

SIM *now*

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— and much more



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

Greetings from Cape Town

Christmas is around the corner and we will soon be celebrating the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, a great reminder for us all of the great mercies of God and His love in that while we were sinners, He sent His Son our Lord Jesus Christ to die for us on the cross, paying the penalty for our sins and through that reconciling us to God. This year SIM around the world celebrates the 120 years of God's grace and mercy and His faithfulness to the mission. We thank Him for His servants who heeded the call and made a great sacrifice in order to make the excellencies of God known right around the world. He has enabled SIM to continue this work by sending out men and women who serve as missionaries in different parts of the world.



On the international front, Malcolm and Liz McGregor handed over the baton to Joshua and Joanna Bogunjoko at the beginning of June and we continue to praise God for raising men and women like the McGregors and Bogunjokos to lead our mission. Here in South Africa, the month of August was put aside for a number of SIM 120 year celebration events in the form of breakfasts. It was a great opportunity for us to use this as a forum to revive mission vision in South Africa and to connect with churches in four major cities in South Africa. The first breakfast was in Port Elizabeth; Graham Wood spoke very well reminding us to reconsider the 'Great Commission'. In Johannesburg Rev Prince Mntambo, the President of AEC, (a SIM Partner Church) was our guest speaker, challenging us to pray for the work of missions. In Durban Rev. Benjamin Pillay, President of ECSA (also a SIM Partner Church), was the speaker and challenged us to learn from Paul in his determination to make the gospel known. The last breakfast was in Cape Town where we had the privilege of having Dave Bremner, one of the Deputy International Directors of SIM as the guest speaker. Dave and Nikki are missionaries from South Africa who currently serve in the SIM International Office, in Fort



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Mill, South Carolina.

As we look back over 120 years of God's grace and faithfulness to SIM and as we think of all those who have gone into missions, men and women who in obedience to His call and out of love for Him have sacrificially joined the mission and served Him in sometimes very trying and difficult conditions, I pray that we will all be encouraged to keep our eyes focused on Him and faithfully serve Him in what He has called us to do. I hope that in our time we will see more men and women stepping out in faith because of His great love for us. The hymn – 'We trust in You' is both an encouragement and prayer for missions:

We trust in you O Captain of salvation
In your dear name, all other names above,
Jesus our righteousness, our sure foundation,
Our Prince of glory and our King of love.
We go in faith, our own great weakness feeling
And needing more each day your grace to know;
Yet from our hearts a song of triumph pealing:
We trust in you and in your name we go.

We live and serve God in difficult times. The economic situation is not improving and there are other challenges that we all, one way or another, go through: health issues, challenges in ministry and family and so on. Jesus Christ is our sure foundation and it is only in Him that we find true peace. I hope you will find time to celebrate Him with your family and friends and have true rest in Him. ■



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Gospel Outreach

by Brian & Lorraine Milner, Cape Town

The aim of our ministry is to provide DVDs for gospel outreach and teaching purposes. We have felt strongly led by God to use the expertise He has entrusted to us in this way. We produced our first movie in the late 1970s using local actors to bring the gospel to the many miners who were working on the gold, platinum and coal mines, and since then we have seen how effective this audio-visual tool is.

In a previous SIMnow article, we mentioned some of our earlier DVDs produced over the past couple of years. These have been aimed at adolescents (A Story of Hope) and older children (the Uncle Gum Gum series). However, we have recently become more burdened for the younger children who are growing up with no teaching about our Creator God and His offer of salvation to those who commit their lives to Him.

As a result of this we are aiming our current DVDs at young children. By observing what is being shown on television, we have noticed that there is an increasing interest in puppets, so we have decided to use puppets to tell the gospel story. We have produced “Vimbi and Brambo” in the “I Am Sayings of Jesus” series for the older children, and “The Good News Adventures of Peter, Joy and Billy” for pre-schoolers.

The latter are basic Bible lessons to introduce the very young to creation, our sinful nature, the Bible, how to pray and the way to heaven. The DVDs are in the form of chapters so that a child or a group can watch a single lesson of 5 minutes or the whole DVD of 35 minutes. They are suitable for Sunday School lessons or children’s church, or for any teaching or outreach situation. At the moment they are only available in English. We just ask for a donation to cover basic costs.

If you would like to know more about any of the DVDs mentioned or want to get a copy of one of them, please email us: brian.milner@sim.org ■



IGNITE CONFERENCE

by Bridget Parr



'IGNITE 2013' student missions conference took place in Villiersdorp from the 13th - 15th September. We give God glory for what He did through this conference and how faithful He was in every detail. This was the first time a conference of this nature has been held in South Africa. The aim of the



conference was to challenge students to return to their campuses, communities, towns and cities to make Christ known to those who are lost without Him; living lives that are holy and pleasing to Him and allowing every area of their lives to come under Jesus' Lordship. There were 19 different seminars and workshops to choose from including; politics, money, sexuality, engaging the social media, loving God with your mind and reaching out through the arts. The students gave great feedback on the seminars. Many said they had had their fear of mission taken away and were 'ignited' to return to their communities to lead missional and more holy lives. We were very grateful for the faithful teaching of Brian Koela and Lazarus Phiri in opening up God's Word to us on what God calls us to as we reach out in mission. We also give praise for the mission agencies who came to the conference to share how they are serving the Lord.

Watch out world, here come the IGNITED! ■

Commissioning Service of new SIM International Director Dr. Joshua Bogunjoko



THE PUBLIC COMMISSIONING OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR JOSHUA BOGUNJOKO TOOK PLACE ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, 9 JUNE 2013, AT THE CHAPEL OF GORDON CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN CHARLOTTE, USA.

This is an historic moment for SIM as Joshua comes from the ECWA Church in Nigeria, a church of six million people that God used SIM to help plant. SIM began in what is now Nigeria more than a century ago. Dr. Bogunjoko is SIM's first Non-Western International Director.

"I feel ECWA is giving a daughter away to SIM and to the rest of the world," said Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Gado, President of ECWA, referring to the metaphor of a family giving their daughter away in marriage. Mirroring the words of God the Father to Jesus at his baptism Dr. Gado said, "Joshua, we are pleased. And we offer you to the world. Go and live out your name: Joshua. May God bless you."

In attendance were members of the International Board of Governors, as well as the International Leadership Team who will assist Joshua to lead the mission during his five-year term. Staff from the international and USA offices of SIM were present, as well as representatives of other missions and many local pastors and friends of SIM, and family and friends of the Bogunjokos.

Dr. Jim Plueddemann, SIM International Director from 1993 to 2003, gave an exposition on Psalm 67. "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing," he said. And the main thing is found in Psalm 67:3, "May the peoples praise you, O God. May all the peoples praise you." He added that when we keep the vision of the peoples praising God as our "main thing", then we are free to innovate in any way, from generation to generation, to accomplish this vision.

Chair of the Board of Governors, Dr. Stephen Roy of Canada, gave the first charge to the mission's board, leadership team, staff and members worldwide, who gave a collective response of "we will" to several

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questions. The second charge commissioned and installed Joshua into his new role.

Joshua received the charge with tributes to the many who have encouraged and mentored him and Joanna during their 20-year journey in cross-cultural missions. "I have been amazed by the gift of people who think outside the box, because I never fit the SIM box," he said. "SIM UK took a risk on myself," he said, referring to his first acceptance as an associate to serve at Galmi Hospital in Niger. "And there are other leaders who took a risk on us."

He reiterated his and Joanna's life verses in Psalm 67 and Isaiah 43:10-12, and recalled the mission's origins in Nigeria. "The journey that brought us together today started many years ago, in fact, 120 years ago when God laid a burden on the heart of a godly woman, Mrs. Gowans, to pray for those who live and die in the Sudan ... without having the gospel ever preached to them." Her son, Walter Gowans, and his two friends, Thomas Kent and Roland Bingham, the oldest aged 25, sailed for

Nigeria in 1893. Although two of the three men died, the vision did not die, "but was fanned to flame by prayer and the commitment of God's people. As a result of their pioneering spirit, obedience, and the obedience of others who followed them, the gospel reached many parts of Nigeria, including my own village."

Joshua noted that it was through the work of SIM's Guy Playfair that the gospel reached Joshua's village, and which would later lead to the salvation of his family years later.

"No one can do it alone," Joshua concluded. "No one country will win the world for Christ. No one office will send enough missionaries. No one church will ever be able to put the resources into the gospel that will win the world. It will take all of us working together."

Following the event, guests enjoyed a reception. ■

This is a story about Marcus – a 24-year-old Singaporean artist and architecture student. He created the SIM 120th anniversary painting that was unveiled in Singapore.

His story is one of encouragement. He came to faith during his army service, finding peace and confidence in a life lived in relationship with Christ. His artistry was a natural channel for his beliefs, culminating in the 4'x 3' SIM painting, 'High King of Heaven', inspired largely by CS Lewis' Aslan character.

You can watch the 4-minute video here. <https://vimeo.com/660466820> The video was shown in June for the unveiling of the painting at SIM headquarters in Charlotte.

HIGH KING OF HEAVEN

©2013 Marcus Huang

Celebrating 120 years of God's faithfulness to SIM

The Lion alludes to the Lion of Judah, Jesus Christ (Rev 5:5). The Lion presides over everything and stands as a threshold between the Earth and the New Heavens and New Earth. His left paw is raised regally over the earth, pierced by a thorn. Blood flows and covers the earth which glows in jubilation under the Lion's sacrifice. A stream of redeemed souls proceeds towards the New Heavens and New Earth. Passing beneath the Lion, these redeemed souls find their True Home, rejoicing ceaselessly before him. Hear from the artist: <https://vimeo.com/660466820>

"Creating this painting is one of the most meaningful things I've done," Marcus said.



FIELDS AND FIELDS OF SEEDS AND WEEDS

By Mark & Barbara Hugo, KZN

Today in Southern Africa we have close to 60, mostly rural, Zion Evangelical Bible Schools, ministering the truth to almost 2000 faithful students, who are already existing leaders or have been identified as future leaders by their churches. This ministry has been built on many dedicated missionary hours and thousands of kilometres of driving these past thirty years. The need for knowing and understanding the whole truth of God's Word has truly been a work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of these mostly syncretistic, and very spiritual people. Today we struggle to catch up with God's Spirit, as the need and request for more schools in Southern Africa, is far beyond the resources of the missionaries and church workers.

How did we come to discover such an open door? A brief history follows: In 1896 a newly established church calling itself the Christian Catholic Church, or CCC (where 'Catholic' simply meant 'universal') established itself in Chicago and from there spread the gospel message to different countries around the world including South Africa by means of a pamphlet called 'Leaves of Healing'. Later the CCC established itself in a new location in Illinois USA, naming its town Zion. Its Bible based gospel teaching became known as "the teaching of Zion". Churches were established in South Africa as a result of the teachings published in the 'Leaves of Healing' and in 1904 a missionary was sent to strengthen this fledgling movement, but did not stay very long. What was birthed was nothing short of miraculous. The seeds of truth went out and took root almost immediately, but the weeds of false teaching, syncretism and secession came up almost as quickly, resulting in fields filled with both



seeds and weeds. So prolific was the spread that today we estimate well over 10 million claim to be 'amaZioni' (the people of Zion), here in Southern Africa.

Unfortunately the predominant religion practised today by the amaZioni, is a varying mixture of African traditional religion and a

love for the Old Testament law and practices.

In the 1960's some South African missionaries, who had begun working amongst the amaZioni, visited the CCC in Zion, Illinois, informing them that something important was happening in Southern Africa, due to the missionary efforts all those

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years ago. What a surprise must have awaited them, to discover that such a mighty spiritual movement was founded by their home church. The request was made, by the amaZioni, for the mother church to return back to Africa and help teach them the truth of God's Word. Somehow some of the amaZioni realized they had strayed far from the truth, and the desire placed in their hearts, by the Holy Spirit, was and still is, nothing short of miraculous. Early in the 1980s missionaries were sent from Zion Illinois, to represent the CCC and work full-time amongst the amaZioni. Zion Evangelical Ministries of Africa, ZEMA, was born and continues to grow.

Not all 10 million amaZioni are desiring the truth right now, but significantly more and more are finding out about this teaching, resulting in the request for new schools always significantly outweighing the resources ZEMA can provide. The door has been opened by God into this mighty harvest field, ripe with seeds and weeds, and the amaZioni have allowed us to bring the Truth right inside the movement. The movement is not apostate, and so unlike 'traditional missions' we do not call the amaZioni to 'LEAVE ZION', but encourage them that once they have come to a saving relationship in Christ, they 'STAY IN ZION' becoming God's light where there is yet darkness.

Presently we have requests to go into the neighbouring countries, of Swaziland, Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe. Our resources are limited, and another move of the Holy Spirit is required in the hearts of the local churches of Southern Africa, and abroad, to help meet this overwhelming request for teachers to teach the Truth. The door still stands open, and the dawn of God's light is shining on this once dark continent. If this stirs in your heart, follow us on the ZEMA website or personally through our partner organisations of SIM, TEAM and DMG. ■



There is always HOPE

by an observer



He nervously waits in the tiny reception area of the clinical care centre - though that's not what you might call this healthcare outpost in suburban India. You, like me, would most likely miss it if for some obscure reason you found yourself in this slum end of town. He folds and unfolds his hands and looks at the floor. Nervous - not for the prospect of needles or medicines or a prognosis that's a death sentence - but for that tougher male assignment... telling his story. Baring something of his soul. Confessing to trauma.

This is made even tougher still, because he worries about this story leaking out to his neighbours.

He tells me he is a labourer and has come to the city to find work. In that he has been successful. Mind you, he is paid only for the days he works, so this interview is an additional cost to him. When he discovered he is HIV positive his neighbours beat him up and evicted him from his community. The physical hurt is not what eats him up. It's the ostracism. Starting with the city hospital where staff would refuse to even inject him, the cleaners exhorted him to keep the story quiet and from where, in the end, the story leaked into his community.

He happily confessed that he was treated well by the government doctors who put him on an ARV programme but apart from that he was treated shamefully. He has found a new place to rent but daily worries that his neighbours will discover his secret. Worse than being evicted, he is terrified of what impact that might have on his children and their schooling. He is so close to the bottom of the poor scale, he has no options where he could send his kids.

Did he tell me he hurts most from the ostracism? The lack of physical contact? The refusal by healthcare workers to touch him, to come anywhere near him?

What then is this Shalom, whose community workers first visit him in his own home, not once but often? Who embrace him and his family - literally and figuratively? He looks for and expects discrimination against him and his wife, but cannot find any. All the doctors, nurses, community workers - even the tea boy, he notes - treat him with respect and dignity. They touch him and care for him and are not afraid of his illness.

He softens, folds his hands and looks at the floor as he tells me that when he was diagnosed with HIV he went home, closed his doors and windows and wept. He was prepared to never come out of the house again, but to die there. Why? Because along with the diagnosis he was told there was no hope. That he should get ready to die. He lifts his gaze and tells me that in Shalom he now has hope. That he feels human. That he has respect and dignity given back to him. But above all, he and his family have hope.

He holds my gaze but then drops it. I am struck by the potential in the man - his character, his grit, his personality. But all that is overwhelmed by his circumstances, his station, his poverty, the way his community have treated him, and his illness. And yet here is Shalom, working its humble and compassionate work in his life and making a profound difference.

I want to embrace him but suspect that might be a cultural gaffe. I close my notebook. We laugh together as the interview ends. For a moment he sparkles. I shake his hand and thank him for his candour and time. Then I leave.

But he doesn't leave me. I suspect, and hope, he never will. ■

The Growth of Missio

The question that arises is: "Where did the Africa Evangelical Church come from and how did it come about?"

Back in 1889 an independent and interdenominational mission organisation was founded in Cape Town to preach the gospel to the indigenous peoples of South Africa. The aim was not to start a church but to preach the gospel and channel believers into existing churches. It was named Cape General Mission yet soon spread into Pondoland, Natal, Zululand and Swaziland. The work was consolidated and the Mission name was changed to South Africa General Mission (SAGM) in 1894.

In the early 1960's political tensions intensified and when South Africa declared itself a republic in 1961, relations between blacks and whites became hostile and expatriate missionaries feared they would be thrown out of the country. SAGM like others of their counterparts decided to give autonomy to the churches and by 1962 they were registered in Pretoria with their own constitution. Rev Wilfred P Green, General Director of SAGM declared and publicized the new name of the church as Africa

Evangelical Church while the mission later became Africa Evangelical Fellowship.

Rev Edmund Mfeka was the first AEC President 1962-1978, then Rev Lloyd Magewu 1979-1999, followed by Rev Dr Cornelius Gumede 2000-2006. Rev Prince Mntambo took over the leadership in 2007 and is still currently in office.

May we appreciate the rich heritage that we have received from those who went before us, and pursue with all humility and faithfulness the goals, aims and objectives that were set for us. 2012 was AEC's Golden Jubilee year, and we look back with grateful hearts as we said "thus far with God." God led us all the way. ■

(adapted from an article written by Ben Pillay)



Mr Wilfred P Green and his wife



Rev. Benjamin Pillay
(President of the ECSA Church)



Rev. Edmund J Mfeka
1962-1978



Rev. Lloyd T Magewu
1979-1999



Rev. Dr Cornelius
Gumede 2000-2006



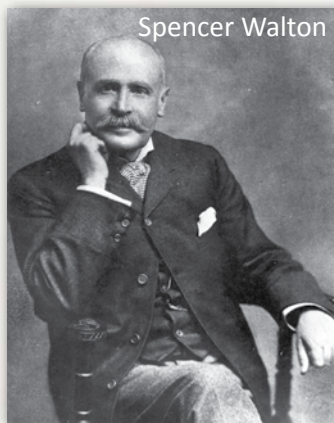
Rev Prince Mntambo
2007-to date

on through SIM

In 1882 Spencer Walton devoted himself to preaching the gospel in England. That year at the Keswick Convention, Walton met Rev Andrew Murray, a pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa.

In Cape Town where there were many British troops, George Howe opened a house for the soldiers so that they could hear the gospel.

Mrs Osborne, widow of a British army officer, partnered with Howe in establishing two Soldiers' Homes and a



Spencer Walton

Sailors' Rest. They were later married in 1891.

In 1888, encouraged by Andrew Murray, Mrs Osborne invited Spencer Walton to South Africa. During the tour, the conviction grew that a South African mission "the child of no denomination and the ally of all" should be started.

In 1889 the Cape General Mission was established, with Spencer Walton as Director and

Dr Andrew Murray as President. The Mission's new motto was "God First – Go Forward."

Walton and five British young men arrived in September 1889 to work with the Cape General Mission. In the meantime Mr & Mrs George Osborne-Howe felt God's call to work amongst the Zulus to establish "The South East Africa Evangelistic Mission" (SEAEM). Afterwards it seemed unnecessary to have two missions doing similar work and the two united under the name of "The South Africa General Mission" (SAGM).

Spencer Walton moved to Durban in 1895 and with Miss M Day and Miss E Hargreaves started the Hope Mission Station and Mr Nelson Tomlinson and his wife joined them in 1904. The Tomlinsons moved to Phoenix in 1907 and in 1909 worked with Evangelist John Thirpally in Umzinto. Just outside Umzinto was a large estate at Esperanza and the manager there gave a site for a church. The Indians themselves gave freely to the building which was built in 1910. Esperanza was the first Indian church, congregation and building of the Mission.

Another church was built at Beneva, and by 1915 there was another church in Illovo. Esperanza – Port Shepstone

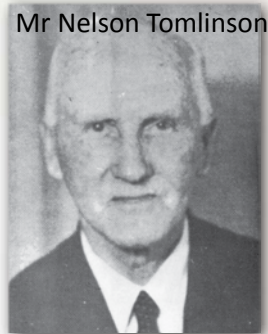
– Beneva – Illovo, gradually, in spite of fear, persecution and Satan's opposition, the gospel fires were spreading on the South Coast. A Bible School was opened in Umzinto in 1919 and another at Park Rynie in 1929.

In 1963 discussions were held concerning a change of name from South Africa General Mission owing to confusion in Britain over the use of such a name, meaning that work was only done in the Union of South Africa. It was then decided to use the name Africa Evangelical Fellowship. In 1964 an Indian Church was established at Merebank and another in

Chatsworth. In 1957 the Mission began a work amongst the Indian communities in Lenasia.

On 25th June 1967 The Evangelical Church of South Africa (ECSA) became formally independent from AEF. Mr Andrew Kodi was the first President having converted from Hinduism through the ministry of "Iyer" Tomlinson. The ECSA dates its founding from 1904 when the first Indian Church was established. The work grew — Park Rynie, Port Shepstone, Durban, Johannesburg — all from the small beginnings at Hope Mission Station in Phoenix Natal. Praise God for these Indian "lighthouses" and Indian "tinder plants". ■

(Adapted from the writings of Winona M Ingels, Alan C F Huntingford, Ron Genheimer and Tim Geysbeek).



Mr Nelson Tomlinson



Dr Andrew Murray



1962 AEC Board

Back row (Left to Right): JD Fatsha; PB Magwaza; WP Green; GRS Dlamini; JB Mdoana; Front row (Left to Right): LT Magewu; EJ Mfeka; PSB Mkhiza; SL Mawasa.

SIM's 120th Anniversary Celebration



120 is the maximum speed limit on most of our national roads, but this year it is also significant as SIM celebrates that many years of the Lord's favour in sustaining the growth of ministry in and through the mission around the world.

Also what is relevant with the number 120, is that initially over 500 invitations went out for our Cape Town celebration breakfast, and we were trusting the Lord to bring around 170 or 180 guests. Less than a week before cutoff, the numbers stagnated at 120 - and there we sat, believing that we would get no more responses.

Within the last two days before cutoff (and beyond as well), the numbers started flooding in and eventually we catered for 224 guests - praise the Lord! The function was held in the newly renovated D. G. Mills Hall at St James Church, Kenilworth and it was really good to see some familiar faces, as well as many new ones.

We were privileged to have Dave Bremner, our Deputy International Director for Southern and East Africa, as our guest speaker. Many people commented afterwards that they were most encouraged and challenged by his message. For many, this was their first time of seeing (and hearing of) the bigger picture and background of SIM as an organisation, and we pray that they would have gone away with a passion and desire to partner with SIM into the future through their prayers and financial gifts.

When it came to the breakfast itself, we were all well catered for. A group of ladies from Tokai Community Church did a most amazing job in making sure everyone was well fed. As the breakfast tables started to look a little depleted, there they were, stocking up the tables once more. It reminded me of the story of Jesus multiplying the loaves and fish, and still there was enough left over to fill twelve baskets. Well, we didn't manage to fill twelve baskets, but there was certainly nobody who left the church hungry.

As staff and missionaries, we look forward to other opportunities such as this to be able to interact with those folk who have been so faithful in their support of the mission over many years, and the opportunity to connect with new partners in the mission.

We hope to see you there for the next one. ■

By Randall Sheldon



BREAKFAST HELD IN GAUTENG

The spirit of enthusiasm for missions was very evident at the Celebration Breakfast in Gauteng. We were most grateful to one of our retired missionary couples, Louis and Ruth Wolfaardt, who arranged the venue and catered for it. It was a great encouragement to have one of our faithful prayer partners, Alistair McKenzie, come up with the idea of selling some commemorative envelopes from SIM's 100 Celebration at this event to raise funds for the mission. We were also privileged to have Prince Mntambo, chairman of the AEC as our guest speaker and we are grateful to him for introducing us to some AEC pastors from Gauteng. ■



BREAKFAST HELD IN KWAZULU NATAL

It was time to celebrate God's goodness over 120 years. Missionaries serving with SIM in the Durban area, church members, young and old gathered together to celebrate and rejoice in God's goodness.

St. Olav's church building, Durban was the venue for this celebration. The President of the Evangelical Church in South Africa, ECSA, Rev Benjamin Pillay was the keynote speaker, challenging the gathering, especially the younger generation to keep doing missions and impacting the world especially in the modern technological age. Rev. Siegfried Ngubane shared and showed a short video presentation capturing the early history of SIM. ■



BREAKFAST HELD IN PORT ELZABETH

The venue for this breakfast was the coffee bar at Westway Bethel Community Church where 40+ folk were gathered. We, being members of Westway Bethel, were grateful for the use of the facilities and to the cell group who graciously catered for the event.

Guests of honour were our SIM South Africa director Siegfried Ngubane and guest speaker Graham Wood. Graham, though resident in Cape Town, was originally from P.E. and it was wonderful to see his joy in greeting a number of 'old' friends from his young days. With God as our Father we are members of a forever family!!

Graham encouraged one and all to remember their personal beginnings in the faith and to keep on keeping on through Matt 28:18-20 in extending God's Kingdom.

Siegfried treated us to a brief history on DVD of SIM's 120 years of ministry. He said how appropriate it was that our new International Director is the fruit of the sacrifices made in Nigeria way back in 1893. Together with Siegfried and Graham we were also thrilled to have fruit of ministry in P.E. in the person of a Christian from a Muslim Background present at our table that morning.



With grateful hearts we thank the Lord for the co-workers, prayer and financial supporters who joined us in celebrating what God has done through those who came before us in SIM since 1893. ■

By Alastair & Carmie Jolley

LULISANDLA NGOTHANDA

"Reaching out with Love"

Rachel & Victor Fredlund have been working with SIM at Mseleni, KwaZuluNatal, South Africa, since 1981. Victor is a doctor, managing the government hospital there, while Rachel runs Mseleni Children's Home, and Lulisandla Kumntwana (Reach Out to the Child), a community based AIDS orphan project. Both are also involved in church and community work.

Rachel writes...

This morning in our little church at Hlulabantu, Gugu was leading a chorus with the words, "Now I have found Him, you can find Him too; He is amazing, this Jesus who lives with me." Looking around the church, I reflected that this Jesus is indeed amazing. He takes our lives and transforms them. Paul tells us that, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation."

I saw Mrs Mthethwa, who made a decision to follow Christ when we as a small church visited her home on a Friday evening years ago. She turned her back on a life of alcohol abuse, and in Christ's strength has never gone back. Still unable to read or write, her faith is simple, but genuine. Some years ago, her son had a series of accidents and an owl was seen flying around (clear sign that bewitching was involved). She chose, instead of going to the witchdoctor to find out who had cast the spell and to counteract it, to bring the issue to the church and ask for prayer.

Then there is Zandile who started coming to the church as a child. We have seen her maturing through the years, first in Sunday School and then in the teen Bible Study. She is now in her final year of a 4 year degree training as a teacher, and making a clear stand for the Lord at university and in the school where she is doing her teaching practice. And there is Phakamani, who has just finished training as a dental assistant. A keen marathon runner, he is also trying to run the race of life in a Christ- honouring way. These young people remind me of the verses in Philippians where we are enjoined "to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation".

I thought of Thabo, who is one of the orphans under Lulisandla Kumntwana. After both parents died, Lulisandla Kumntwana were able to place Thabo and his brother in the foster care of a relative. At that point Thabo said that he did not know that there was hope. He now has a vibrant faith in Christ. He has completed his 4 year training as a social worker, and has applied to work with Lulisandla!

Then there are children who have grown up in Mseleni Children's Home, so many of whom have come from abusive backgrounds. It is wonderful to see the transforming work of Christ in some of these lives. For years we struggled with Nokwanda's hard attitudes. As she has put her trust in Christ, it is truly amazing to see the beginnings of the gentleness of our Saviour becoming evident in her character.





need for a good water supply, and their need of the true water of life!

The latest venture under Lulisandla Kumntwana is a youth development programme. Under this programme we are running four-week life skills courses aimed at unemployed youth. Lindani was one of the students on the first life skills course which ran for four-weeks in November 2012 in KwaSonto. He completed his schooling in 2011 and had not found any work in 2012.

Yes, of course there are mistakes! There are times of backsliding. One of the great things about being here for a long time is that we get to see those who have fallen away restored. We serve a gracious and pardoning God; if that were not so where would we be ourselves? "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy." Micah 7v18

We have been at Mseleni for nearly 32 years now (where did all those years go?!) and seem to keep finding new opportunities!

Recently Victor attended the inauguration of our new Inkosi (chief). A big event, attended by thousands. Immediately after the Inkosi was inaugurated by the Zulu King (King Goodwill Zwelethini) Victor was given a chance to speak – so he first sang a song he had written for the occasion, which enjoined our new Inkosi (who professes to be a Christian) to serve the people well, being led, not by the ancestors as his forefathers were, but by God's Holy Spirit.

A couple of days later Victor was at a local water summit, and was asked to participate. Never one to miss an opportunity, he went home and wrote a water song for the next day, focussing on everyone's

In January 2013 he phoned Jabulani Nhleko, our Youth Development Officer, to say, "Thank you." He

said that he had managed to get a temporary holiday job in December at Mkuze Airport. He said he had remembered all he had been taught about making the most of the opportunity, and about working hard with an honest, reliable, and willing attitude. Apparently his employers commented that his

work was "excellent" and have now given him a permanent job. We are praying that as well as motivating the young people to look for work, and develop helpful attitudes, these life skills courses will have a deep spiritual impact resulting in truly changed lives. ■



“GOD’S WORD WILL ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE” (ISAIAH 55:11)

(From Jam Jars – used with permission)

Going to a restaurant for breakfast is one of my favourite things to do! As I was standing in a queue waiting for my made-to-order omelette, I noticed the lady behind me was a Muslim. I could so easily have ignored her. It was my day off and I just wanted to relax. But God’s Spirit prompted me to smile and say hello. I asked her if she was enjoying a special outing. I found out that she was actually on holiday with her sister who was visiting from overseas. She herself was taking a short break having just finished her B.Com degree. Job hunting was the next thing on her agenda.

As you can see, we had quite a conversation while we stood there waiting. Before long my food was ready and I went back to my table. To my surprise, she and her sister were sitting at the table right next to mine. It took me fifteen minutes to gather enough courage to approach her again.

“Sit down” she invited with a smile, and I did. “My daughter works at a bank and I thought she might be able to help you find a job in your field” I offered. “Would you like me to speak to her?” Without hesitation she said yes. This opened the door for her to give me her email address. I gave her my business card which has my name and email address on one side and a verse from the Old Testament on the other. I pointed it out with the comment that she might find it quite interesting.

For everything there is a season, a time for every



activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die ... God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end ... A good reputation is more valuable than costly perfume. And the day you die is better than the day you were born. Ecclesiastes 3 and 7.

Since then I’ve written her a note wishing her well as she seeks work. I also shared that my uncle passed away a few days after our meeting. I spoke of God’s comfort and quoted Psalm 90 “Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” I was glad when she replied with a brief thank you and I pray this relationship will grow.

I believe the Lord’s Word will accomplish His purpose. (Isaiah 55:11) ■



continue >>

Surreyah's Story

Although she has a beautiful smile and a lovely sense of humour, Surreyah rarely laughs. All her stories are sad ones. Tears are never far away. Her life has gone from bad to worse and as far as she is concerned, there is no hope that it will ever get any better. She's been disappointed too many times.

Surreyah fell in love when she was very young. Her family was Hindu but she converted to Islam when she married Feroze. She gave birth to six children and became the sole breadwinner as her husband's drinking spiraled out of control. Verbal, emotional and physical abuse were her constant companions. No matter how hard she worked there was never enough money. She was hurt and frustrated, angry and afraid.

Things got much worse as her children got older. All of her sons made wrong friends and wrong choices. They started taking drugs. None of them completed school. None of them could keep a job. They stole from her purse and house. Soon they were stealing from others. One got caught and sent to prison.

Then one of her sons found Jesus. His life was totally, utterly, radically transformed. He stopped taking drugs. He found a good job. He became kind and caring. He met and married a Christian young lady. Surreyah found some comfort in all of this. Surprisingly, she also found a new friend, a Christian woman who had become like a second mother to her born-again son. This friend's name was Lydia.

Lydia started spending quite a bit of time with Surreyah, listening to her problems and pain. Lydia did more than offer a sympathetic ear. She would often show up with groceries or some other little gift for her friend. She would take Surreyah for a drive or invite her to spend the weekend at her place when things got unbearable. She included Surreyah in get-togethers with other friends. She shared about her own struggles and how her faith in Jesus made all the difference. She loaned Surreyah inspiring DVD's, gave her a Bible and invited her to a woman's Bible Study. Surreyah seemed to accept all these things but something was missing – her heart was not in it. The circumstances of her life had not changed and she continued to suffer. In spite of the testimony and prayers of her son, she did not see that Jesus was the answer for the need of her own heart.

One day as they sat together after yet another crisis,



Lydia asked her to turn to the Lord and trust in Him. Didn't Surreyah know that He was the only One who could save her? Surreyah agreed that all Lydia said was true but she could not become a Christian. When Lydia asked her why, the answer was so unexpected and so sad. "I am too afraid of what the Muslims would do to me."

Lydia still loves Surreyah, still prays for her, still visits her, still has faith that one day she will give her heart to Jesus.

Surreyah still suffers. ■

(From Jam Jars – used with permission)

The Jameelah ministry is comprised of Christian women who have Muslim friends. These Christian women come together once a month for Bible study, prayer and fellowship as they learn to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with their Muslim friends. As at July 2013 there are 13 branches around South Africa. These testimonies are taken from Jameelah's monthly newsletter called Jam Jars and they are used with permission. For more information about the Jameelah ministry, send an email to: womenarise4africa@gmail.com

Who we Are

This is your invitation to become a partner with us as we prepare, send and support men and women who cross cultural boundaries and take the Good News of God's love to people groups around the world.

The mission of SIM is to fulfil the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to "... go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you..." Matt 28:19, 20 NIV
We fulfil this command by evangelising the unreached, ministering to human needs, discipling believers into churches and equipping churches to fulfil Christ's commission.

For over 120 years SIM has facilitated the sending out and support of missionaries, currently in over 60 countries around the world. At present there are 90 missionaries serving through SIM SA working in South Africa, Malawi,

Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Senegal, Paraguay, Peru and countries in Asia. Your partnership will assist us to prepare and send out more workers to go and share the Gospel with many who have not yet heard and help facilitate the care and ministry of those serving in South Africa. ■



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