:

- God using SIM Paraguay to bring thousands of Paraguayans to salvation in Christ.
- God guiding us to make disciples who will form local churches and become godly and productive members of the Body of Christ.
- God using local churches to impact their communities through his power and the transformed lives of his disciples, leading to a grassroots church-planting movement in Paraguay’s interior.
- God leading local churches to form an association of SIM-related churches, and to freely partner with like-minded church associations on local, regional, national, and international levels to fulfil the Great Commission.

Ministry

- Church planting
- Multi-media production
- Radio ministry
- Christian education
- Leadership training
- Rural medical care
- Audio Bibles
- Youth ministry

To open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

Acts 26:18
Communities where Christ is least known

Rural subsistence farmers
Because farmers and their families live in dispersed and isolated communities, preferring to learn by listening rather than reading, church planting efforts amongst them have been a challenge. SIM is meeting this challenge by placing church planters in these small communities to develop relationships and give people a picture of Christ that they have never known. Using oral methods, the church planters evangelise and train leaders to know and teach the Word, regardless of those leaders’ levels of literacy.

People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA)
Paraguay is not known as a country with a high rate of HIV infection. However, those who have worked many years with PLWHAs in Paraguay have seen a tremendous increase of new cases, mostly among the poor. SIM Paraguay is partnering with other organisations in order to reach those living with HIV and AIDS.

Indigenous communities
With a combined population of more than 90,000, the 19 indigenous communities of Paraguay are in need of Bible translations and recordings. SIM is partnering with German Pioneer Mission, New Tribes Mission, Latinos en Traducción y Alfabetización (LETRA), and others to provide recorded Scriptures and other Bible-related materials in the heart languages of these groups.

Pray for
- boldness to present the Gospel.
- the Lord to bring more missionaries from Latin America to Paraguay.
- continued unity amongst SIM missionaries.
- SIM leaders to have wisdom and discernment as they serve.
Vision
The purpose of SIM Peru is to glorify God by partnering with the Peruvian church to fulfill Christ’s commission.

Ministry
- Church planting
- University student ministry and English ministry for students
- Theological education in Bible institutes and by extension
- Orality Bible teaching
- Capacity building in the church, with ministries tailored to men, women, children, youth, and leaders
- Counselling and mentoring pastors and church leaders
- Camping ministry at Camp La Joya and in Abancay
- Capacity building and training in missions and globalisation
- Mission mobilisation
- Community service ministries: breakfast program, homework clubs, and water projects
- Dental work in a mission hospital and villages, and medical care
- Preparation of children’s material for Sunday schools and Vacation Bible Schools
- Sunday school teacher training
- Sports ministry
- Prison ministry
- Administration

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:22–24
Day 21

Communities where Christ is least known

University students

‘I have never read the Bible before’, said Juan, a new student to our English classes.

In Peru, even students who consider themselves religious have never read the Bible for themselves. We are called to share the gospel where Christ is least known, and universities are increasingly a place where students have little knowledge of the most important person in history.

David and Christine Jeyachandran and their children are serving in Arequipa, Peru. They work with university students, making disciples and empowering students to reach their campus for Jesus. This strategic work could impact the future leaders of the nation.

The Jeyachandrans engage students through small groups on campus, English conversation classes, and a web project.

Please pray that they can clearly communicate the good news of Jesus Christ in the universities.

Pray for

■ unity among the student leadership teams reaching the students on campus.
■ the many students who are studying the Bible on campus and in our English ministry. Pray that we can disciple more students, and that students will be committed to reaching others for Jesus.
■ and give praise for the many Peruvian churches and Christians who are partnering with us in all the ministries we do. Many of them work voluntarily, and see this as their service to the Lord.
■ all our missionaries, as they partner with the evangelical churches and Peruvian Christians. Pray that the missionaries may be good facilitators and mentors to Peruvian Christians, in order to strengthen their faith.
■ the many Peruvians who are getting to know Christ through all our ministries, that they grow in their faith and become faithful and responsible leaders and testimonies in their communities.
■ our Peruvian missionaries who are serving in Africa and Asia.
■ the new missionaries from other South American countries who are joining us to serve in Peru.
Philippines

Vision
In partnership with churches and organisations, we make disciples of Jesus Christ by engaging communities of Muslim faith and communities of migrants, among whom He is least known. We also mobilise and equip Filipinos for cross-cultural ministry.

Ministry
- Children’s ministry, through feeding and education
- Women’s ministry, through livelihood and missional business
- Youth ministry, through scholarships, sports and youth camps
- Video production and ethnomusicology
- Bible translation and oral Bible storying
- Disciple-making, mentoring, and member care
- Hospital visitation ministry
- International student ministry
- Christian academy and Bible school teaching ministry
- Disaster response through relief, psychosocial support, medical clinics, and provision of temporary shelters
- Promotion, mobilization, and recruitment among churches and individuals
- Partnership and networking

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

John 13:34–35
Communities where Christ is least known

Muslim peoples in southern Philippines
Islam is the second largest religion in the country. The 14 unreached Muslim groups in the Philippines all originate from Mindanao. Each has a unique culture, but all share the same faith mixed with animistic practices. For years they have fought for autonomy from the government. Both the failure of past peace talks and terrorist activities have resulted in armed conflict, causing death and displacement of people.

Pray for the ongoing peace talks, and for the fight against terrorism. Pray that through the creative ministries of SIM Philippines and other partners, more Muslim peoples will come to know the Prince of Peace.

Migrant Muslim peoples
The establishment of the Islamic Center in 1964 spurred a number of mosques to be built and Muslim communities to evolve around these mosques in Manila. The armed conflict in Mindanao resulted in a large number of Muslims fleeing to Manila and other cities. Other Muslims came to seek better life through employment, business (usually through illegal means), and studies.

In partnership with like-minded organisations and churches, SIM Philippines is serving in five urban poor communities in metro Manila, and in a community of Manila, through ministries related to children, youth, and livelihood.

Pray for
■ disciple-making efforts and the fellowship of Muslim-background believers. Pray that these believers grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus.
■ the livelihood initiatives to prosper and bring holistic Christian transformation to Muslim families and communities.
■ the international students ministry and other migrant ministries. Pray for creative ways for the foreigners in our backyard to be welcomed and hear the gospel.
■ more workers, and for the protection and fruitfulness of SIM Philippines’ missionaries in various ministries. Pray for team unity, perseverance, humility, and sensitivity to God’s leading.
■ more Filipino churches and individuals to engage in Muslim ministries and in sending and caring for missionaries.
■ ongoing efforts to mobilise, network, and develop good partnerships.
Vision
Compelled by God’s great love, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, our SIM Senegal team vision is to glorify God by:
■ crossing barriers to proclaim Christ, living out the gospel among those who live and die without Him.
■ expressing Christ’s love and compassion through holistic ministry.
■ discipling people into biblically healthy churches, through diverse ministries.
■ working together with churches to fulfil God’s mission across cultures, locally and globally.

Strategic focus: We will work to see ‘Wolof-friendly’ Bible studies, fellowships, and churches develop where Muslims feel culturally comfortable. We believe that reaching the Wolof and Wolof language speakers is an important step toward seeing all people groups in Senegal come to Jesus.

Ministry
■ Teaching English
■ Medical ministries
■ Sports Friends
■ Leadership and admin
■ Teaching and dorm parenting missionary kids
■ Prison ministry

■ Evangelism, disciple-making, and church planting
■ Producing and distributing Wolofal Scriptures
■ Agriculture and development

And repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
LUKE 24:47
Communities where Christ is least known

The Wolof
Our team is committed to learning the Wolof language and culture, and to demonstrating that it is possible to remain culturally Wolof and still follow Jesus. The Wolof are the largest and most influential people group in Senegal. With fewer than 200 believers scattered among the five million Wolof in the country, most still think of Christianity as a foreigner's religion. Those who do show an interest in Christianity experience intense family and social pressure to remain in Islam.

Readers of Arabic script
The majority of students here attend Koranic schools, where Arabic script is taught. Yet, until recently, the Wolof New Testament was only available in Roman script (a, b, c, etc.). Our team has partnered with another mission to publish Genesis, Exodus, Psalms, Luke, and Acts in Wolof, using Arabic script (called Wolofal). In the region of Kaffrine, surveys show that 70 per cent of the men will be able to read these Wolofal scriptures, as opposed to only 30 per cent who can read the Roman Wolof scriptures.

University students
Many university students are enthusiastic about learning to speak English. Both our Dakar and Thiès teams have responded, and are teaching high-quality English classes. This is a practical help to the students, and also opens doors for relationships and conversations about culture, faith, and everything under the sun!

Pray for
- many Wolof to hear or read God’s Word and put their faith in Christ.
- the teachers on our team to teach not only the course material but also biblical truth.
- wisdom for each leader, and God’s blessing on each ministry, that all will be done with love and bring Him glory.
South Africa

Prayer Notes

Vision

- Making Christ’s love known through his people and churches while expressing God’s love in communities where He is least known.
- The people of SIM South Africa growing in their love and knowledge of the Lord to passionately carry out God’s call to reach the lost.
- The people of his church in South Africa proclaiming the Word in faith, actively promoting reconciliation as they embrace diversity, and growing in their passion to evangelise and send servants to least-reached communities.

Ministry

- Mobilisation and training for cross-cultural service
- Children, youth, and young adults
- Muslim evangelism
- Reconciliation promotion
- Theological and leadership development
- Staff development

For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

2 Corinthians 5:14–15
Communities where Christ is least known

Muslims in the Western Cape
Although South Africa still has a small population of Muslims, this movement is growing aggressively. The country has also attracted many Muslims from other countries, such as Somalia, Pakistan, and others from North Africa.

Hindus in Kwa Zulu Natal
According to statistics, South Africa has the largest number of Indians residing outside of India. Hinduism is the main religion of these people, and very few Christian workers serve amongst them.

Prophetic movement
Many new churches are springing up in South Africa, but there is a trend in these churches toward false teaching – a blend of Christian and African religious practices – that is leading many people astray.

Pray for
- an awakening among South African churches that do not have a history of sending missionaries. Pray for effective service in cross-cultural missions.
- workers to take the Gospel to the least reached, including children, youth, young adults, and Muslims, and to minister effectively amongst these groups.
- the churches of South Africa to seek reconciliation and desire multi-cultural congregations.
- teachers to come alongside churches and schools to train up leaders in a deeper understanding of the scriptures.
- a deeper understanding of God’s Word and a spirit of oneness amongst staff, volunteers, and missionaries in SIM South Africa.
**South Sudan and Sudan**

**Vision**
By faith, we see:
- the host and refugee churches united in purpose and mission.
- disciples growing and multiplying among the refugee and host communities.
- the pain of war being brought to the cross of Christ, and people finding freedom.
- the entire refugee population of more than 135,000 in Mabaan county coming to Christ.

**Ministry**
- Doro Clinic
- Theological Education by Extension
- Safe drinking water
- Relief and contingency
- Sudan Harvest Worker (mobilising majority world missionaries)

They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.”

*John 12:21*
Communities where Christ is least known

The Jumjum
The Jumjum, a community from Sudan's western Blue Nile state, have made their home in the refugee camps in Doro, South Sudan. They fled the fighting of 2011, following the independence of South Sudan. A number of missionaries have reached out to the Jumjum. When fighting erupted in Doro on Christmas Day, 2016, the missionaries were evacuated for a time. The Jumjum women continued to meet with one another to share the Word. May this fire of the Gospel spread throughout the majority Muslim tribe!

The Nuba
Much like the Jumjum, the Nuba community borders the former Upper Nile state. A number have crossed into South Sudan fleeing the fighting and searching for safety. They are also from a majority Muslim area. They are a minority in the camps, but had a small church near the airstrip. Fighting on Christmas Day 2016 meant they had to abandon it. Pray for Nuba believers to remain strong, and that the Lord would minister to them in their hardships.

Pray for
- communities fleeing war in Sudan and taking refuge in South Sudan, that they would come to know Christ.
- hearts wounded by trauma to find their rest in Christ.
- our relationship with the host community to continue to grow strong.
- the church to be strengthened and to speak prophetic words of challenge, as well as soothing words of healing.
- the Lord to give grace to our team in Doro, who live in an environment of great tension and insecurity.
Sri Lanka

Vision
To see communities transformed by the gospel and empowered in society.

Ministry
- Disciple-making, Discovery Bible studies, and planting house churches
- Evangelism and evangelist training
- Counsellor training at Colombo Theological Seminary
- Local church-based ministries to build up the Body of Christ
- Seminary instruction
- Pastoral training
- Math and English instruction
- Children’s education
- Counselling women and couples
- Basic counselling seminars
- Marriage and family seminars
- Trauma Healing training
- Muslim ministries

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

1 Corinthians 9:22
Communities where Christ is least known

Radical Buddhists
Buddhists make up for 70 per cent of Sri Lanka’s population. While official Buddhism espouses a form of pacifism and tranquillity, there is a minority who are radical, ultra-nationalistic, and violent. As a result, religious disharmony and tension among the ethnic and religious minorities, especially Christians and Muslims, is on the rise in ‘paradise island.’ Freedom of religion or belief is a fundamental right guaranteed by the constitution of Sri Lanka. The Church is concerned about protests against minority places of worship that continue to occur. In addition to the attacks, intimidation, and protests, legal restrictions are imposed on Christian places of worship. In an attempt to encourage reconciliation and healing after the 30-year war, the government has committed itself to guarantee transitional justice. It is vital for the government to arrest the current situation and effectively address attacks on religious minorities, in order to ensure the integrity of its reconciliation efforts.

In the light of statements made by the State, claiming improved human rights standards in the country, the National Christian Evangelical Alliance of Sri Lanka has called on the government to take effective measures to prosecute wrongdoers and defend the freedom of religion or belief in Sri Lanka.

Pray for
- radical Buddhists to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- some of these to become radical followers of Jesus, like Paul the persecutor.
- the radical Buddhists to turn away from their vain thinking and destructive ways.
- the government to enact laws to protect the rights of all.
- more missionaries to join our team to help make disciples in Sri Lanka.
- the urgent need of two counsellor-teachers to further develop the seminary program.
Switzerland

Prayer Notes

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

John 8:12

Vision
By faith, we desire to:
■ live out our Christian faith in our lives and our service.
■ serve the churches, encouraging and motivating them in a missional vision.
■ make known the possibilities and needs of cross-cultural work in the world.
■ provide encouraging and efficient support and services for our missionaries.
■ put in place a care team that will follow up with mission workers.
■ develop modern and clear communication tools, especially on social media.
■ ensure good management of our administration.

Ministry
The SIM Switzerland office is dedicated to:
■ mobilising Christians.
■ caring for missionaries.
■ producing the SIM Switzerland magazine in French, Italian, and German.
■ facilitating the sending of missionaries from Austria, Czech Republic, Italy, and Romania.
■ helping to develop ministries among migrants in Europe.
■ working together with other European Christian missions.
Communities where Christ is least known

Migrants and refugees
SIM Switzerland has traditionally sent people overseas into the so-called ‘mission field’. We now face a new challenge and opportunity, with people from all over the world seeking refuge in Europe and in our country. Most come from non-Christian backgrounds and have never heard the gospel. Some are from a Christian background, and have fled persecution. European Christians need wisdom to know how to best minister among migrants, in collaboration with each other and with the government.

Postmodern generation
Statistics from 2014 indicate that about 71 per cent of the population of Switzerland consider themselves Christian, with two per cent declaring themselves Evangelicals, 25 per cent Reformed, and 38 per cent Catholic. About 23 per cent of the population are without any confession, and five per cent follow Islam. The influence of Christian culture in society and everyday life is decreasing; individual values and convictions are now more dominant influences. The Christian faith is often considered a life with moral values but not seen as a life in relationship with God, revealed in Christ, and based on the Bible. Europeans need to know God again. Pray for those who have not yet heard of Him, and for Christians to live authentic lives full of passion for Christ. Pray that many would come to know the One who is worthy to be recognised, worshipped, and followed.

Pray for
- good relationships with churches.
- open hearts for missions in the home country and far away.
- creative ways to stimulate people for missions.
- an increase in the number of mission workers.
- the development of our communications, especially social media.
- care of our missionaries.
- God’s provision of necessary financial support.
- wisdom for effective management support of the sending entities in Austria, Czech Republic, Italy, and Romania. In 2016, we sent our first missionaries from Italy.
- wisdom in engaging the work among migrants and refugees.
- good collaboration with our partner organisations in Switzerland and Europe.
**Tanzania**

**Prayer Notes**

**Vision**
- to see the southern coastal people coming to Christ through access to the gospel
- to see the spiritual horizon of believers expanding to reach other groups
- to promote Christian compassion through addressing the needs of people in the community

**Ministry**
- Outreach and church planting in villages
- Children and youth
- Bible teaching at local schools
- Women’s ministry
- Mission training in Dodoma
- Christian school

*However, as it is written: “What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived” – the things God has prepared for those who love him.*

*1 Corinthians 2:9*
Communities where Christ is least known

The Maraba

The Maraba are part of the Makonde group, but they distinguish themselves from other Makonde. Maraba people live at the coast and fish for their living, using sailboats. In dry season, the wind changes and becomes stronger. It is difficult to fish at this time. Some survive with a small harvest from their gardens, but some separate from their wives and families because it is too difficult to feed them. A troubling issue is the use of bombs for fishing. This practice destroys hiding places for fish and kills small fish, and it is very dangerous for fishermen as well.

The Maraba people are strongly influenced by Islam and witchdoctors. They fear being cursed by witch doctors. A fisherman said, ‘You can leave your fishing net at the beach. No one will take it. People know that if you take the net, the owner will hire a witch doctor to curse you to death.’

We pray that the Maraba will come to know Jesus, our hope, and receive salvation in Him.

Pray for

- people living and dying without Christ in the coastal area, that they would hear the gospel of Christ, accept salvation, and experience God's grace.
- local churches to continue to share the gospel with neighbours.
- construction of the primary school in Lindi. May the Lord give all the board members his wisdom and unity in Christ!
Thailand

Vision
By faith, we see the unreached of Thailand authentically responding to the gospel and being discipled into biblically-based, community-transforming churches that engage in mission.

Our mission is to make disciples where He is not yet known.

Ministry
- Evangelism and church planting
- University ministry
- Sports Friends
- Radical Grace: HIV outreach
- Missionary children education
- Leadership and administration
- English teaching
- Business for transformation
- Counselling

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.

Ephesians 1:18
Communities where Christ is least known

The Central Thai
There are very few Christians (0.25 per cent) among the Thai who live in the central plain region, which includes the capital city of Bangkok. Many districts and sub-districts in this region have no known Christians and no Christian workers. SIM is recruiting multi-skilled church planting teams to bring the gospel to this significant group of people in Thailand.

University Students
There are 2.5 million students at 170 universities in Thailand. Many of these come from areas where the gospel has never been preached. University is often a time of self-exploration and considering new ideas, which creates a great opportunity to introduce students to Christ. Most of Thailand’s universities have no Christian work happening amongst students. Opportunities exist from opening new campuses to joining existing campus work. Teaching English is a large and strategic opportunity, because the new Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) community has chosen English as its medium for communication. Students know that their career success will be dependent on their ability to speak English. They desire to learn from first-language English speakers. Our desire is to have workers who are committed to building relationships with Thai university students, evangelising and making disciples of new believers.

Pray for
- God to raise up workers to build multi-skilled church planting teams in the least reached parts of Thailand. Pray that God will break down spiritual strongholds of resistance to the gospel in these areas.
- God to provide workers with a passion to work among university students.
- High levels of fluency in Thai and deep cultural understanding for all workers serving in Thailand.
Togo

Prayer Notes

Vision
We see dynamic, interdependent partnerships and mutually nurturing relationships with Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA-Togo), and other missions and churches, as together we respond to spiritual challenges in modern Togo and beyond, beginning with a focus on the unreached Muslim people groups.

Ministry
- Leadership training
- Bible training
- Friendship evangelism and disciple-making among the local majority people group, with tools such as radio
- Church partnership
- Women’s ministry

And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

Joel 2:32
Communities where Christ is least known

The Met

The largest group of Muslim people in Togo are the Met. The majority of the Met live in the central city of Sokodé and in the approximately 60 surrounding villages. Over the years, Met communities have formed in neighbouring Benin and Ghana. Though about 90 per cent of the Met are Muslim, many mix Islam with their traditional religion. The Met are primarily an agricultural people, growing corn, millet, rice, beans, yams, manioc, ground nuts, and okra. They also keep animals such as cows, goats, sheep, and chickens. In urban areas, they tend to be small-scale merchants. The majority of the taxi and truck drivers in Togo are Met.

About one per cent of the Met population have become believers over the past 20 to 30 years, usually through the witness of friends and family. Several foreign and indigenous missions are reaching out in villages and cities, especially in contexts where the Met are away from their families. One organisation is translating the Scriptures into the Met language, with the goal of completing Genesis and the New Testament within two years. SIM began its ministry among this people 25 years ago through radio, a ministry that continues today. Current missionaries minister through friendship, disciple-making, children’s ministry, and biblical training. A project is underway to assist new Muslim-background believers, both financially and spiritually.

Pray for

- additional missionaries to serve in Togo, both indigenous and foreign. Pray specifically for missionaries to be sent by the SIM West African Office.
- maturity in the ECWA-Togo churches in disciple-making, leadership training, church planting, and mission outreach.
- openness among the Muslim Kotokoli, Lokpa, Bago, Fulani, and Tchamba peoples.
- Christians throughout the country to develop a love and burden for their Muslim neighbours.
- training of the pastors, that God will guide in the planning of appropriate biblical, spiritual, and practical training.
United Kingdom

Prayer Notes

Vision
We work hand in hand with evangelical churches to send and receive gospel workers who are equipped for cross-cultural mission wherever people live and die without hearing God’s good news.

We do this by:
- **serving missionaries** so that they are helped to practice integrated, biblical disciple-making, as they proclaim and promote God’s Word where there is no witness.
- **strengthening churches** in their vision and commitment to cross-cultural evangelism and discipleship both locally and globally.
- **developing mission** opportunities for churches to send and receive cross-cultural gospel workers to places where people will otherwise live and die without hearing the good news about Jesus.

Ministry
- Church-centred mission mobilisation
- Promotion of prayer
- Selection and placement of mission workers
- Missionary development, support, and care
- Receiving missionaries into UK churches
- Church leadership mission support services
- Development of new mission opportunities
- Effective operations
- Stewardship services

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Roman 10:14
Communities where Christ is least known

Refugee communities in the UK
A number of churches in the UK are interested in receiving a mission worker to help them reach their multi-cultural communities. Through our ENGAGE programme, we want to enable this. We are researching other ministry opportunities amongst these communities, in conjunction with local churches. Please pray that the right people are sent by God to serve the UK church as missionaries, enabling them to reach communities where Christ is least known.

Pray for
- the #howwilltheyhear campaign, based on Romans 10:14, which aims to increase church-centred mission mobilisation for ministries working with migrants in Europe and the Middle East.
- our ‘Immerse’ internship and ‘Explore’ short-term teams, which help people to find the place God has for them in his global mission.
- our UK-sent workers to thrive in the environments to which they are called and to be very aware of the support of the UK team.
- the multi-agency initiative ‘Mission through Business’, as it seeks to help more business people see how God might use their gifts and skills to reach the nations, and for SIM UK to serve people effectively on this route into mission.
- our office relocation to enable us to better serve the UK evangelical church in all its diversity, as well as be more accessible from national road and rail networks. Pray for each member of our staff team, that we will discern and trust in God’s purposes.
- that the Lord will raise up more workers for his harvest field from the UK and Ireland. SIM UK hopes to send and receive 185 mission workers by the end of 2018.
United States

Vision
SIM USA's mandate is to connect God's people to God's work in the world. Passionate to see the Body of Christ in all places and among all peoples, we support SIM's efforts to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in communities where He is least known.

Ministry
We encourage and assist evangelical churches and believers in the United States to:
- engage effectively in mission work.
- financially invest in SIM ministries and missionary support.
- pray for SIM personnel, ministries, and the people amongst whom we work.

Efforts include facilitating hundreds more people to serve, and enhancing partnerships with donors and churches. Increased endeavours are being made to partner well with African-American, Asian-American, and Hispanic churches in the US. We also prayerfully desire to see growth amongst our staff, and capable, diverse leaders equipped to serve the ministry beyond 2020.

As you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many. 2 Corinthians 1:11
Day 27

Communities where Christ is least known

Immigrants, refugees, and international students
People from many of the communities where Jesus is least known are beginning to call the US home. In urban centres and on university campuses, individuals from an estimated 350 of these populations now live in the US as immigrants, refugees, and university students (Strangers Next Door; JD Payne). SIM USA’s Cultural ConneXions ministries and partner missions, such as Global Frontier Missions, minister among our neighbours to engage men, women, and children with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

SIM-Asian Access partnership for Japan
Over 99 per cent of Japan's 125 million people do not know Jesus, making this group the second largest population in the world that is living and dying without Him. In 2011, SIM and Asian Access (A2) began a strategic partnership to increase the number of missionaries to Japan. In close cooperation with A2 national partners, SIM and Asian Access missionaries focus on disciple-making and church planting where they see God ripening the soil for harvest, such as in areas that have been hit with tragic disasters. These missionaries also invest in younger leaders, and collaborate across denominations to accelerate the multiplication of disciples and congregations.

Pray for

- receptivity to the gospel and a mighty working of the Holy Spirit among communities in the US that have yet to know God. Pray the US Church will compassionately engage these significant people, encouraging and loving them in the name of Jesus.
- the mobilisation and zeal of the whole Church in the US for ministry both locally and globally. Pray also for increased SIM partnerships among Hispanic, African-American, and Asian-American churches.
- the mobilisation of missionaries committed to partnerships with Japanese leaders to multiply disciples and congregations in Japan.
- holistic expressions of the gospel, effective evangelism and disciple-making, and Spirit-led collaborations and partnerships across Japan toward a church multiplication movement.
Uruguay

Vision
We are convinced that no one should live or die without hearing and understanding the gospel of Jesus Christ, in Uruguay and around the world. For this reason, we believe that God has called SIM missionaries to this country to be instruments who reach, train, and equip new generations of Uruguayans for Jesus Christ.

Ministry
- Church planting
- Youth leaders training and disciple-making
- Mentoring and cross-cultural skill building
- Children’s outreach and Bible training
- Todos Oirán Bible training
- Leadership training program
- Outreach to university students
- Equipping international population for local impact

Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.
Isaiah 59:1
Day 27

Communities where Christ is least known

Muslim Communities
Islam has made its way to the vastly secular land of Uruguay. The Muslim population largely originates from Egypt, Syria, Palestine, and Lebanon. There are more than 50,000 Lebanese descendants alone. The first Muslims came from Palestine around 1940. Today, the immigration trend is the increase of Syrian refugees fleeing their war-torn nation.

Most of the Muslims in the country can be found in the Brazilian border town of Chuy. Others reside in Rivera, Artigas and the capital, Montevideo. Even though many feel integrated into the fabric of Uruguayan society, the Muslims’ traditions and faith have remained largely intact.

Please pray for wisdom in investigating ways to meaningfully engage with Uruguayan Muslims and to introduce them to God, who truly loves and saves through his Son.

Pray for
- God to use the SIM team to reach children and youth, to train leaders, and to equip the next generation of Uruguayan pastors and missionaries.
- missions training programs, including Todos Oirán.
- church planting movements, especially for new generations of Uruguayans to embrace the gospel.
- the leadership training program, that God will raise up leaders and use this in the coming years.
- the youth leaders’ training to have a major impact in the communities and in the country.
Vision
By faith, we see:

- an established multi-ethnic team, vibrantly witnessing to the gospel through character, word, and action in Vietnamese communities where Christ is least known
- God’s people in local, indigenous, mission-minded, growing churches, being and making disciples of Jesus within Vietnam and beyond

Ministry
- Equipping: leadership development, theological and missiological education, vocational training, and sports
- Missional business
- Engaging universities
Communities where Christ is least known

The Kinh
The Kinh ethnic Vietnamese are 86 per cent of Vietnam’s 96 million people. There are more than 50 minority groups. Only around one per cent of Vietnamese in the south identify as evangelicals. The registered church is more established, and is made up of a number of denominations.

In the northern provinces, 0.05 per cent are followers of Jesus. Many minority groups are without any witness to the gospel.

More than half of Vietnam’s population is under 30 years of age. They are seeking identity and purpose through education and employment. They are also becoming more open than ever to a widened perspective on life.

Pray for

- the nation. Vietnam has high ambitions to become an industrialised, middle-income country by 2020. May this provide opportunities for missional business, engaging universities, and educational initiatives, through which Vietnam’s people will find true purpose in Christ.
- Communist Party members, government officials, and military personnel. These people are pillars in Vietnamese society.
- the Lord’s provision of new workers who will thrive in Vietnam and will be able to make disciples in culturally appropriate ways.
- believers and local churches to have a growing vision to reach out to those who have yet to hear of Jesus.
- approaches which train Vietnamese to equip their own people and develop leaders, enabling kingdom growth and transformation, particularly among young people.
- Northern ethnic minority communities that have no church.
- unity between leaders of various registered and unregistered denominations.
- courage and perseverance for those facing opposition and persecution for their faith.
Vision
The West African Office (WAO) envisions partnering with churches to send missionaries who are qualified and equipped for cross-cultural missions all over the world, and who will make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in communities where He is least known.

Ministry
The West African Office achieves the SIM Purpose through:
- developing and encouraging missions interest amongst West Africans.
- training and sending missionaries.
- partnering with local like-minded churches, mission organisations, and other regional bodies in West Africa.
- ensuring adequate prayer and financial support for these missionaries.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Matthew 28:19
Communities where Christ is least known

The Soninke

Three-quarters of the Soninke in Côte d’Ivoire practice their traditional ethnic religion. They are primarily animists, who believe that a spirit or force resides in every animate and inanimate object. They live in fear of evil spirits, and constantly strive to appease them. The remaining one-quarter of the Soninke are Sunni Muslims, following the teachings of Mohammed. They faithfully adhere to the five essential ‘pillars,’ or duties, of Islam. These include affirming that ‘there is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet’; praying five times a day while facing Mecca; giving alms generously; fasting during the month of Ramadan; and making at least one pilgrimage to Mecca, if possible.

The Soninke live primarily along the northern border of Côte d’Ivoire, as well as in Mali and Burkina Faso.

Among all the Soninke in Côte d’Ivoire are only a few known Christians. Those who follow Jesus are severely persecuted; therefore, evangelising is extremely difficult. Most Soninke have not yet heard a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Ask the Lord to send forth labourers into Côte d’Ivoire to share Christ with the Soninke.

Pray for

- the leaders of the WAO board and the local leadership.
- WAO missionaries serving the Lord to have adequate resources to continue with their ministries.
- the Lord to call more West African missionaries who will impact the world for Him.
- God to provide mentors for our candidates going through training, and also for our active missionaries.
- mobiliser teams to find creative ways to mobilise the Church in West Africa to support missionaries in prayer and with finances.
- personnel for the many administrative tasks in the office.
West Malaysia

Prayer Notes

Vision
Our vision is to see God using SIM West Malaysia to proclaim Christ’s love in word and deed to address the need of many to be reconciled with God.

- God’s love reaching the many migrants in West Malaysia.
- God’s love reaching the many students in West Malaysia.
- God using local churches to make disciples of our Lord Jesus in communities where He is least known, ministering at home, regionally, and overseas.

Ministry

- Migrant ministry
- Engaging the universities
- Theological education and leadership training
- Mobilisation

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Matthew 9:37–38
Communities where Christ is least known

Malay

The Malay people of Peninsular Malaysia are the majority in Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore. They find pride in their cultural heritage, place great emphasis on family and community dependence, and are seen in many levels of society. Urban Malay are well-educated and hold professional or government positions, while rural Malay may or may not pursue higher learning and typically occupy jobs such as farming, trading, and fishing.

Islam was brought to Malaysia by Arabic and Indian traders many centuries ago, and the Malay people have embraced, and now ardently follow, the Islamic faith. All Malay are considered Islamic, although levels of devotion to the religion vary. Even those who nominally follow Islam participate in the fasting month. The affluent Malay will go on a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once, if not several times, during their lifetimes. A divergence from Islam is the prevalence of bomohs (folk religion shamans). Although Islam forbids the use of such a person, many Malay of Peninsular Malaysia will seek the services of a bomoh in order to receive a blessing or a cure, or in order to curse someone or inflict revenge.

Pray that the true Lord of lords, Jesus Christ, may be revealed to the Malay people. Pray that the Word of God might transform the hearts and minds of the Malay people that they may be reconciled with God.

Pray for

- new missionaries to serve among the majority Bahasa-speaking people group, as well as in migrant ministry and student ministry.
- cultural understanding in working with both Malaysians and with our new mission family.
- wisdom and grace as we begin ministry in this new context.
- partners in ministry with whom we can effectively serve to build the Church.
- God to raise up effective new leaders who will guide the team with godly wisdom.
**Zambia**

**Prayer Notes**

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

**Romans** 10:14–15

---

**Vision**

Our vision is to see the Body of Christ in Zambia:

- growing spiritually, as we are led by sufficient, efficient, well-trained leaders.
- growing numerically through effective outreach.
- growing in capacity to support the work of the body of Christ in Zambia.
- engaging in ministries of compassion to those around us.
- ministering in a relevant way to the majority of the population who are under the age of 15.
- sending and receiving missionaries, fulfilling the Great Commission, and demonstrating diversity in the Body of Christ.

**Ministry**

- Medical care
- Community development
- Theological education
- Leadership training
- Youth ministry
- Disciple-making and disciple-making training
- Primary and secondary education
- Children’s ministries
- Life skills training
- Literature production and translation
- New initiatives in mission
Communities where Christ is least known

Taabwa
Taabwa in Zambia continue to practice African traditional religion. The SIM mission family is committed to praying for outreach to this community. Traditionally, the Taabwa were hunters and blacksmiths. Today, they live primarily from fishing and hunting. They are also involved in agriculture, growing manioc, millet, cassava, beans, and maize.

Leya
Gospel work is happening amongst the Leya, but most remain without Christ. This small ethnic community of about 8,200 is found only in Zambia. The Leya’s primary language is Tonga, and their identity is deeply rooted in their ethnic religion. Conversion to their faith equates to cultural assimilation. Please pray that gospel effort through the power of the Holy Spirit will bear lasting fruit, so that the Leya put their faith in Christ alone.

Adolescent Girls
Adolescent girls are a high-risk group in Zambia. Before they reach the age of 18, 28 per cent will become pregnant, and 22 per cent will already have a child. In rural areas, as many as 44 per cent of adolescent girls will already have children. The consequences of adolescent pregnancies include loss of further education, increased risk of sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV, and increased levels of poverty. Pray these girls will hear the gospel of God’s love and begin a relationship with Him. Pray that they will understand the high worth they have as God’s children, and make wise life decisions that enhance their futures.

Pray for

■ new initiatives in missions and mobilising local churches to send out missionaries from Zambia.
■ the vision of SIM Zambia, as we work with God in his mission to Zambia and the world.
■ good working relationship between SIM and its partners, including the Evangelical Church of Zambia, in order to effectively and mutually build God’s kingdom in Zambia and beyond.
■ SIM Zambia leaders, as they evaluate SIM’s work in addressing the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs in Zambia.
■ God to lead the right people to fill key personnel needs.
Zimbabwe

Vision
By faith, we see:
- Zimbabwe fully evangelised, that no one may live and die without hearing the gospel and responding to it.
- Believers discipled to live out the gospel in word and deed.
- Christ’s compassionate love shared among the poor, marginalised, and hurting.

Ministry
- Children and youth
- Famine relief, sustainable agriculture, and horticulture
- Missions mobilisation
- Theological training
- Evangelism among cults
- Hope for Life: ministering to people with the love of Christ
- Research desk to contextualise all ministries
- Disciple-making and leadership development to empower the Church

Psalm 67:3-4
May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.
Communities where Christ is least known

Indians
Indians arrived in Zimbabwe as traders as far back as 1890. Their population has steadily increased and, by 2016, they numbered slightly over a hundred thousand. Most are business people of the Gujarati ethnic group, living in urban areas. Most speak English, and a few speak indigenous languages.

They are a closed community, having contact and interaction with other ethnicities only in their shops. The majority are Muslims and Hindus, and a very small number are Christians. Pray that God sends to Zimbabwe a missionary of Indian or Asian background, who may be able to engage the Indian communities and present the gospel of Christ.

Pray for

■ the Church in Zimbabwe to stay strong against heresy.
■ disciple-making ministries to take root in every church and strengthen believers.
■ the Church to look outwards and participate in the Great Commission.
■ God to protect the nation and his Church against the increase and threats of Islam.
■ peaceful elections and economic stability in 2018.
Sports Friends

Vision
To see a global movement of local church-centred sports ministries transforming lives and strengthening communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We strive to:

■ **Stimulate a Vision** for local churches and church planters to use sports as a powerful ministry tool.

■ **Train Christian Leaders** to develop fruitful church-centred sports ministries, that make disciples of Jesus through sport.

■ **Equip Coaches** for effective service by providing ongoing support and encouragement to help them live, lead, minister, and coach for the glory of God.

■ **Develop Leadership Capacity** of sports ministry coordinators, who will provide vision, guidance, and management of the local sports ministry movement and develop coaches at the local church level.

Ministry
In 13 countries in Africa, Asia, and South America, Sports Friends is passionately training and equipping local church leaders and church planters to extend the love of God into their communities through strategic sports ministries. Weekly sports programmes and ongoing disciple-making are complemented by the Sports Friends camping ministry.
Communities where Christ is least known

Regions inflamed by religious extremism and terrorism

In parts of northeastern Nigeria, militant extremist groups continue to spread fear through bombings, assassinations, and abductions. In areas that are hostile to the gospel, sports ministry is proving to be a powerful tool in reaching out to young people and giving them new hope. Through relationships first built on the sports field, coaches trained by Sports Friends are bringing love and hope to youth and their families – hope found in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Much more than a sports coach would, these ‘life coaches’ are mentoring and loving young people, leading them to Christ and helping them walk as mature disciples of Jesus. Sports Friends is now in more than 25 unreached people groups across Kenya and Nigeria.

Southeast Asia

The beautiful countries of Southeast Asia are hard ground for the gospel, with issues ranging from poverty and persecution in some countries to the growing wealth, comfort, and self-sufficiency pervading mega-cities such as Bangkok. Missionaries have been present for a long time, but the evangelical church remains small. Often marginalized, churches are desperate for ways to connect with their communities and particularly young people. Sports provide a bridge and an opportunity for coaches to develop deep relationships where gospel conversations can develop. As they spend time together with their teams, coaches are able to invest in the team members’ lives, walk with them through struggles, and play a role in their families and the wider community, all while living and sharing the gospel message.

Pray for

- the local churches we work with around the world. Pray that God would raise up more churches and denominational partners who will be excited about the vision of church-centred sports ministry.
- the more than 9000 coaches that have been trained through Sports Friends, as they reach out to their communities. Pray that they would be effective in making disciples of Jesus as they live, lead, minister, and coach for the glory of God.
- the youth. Many come from places where they have never heard the name of Jesus. Pray that God will prepare their hearts to hear the gospel.
Vision
The vision of SIM is to see a witness to Christ’s love where He is least known, disciples of Jesus expressing God’s love in their communities and Christ-centred churches among all peoples.

The purpose of SIM is:

Convinced that no one should live and die without hearing God’s good news, we believe that He has called us to make disciples of Jesus Christ in communities where He is least known.

Ministry
The ministries of SIM International Leadership and Services clear barriers for those whom God is calling to serve cross-culturally. We achieve this by providing the following:

- global leadership and training in different aspects of mission work.
- cross-cultural ministry development in more than 70 countries.
- worldwide personnel, financial, and technical support to remote mission locations.
- direction and planning for the expansion and long-term sustainability of SIM priority ministries and projects.
- multi-lingual communication resources, needed to spread and share the gospel.

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.”
Revelation 5:9
Communities where Christ is least known

Refugees and displaced people
More people have been forced to flee their homes by conflict and crisis than at any time since World War II. Refugees are those fleeing war, persecution, and political upheaval who have crossed borders to seek safety in another country. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are those forced to leave their homes for the same reasons but have not crossed a national border.

Although several crises around the world are driving the current displacement of people, the civil war in Syria has been one of the largest recent reasons for this global crisis. Currently, 65 million people are displaced worldwide, including 5.1 million who have fled Syria. With neighbouring countries no longer able to absorb uprooted Syrians after more than five years of fighting, hundreds of thousands of refugees have fled to Europe. A report from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that one in every 113 people globally is now either an asylum seeker, internally displaced, or a refugee. On average, 24 people are forced to flee their homes each minute.

Having been exposed to violence, abuse, risk, and loss, many refugees and displaced people are subject to varying degrees of trauma, as they seek to start a new life and learn new languages. Pray that God would equip his church to reach these communities living and dying without Christ, sharing the hope and peace that comes from the Lord.

Pray for
- unity, courage, wisdom, and discernment for the International Director and his Leadership Team.
- effective people development, as we seek to be disciples who make disciples.
- effective mentoring and disciple-making at all levels of leadership, and especially for wisdom in encouraging SIM’s developing leaders.
- the Malaysia Initiative Task Force to be effective in implementation of the key initiatives, and that this work will launch SIM into ministry opportunities among those who have never heard the gospel of Christ.
- good leadership and member care for our teams who do vital coordinating and support work in the areas of personnel, finance, projects, communication, archives, operations, administrative support, and information systems.
- the Ministry Point Persons, as they work alongside the International Leadership Team.
- the launching of Missional Business as a strategic ministry of SIM.
Regional Service Centres

SIM’s Regional Service Centres offer vital support to SIM workers serving in a particular region. These strategic centres provide services in accounting and finance, health systems, human resources, project development, logistics, information technology, and media. Specialised staff facilitate good practices and accountability for the countries they serve. With the service centres providing this critical assistance, existing ministries and new initiatives in ministry are able to thrive in their mission of proclaiming Christ to those who live without God’s good news.

CSEA Regional Office (Continental & South East Asia)

Serving: China, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam

The CSEA regional office provides leadership to assigned countries, and management and administrative services to all the countries in the region. SIM CSEA provides the infrastructure to enable country-level priority ministries to grow and function well.

Pray for

- more workers to join the SIM CSEA team.
- capacity to provide excellent media and communication to supporters, teams, countries, and partners for mobilising prayer, people, and resources.
- the CSEA office team to have listening hearts and skillful hands as they provide leadership and services.
- good ministry team leaders to emerge, so that they can lead new initiatives and provide leadership in the smaller countries.
- good partnerships with host country believers and local churches, as together we reach the communities where Christ is least known.
Day 30

**EASC East Africa Service Centre**

Serving: East African Sending Office, Kenya, South Sudan and Sudan, Tanzania

**Pray for**
- the services to be a testimony in the quality of their work, as they support the countries in the region in reaching those living and dying without Christ.
- those working in the service centre to continue to serve Him faithfully and grow in Him daily.

**SASC Southern Africa Service Centre**

Serving: Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Reunion, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**Pray for**
- the financial sustainability of the service centre.
- the services to be a testimony in the quality of their work, as they support the countries in the region in reaching those living and dying without Christ.
- those working in the service centre to continue to serve Him faithfully and grow in Him daily.
Workers for the harvest

We are keenly aware that fulfilling our Purpose and Mission, and Vision, is only possible as God calls workers into his harvest, and calls co-labourers who pray and give, so that workers can serve effectively. The need for workers is acute.

- Please pray that the Lord of the harvest will call and send from the global Church many more labourers into his own harvest.

Candidates and appointees

Every year, people of all ages enquire with SIM about serving in God’s worldwide ministry. Many enquiries lead to a confirmation of God’s call, and to service. Without these candidates and appointees who replenish the work-force, many will live and die without hearing God’s good news.

- Thank God for those who are in the process of exploration.
- Pray for staff to offer godly encouragement and counsel.
- Pray by name for the candidates you know.

Staff in active ministry

Many SIM offices and ministries include both missionaries and other workers. All of them serve sacrificially in their assigned responsibilities and in prayer. They enable workers into the harvest, enable resources to reach these workers, and they fully participate in seeing the gospel taken to those who live beyond barriers.

- Pray for harmonious relationships in our ministry teams, and for a strong sense of shared vision.
- Pray for God’s peace and grace for all who are carrying heavy personal burdens.

Donors and prayer supporters

Without our donors and prayer partners, proclaiming the risen Christ in communities where He is least known would be quite difficult, if not impossible.

- Thank the Lord for these valued members of the SIM community.
- Pray that God would keep their hearts warm towards Him, and that He would prosper them, in order that they may fulfil their key roles as senders.

Partner churches and pastors

We are committed to work together with churches. Churches are the base of missionary sending; without them, missions organisations would not exist. Together with Christ-centred churches around the world, we seek to fulfil Christ’s call to cross-cultural missions locally and globally.

- Thank God for pastors with a vision for extending Christ’s Church to the ends of the earth. Ask Him to bless them with a joyful sense of his pleasure and presence.
Day 31

- Pray that in the midst of multiple pressures, pastors would maintain personal spirituality and a global vision; pray for God’s anointing in preaching and leading, so their people catch a missions vision.

**Children of SIM workers**
The children of cross-cultural workers are part of God’s call on each family. They are valued by the Lord of the harvest, by their families, and by society at large. They are a treasure in our hearts and in our organisation.
- Pray that the children of all SIM workers will see Christ’s love, goodness, and truth within the context of their family’s ministries, and will become his true followers.
- Pray for resilience in the face of multiple farewells, cultural adaptations, physical and spiritual stresses, and re-entry to their home countries.

**Multi-cultural teams**
SIM desires to see multi-ethnic and multi-skilled teams serving together in love and harmony.
- Ask God to equip all our teams to become increasingly diverse.
- Pray for grace and patience in all the adjustments we make when people from different languages, cultures, and generations join our teams.

**Missionaries and workers on Leave of Absence**
Many workers transition in and out of different roles and active service at different stages of life.
- Pray as they adjust to life outside of the missions community.
- Pray for physical, emotional, and relational restoration when needed.

**Bible colleges and seminaries**
Preparation for cross-cultural missions engagement begins in Bible colleges and seminaries. As go these institutions, so goes the church.
- Pray that faculty members in all departments will teach a biblical, missions-integrated worldview.
- Ask God to equip students for lifelong spirituality and service, as they learn evangelism, discipleship, and ministry skills.
- Pray for students to surrender to God in the choices they face, and for financial provision and management.
- Pray that Christian campuses will be centres of reconciliation, godly living, and wholehearted pursuit of God.
Prayer for Renewal

Father, we thank You for washing us in the blood of the Lord Jesus and making us holy before You, by the work of the Spirit. To the praise of your glory, we are clean! But daily, our hands and feet get dirty, so we come to you, aware of the seriousness of our sin.

Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Proverbs 28:13

Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

Isaiah 59:1–2

As we examine ourselves in the mirror of the Word, we confess we have not displayed the character of Christ in all things and at all times, as we live in community. The things we desire to do, we do not.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Galatians 5:22–23a

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another, if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues, put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Colossians 3:12–14

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18
And the things we desire not do, we do.

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, and greed, which is idolatry . . . But now, you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other.

Colossians 3:6,8,9a

Do everything without grumbling or arguing.

Philippians 2:14

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit.

Philippians 2:3a

Thank You that your gospel of grace has freed us to be fully and joyfully obedient.

For we know that our old self was crucified with him, so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin – because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

Romans 6:6

Thank You that your grace restores us to loving communion with You and your children, to lasting fruitfulness, and complete joy, and insures our prayers for fruitfulness will be granted.

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you . . . You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”

John 15:9–12, 16
“For the love of Christ compels us...” Corinthians 5:14