

Serving Him

South America

Water engineer Lizzie White is sharing the gospel drop by drop in Peru

Spotlight on...

... a least-reached community in Ayutthaya, Thailand

Case study: UK

Meet a couple serving cross-culturally in Manchester



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SIM
Serving In Mission UK

By the numbers

2,123

people have been mobilised for mission by SIM UK in the past

24 years

SIM workers are serving in more than **80 countries** across the world

Three out of every five people in the

10/40

window have no access to the gospel

More than

42%

of the world's population live in the approx.

7,400 people groups

considered to be least reached

87%

of all Hindus, Muslims and Buddhists have limited, if any, contact with a Christian

Christianity (all kinds)

is growing at

1.18%

per year, but Islam is growing at 1.92%

Our Strategic Review sets

6 vision goals

to help us work with churches to fulfil God's mission across cultures locally and globally

Sources: Joshua Project, Status of Global Christianity, United World Mission

Welcome

Turning passion into action

It is the convictions we hold in our hearts that keep us on course. Speaking recently in one of our partner churches, what struck home for many, were the words of one SIM mission worker about their move to live and work among a community without any known believers.

“We must confess it wasn’t an easy decision to make,” he told us, “but knowing that there are people dying without the opportunity of hearing about the salvation in Christ Jesus is enough reason for us. For what good is 100 lights in one room when another is in deep darkness?” (See Page 16)

In our new-look magazine you’ll read how SIM is strengthening and supporting churches to show and tell the gospel in their communities and to reach out with missional vision and action.

People sent or received through SIM UK are ordinary people following Jesus in response to his gospel call; with a shared conviction that if people go through their lives without hearing of Christ, then they will be unprepared to meet him when he returns.

How can they know what they don’t know? SIM UK exists to help churches put legs on the desire to see faithful disciples cross barriers to proclaim Christ’s life-giving truth.

Our priority is to offer as much assistance to churches and workers sent through SIM UK to make a difference ‘around the world’ and help UK churches develop cross-cultural mission ‘across the street’.

We engage directly with churches to help them become more mission-minded and invite them to partner with us in sending more Bibles, people, and resources, to where the need is greatest.

There are so many ways to get involved — perhaps there’s someone you could encourage to serve in a community where Jesus is not yet known, or you can support our Giving Weeks to enable SIM’s gospel work to continue throughout 2022? (See Back Page)

And if you’re asking: What difference can we make with the gifts God has given us, why not take that question to God in prayer? Prayer is our first response and God is the one we depend on in his mission. (See Page 12)

The work of SIM in sending, receiving and supporting gospel pioneers and co-workers in mission is a testament to the grace of God. Our Strategic Review (See Page 8) sets out how we intend to have greater mission impact over the next five years in partnership with UK churches, as we turn passion into action and get on with the work he’s placed in our hands.



Steve

Steve Smith
UK Director

P.S. I’d love you to sign up for our weekly prayer email, **SIMpray**. Just go to sim.co.uk/simpray or email linda@sim.co.uk

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THE GOSPEL

DROP BY DROP



Digging a water trench



Lizzie White's water hygiene ministry is opening a door for the gospel in some of the least-reached communities of the Peruvian Andes

By Kerry Allan



Lizzie White can often be found driving up precarious mountain roads for hours at a time, to visit rural communities in the Peruvian Andes – but it's all in a day's work for this dedicated mission worker.

Since 2014, Lizzie has used her skills as a water engineer to help improve the quality of life for hundreds of Andes villagers, who have their own culture and language, called Quechua.

Lizzie is based in Abancay, a large town deep in the mountains, about five hours south of the city Cusco – which was once capital of the Inca Empire – and carries out her ministry in partnership with a local Peruvian organisation called AIDIA, which does community development work in rural areas, including Bible translation, church support and church planting.

"The villages are scattered around and often high up in the mountains,

which makes them quite remote," says Lizzie.

"I accompany the local Quechua-speaking Christians from AIDIA on their trips and get to know the church (and the community gets to know me) before beginning my water teaching."

Lizzie shows villagers how they can protect and maintain their water system properly to ensure water is clean.

Parasites that lurk in unsafe drinking water cause a range of complaints, including anaemia, malnourishment and stomach upsets.

"I'll also talk to individual families about how they can use water filters that remove microscopic parasites from drinking water in their homes," she explains.

Over the years, Lizzie has made friends with her 'water filter' villagers and is welcomed back when she makes follow-up visits.

Continued overleaf.



Her ministry has also helped to break down barriers and change attitudes in some areas where there was initial opposition to the church.

“The water ministry work that I do and that of one of my SIM colleagues in dentistry, really helps people to see that the church is there to be a blessing to the community,” she adds.

During her time on the field, Lizzie, who is sent by Barnabas Community Church, Shrewsbury, has developed good contacts with the regional Peruvian government officials, who are keen to prevent the health and economic difficulties created by poor water quality and sanitation.

While they run projects and build infrastructure, such as reservoirs and

toilet blocks, they are grateful for Lizzie’s expertise and invite her to teach water hygiene in schools and train district staff about the long-term benefits of water filters.

Excitingly, from February, three of AIDIA’s workers will be supporting Lizzie in her water ministry.

“An existing SIM project working with AIDIA has been expanded and updated to enable each worker to give part of their time for water projects,” says Lizzie.

“We’ve been praying for this for many years because it means we’ll be able to visit even more areas and I can train the Peruvian Christians to help with the work and eventually take over.”

“ It’s a great encouragement to believe our work is making a difference, both in terms of healthy lifestyles and community relationships, and it’s also amazing to be part of a joint project between SIM and AIDIA that’s led to many families coming to church on a regular basis where they hear the gospel.”



Lizzie explains to villagers how the tiny parasite 'gardia' contaminates their water



Donate to this ministry

To support Holistic Quechua Ministries, Abancay (Project Number 91151) please go online at sim.co.uk/support/donate or call us on 01223 788288.

➔ Pray

- For energy and safety during challenging journeys.
- For wisdom in her role as SIM Peru Personnel Coordinator, as Lizzie takes time away from water projects to help workers settle into their new context and team.
- For many Peruvians to respond to the Living Water and the promise of salvation through Lizzie's ministry.

On the front foot...



Deborah Agnes,
SIM UK's Operations
Director, gives
an update on our
Strategic Review

Thank you to all our supporters, staff, volunteers and mission workers, who participated in our Strategic Review during 2020–21. We want to be a mission agency that is responsive to our times, committed to biblical truth and a servant to the church.

We have chosen some areas to invest in over the next five years as we continue with our vision to work hand in hand with evangelical churches to send and receive gospel workers, who are equipped for cross-cultural mission and to make disciples wherever people live and die without hearing God's good news.

Shared learning

December 2020 saw an intensive review period with Frank Analysis Ltd involving six online focus groups; 22

interviews and two questionnaires to staff and mission workers to explore SIM UK's role in mobilising people into mission in the years to come, given the developing UK church scene and the changing profile of each generation of workers.

We listened to lead voices within the UK and global evangelical church scene, consulted church pastors, youth workers, prayer group leaders, our alumni and retirees and our existing body of mission workers and staff members from across the country.

The findings were incorporated into a 23-page report, made available to church and ministry leaders around the country via our equipping mailing RESOURCED! and on our website.

A relational approach

We plan to invest in developing



“Come, follow me,”
Jesus said, “and I
will send you out
to fish for people.”
Matthew 4:19

relationships across the diversity of the evangelical church, as well as with each generation. We want the learning from these relationships to inform how we develop in the years to come.

Quality services

We heard from those we currently serve that we provide an excellent service, and we want to keep this up. We also want to consider how to use new technology to improve our operations.

Hand in hand with the UK church

It has been a huge joy to receive workers from overseas into UK church placements, despite the restrictions of the pandemic. They are helping churches reach out across cultural boundaries to communities

with gospel needs within the UK.

Many churches are also seeking help with becoming communities that demonstrate our new humanity in Christ and are strengthened through diversity. As well as immediate gospel impact, these activities have the potential to

mature each church member and grow future cross-cultural gospel-workers whom we would love to have serve through SIM UK!

Further information and articles about how we conducted this process can be found on our website: sim.co.uk/news/strategic-review/

Mark Heasman, Co-chair of the SIM UK Trustees until January 2022, says: “The new vision goals show that we are still relevant and that we are committed to being sustainable. We’re being proactive, on the front foot, and anticipating what God is doing. Looking to the future, we’re committed to raising up the next generation and giving them the microphone.

“Steve and the team did a really good job in engaging with staff, trustees and partners to listen and take on board comments – it was an iterative loop with partners and staff – so that there was no end goal in sight beyond that we knew we needed to change and we knew we needed to bolster the organisation for the future.”

Meet our new workers

Praise God for our latest workers being mobilised into global mission. Please keep them in your prayers and if you'd like to be a prayer partner of any of them individually, then sign up on the SIM UK website at sim.co.uk/prayerpartners



Catherine Grierson

Sending church:
Redeemer Church,
Winchester.

Going to:

Madagascar, to teach ultrasound and X-ray interpretation to medical staff at the Good News Hospital.



Please pray for:

Travel and planning while entry into Madagascar is unpredictable.

- Improving my French.
- Developing godly attitudes.



Lucy Rurlander

Sending church:
Moodlands Church,
Lancaster.

Going to:

Madagascar, to help teach the children of mission workers working at the Good News Hospital.



Please pray for:

Clarity as to what to do during my university gap year and for God to use it to grow his kingdom.

That hospital patients would be brought out of darkness to know Jesus.



Josh & Rachel Griffiths

Sending church:

Redeemer Church, Manchester.

Going to:

Potosí, Bolivia, for 12 months, where Josh will work in a Bolivian-run health clinic and Rachel will use her social work skills to help the local community.



Please pray for:

People who want to partner with us in prayer and financially.

Our sending church to see our time away as an opportunity for them to participate as a family in God's global mission.

For Josh to learn Spanish quickly!



Esther Lawrence

Sending church:

City Church,
Sheffield.

Going to:

Madagascar, to work as part of the medical team at the Good News Hospital.



Please pray for:

Me to prepare well – mentally, spiritually – and in terms of language and any medical learning I can be doing whilst the borders are closed.

For opportunities to be a witness to my non-Christian friends as I talk about why I'm going to Madagascar.

Energy and stamina to cope with working in a very different medical setting.



Byron King

Sending church:

Knighton Free
Church, Leicester.

Going to:

Nigeria, to work with Sports Friends and use football to share the gospel.



Please pray for:

Raising support and sharing my vision with those I come into contact with.

God shows no partiality



Intercultural churches are not a blueprint, they are an outcome of living out Jesus' teaching

By Steve Smith, SIM UK Director

Our Mapping Intercultural Mission research into how churches and ministries engage interculturally in communities in both Leeds and Manchester confirms that some churches struggle to know how to engage with their multicultural and diverse neighbours in 21st Century Britain.

This is not a new topic for the church to grapple with. Back in Acts 10, God's revelation to Peter and Cornelius sent ripples through the early church. Only when he witnessed non-Jews hearing and receiving the good news of Jesus did Peter say: *'Truly, I understand that God shows no partiality.'* **Acts 10:34**

Yet even afterwards, it took time to recalibrate Peter's practice. In Galatia, it took Paul to confront the gap between Peter's conviction and treatment of others. Peter's fear of those in the cultural majority, combined with their sense of supremacy and pride, had left him out of step with the gospel.

Obedying everything Christ taught amongst our communities not only fulfils the Great Commission in us, but it also results in diverse churches,

giving and receiving discipleship from each other.

This requires churches to move beyond fear and anxiety to trust Jesus Christ in humility. It also calls for us to keep in step with the gospel in how we relate to one another.

'Intercultural churches are not a blueprint; they are an outcome of living out Jesus' teaching' is how one church leader put it during a recent coaching session.

It's an exciting time to be alive in Britain – the diverse church can embrace Jesus' call to people from every nation to follow him on the way of the cross.

Exalting Christ above all other identities will reform and transform ourselves and our Christian churches. Indeed, engaging all kinds of people in our communities means setting a course of self-sacrifice in the service of others.

Paul writing to the church in Corinth, says they are *'called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours.'* **1 Cor 1:2**

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If

anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it.

Mark 8:34-35

We must never lose sight of God's loving forgiveness of us. When we know the extent to which God has loved us in Christ, then we have the essential ingredient for learning and testing how he wants us to treat those who are different to us, even in face of hostility.

Today, together, as the global body of Christ, the apostle calls us to follow his example of self-sacrifice in the interests of the rescue and restoration of others.

→ **Find out more**

Go to the SIM UK website to read the research reports: sim.co.uk/news/uk-intercultural-mission-research/

When we pray, GOD WORKS



We believe prayer is the first and most important thing we can do in our efforts to recruit, prepare, and journey with Christians sent by churches to make disciples of Jesus where it's most needed



By Linda Hunt, SIM UK Prayer Coordinator

By Prayer is SIM's motto because it is truly by prayer that we praise God, seek his direction, request resources, and stay connected to the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to live as the Lord desires and accomplish the work he has placed in our hands.

Physical and spiritual barriers are broken down by answered prayer and despite a global pandemic, God continues to open doors to communities previously closed to the gospel message.

As this Faithful Witness worker, serving an Islamic community, reveals: "I have been given a name meaning Princess of Light, I like the name in particular because of the meaning it carries. When I asked, 'Why that name?' they explained, 'You will be like a light that shines in the darkness here'.

"I was amazed! The Islamic community does not comprehend this truth. I am here for that very

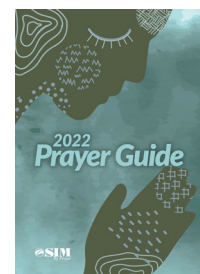
reason – to be a light to those living in darkness. This is my prayer, that many will encounter the true light."

By Prayer is a call to action, emphasising its importance when sadly, our teams report new believers being shunned by their communities and cut off by their families.

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 2 Corinthians 10:3-4

SIM International's prayer guide is a fantastic tool to help us intercede for those living outside a saving relationship with Jesus, many of whom have never heard his name.

On January 1, I flicked through the 2022 guide with eager anticipation. It's always a joy to





read the ways in which the Lord has been working through the prayers of his people and to join with voices around the world in petition for those who don't yet know him.

This excerpt from Liberia caught my attention: "Among the many ethnic groups in Liberia, there are people who live in remote areas of the deep forest or coastal swamp who have never had someone tell them about Jesus Christ. Some primarily speak a dialect of a language that is not spoken outside their region... Liberia's road system is poor and skeletal, so remote rural people never travel beyond the closest market town. Some places have never had a visitor to their home village. The Evangelical Church of Liberia (ECOL) carried out a medical outreach in one such village.

"The team and supplies had to be flown in by helicopter because the area is surrounded by rivers with no bridges. Some walked for hours

to reach the clinic, and local people heard that these people came in the name of Jesus. Elders from one town asked ECOL to please send mission workers to tell them more..."

So, as you pray and listen to the

Some of the other incredible things God has been doing around the globe in the past year include:

- A growing number of people looking to serve in some of the hardest locations around the world, where there is no church and little witness.
- Doors opening for UK churches to send people to new ministry locations, including Mexico and Central Asia.
- Churches in the UK, eager to learn more about reaching the nations on their doorstep, taking part in our intercultural training and welcoming mission workers to serve alongside them.
- The completion of new Bible translations and Christian audio materials that allow some of the least-reached peoples of the world to engage with God's word in their mother tongues.

promptings of the Holy Spirit, be encouraged that by prayer, God is working through you.



Turn to Page 22 to learn more about SIM's core values.



→ *Spotlight on*

Ayutthaya, Thailand

For more than 400 years the island city of Ayutthaya, in central Thailand, stood as the glorious capital of the mighty kingdom of Siam.

In the late 1700s, it was destroyed by a Burmese army and the Thai capital then moved to Bangkok, 50 miles away.

Since then, although it remains a historically and spiritually significant place, the ancient city has become just another town on the far outskirts of sprawling Bangkok and in some ways, forgotten...

When SIM identified Ayutthaya as one of the least-reached places in Thailand, the opportunity arose to introduce our Faithful Witness programme to the region.

Along with Thai Christians, SIM is working hard to ensure that Ayutthaya is no longer forgotten. A multi-ethnic, multi-skilled team serves the community through English teaching, university outreach, sport ministry and hospitality evangelism.

“In Thailand, eating with one another is a part of building relationships and we long for people to be feasting and enjoying each other’s company with God’s presence among them,” says one mission worker.

“Even if we share the gospel for a long time and it seems there is hardly any fruit, we’ll keep going and keep working.”

→ Pray

- For the team to continue building relationships of trust in their Thai communities.
- For doors to keep opening for the gospel to take hold in Ayutthaya.
- That God will raise up more patient, persevering and pioneering workers to join the Faithful Witness initiative.



At a glance

- Population of Thailand – **70 million**.
- **Buddhism** is the largest religion and practised by 93% of the population.

- **Ayutthaya** is a UNESCO world Heritage Site and one of Thailand’s most popular tourist destinations.



- Ayutthaya was dubbed the **‘Venice of the East’** by European merchants because of its cosmopolitan population and network of canals and rivers.
- **Roti sai mai**, which is sold by many street vendors, is Ayutthaya’s signature dessert snack (a Thai version of candyfloss wrapped in paper-thin crepes).
- There are just **11 local churches** and an estimated 500 believers in Ayutthaya.



Sharing Christ in difficult places

The Great Commission tells us to “Go and make disciples of all nations” **Matthew 28:19** and SIM has a history of more than 125 years of gospel work; first in Africa and now in more than 70 countries around the world.

However, most mission workers and most money goes to places where there is already a Christian witness.

Yet there are still places in the

world where there are NO churches and FEW or NO Christians and NO gospel workers.

That’s why in February 2019, SIM launched its Faithful Witness initiative to support new efforts to share the good news of Jesus in difficult places — places that are challenging for gospel outreach and sometimes, even hostile toward Christianity and mission workers.

Go to the SIM UK website to:

- Watch a video about Faithful Witness.
- Read stories of our teams.
- Pray specifically for these pioneering workers.

Faithful Witness teams are multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, and multi-skilled workers engaged in a host of ministries – from tentmaking and business, to medical and education.

The teams are a great example of one of SIM’s core values: ‘Strengthened through diversity’ with workers representing seven sending offices and 15 nationalities.

The make-up and dynamics of each team is critical to its success.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

As well as Ayutthaya, **Thailand** (featured) the current Faithful Witness locations include:

- **Mali**, where the team needs engineers, medical workers, and teachers to live among the rural Hassaniya. Read how a water project in one village opened doors for the Faithful Witness team on Page 16.
- **Chad**, where in 2018, there was just one team member, this year nine people hope to be working together to build on the good relationships already established through community health ministries.
- **North Africa**, where we work in close partnership with a local denomination with a long history of service in the region. The team is focused on university ministry and the door is open for sub-Saharan Africans to join them.



- Our team in the **Middle East** is small, but very excited for others with a heart for the people of this region to join them.
- Four families are working among the Fulani in **Nigeria** with a focus on church planting, but the team would like to add workers with experience in agriculture, veterinarian training, and medical skills to better engage the community.
- A team is hoping to begin ministry in an area of **Asia** that will focus on business and community health. Opportunities to connect with a local Bible college will also help to build bridges into this community.
- For more than 100 years, mission workers have



been ministering among a people group in **East Asia**, but have often faced persecution, so we pray God will sustain the Faithful Witness team preparing to share the gospel here.

To find out more, please email us at info@sim.co.uk or call 01223 788288.

How can you help?

- Support Faithful Witness by mobilising people at your church, or by contributing to a ministry project or start-up costs.
- Pray for the existing teams and for plans to launch four new teams by 2024.

Miracles in Mali



A young family from Jos, Nigeria, took a leap of faith to live among the Hassaniya-speaking Moors of Mali

By Kerry Allan



During his first visit to one of the villages, Azi took a walk across a marshy area that forms a lake during the rainy season and made the villagers laugh as he began to sink!

Insecurity, a harsh climate, isolation and deeply-held cultural beliefs are huge barriers to gospel work in the Kayes region of Mali, but in late 2019, Azi* and Jaara* moved there to join the Faithful Witness team.

The couple made the tough decision to leave their home and ministry in Jos, Nigeria, because they were passionate about reaching the lost with the gospel.

Until the couple arrived, there was only one known Christian Moor in Mali.

“Knowing that there are people dying without the opportunity of hearing about the salvation in Christ Jesus is enough reason for us to

move to a difficult country, far away,” says Azi, “for what good is 100 lights in one room when another is in deep darkness?”

Despite the challenges, Faithful Witness workers were welcomed by the local Hassaniya, who are open to receiving workers willing to live among them and learn their language and culture.

“We’ve been able to build trust and friendship in these rural villages and provide potable water through solar-powered boreholes – a project that’s also benefiting neighbouring communities,” says Azi, “but the most ground-breaking event was when God used us to win a new Moor soul for him.”

**Pseudonyms used*



The Faithful Witness team launched a water project in two villages with support from the Nomadic People's Network

Living water

“Albishir* saw God’s love in action through the team and when we prayed for him when he was sick and further helped him with money for medication,” recalls Azi.

“He told us that his first daughter had died after a brief illness and even though it made him sad, he believed that’s how life was. At this point, we asked him if he was prepared for death if it came for him. In response, he said that he wasn’t, as he didn’t know where he’d end up, but he believed we had the answers to his questions.

“We told him about the love of

Christ and the assurance of salvation, after which, with joy on his face, he accepted Christ, saying he’d found what he was looking for. There and then, he took off his charm and gave it to us, which we burnt, and he said Christ had come into his heart to stay forever!”

God has also opened doors in two churches in Kayes, where the couple help with discipleship training and mobilisation to encourage more Malians to get involved in the work.

“We’ve been taking believers through the ‘Equipping the Saints’

discipleship training, to which they’re responding well,” says Azi.

“In fact, when we discussed the Great Commission, they were so surprised to learn they had a part to play in reaching the lost with the gospel of Christ because their perception had been that it was strictly the responsibility of the pastors and mission workers.

“At the end, they were able to form a mission’s group in the church and started reaching out to their neighbours.”

Continued overleaf
*Pseudonym used



➔ Pray

- For Albishir to remain steadfast and rise above the fear of persecution if his family and friends find out he is a Christian.
- For the rest of his family to come to Christ, as they are friendly and open to the gospel.
- For funds to build a house for the Faithful Witness team to stay in when visiting the villages.

‘No regrets’

Being a mother in missions

The family welcomed a new addition to the family while serving on the field – a little sister for their son, three.

“Giving birth away from home but in one’s country is challenging enough, but more challenging is giving birth in a foreign country, with weather, language, and cultural barriers,” Jaara admits.

“Here I was in the labour room, unable to express my feelings and pains to the midwives because I couldn’t speak their language. I appreciated my husband’s efforts in translating to them, but it wasn’t sufficient.

“To the glory of God, our baby was delivered successfully and then started the next phase of our struggles.

“Our friends and missionary colleagues were very supportive and encouraging, but that was nothing near the comprehensive care that a newborn and its mother usually receive where I come from in Nigeria.

“The woman’s mother, mother-in-law, or at least an elderly woman, stay and care for the baby and the mother for at least three months.

This privilege I didn’t have. Both my children needed attention, and while my husband was busy with my son, I had to look after my daughter all day, despite needing rest myself.

“When the Bible says in **James 1:2-4** that *we should consider it pure joy, whenever we face trials of many kinds, because we know that the testing of our faith develops perseverance, and perseverance must finish its work so that we may be mature and complete, not lacking anything*, I see it speaking to me.

“Now I can say that I’m more mature, both as a mother and a

servant of God. I consider it as a privilege to nurse this child and to groom our children in God’s way, and letting the people around see that.

“I remember a mission worker I met, telling me she’d love to show my baby to the locals during their weekly health meetings as an example of how a healthy baby should look.

“I have no regrets in serving the Lord as a cross-cultural mission worker and hope this encourages anyone transitioning through difficult times, that God is with us, and he works things out for our own good.”



Azi and Jaara, with their children





Discipling new believers in the local church

While you were waiting

“We had earlier hoped to depart for Mali in September 2019, but God had other plans,” says Azi.

“Although our land borders were closed and we weren’t certain about the possibility of crossing, we then received words from our leaders in Mali that the most convenient time for us to arrive was early December.

“It was then suggested to me that I could be ordained before leaving for the field; something I’d not thought of earlier,” he admits.

“This delay was a blessing in

disguise, as the extra two months gave us the opportunity of not only spending some good time with family and friends, but also for support-raising. We realised that we didn’t have to leave in a haste for this noble cause.

“What humbled us the more was the number of people who trooped in to attend our ordination and bid us farewell. We really felt supported, even though not in cash, but in prayers and love.

“It wasn’t until we got to Mali, that we realised the huge advantage of our

ordination. The people there had a lot of respect and honour for pastors and reverends, but treated those bearing the name ‘missionary’, with suspicion and distrust.

“It also helped us to gain acceptance with ease in the Malian churches and we praise God for all that we have been able to accomplish for him in these past two years.

We are also progressing with our language learning so we can have an even better understanding of the people and the culture.”



There are opportunities to join the Mali Faithful Witness team in medicine, community health, teaching, adult literacy, rural development, engineering, sports, media, church planting, and anti-human trafficking.

To find out more, please contact SIM UK to talk to our team.



Azi and Jaara



Loving our

NEIGHBOURS



Meet Dave and Helen Smithers – a couple with a real heart to share their faith with a multicultural community in Manchester

By Kerry Allan

Home to more than 500,000 people, SIM UK workers Dave and Helen Smithers arrived in 2020 to live and work among a Manchester community that's 80 per cent Muslim and with a very limited church presence.

Previously, the couple had served in a Muslim part of Birmingham for almost six years, before spending two years in South Asia learning the language and culture in order to help them in cross-cultural ministry back home in the UK.

"Spending time in South Asia equipped us for our long-term

vision, which God put on our hearts, to break down barriers that exist between Muslims and Christians," explains Dave, who grew up in South Asia.

"Overall, our main goal is to love our neighbour and be good Christian examples to the people around us."

Leaving behind the patriarchal South Asian society, extreme heat and mosquitoes, the couple are now using what they've learnt in Manchester.

They are partnering with the Antioch Network, a network of small churches where people share life, food, fun, God's word, joy, sorrow, prayer, and love for their neighbours.

Dave works at a primary school as a sports coach, running activities at lunchtimes and also using football to help a group of boys, who are struggling with anger and discipline. Some of them also have ADHD, autism and mental health conditions.

“Many of these kids are set to struggle in school and some may become lost to organised crime gangs, so football is a kind of therapy they find can be fulfilling and enjoyable,” explains Dave, who is starting to see progress in their behaviour.

“I’m able to be a positive role model and show them that there is more to life than just academic success. I’m also trying to show Christ’s love as I get to know them.”

Helen spends much of her time building relationships and engaging with neighbours and mums from school.

She’s also capitalising on her natural people skills to train as a counsellor and gain more knowledge to help further with the pastoral care of people she meets.

“I’m looking forward to becoming a qualified counsellor and be in a



Photo by Pete Askew, Antioch Network

better position to help and support women,” she says. “Throughout our time in South Asia, I gained more of an understanding of how difficult it is for women in this culture.

“A woman’s role is usually seen to be in the house with the kids, while the man goes outside, works, and socialises. That’s just the way it is, and it’s given me new insight into how difficult it is for women from this culture when they move to the UK. In a society where men have more authority and are considered more important than women, it strikes me how much these women need to know and see God’s love for them.”

The couple also host Bible studies to support church leaders and younger members of their congregation, many of whom are from very different cultures.

Their two children, Daniel (aged seven) and Amy (aged four) go to a local primary school, which the couple say provides many opportunities to chat with other parents, many of whom are open to talking about Dave and Helen’s faith.

“It’s lovely to be part of an inner-city church plant and in the long term, we want to work with churches and others in culturally diverse areas to help them to build bridges into their communities,” adds Dave.

“ It’s wonderful to work together with Dave, Helen and their family to reach out to the area around us. Their commitment to the area and the diverse groups of people who live here, is a real encouragement to our whole church. As a small church plant, they are an invaluable part of our church family.”

– Antioch Network

Support the Smithers

Dave and Helen are supported by a group of individuals and churches – including their home churches Strand Presbyterian Church in Belfast and St Gabriels Church in Sheffield – but please go to our website sim.co.uk/support/donate/ if you would like to also partner financially with what God is doing through their ministry.

→ Pray

- Give thanks for Dave and Helen as they use every opportunity to share their faith with others.
- For the church plant to grow and find creative ways to engage with the diverse local community.
- For others to come and work in these multicultural and challenging areas of the UK.

True to our word

Our commitment to biblical truth helps Serving In Mission embrace diversity, says SIM International Director Joshua Bogunjoko



Dr Joshua Bogunjoko was appointed SIM International Director in 2013

There is a very good reason why Serving In Mission's first core value states that we are committed to biblical truth.

We recognise this truth as the foundation for our faith; the guide for our lives; and the ultimate truth for living. Nothing else in the world could take its place in the life of a believer, community, society, or church.

SIM leadership worked on a new summary of our core values in 2021. We believe our core values are very important. Indeed, they are a key part of what binds us together as a mission.

In the summary, that commitment to biblical truth remains central. It's why we're committed to teaching the Bible in all contexts and ministries, and translating it into people's heart languages. It's exactly one

of those translation efforts that made my own love story with the Bible possible.

I was raised in a small village in Nigeria, in a nominally Christian family. My parents attended church, but also worshipped idols. Although I was active in church, I didn't know that I needed Jesus or could have a personal relationship with God.

Out of a desire to read God's word for ourselves, my younger brother, Ezekiel, and I decided to work and earn money to buy our first Bible. We obtained this Bible when I was 11. Two years later, we earned enough to buy a second one. These were very precious to us, and I've always loved the Bible.

Something amazing about my Yoruba Bible was that it was the inspired, infallible word of God,



just like the English Bible of the first SIM missionary, Guy Playfair (pictured), who came to my village in 1912. In fact,

his English one was a translation from the Greek and Hebrew, yet it was also inspired and holy. My Bible even used the Yoruba term 'Olorun' for the creator God.

By contrast, in my family and village were those who practised Islam. Muslims believe the true revelation of God in the Qur'an

can only be accessed in Arabic and all translations of the Qur'an are considered commentaries. The Arabic word for God, Allah, is used by all Muslims, regardless of their own language.

Although our Bibles were precious, I didn't commit my heart to Christ until I was a teenager in a boarding school run by SIM and now run by ECWA (Evangelical Church Winning All) Church. From my time of conversion, I was absorbed into a vibrant Christian student fellowship on campus. Coming to faith in a mission school meant I was immediately disciplined, prepared for baptism, and trusted into active participation in ministry in my campus fellowship.

What might this have to do with SIM and our diversity today?

What I realise now is that my own language, my people who spoke this language, and the context where my language was spoken, were a legitimate place to gain knowledge of God's revelation and pursue a relationship with him. The same gospel principle that deemed my Yoruba Bible to be the inspired, infallible word of God, is the principle that calls all people worthy of dignity and participation in a gospel community.



Whether or not our founders (pictured) could have imagined welcoming such a diversity of people into SIM, the gospel intends this and is in its DNA. And so, by SIM's faithful and humble pursuit of the gospel, we've become increasingly diverse.

If our God commissions his eternal holy Word be preached in every language – to be studied and interpreted by diverse peoples with the help of the Holy Spirit – how

much more can we freely welcome diverse peoples to sit at the table of SIM and influence our organisation, which is merely temporary and created by humans?

As a child of God worthy of God's revelation in my language, I, along with every worker, am worthy to participate in SIM because we all have access to the same biblical truth that daily and relentlessly shapes our lives and our journey.

→ Pray

- That the Holy Spirit will refresh us with biblical truth and increase the diversity of our organisation.
- That we will stay in step with Jesus all the way, led by his Holy Spirit and guided by his word and his love for all people.
- For our workers to be reminded of and embody each of SIM's core values.



SIM summarises core values centred on biblical truth

3 Ds:

Dependent on God – We are people of prayer. We trust in our faithful God and affirm the truth of the Bible.

Diverse – We are one in Christ. We embrace, and are strengthened by, the international, interdenominational and multi-ethnic diversity of his church.

Disciples who make disciples – We cross barriers to fulfil God's global, urgent and unfinished mission.

3 Cs:

Church-centred – We are part of Christ's church and together we plant, nurture and equip churches.

Compassionate – We are people of love. We humbly offer compassionate, holistic service and eternal hope, through the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Community – We live a life of integrity in obedience to God and in relationship with each other as we listen, learn, grow, and innovate together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



A list of SIM's 10 core values can be found on our website at sim.co.uk





GUIDING HANDS

Who sits on SIM UK's Board of Trustees? Find out all you need to know and meet some of them in person at this year's SIM UK conference on September 24



Rev Jonny Dyer
Co-chair

After working as a solicitor for 11 years, Jonny studied Theology at the Reformed Theological Seminary in America. He recently took up a job working with the Diocese of London and was Associate Rector at All Souls, Langham Place, London, for the past 10 years.

He is married to Naomi and the couple have two sons. Jonny enjoys following England in sport, winning at table tennis and hanging out with his family, along with walking, good food and good conversation.



David Thompson
Co-chair and
Chair of Finance
and Legal Committee

A Chartered Accountant and global professional services firm retiree,

David has worked with many public sector and charitable organisations in the UK, Europe, Middle East and the Caribbean, specialising in strengthening financial capability and corporate governance.

David is married to Linda and they have two sons, Richard and Andrew. David serves with his local Baptist church in Bangor, Northern Ireland. He has been involved with Serving In Mission for several years, assisting the UK, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Niger offices with finance-related matters.



Steve Smith
UK Director

Steve took over as the UK director of Serving in Mission in March, 2014. Previously, he led Grace Church, a growing co-mission church plant in Worcester Park, south London.

Steve and his wife, Gwyn, have experience of world mission, having served in Uganda with Crosslinks.



Bennett Chandran

Born to missionary parents in South

India, Bennett moved to the UK after his bio-technology doctorate. He was previously a research scientist in medical diagnostics for seven years and studied a Theology MA. Currently, he teaches Applied Science in higher education and occasionally theology at Irish Baptist College.

He is married to Anitha and with their children, Rachel and Zach, they serve at Windsor Baptist Church, Belfast.



Claire Newman

Claire works for Christians in

Parliament, where she is involved with pastoral ministry among MPs and staff and also manages the events programme. She was formerly Internal Communications Director at Save The Children and has completed the Cornhill ministry training programme. She serves at Christ Church at All Saints Wandsworth, where she leads a home group and chairs the mission committee.



Nigel Young

Nigel worked as Director of

Training at the Irish Baptist College and is now retired. He and his family (Carolyn, and grown-up children Hannah and Jonathan) have been involved with Serving In Mission for many years; first through short-term mission work in Kenya and then long-term service in Niger.



Yoseph Mengistu

Yoseph is from Ethiopia and lives and

works in the UK with his wife Mekdes and their son, Nathan. Yoseph has taught at higher education institutes in Ethiopia and the UK and has extensive ministry experience at local and national church level. He serves as a deacon at Pinner Baptist Church, London, where he also preaches and teaches regularly. He describes himself as an unrepentant football fan.



Carolyn Reid

Carolyn has been SIM's International Health Coordinator

since 2018 and currently combines this role with part-time work as a medical adviser for Voluntary Services Overseas. She is a medical doctor and in addition to UK hospital practice, she has worked across several countries in Africa and Asia, with Médecins sans Frontières and another mission organisation.

She is married to Phil, a Bible translator, and they served with SIM in West Africa from 2013–2019.

→ Pray

- We give thanks for each trustee who together, represent a wealth of mission experience.
- For wisdom as the board seeks to ensure SIM UK uses its resources well.
- For God's leading in discussions and unity in decision-making.

SIM UK Conference

24 September 2022, 10am–4pm

Join us for a day of celebration, Bible teaching and fellowship together

- Meet some workers
- Hear from ministries and
- Discover our vision for the least reached

SAVE THE DATE

Histon Baptist Church, Cambridge

Further details and RSVP at sim.co.uk/news/conference/

Both sides of the mission coin

By Kerry Allan

SIM UK is at the forefront of the 'from the world to the world' movement through its ENGAGE programme

While the UK church has been 'sending' gospel workers for many decades, it now recognises the many gospel opportunities that exist here on our own doorstep.

ENGAGE is a two-year rolling programme that works hand in hand with SIM global entities and UK partner churches to carefully recruit and place gospel workers — largely from majority world countries — to help the receiving church:

- Cross cultural and linguistic barriers
- Build trusting relationships and,
- Share Christ with great commission nations embedded in their surrounding communities

"Mission is no longer an activity

of 'us to the world' but 'from the world to the world,'" explains ENGAGE coordinator Tim Barrow. "The pathway into mission has become a dual carriageway and through ENGAGE, we partner with UK churches who want to share the gospel within their multicultural communities."

ENGAGE placements are usually for one to two years and can take the form of an internship, or allow a more experienced gospel worker to focus on a specific ethnic people, according to the ministry goals of the receiving church.

"We're so grateful to God for our partnerships with those UK churches, who are committed to reaching their surrounding multi-ethnic communities with God's truth," says Tim, "and we'd love to collaborate with more and see ENGAGE grow in 2022."

➔ Watch and learn

Find out more about ENGAGE by watching our brand new video on YouTube at youtube.com/simukvideos. You can also read more stories about our ENGAGE workers on our website, at sim.co.uk



Workers on the ground



Mary

Mary, from Ethiopia, is serving with Inspire St James, Clerkenwell, where she teaches English as a second language and runs life-skills courses for the homeless and vulnerable adults, asylum-seekers, and low-income families.

Pray:

- Give thanks Mary's English classes have been well attended with a diverse range of people eager to read the Bible.
- Give thanks for the deepening relationships she has formed through her ministry and that she has committed to a second year of service.



Lawrence & Elizabeth

Lawrence and Elizabeth, from Sierra Leone, are serving with Harper Church, Glasgow, and are involved with various cross-cultural ministries, including hospitality and street evangelism among West African refugees and asylum-seekers.

Pray:

- For the couple's grace and wisdom in communicating the message of hope to many displaced families.
- For relationships already built and for further doors to open for gospel conversations within the West African diaspora community.



Ram & Keshari

Ram & Keshari, from South Asia, are serving with a new Antioch Network church plant in the heart of a Muslim town in Greater Manchester, and have become an integral part of the leadership team.

Pray:

- For safety as they work among an unreceptive community.
- Give thanks that the couple have

expanded the bookstall ministry (held in different locations) from one to three days a week.

Elkin & Nora

Elkin and Nora, from South America, are serving with a Latin-focused church plant in London, where Elkin helps with leadership, especially in the youth ministry.

Pray:

- Give thanks Elkin's gifts, skills and experience have been used very effectively within the church to help with planning, training, mentoring and discipleship.
- That funds will be found to enable the family to remain at the Interamericana Church in 2022.



To get ENGAGE-d

Please contact engage@sim.co.uk or call 01223 788288, to discuss how your church could receive an ENGAGE worker.

Mary's happy landing



For visa reasons, Mary returned to her home in Ethiopia in late July, with the aim of returning

to the UK in September.

From the outset, it was an ambitious plan – not only from a visa perspective, but also because under Covid restrictions, Ethiopia was classified as a red country.

This meant Mary needed to plan and pay for 10 days of quarantine in a designated hotel once back in the UK – a very expensive undertaking.

Amazingly, God answered her prayers as before her departure, she was able to raise a considerable amount to help with travel and the prospect of a costly quarantine.

Then in early September, the news came her new visa had been granted and a 10-day stop-off in Kenya (now

classified as a green country) before proceeding to the UK, would meet requirements and avoid costly quarantine in the UK.

However, following a long journey, Mary eventually arrived at Heathrow Airport and was faced with a two-hour wait in the immigration hall.

Tired and nervous about immigration control, she eventually made her way to the desk. The official looked at her papers and said, "So you are Mary... we've been praying for you and your return. I'm a member of a sister church to Inspire London and we've been receiving updates concerning you and praying for you throughout. Welcome to the UK!"

Tim Barrow, ENGAGE coordinator says: "It's such an encouragement that with all the uncertainty and doubt that had plagued previous months, Mary knew afresh that she was in the right place."

➔ Pray

- Give thanks for the gifts and skills of our ENGAGE workers and the unique insight they bring to different cultural and ministry backgrounds.
- May God use them greatly for his glory.
- Pray for three new possible workers to arrive in 2022.

Donate to Engage

To support ENGAGE (Project Number 090278) please go online at sim.co.uk/support/donate or call 01223 788288.

Join us in gospel work



In a world where people are living and dying without hearing the gospel, partner with us by financially supporting our work, says Joanne Cornish, SIM UK's Head of Relationship Development

Choosing to make a gift to global mission makes a real difference to our ability to equip those called by God to share the good news 'to the ends of the earth'.

Last year, we launched our first Giving Weeks, where every penny raised was used to equip, mobilise, and support mission workers in their ministry.

Thank you to all those who so generously donated, helping to raise more than £89,500 for gospel work.

We were absolutely blown away by the success of the fundraising campaign – but can we beat that amazing total in 2022?

Please consider supporting our three Giving Weeks for 2022 and help to mobilise more new workers to serve cross-culturally; equip UK Christians to cross barriers with the gospel; and support mission workers

Mobilising, Week 1

May 2nd–8th

Equipping, Week 2

May 30th–June 5th

Supporting, Week 3

July 4th–10th

who already serve overseas or in the UK. (More information on Page 22)

We'd also love you to keep praying for every community to hear about Jesus through our mission workers and to keep sharing stories with your churches and on social media of lives transformed.

Details of how to get involved are available on our website, or give us a call on 01223 788288.

Thank you!



Growing church leaders in Benin





We are constantly blessed by the faithful and sacrificial support from so many of our wonderful supporters. Your partnership with each of the mission workers and with dozens of ministries worldwide means they can continue. We thank you for your prayers, for your encouragements, and your gifts.

You can read how we steward our resources in our 2021 Annual Report at sim.co.uk/news/annual-report/.

The best ways to give

Keen-eyed regular readers will spot that there is no tear-off donation flap in this new magazine! It is a lot more efficient and cost-effective for us to process donations digitally through the website, directly from your banks (like standing orders or direct debits) or over the phone. However, we are still accepting cheques by post, although they will take longer to be processed.



New believers baptised in rural Peru – your gifts enabled mission workers to reach this community

Scan the QR code to make a one-off gift or set up a regular giving method.



Steadfastness and unity

Come together this September for a day of teaching and celebration of what God is doing through SIM ministries and workers.

Join us at Histon Baptist Church, Cambridge, to meet current workers, hear about new ministries, and be encouraged for Christ-like service wherever the Lord has placed us, as we work together to fulfil the Great Commission.

“We’re so thankful for our

partnerships as we seek to faithfully cross barriers to make disciples where Christ is least known,” says SIM UK Director Steve Smith, “and we’re very much looking forward to coming together for a day when we focus on the gospel task Christ gives his gathered followers.”

The conference will be held on Saturday 24th September, 10am–4pm. Please go to sim.co.uk/news/conference/ to register.

Come and serve

Use your skills for mission

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

Mark 16:15



South East Asia

Theological training for local believers

Through a two-year training programme, we help disciple church leaders and believers to serve their nation and the wider world. Working in a sensitive community, you will help mentor local Christians and equip church leaders to strengthen partnerships and encourage evangelism.

Middle East

Business and economic development

Christians in business have the potential to transform communities through tackling injustice, coaching entrepreneurs, modelling integrity in business practice, and discipling colleagues and staff. There are opportunities for business professionals and trainers to serve in small business development and consultancy roles.



Central Asia

Church planting through business

Serving in a business role and blessing the country through contributing economically, you will be settling into the community and developing relationships for spiritual conversations. Whilst language learning, you will encourage local believers, assist with evangelism and active witness, and together with local churches, form new house churches.



Thailand

English teaching – part of Faithful Witness

We are looking for people who can teach English and build relationships with students in a strategic city. Workers will be focusing on conversational English with games and activities to practise speaking and listening.

South Asia

Teachers, coaches, and education coordinators

Teaching small groups of ministry kids, or helping develop the next series of study centres for ministry children, you will enable mission workers to continue serving in the local region. Experienced teachers of all levels needed.



Benin

Digital communications and radio ministry

We want to ensure every ethnic community in Benin can hear, understand, and be transformed by the gospel in their own language. Digital platforms can enable people to hear and download gospel messages and respond through web-based interactions (like chat boxes or social media). Radio is an open platform from which to share the gospel, reaching across into regions where there are no Christ-centred churches.

Angola

Flying Doctor rural healthcare

Are you a primary care medic, a general surgeon, community health nurse or nurse practitioner – or at

Chile

Relief work and trauma healing

Through partnering with churches, you will join an established ministry in Santiago to support children, youth and vulnerable adults, who have recently migrated. Opportunities involve running trauma-healing workshops, English or Spanish clubs, sports activities and more practical relief, alongside befriending and discipling.



med-school? Working alongside our team and Mission Aviation Fellowship, you will serve in rural clinics and medical outreaches to remote communities, have an opportunity to train and work with local colleagues, and share in the spiritual ministry of the clinic.

➔ Take the next step

Take a look on our website at a selection of the hundreds of opportunities available. Go to sim.co.uk/serve/ministries

Contact us

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



2022 Giving Weeks

for global mission



WEEK 1

Mobilising

2nd–8th May

WEEK 2

Equipping

30th May – 5th June

WEEK 3

Supporting

4th–10th July

Help us recruit gospel workers for cross-cultural mission, equip individuals and churches across the UK for ministry, and support ongoing workers and projects around the world

Your faithful generosity and prayers enable ministries worldwide to continue

sim.co.uk/news/giving-weeks/



**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**