

Grow as we Go

A Flourishing People Engaged in Effective Ministry Together

By prayer, SIM commits to foster a flourishing ecosystem in order to engage communities where Jesus Christ is least known.

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them rich and satisfying life. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.”

John 10:10-11

How should we understand the moment SIM is living in?

Over the past five years, our SIM community has been on a journey of grasping the huge task in front of us, captured by our Purpose Statement:

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.

This renewed focus has led to launching new ministry initiatives, expanding work in existing countries, pioneering brand new work, and launching new mobilisation and sending initiatives. These have been years of lifting our eyes and launching out, By Prayer, as we have focused on proclaiming the good news where Christ is least known.

However, what happens if all this ministry and organisational growth is not paired with the growth of our people’s passion, faith and skill? Our faithful service will lead to lasting fruit only if we shepherd intentionally; helping those in our ecosystem to flourish and grow in spiritual vitality.

We need to keep both our purpose and the growth of our people in balance. We must simply Grow as we Go! If we seek to grow in Christ as we sacrificially go, we will see God’s work done in our lives and in those we serve where Christ is least known. The excitement is in fulfilling our purpose in God’s strength, but we won’t finish well if we don’t have the right foundation.

By investing in one another and journeying side by side, we can mature in prayer, spiritual vitality and dynamic outreach. And as we pray for our SIM ecosystem to flourish, we will wait expectantly for God to bless our community as we serve those living where Christ is least known. We do this remembering that some those to whom we minister are part of the larger Body of Christ in which SIM ultimately strives to invest.

The Vision of “Grow as we Go” is to:

Fulfil SIM’s Purpose: Joyful and diverse workers bringing the good news of great joy to contexts where Christ is least known.

Bless SIM People: the growth and healthy development of God’s people, whether they are with SIM for a day or for a lifetime.

One Ecosystem

What is an ecosystem? An ecosystem is “a system, or a group of interconnected elements, formed by the interaction of a community of organisms (people) within their environment (organisation).” Therefore, one could say that our ecosystem is “a community of people committed to collaboration within a diverse, global SIM vision to make disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in communities where He is least known.”

Three Concepts: Flourishing, Future, Friendly

These ideas are the summary of the three leadership priorities that I presented to the Board of Governors for the next five years of the International Leadership. These three words frame the posture I believe SIM needs to have to thrive:

- **A flourishing organisation** with a culture that nurtures people (even in very difficult places),
- **A future organisation** that is investing in ideas and people that represent new generations and new contexts, and
- **A friendly organisation** that is welcoming and collaborative across generations, cultures and organizations.

Five Words: Care, Team, Ministry, Outcomes, Development

There are five words that fill out the three concepts within the ecosystem. Care and Team represent our efforts to help workers flourish. Outcomes and Development represent our efforts to help the organisation flourish. And Ministry is the glue that ties the people to the organisation and helps us to accomplish our Vision in an integrated way.