

# SIMnow

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**SIM**  
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Joining hands with the Church we see the gospel transforming lives in the powerful name of Jesus Christ.



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## At Times Like These!

Crises in the world continue to overwhelm us: the news of ISIS and many innocent lives lost, the continued attacks on Christians and churches in Nigeria and the Al-Shabaab in Kenya are all reminders of the sad reality and challenging times we live in. Should we be alarmed and lose hope?

Jesus says: "... you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet" (Matthew 24:6).

Does this mean we do not care or have concern for the suffering in the world? What is our role as Christians in all of this? What is the root cause of all this suffering? It all begins in the understanding of who Jesus is and what He has done. Jesus came to establish a new kingdom.

It is very easy for us in times like this to lose our focus and to forget what God has called us for. Wars, conflicts, persecution and all bad things will continue to happen in this world because of the sin and lost-ness of people. For the past two consecutive years SIM has made a huge effort in gathering leaders around the world to discuss the existence and ministry of SIM. In Malaysia last year five focus areas were identified. Following that an Imbizo (Global Assembly) of SIM leaders and leaders of the countries where SIM works met together in Thailand to discuss, among other things, our purpose of existence. The Assembly endorsed a purpose statement which will guide SIM: 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. The emphasis was on the least reached and the lost people.

The darkness we see happening around the world today is the result of lost-ness and sin. Our response and our role is to proclaim Jesus the true light of the world. The kingdom that Jesus represents is different from the



kingdoms of this world. Jesus brings salvation, reconciliation and peace. It is a spiritual kingdom that resides in the heart of all those who believe in Him.

As long as human hearts are estranged from God there will be evil, war and violence in this world. The crises in the world are reminders that the missionary task is far from completion. Our calling is to do what Jesus came to do "seeking that which is lost" (Luke 19:10) so that all peoples may praise God, the nations be glad and sing for joy because He rules them with equity and guides the nations of the earth (Psalm 67:3-4).

In this issue of SIMNOW you will be challenged and encouraged to read what some of our missionaries are involved in. These stories include: out-reach to the lost through mission radio, God's protection during the Ebola crisis, the impact of SIM's international leadership meetings, an inspiring poem about the church, the completion of a new Bible translation in the Chiyao language of Malawi, and many others.

We are grateful to all of you who continue in partnership with us. We pray that under God we will see the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ cutting across the nations and reaching all peoples of the earth. Join us as we pray that his message will change hearts and bring lasting peace and that the troubled regions of the world will know His peace. ■

Siegfried Ngubane

### IMPORTANT NOTICE!

It has come to our attention recently, that the SIM name is being used fraudulently to solicit money from folk by enticing them into home rental agreements.

Adverts claim that folk associated with SIM (both locally and internationally) will be leaving their homes to take up responsibilities in other countries and need to rent out their homes.

The names of the people associated with these adverts thus far are nowhere to be found on the SIM International Database.

Please be cautious when entering into any agreement, as part of this scam involves the requirement to fill in a form with certain personal details. After that, one would assume that there would be a request to pay over a securing deposit.

If you are in any doubt, please contact the office for further details before entering into any agreement, should the people associated make any reference to SIM.

# Global Assembly



Largest ever SIM gathering focuses on “those who live and die without Christ”



SIM's first Global Assembly was convened in Chiang Mai, Thailand, 1-7 March 2015. The largest ever gathering in SIM history, it was hosted in three world languages. There were more than 150 attendees including every country director and several board or council chairs (or their representative), a reflection of the organization's new governance structure. Some SIM partners, such as Evangel Fellowship, DMG of Germany and FEDEMEC of Latin America also attended.

The purpose of the Global Assembly (GA), which will occur every three to five years, is to “provide a forum for missiological reflection on the direction and strategy of the Mission.” The majority of the week’s events were talks, followed by group discussions. Speakers included Pastor Dereck Stone of South Africa; Rev. Dr. Femi and Mrs. Affy Adeleye of Nigeria, currently based in Ghana; and Dr. K. and Mrs. Pramila Rajendran of India.

Rev. K.’s passion is for global leadership development and evangelism in the contemporary world. Pramila Rajendran specializes in caring for missionaries and leaders. Both serve as global consultants for missions, leadership development and member care.

Dr. Adeleye spoke on “Serving God as we make disciples where Christ is not known.” He said, “Making Christ known is the reason we exist and the ultimate goal for everything that we do.” The director of church partnerships for World Vision International, previously served for 32 years with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES). His wife, Affy, coordinates HIV and AIDS work for IFES.

Pastor Dereck Stone’s devotional theme for the week was “Worshiping Christ in heart, word and deed.” The only business meeting was held on Tuesday afternoon with

the historic participation of 32 signatories to the Mission Agreement. A special recognition was given to the original eight signatories, who unanimously agreed to give up the old governance structure in which they were owners of the Mission and adopt the new structure with its new stakeholders.

Evening sessions included worship and praise music led by a multi-national team in French, Spanish, Korean and English. Sessions of prayer followed, focused on SIM ministry countries and people groups, where many are still living and dying without understanding the gospel.

The closing ceremonies included inspiring music from an orchestra of Korean students, followed by praise music and then communion, shared among the entire Assembly. International Director, Dr. Joshua Bogunjoko, comments, “We praise God that the work of reaching those who live and die without Christ is revitalized as a result of this gathering.” ■



# Fighting Ebola in Liberia

By Graham Wood, South Africa

At the end of each year, international publication TIME Magazine elects someone as their 'Person of the Year'. In 2014, they decided to award the honour to a special group of people whom they named, 'The Ebola Fighters'. These people represent organisations such as SIM, Samaritans Purse, Doctors without Borders and others working at the forefront of fighting the deadly Ebola epidemic which has claimed the lives of over 10 000 people to date – with the end not yet in sight.

Dr Jerry Brown, surgeon in charge of the SIM-ELWA Hospital in Liberia is part of this group and had the honour of having his face featured on the cover of the December 2014 issue of TIME Magazine!

Shortly after the Ebola outbreak was declared, TIME Magazine Africa Bureau Chief Aryan Baker visited Liberia where she witnessed the devastating effects of the Ebola virus. There she met Dr Brown and used his picture on the TIME cover. She wrote:

*"Dr Jerry Brown, the Liberian surgeon on the cover, runs both a hospital and an Ebola unit; he lives a continuous loop of life and death – breaking away to celebrate when Ebola patients survive the disease and can be released with a clean bill of health."*

Dr Brown works at the ELWA (Eternal Love Winning Africa) Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia. He first heard that the fearsome Ebola virus had gained a foothold in his country in March last year. He knew that the virus was contagious and fatal in up to 90% of the cases. It became clear that Ebola patients must be treated in isolation by staff using protective gear, but neither they nor any other hospital had an isolation ward. So Dr Brown turned his hospital chapel into an isolation facility with six beds that could handle Ebola cases as they were brought in. He also arranged for staff training and ordered copious supplies of bleach to be used as disinfectant.

Very soon the six-bed isolation ward was full and the Ministry of Health in Monrovia created a basic 20-bed Ebola treatment facility to handle further patients. But as soon as it opened, it too was beyond capacity. Dr Brown then decided to convert their brand-new kitchen and laundry building into a further Ebola ward. He named this 'ELWA 2' and staffed it with additional medical staff wearing special protective suits.

Before long, Dr Kent Brantly, a physician with Samaritan's Purse who had been working with Dr Brown,



fell ill with a high fever which was diagnosed as Ebola. He was air-lifted to the USA for specialised medical treatment. Later, an SIM missionary Nancy Writebol from North Carolina USA, working as a medical aide, also tested positive for the disease. Both miraculously survived Ebola after treatment in the USA which was covered extensively by the media. However, many other health workers in Liberia have died from Ebola while seeking to help others.

The Ebola battle has not yet been won and the crisis is far from over, with the disease still presenting in Sierra Leone and Guinea. On the 9th of May, the World Health Organisation declared that, with no new infections within the previous 42 days, the outbreak in Liberia was over, although the risk of re-importation of the disease from Sierra Leone and Guinea is still very real. Progress is being made and two possible vaccines are currently being fast-tracked for trials in Africa. There are now also better facilities for treating the many patients with the Ebola virus.

We salute Dr Jerry Brown and the other Christian doctors and medical staff who like him, risk their lives daily seeking to bring help and healing in the name of Christ to the many people suffering from Ebola. Please pray for them and pray that soon this dreaded disease will be eradicated. Pray too that through this tragedy, many will put their trust in Christ and surrender their lives to Him. ■

# A Torch Still Lit

By Hugh Rough, South Africa

The Ancient Greeks had an Olympic race that was unique. The runners were required to run with a lit torch. The winner was not the runner who finished first. The goal of this race was not to come in first but simply to finish the entire race with the torch still lit.

The Apostle Paul, as he was nearing the end of his life, said this, *“But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus...”* (Acts 20:24). As I myself get on in years (I’m past the normal ‘retirement’ date!), I find the nature of this unique Greek race to be quite challenging in thinking of the future, my future. Will I finish my life course ‘well’? Will my torch still be lit and burning brightly for the Lord Jesus Christ at the end?

But I also see another perspective to this life race...

Will I be passing on my torch *still lit* to someone else? If so, how can I do this?

There is a way! We all care for our loved ones and family and want to pass on some legacy to them... and rightly so. But have you ever considered that as part of that, you have the unique opportunity to make a lasting gift for God by leaving a legacy to advance His Kingdom? Have you ever considered making a gift in your will to world missions through SIM?

As you finish the race of life with your torch still lit, your gift to others will be an expression of your gratitude and thanksgiving towards God, and that which will enable others to carry on sharing the gospel to a world in desperate spiritual need.

A life well lived, marked out by love for God and generosity towards others as we depart, will *never* be forgotten – by God or by those who have been blessed. Gift giving as a legacy through your Last Will is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support SIM and its ministry. Your torch will continue to be ‘lit’ for the glory of God and



will bring the Light of Life into the lives of many others.

Would you prayerfully consider how you could respond and be involved in this race? ■

For further details on leaving a bequest to SIM, read the enclosed brochure or contact the SIM South Africa Office directly by phone 27 (0) 21-715-3200 or email sim.sa@sim.org and we will respond in confidence.



# WHY Radio? WHY Not Radio?

By Normand and Henriette Saindon,, Mozambique

*"Why do we see no radios?"* we wondered as we walked the sandy streets of Ibo island in Cabo Delgado province in Mozambique. Coming from radio ministry in the mountains of Niassa, where radio was a prized possession and often wrapped in a cloth or worn on a string around the neck, we were taken aback :

*"No radios! And we are working in radio ministry! How will we ever reach the people?"*

We know that radio can reach where our old Landrover cannot go in rainy season, and we know that radio can enter a home in a village where we might not be welcomed. Radio can inform, teach and bring pleasure in a world where many people cannot read and in places which electricity has not reached.

*"But no radios!! Could it be that the era of the wireless has passed, and that radio truly had to make way for television and internet?"*

Two years ago we came to work with Radio Nuru, a ministry run by our sister mission Africa Inland Mission, seeking to send out LIGHT (Nuru) to the people of the coastal villages and islands in north eastern Mozambique. We broadcast for six hours every day to the Mwani or the people of the beach. They are mostly rural fishermen, living off the sea. Many have very little schooling and follow the ways of their ancestors and religious leaders, having no hope and no light. Coming here, we were confident that radio was a great way to reach "those living in darkness". Yet, now, as we walked the sandy streets and on the beach, we doubted if anyone ever tuned in to 106.6 FM or even owned a radio! *"Radio was definitely out of fashion..."* Then as we passed by a young person with a cell phone glued to his ear, we heard the music...and realized *"That is music from our radio! Yes! Radio on the cell phone!"* Home in



Macomia where the radio antenna and studio are, we continued with renewed enthusiasm on health and family and children's programmes, and eagerly broadcast the Bible programmes based on Firm Foundation teachings.

But as time went by and we visited more villages to record interviews and to meet people, we noticed many blank stares when we asked eagerly *"And what is your favourite programme? Health (Mashauli wa Ukombo) or Bible (Taureti and Njira ya Haki) or family (Upande wa Jamaa) or ...."* Of course people would always try and assure us that they DID listen! That is the kind and polite thing to do...but it did seem that there were few true listeners.

Back home, back on our knees, and back to the drawing board! And thus our Phone-In Programme *Your Turn to Speak* was born. It was not strictly a Bible programme, but it dealt with topics such as *Why Be Grateful? Who is My Neighbour? Why do we dislike Strangers in our village?* Or simply, *What do we teach our Children? Why do we Work? Or What is My Favourite Food?* Soon we had to lengthen the programme from 30 minutes to one hour, and still we would receive more than twenty sms

messages per night. People would phone in and voice their point of view, or challenge the comments of others, but always appreciate hearing the radio's last "say". And this last "say" is always a conclusion from God's Word. Proverbs is a great book of wisdom! No preaching, just wisdom from the Word.

Those who phone in are those who own and hold the phone and possibly also those who own the radio! In the case of the people here, this usually means the older men in the family. On Woman's Day we asked our callers to consider handing the phone to their wives and to let them speak...and surprisingly many were willing to do just that! And since then we find that we have at least one or two female callers every night. *Now we know! People do listen and listeners do participate!*

Our presenters dutifully pinned every village from where the calls came from on our map. Unfortunately, most of our new friends are not from Mwani villages! Even though our radio programmes are mostly in Kimwani, we do find that many from the other tribes can understand the language. And they seem to be the ones who are participating most. *Why?* We believe

that it is much harder for those from this major religious group to openly associate and participate with Radio Nuru. But does that mean they are not listening? *No!* We want to believe that they are in fact listening. We call them *our silent listeners* and we pray that they will hear and listen, and in God's time, *follow*. Over Easter, one brave caller from this silent group, called to ask "*WHY call it Good Friday? Why do you Christians need a Friday?? Why not leave to us our Friday?*" We found this refreshing and a great contact to pursue during a next village visit.

Suddenly we are finding ourselves with a growing toddler on our hands...as our radio is growing, we do experience interest but also demands and maybe even tantrums from eager listeners. More than we can handle alone. *We need more workers.* As we look around, we realize: *Radio cannot stand alone. Radio must never be an isolated*

*ministry. Why are so few workers interested in radio? Is it too old fashioned? Outdated? Too technical? Daunting?* Radio ministry is all of this and more. Radio can be a viable partner to any other ministry. Radio can reach where other ministries cannot reach and radio needs the hands and feet of other ministries, working together with children's ministries, outreach, teaching, even medical and church planting, you name it.

So....

#### *WHY NOT Consider Radio?*

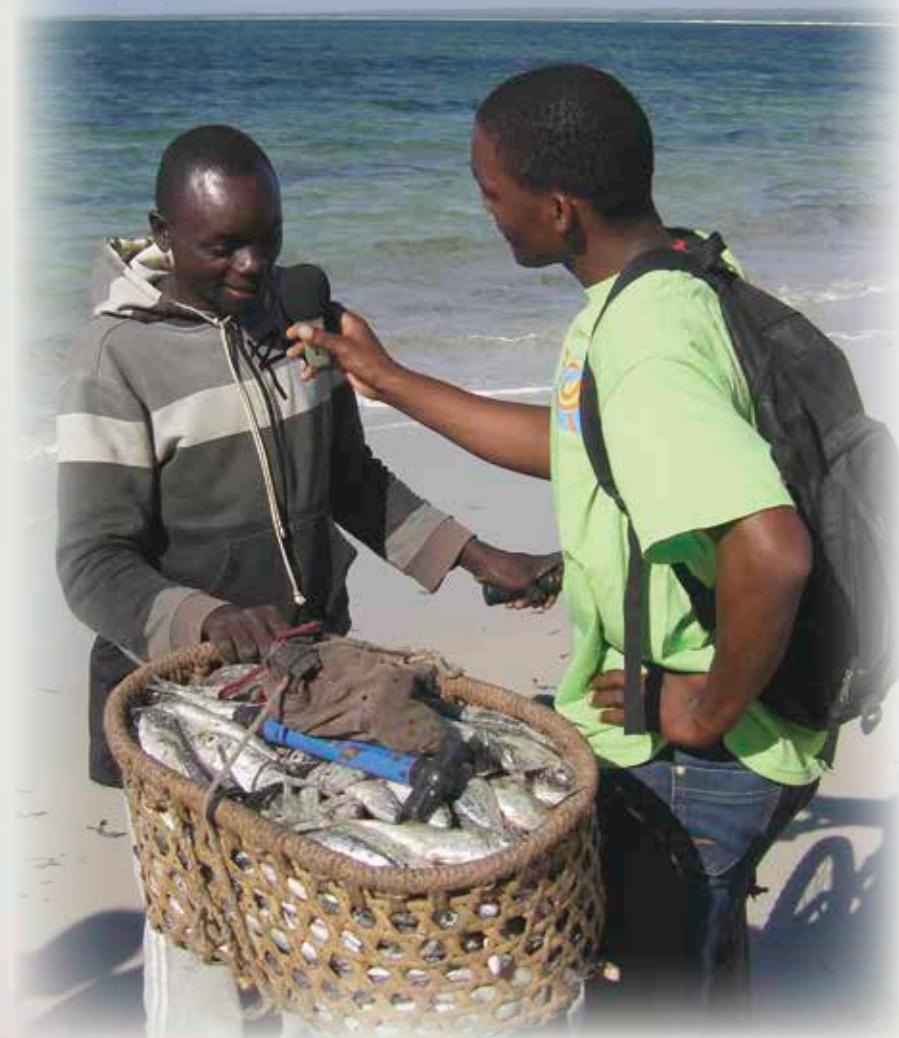
Normand and Henriette Saindon are serving with SIM in Macomia, Cabo Delgado province in Mozambique working at Radio Nuru, an Outreach Ministry of Africa Inland Mission to the Mwani and neighbouring people groups. ■

A Message from Tim Heaton, AIM Mozambique North Unit Leader about Radio Nuru:

It's really exciting to read Radio Nuru's news this month; it's exciting to see how God's Word is going out amongst the Mwani, even when the roads and the rain stopped so much travel in Mozambique. Normand and Henriette, Venancio and Vicente (the two Mozambican radio presenters) should be congratulated for their tireless work and creativity in seeking to make Radio Nuru a true LIGHT to their listeners.

Sadly, as AIM's leader for Northern Mozambique, I must share sad tidings with you. Last year we made you aware of the financial and personnel need that Radio Nuru was facing. Amazingly, God blessed Radio Nuru financially, so that we have not needed to worry about paying the radio presenters or meeting Radio Nuru's other expenses. However, Normand and Henriette will be going on their scheduled Home Assignment towards the end of 2015, and despite our repeated attempts, we have not found anyone to replace them. If, in a few months' time this situation remains the same, with deep regret, AIM will need to plan for the shutdown of Radio Nuru towards the end of the year. I, together with Normand and Henriette and AIM as a whole, deeply value Radio Nuru and its ministry and would love to see Radio Nuru continue its vital work of reaching the Mwani with the lifesaving message of the Saviour. Please pray for Radio Nuru and for Radio Nuru's leadership that the Master would give us much wisdom and show us the way forward for Radio Nuru.

Once again, thank you for your prayers and on-going support. God bless, Tim Heaton  
AIM Mozambique North Unit Leader. ■





' B U K U

## The Bible in Ciyawo

By Winfried and Hildegard Steiner:

"After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands" (Revelation 7:9 NIV).

The book of Revelation has this amazing picture of a host of people before the Throne of the Lamb, people from every nation and tribe and tongue. Now, after almost two decades of painstaking work, another people group in Malawi has a full version of the Bible in its own language and will be able to join that throng.

The Yawo people group is one of the main unreached groups which fall under SIM Malawi's "Pursue the Unreached" focus area, and the Bible in Ciyawo has now been published and launched.

SIM Malawi missionaries Winfried and Hildegard Steiner spent 15 years working on the translation while they lived in Mangochi. Much of the translation work was carried out at their compound and they remember a large group of people who were involved with the project.

Winfried was the project co-ordinator, facilitator and exegetist. In addition, there were three pastors from different evangelical churches of Malawi as translators, 12 reviewers from different walks of life, one consultant from the United Bible Society, one manuscript checker and one technical assistant from the Bible Society of Malawi (BSM).

Despite having such a committed team working on the project, the Steiners recall that things did not go smoothly, especially in the early days of the project. "During the first ten years of the project, we lost five translators who had to be replaced and trained. The heat of Mangochi and the regular power failures were our biggest enemies; we overcame them with 12-volt batteries, ventilators and many cups of tea" recalls Winfried. "During the 15 years of involvement, we had

to move the translation office about five times. In the first five years we had a field tester who built up about 20 groups of informants in Malawi and Mozambique, in order to test the Bible manuscripts and find suitable and alternative vocabulary for the translators."

### Early Problems to Overcome

Martin Ntambo of BSM worked on the project with the Steiners from 1998. He also recalls some very real problems which dogged the early part of the work.

"There were many discussions between a number of groups as to which "names" we should use in the new translation. Some of the Yawo people are strongly Muslim and so the question was: do we use names understandable to the Muslims or do we use those more understandable to the Christians? In the end we decided to use the latter" he said.

But now all of those problems have been forgotten as the Yawo Bible has been launched at an event in Mangochi. Groups and choirs from around the Mangochi area marched, sang and danced to the ground where the event took place and there was great celebration, especially among the Yawo people who were in attendance.

### Joy of Reading

SIM Malawi's Bob and JoAnn Burdette attended the event and were greatly moved by the way the Bible was so willingly and gladly accepted especially by the Yawo people themselves. "One of our long-time Yawo workers and dear friend, Martin Saidi, got hold of one of the Bibles and he prayed over it before he even opened it up" said JoAnn. "The look of absolute joy when he read Psalm 46 in his own language makes my eyes fill with tears even thinking about it after the event."

But the Yawo Bible is not the only local language which has its own translation. The six major languages in Malawi – Chewa, Tumbuka, Sena, Ngonde, Tonga



# JESWELA' 'iyawo Launched.

and Yawo – all have full Bibles, while two of the other groups – Llomwe in the southern region and Lambya in the northern region – have New Testaments in their own languages with full Bibles being worked on.

“There are a few other smaller groups in the very north of the country which cross over into Zambia and Mozambique that we are not working on, but the likelihood is that they are being dealt with in the other countries because those groups are larger there” said Martin Ntambo. Literacy rates, especially among the Yawo people, are a deep-seated problem and the discussions about which names to use impact this. The BSM is looking at ways to overcome this problem by using audio Bibles. There is an audio version of the New Testament in Yawo available but the BMS would like to raise funds to be able to produce a full Yawo audio Bible.

## Time for Celebration

But that is for the future. Now is a time for celebration as this new translation is launched. Summing up their feelings of many years’ work coming to fruition, Hildegard Steiner said “We feel that the Yawo people now have a better chance of hearing and inquiring about the truth which God wants to be communicated. Radio broadcasts, pastors and evangelists can now draw on preaching and teaching the full breadth of the Word of God. In the early pioneering years we had an archaic Yawo New Testament version which was hard to understand. Now we have a much better-quality product the reader can enjoy. As missionaries to the Yawo, we always had a discouraging feeling about teaching and preaching from the Chichewa Bible and from a poorly translated New Testament. Although the many years of translating were difficult and sometimes discouraging, we always sensed that the Lord guided the work and gave success.”

## Like Giving Birth

Martin Ntambo also summed up his feelings: “I feel like a woman who has given birth to a child! Every time I take hold of a new publication on which I have worked, I feel good, and I look forward to people being able to make use of it. This is particularly true of the Yawo Bible and my feelings go deep beyond words!” he said. ■

(Article from Malawi Amoto – *Flames of Fire* Volume 2 Issue 3, used with permission by SIM Malawi

Where are the Steiners now? “Where does the LORD want us to serve Him next?” This was the main question and prayer topic once the Yawo Bible project was finally finished. In 2012 we were invited to serve in the Cape Town SIM National Office as “Training Co-ordinators”. It was a newly created position to inform applicants to the mission and prepare new missionaries for the ministries they were facing. We really enjoy this ministry where we can also use the many lessons we learned from the Lord during our decades of ministry in different areas. It is exciting to be part of the team which is preparing a new 6-month programme called “Explore” which aims to help young believers learn about missions and experience ministry in city or rural areas in a completely different culture. We praise Jesus for opportunities to serve Him.

# Who cares for the Children?

By Brian and Lorraine Milner, Cape Town

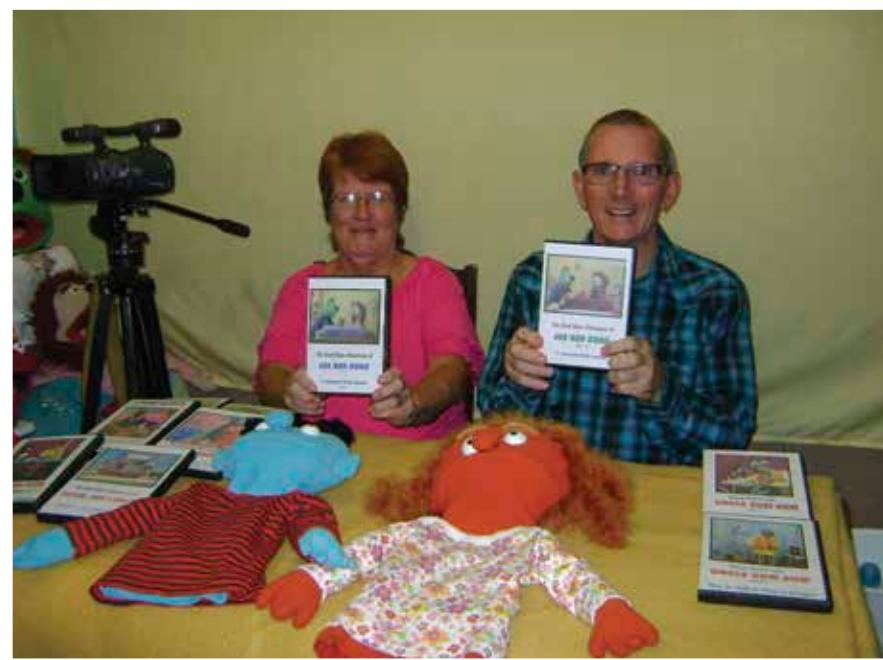
Since our last article, we have continued to make DVDs for children, using puppets to tell the Good News of the Gospel. We have produced basic Bible lessons for pre-schoolers and more advanced lessons for 6 to 8 year olds.

Now, we have ventured out into producing interactive DVDs for older children (10 to 13 year olds), where the children answer questions asked by the puppets by pressing the left and right arrows, and "OK" key on the DVD player remote control.. The DVD only continues when the correct answer is selected. If

these are being shown to a group, the interactive aspect can be disabled by an option to view the whole video at one time.

Our latest puppet DVD, which we are aiming at 8 to 10 year olds, offers more in depth Bible lessons on different aspects of the Christian life.

The DVDs can be viewed by chapter - so that a child or a group can watch a single lesson of about 5 minutes each - or as a whole DVD of about 35 minutes. Teachers can then discuss the subject and add appropriate activities. The DVDs are suitable for Sunday School lessons, children's church or for any outreach situation, as well as for parents and grandparents to watch at home with family.



At the moment all the DVDs are available in English only.

We have a catalogue of all our DVDs which we can send to enquirers, by E-mail.

We do ask for a donation of R40.00 each for one, or R30.00 each for more than one, to cover our costs, plus postage if required. ■

If anyone is interested in more information or to order, they can e-mail us at [bamilner@telkom.co.za](mailto:bamilner@telkom.co.za) or [brian.milner@sim.org](mailto:brian.milner@sim.org) or phone us on 021-5586805

# Kingdom Service

By Johan and Trudie Robbertze, Tanzania

After 13 years in Tanzania, of which 10 were as SIM missionaries, we were forced to come to South Africa for an extended time, mainly to get our support back on track. Usually our stay in South Africa is a 3-4 month period every 2 years to see our supporters, churches and family. This time is spent “running” from meeting to meeting; Bible-Studies; new or old supporters; friends; even family...but always on the move. You enter with only one thing in mind - everything that needs to be done before we can go back!

This last visit was different, as we didn't have an exit plan as yet.

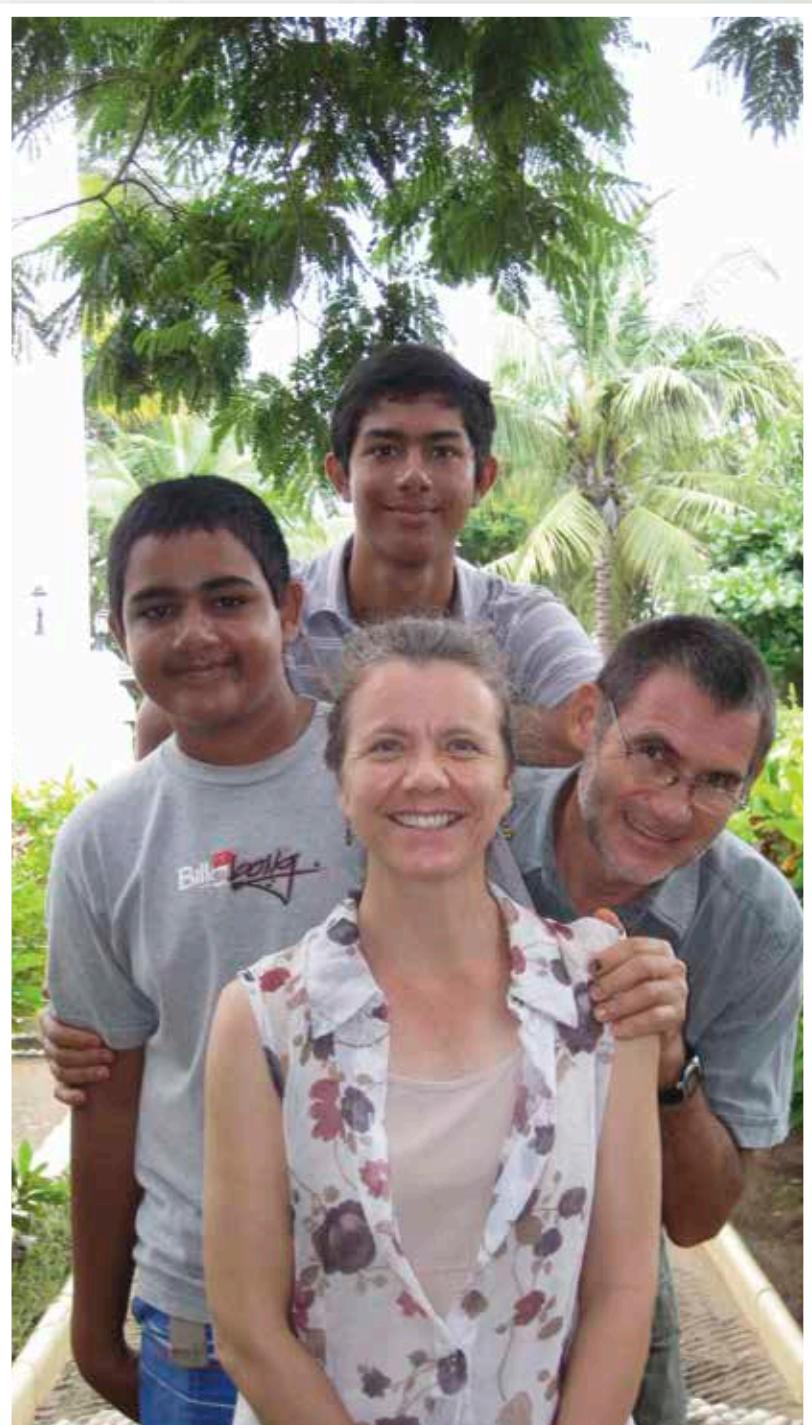
For the first time in years we actually had time to visit and re-build old friendships. We saw our friends more than twice. We became part of a Bible-study group and made precious new friends. I had time to “manufacture” cards with friends - more than once. Precious memories!

Our two sons, now 17 and 16, had time to play rugby – for the first time! Each went on a rugby tour even though we continued to home-school them. We could mix with the parents next to the field. What a privilege. The boys attended youth gatherings at the church and didn't miss a Sunday. They went on youth camps - to them it was the best year of their lives.

Now, as I look back, I get tears in my eyes of gratitude, knowing the Lord gave us a “normal” year in South Africa. Our storehouses were filled to abundance.

We are now back in Mtwara, Tanzania, slowly getting settled in in a new area in town, in a new house. Our memory banks are full, ready for the work in the kingdom.

Please pray for missionaries to have GOOD breaks in the time of their home assignment... time for storing new memories... times to refresh! ■



As we have travelled extensively around South Africa on our home assignment listening to people, sion field!" We disagree.

If you live and work in South Africa, you are CALLED! Yes, called to the mission field right here to be the catalyst for positive change and to brandish faith, hope and love for our aching people.

## Grow, Church, Grow

Child, you are more than a worm,  
Not the offspring of some big-bang germ,  
Never were an oops, bloop accident – but firm  
In the mind of a Rock-solid God, you squirm!  
Can't deny, He's always loved you, you know...  
Grow, Church, grow!

Charmed by the music on your flat-screen TV,  
Dented 'n' duped into what they want you to be,  
So, you're allowed to drive the remote – but see,  
Not everything's good even if it's PG!  
When last did you pray? Switch off that show...  
Grow, Church, grow!

Young man, young lady, always on the phone,  
Heaping up selfies while neglecting seeds sown,  
Deafened to all but that pied-piper living – oh hone  
In on His Word 'stead o' that Me-love ring-tone!  
Walk with God and set the world aglow...  
Grow, Church, grow!

You think you'll get love through your vanity,  
Insecure 'bout life, bluffed by your FB community,  
Majority opinions got you humming in tune – but humility  
Starts with breaking the mould: God is the authority!  
Seek Him first and watch His love overflow...  
Grow, Church, grow! ►►



e, we have often heard them say, "Oh, we could never do what you are doing over there on the mis-  
re in your home town. Now, more than ever, our country needs the Church to lead the way forward,

Oh Mama, oh Papa, looking over your twelve-foot wall,  
Still wondering if you ever loved your spouse at all?  
Mangled through the lies and judgment – but fall  
Before God who reads your mind, oh call!  
Call on Him alone who can save from woe...  
Grow, Church, grow!

Home be the throne of devotion transparency,  
Not a war-zone notching another casualty,  
No more yelling and shelling – but holy  
And pleasing, be a living sacrifice in the family!  
Obey God yourself, to your kids this you owe...  
Grow, Church, grow!

Grannies and Grandpas, please share your wisdom,  
Let not bitterness rob you of your crown in the Kingdom,  
Decades-old grudges dusted off again – but winsome  
And flourishing fresh and fruitful, not fearsome!  
A life in God's faithfulness is the gift you bestow...  
Grow, Church, grow!

When the full light of day dispels the shrouded night,  
Heart disease, cholesterol or cancer despite,  
Worthy toil and tears, virtue 'midst trouble – but ignite  
Your first love for Him 'til in triumph we unite!  
A hundred-fold harvest from what you sow...  
Oh, GROW, CHURCH, GROW!



The Cameron family is returning to Paraguay in August 2015 to begin their next 4-year term and a new rural church plant.

Please pray that God will establish the work of their hands. Contact Greg and Yvonne at [gregory.cameron@sim.org](mailto:gregory.cameron@sim.org)

We are Rev Christopher and Nancy Maphosa, Missionaries with SIM (Serving In Mission) Responsible for Today for Tomorrow Southern Africa – Children's Ministry (T4TSA).

## OUR VISION IS:

- ◊ to love children and give them the Lord Jesus Christ
- ◊ to evangelize and disciple children
- ◊ to provide education in HIV and AIDS and life skills to children
- ◊ to help children maintain good health and grow good character
- ◊ to care for children with disabilities and those that are orphaned

## The National Children's Camp in Zimbabwe

The children's camp was held from 11-14 December, 2014 at Biriiri High School, a United Baptist Church related institution in Chimanimani District. The National Coordinator for Today for Tomorrow (T4T) was very helpful in the planning and running of the camp, communicating with the local Pastors, ensuring consent forms were completed and inviting kids from 16 Districts. The children came from different denominations including the United Baptist Church. There were 452

children, up from 421 the previous year. This number could have been as many as 1000, but most local churches struggled to finance transport for the children and the registration fee of \$2 each.

The theme was "A Future with an Impact - Galatians 2v20". The purpose of the camp was to evangelise, disciple, and build character, as well as providing an HIV prevention programme during the camp, and for the children to enjoy the Lord through playing games and other interactive activities. Children enjoyed the educational DVD. The camp was a massive success as shown by the increase in children attending and also the variety of activities that they were exposed to. One of our supporting churches in South Africa donated money to buy a cow and 115 chickens and the local churches also donated mealie-meal, firewood, and vegetables like tomatoes and cabbages. We had a special Christmas meal with all the children, especially those from difficult circumstances, children who are orphaned and children with disabilities.

The national United Baptist Church leadership represented by 2 Bishops and 1 senior Pastor attended the camp. The first Bishop preached to the kids and 100 children gave their lives to Christ.

# FOR TOMORROW



The Today for Tomorrow programme is being run across Southern Africa and has already covered some parts of South Africa, Swaziland, Botswana and Zimbabwe. Following requests for the programme it is now being rolled out in Namibia in May 2015, Zambia in September 2015 and there are also requests from a further 7 countries within Southern Africa to receive the Today for Tomorrow children's ministry programme.

The Today for Tomorrow Southern Africa blog can be found at: [www.t4tsa.sim.org](http://www.t4tsa.sim.org)

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REF: Sup Chris and Nancy Maphosa. Please fax or email proof to SIM on 021 715 3220 [za.finance@sim.org](mailto:za.finance@sim.org).

You can also send your financial support online through this website: [www.sim.org/donate](http://www.sim.org/donate) and please quote the numbers: Project Number 96393 for T4TSA or 040234 for the Missionary support. ■

# Explore Missions Programme

"Does God want me to serve Him in a different culture?" This can be a very difficult question to answer. SIM SA wants to help people answer this question. From 8th February to 24th June 2016 SIM SA will be running "Explore". This programme seeks to help anyone who is asking the question, "Am I called to serve God in a different culture?"

The programme will be made up of 6 individuals aged 18+. These participants will spend 6 weeks training in Cape Town. During this time they will look at issues such as; what is the Biblical basis for mission? What does it mean to live in a different culture? And, how do we share the Gospel?

The team will then spend 4 weeks experiencing mission in an urban environment followed by 4 weeks in a rural environment. The team will spend a week on retreat before fully immersing themselves into a different culture. While immersed in this culture, which is different from their own, they will attempt to build relationships and share the Gospel.

For the final week of the programme the team will spend

time reflecting on what they have learnt and considering where God is directing them in the future.

If you feel God leading you to serve Him in a different culture please, come and "explore" this calling with us. For more information check out our YouTube Channel at SIM South Africa or email za.fieldassociates@sim.org . ■



## Would you like to contribute to the cost of SIMNOW

As a guide, to provide one person with two magazines per year, publication costs are approximately R30 per annum. Please make out any cheques to "SIM Southern Africa".

For direct banking: SIM Southern Africa, Standard Bank, Blue Route Branch code: 025609, account number: 07 287 7014  
Please fax a copy of the deposit slip to SIM at 021 715 3220.



Serving  
In  
Mission

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