



## Seeking Ambassadors for SIM SA Overcoming with Christ Cyclone Idai – The Devastation

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



**W**e believe that all we accomplish is through prayer and by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.  
We praise God for those who partner with us through prayer and petition.

Join our prayer warriors by signing up for our monthly prayer letter, "Pray Today", or by starting or joining a local prayer group.

email Cindy: [za.communications@sim.org](mailto:za.communications@sim.org) if you would like to receive the "Pray Today".

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*Let all you do be done  
in Love*



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## From the Interim Director

As for the Pauls, we feel honoured to have been called to be part of SIM SA transitions. From February 01 2019, I was called to be the Interim Director for SIM South Africa. After 25 years of ministry, we packed up our whole lives and relocated to Cape Town. The SIM Mission House in Tokai is our 33rd home in the 39 years of our married life and the 10th house in our fourth province in South Africa during our 25 years of missionary service, making us champion movers. Five houses we moved with three children, three houses with two children and the last two houses we moved as empty-nesters. God's faithfulness continued to help us with re-adjustment and we give Him the glory in all that we are yet to face. We are thankful to each one of you reading SIMNOW and partnering with us in many ways.

God's faithfulness is evident in transitions. In a recent trip through seven provinces (read the story on page six) we learnt that many of our missionaries had become deeply involved in helping those in transition and those affected by the floods and devastation in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. This has presented wide open doors of opportunity for us as we transition into the future, proving to us that the return of the Lord is very near.

As we have responded to the transitions over recent years and have adapted to new roles, responsibilities and positions to serve those missionaries sent and received, we are aware that office space and parking have become limited. We are not sure what the future holds, but there may be changes on the horizon with regard to infrastructure or even relocation. Please pray with us for the Lord's guidance in this, and that His will be done. May we follow His leading!

The Lord Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Let us sing and rejoice in our transitions: "All may change, but Jesus never, glory to His name!" ❖

*Pookkattu Paul*

### God's Faithfulness in Transition

**S**ee, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland" (Isaiah 43:19 NIV).

Wilderness and wastelands are nothing new to Molly and me in South Africa. Twenty-five years ago God revealed to us that He is doing a new thing in this country. On this jubilee year of the Rainbow Nation, and it also has been an election year, a transition is imminent. The Paul family is also celebrating their jubilee year of ministry here in South Africa. Over the past 25 years, we have been privileged to see various transitions in South Africa, as well as in SIM South Africa. We have vivid memories of the AEF/SIM merger in 1998, and later, the unifying of the Sending and Receiving functions under one administration in Cape Town.

SIM-SA leadership roles have also been in transition as Marcus Baeder, Emma Brewster, Dave MacDonald, Siegfried Ngubane, Pookkattu Paul, Trudy Robbertze, and Jacques Van Der Merwe, are some who have had to change roles and responsibilities at national, regional and international levels. Most of us are settling into our new roles.

For the SIM-SA office, many changes are on the horizon. While we will see some internal office restructuring, part of our plan is to develop and appoint Ambassadors in various locations throughout the nine provinces.



## Money for Jam

by Kathy Bowen, SIM Missionary

**M**oney for Jam" is an old English expression meaning quick, easy cash for a quick, easy job. Whoever made up the idiom has obviously never made jam!

I have a Christian friend who visits a local (Muslim-run) shelter for abused women. Each week the team she is part of teaches home crafts, and chats to the ladies. Although they are not allowed to share the Gospel openly, she shares life stories in which God is always glorified. Each listener's needs are being identified and she then promises them that folk are praying for them. The prayer requests are communicated to other intercessors as well. Presently there are a large number of non-Muslims at the shelter, so one of the team closes in prayer.

Throughout the year my friend makes jams and marmalades to sell. The proceeds go towards the making up of goodie bags of toiletries for the ladies at the shelter at Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day or when a baby is born there. Bibles are also bought and each woman who wants a Bible or New Testament is given one.

The women are often surprised that someone would give a gift with no strings attached. The Muslim ladies particularly are amazed that non-Muslim women would be so generous to them. But this gives my friend an opportunity to tell them that God provides for them because He loves them. (This is especially true at Christmas or Easter when she can share God's gift to mankind as an offering for our sin).

The remarkable thing is that the ladies listen. So each jar of jam means that someone will hear the Gospel and be prayed for. The ladies are usually placed at the shelter by the courts and only stay for a few weeks or months until the social workers make another plan for them. One of the team can perhaps visit or phone them once they have left the shelter, and so build a relationship. It doesn't always happen of course, but it is a step to share Jesus with others.

To make jam takes time, effort, heat, electricity, patience, and lots of pots. Yet see how God uses a little jar of Marmalade for the Kingdom! ❖

## INSIDE TRACK

### SIMnow issue 150

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# Seeking Ambassadors for SIM South Africa



## by Pookattu Paul, SIM Missionary

**S**IM has existed and has operated within the borders of South Africa for many years without having a representation in five of our provinces. The leadership prayed and prepared for a mission trip to the provinces that comprised of four men, all who have been serving in different key positions in SIM-SA. As a nation, we have a very difficult past history regarding MISSION, which rests heavily on God's heart.

Travelling by road and visiting many different people in seven provinces, helped us identify the ignorance there is of God's mission, and also the lack of awareness that has existed during our past 130 years' existence in South Africa. We have seen a spiritual hunger, and the devastation of human segregation from God, and this too among fellow South Africans. This is contrary to how a Christian community should exist and operate in the form of SIM in South Africa. As the current director of an organisation that has operated in SA for over a century, it is unacceptable to me personally and we cannot ignore this any longer if I am to lead this organisation in South Africa.

Trusting fully in the Lord, it was decided that we would find representation in each province. Thus, we have embarked on this plan and continue our search to find the right persons to take on the roles of Ambassadors in SIM-SA. Spurred on by the hope of a stable government following our recent National Elections, we pray that this future ministry will grow in strength over time. Lord willing, by around mid-2019, we should have a few Ambassadors added to our existing structure, as we anticipate further Structural Change and even a possible relocation of the office. As a team, we learned the reason for the proximity of the office when it comes to the physical presence of the leadership to provincial leaders.

Change is inevitable in SIM-SA. The Lord taught us as an organization, (which has national, regional and international significance) to have great confidence in making changes. The Lord has developed confidence in the present leadership, which was demonstrated as the four of us travelled safely throughout the night and day on the highways and byways of South Africa.

The Lord not only gave us confidence, but He also

gave us Godly courage as we pressed through and connected with previously unknown people groups, churches, communities and provinces. As we travelled and met the Rainbow Nation of South Africa (which, incidentally, is still significantly divided), we were reminded of Joshua 1:6; "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land...." We needed a different level of courage to engage them, open a conversation with them and begin to enjoy their loving fellowship.

Many of the people we met were very inquisitive and asked us questions that indicated their interest in Serving In Mission. Some have expressed their willingness to get involved and many more have signed up to remain in contact. Many have taken the initiative to invite others to join us.

Now, pray with us that the Lord will produce great commitment to take God's Mission within South Africa, out in our region and go further internationally to reach people of different nations who are living and dying without knowing the Saviour, Jesus Christ. ❖



# Young Legends Project

by John Berry, SIM Missionary

**W**estlake Township in Cape Town is a deprived community, where more than half the children are fatherless, many parents are unemployed, and housing is primarily shacks that are overpopulated. Children and young people are exposed to poverty, gangs, and obstacles such as sexual, physical, drug and alcohol abuse.

Freeman Ndlovu, deputy treasurer for SIM South Africa, has lived in Westlake from 2014 to 2017, and out of his township experience, his vision for starting Young Legends grew. Seeing children and young men hanging around aimlessly on the streets, he and two friends, Vusumzi Gxumisa and Sinethemba Mandita, started an informal soccer training session on a piece of wasteland. Numbers grew rapidly and before long Young Legends had several soccer teams across different age brackets. They now have up to sixty young people between the ages of ten and 36 regularly training and playing football. The initiative also runs a choir, as well as dance and drama groups for those who do not want to play football.

The vision has given young people an opportunity to express themselves through sport and other recreational activities and has also given them the chance to find the hope and joy in the forgiveness and reconciliation found in Jesus Christ. "Young Legends has brought out a better version of me and has brought happiness at home" said one footballer.

**The impact of Young Legends has been profound.**

\* Fifteen young men are now committed Christians and are encouraged to reach their friends.

\* Crime and substance abuse have reduced in the community and these young people are now motivated to keep busy in constructive ways.



\* Nineteen young men who had dropped out of school have enrolled at a night school to complete their schooling.

\* Parents in the community have noticed the difference in their children who attend the Young Legends programmes.

\* Minibus taxi drivers, who know everything and everyone, are asking about Young Legends because they are seeing lives transformed.

If you want to find out more about Young Legends then please go to their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/younglegendsza>, but to give you a snapshot of the impact this project is having please read Xolisa's story on the next page.

Every child in Westlake should have the opportunity to turn their scars into stars. You can also play a big part of turning scars into stars by supporting this project with your donation. Young Legends is a registered project of SIM South Africa and you can support it through your donation to Project 097790 -Young Legends.

On 12 May 2019, Neil Parmenter, Projects Coordinator for SIM South Africa, rode the Vélo Birmingham and Midlands, a 100 mile (160 km) cycle race around the West Midlands in the United Kingdom, to raise money for this amazing project.

You may also wish to support those missionaries that are reaching people that are living and dying without hearing God's Good News. You can do this as well by completing the form and designating your gift "Partnership" ❖



**Yes! I would like to contribute to the work of SIM**

I would like to support the Young legends project #097790 at

R..... per month  Once off gift: R .....

Please send me a SIM debit order to complete.

I would like to support SIM to help reach those living and dying without Christ

R..... per month  Once of gift R.....

Please send me a SIM debit order to complete.

Title.....Surname.....First Name.....

Address.....

.....Code.....

Tel .....Cell.....Email.....

Bank: Standard Bank, Blue Route. Branch: 025 609

Acc: SIM Southern Africa Acc No 072877014 Ref: "Your Name" and ref "Project YL19" or SIM LD19

Please fax or email this form to 021 7153220 or [za.stewardship@sim.org](mailto:za.stewardship@sim.org)



# Young Legends — From Scars to Stars

by Neil and Bethan Parmenter, SIM Missionaries

**A**bove are two photos of two very different things! On the left is a group of young men from the Westlake township of Cape Town, and on the right is a not so young man (Neil) in a cycling race.

The young men are part of the Young Legends project in the township, where children and young people can escape the harsh reality of poverty that often leads to gangsterism and various forms of abuse, and express themselves through sport (primarily football) and other recreational activities. Young Legends is an independent, grass-roots initiative which was started about a year ago by Freeman Ndlovu, a young South African working in the Finance Department of the SIM South Africa office in Cape Town, who has a passion for the community he knows and loves. Young Legends is also a project of SIM South Africa, so Neil is able to support the work through his projects role with SIM SA. The vision of the project is to introduce sport and other activities as a means of getting these young adults off the streets and occupied, to alleviate substance abuse and criminal activities, and to share the good news of hope that is found in Jesus.

Young Legends currently has up to sixty young people between the ages of 10 to 36 regularly training and playing football. They also run a choir, and dance and drama groups, to accommodate both lads and girls who do not want to play football. And the link between Young Legends and Neil on his bike? Well, on 12th May 2019, Neil rode the Vélo Birmingham and Midlands, a 100 mile (160 km) cycle race around the West Midlands, to raise money for this amazing project. If you want to find out more about Young Legends then please go to their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/younglegendsza>. To give you a snapshot of the impact this project is having here is Xolisa's story:

My name is Xolisa Mdamoyi. I grew up in Westlake, another township in Cape Town, where I'm still living. I come from a home that has a single parent and that's my mother, who is the only breadwinner. I have two siblings: my eldest brother, who is 30 years old and currently in prison, and my younger brother who is 23, unemployed and currently lives here with us. We are five people in the house, and that includes my grandparents.

I joined Young Legends, and in the first few days

with the team, was introduced to their vision. It is not about playing soccer, winning tournaments and leagues so we can make money, but it is something totally different for a football club to have. Basically, what the Young Legends family wants to do, is to change the lives of the people of Westlake. They want to end all the substance abuse, young people killing each other, parents not happy with their children, and most importantly, the young people not taking care of their community and the people living in it. Young Legends also wants to introduce Christ to the people of Westlake - especially to the youth and the kids growing up. Through Young Legends and SIM, I was introduced to the Gospel. I accepted Christ as my Lord and Saviour and now I am born again. I always try to give hope to others as it was given to me by our loving Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, through Young Legends. I've been through most of the things the youth and kids in Westlake are facing on a daily basis, and some of those issues I'm still facing, but with Christ here to guide me and give me strength through all these difficulties I know I will conquer. The love I have for this team and the Young Legends family is beyond measure. Young Legends has

brought out a better version of me and has brought happiness at home. This is God's plan and the Young Legends family and the organisation is still going to be here for many more years to come. I pray to God that he keeps the family humble and that they will never forget why they started this project. My dream is to see a united people that works together in uplifting our community. I trust in God and believe that the Young Legends was founded to fill that gap in our community and to be the difference. God is my strength and without Him on our side we are nothing - through Him nothing is impossible.

In Ezra chapter 1 we read that God stirred the hearts of king Cyrus and of the people of Israel so that His promises and purposes would be fulfilled, and so we pray that God would similarly continue to stir hearts in Westlake to bring hope through Jesus to many needy souls. God is doing amazing things and we give Him all the glory for this. Thank you for all your prayers and support as you are helping to partner with the gospel in the Westlake Township. ❖

# Overcoming with Christ



by Johan & Trudie Robbertze, SIM Missionaries

**W**hile we were in South Africa, we remained very unsettled, as we didn't want to "feel at home". We were continually reminded of Peter's words in 1 Peter 2:11-17; "Friends, this world is not your home, so don't make yourselves cosy in it. Don't indulge your ego at the expense of your soul". (MSG)

The three years we waited had finally come to an end, and we were ready to be on our way

The route was planned, preparations finalised and we were on schedule for our departure.

After having travelled roughly 2000km, we were made aware that every possible route through Mozambique had been made inaccessible due to the damage caused



by Cyclone Idai. How could this be possible? "Father, we know that You opened the door for our return to Tanzania. . ."

But, with a kind of stubbornness, we bowed our heads and pressed forward. "Father, you gave us the confirmation we waited for, and we know that it's the right time". With that thought in our hearts, we turned around and returned to South Africa to plan a different route.

Two days later, we were back on the road with a plan to drive through Botswana, Zambia, Malawi, and then on to Tanzania.

Every day brought new challenges. Each day's prayer was, "Father, help us to see your hand and your miracles!" Every day our Father proved His

faithfulness – through difficult circumstances and even "impossible" situations.

In Botswana Johan woke up very early one morning with diarrhoea; weak and as white as a sheet. He had contracted malaria! Packing away our roof-tent, which usually takes us ten minutes, took almost 1½ hours that morning. We had to stop multiple times for Johan to regain enough strength before we could continue. We soon realized that I would need to drive the vehicle, as the medication takes a while to relieve the symptoms of malaria. After about three hours of rest Johan had regained enough strength for us to tackle the Zambian border post.

We experienced how our heavenly Father threw this "CLOSED" border-post wide open for us. At one stage we were sent to wait outside while some of the officials argued over an issue. Apparently, our Tanzanian vehicle needed a Tanzanian police-report, something only Zambia required. We had travelled to SA via Mozambique and therefore did not acquire such a document. After 2½ hours we were allowed to continue our journey! Proverbs 21:1 was fulfilled, "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will." (ESV)



Many similar situations occurred – our Father specializes in such cases because in ourselves there is no way we could resolve such dilemmas. There can be NO doubt from whence our help came – "our help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth and maintains it" (Ps 121).

We travelled ± 7000km over a period of three weeks and we KNOW, He who called us IS forever faithful! ❖



# Transitioning into my new role at International

by Emma Brewster, SIM Missionary

**T**imes of transition can be exciting, daunting and challenging; and at times it can feel like a roller coaster ride. This certainly describes my journey this year as I have transitioned into my new role as the Global Director of Ministry Opportunities (GDMO) on the international executive team with Dr. Joshua Bogunjoko. It has been both an honour and surprise on the one hand and yet a very clear calling on the other. God spoke to me very clearly in February 2018 that I needed to be

open to a new role and in due time He would let me know. My reaction?? Lord, I don't want it – whatever it was I knew it carried more responsibility and there was something inside me that was wanting to run from that. BUT God had His way and it has been a journey of trust, humbling myself and allowing Him to lead and not me! One thing I was sure of in my transition was the need to prepare myself by going on

retreat.....this was truly significant. I went to Volmoed, an amazing retreat centre in Hermanus. What I hadn't anticipated was a fire that had ravaged the valley the retreat centre is in, ten days before my arrival. Rather

than retreating in a luscious green protea-covered valley, I had my retreat in a desert land, and it was in that context that the Lord prepared me. Isaiah 43:19 was a key verse; "See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland" (NIV). In the landscape of this retreat, the fire lilies bursting forth through the destruction spoke deeply to me.



There are three core areas in my role as GDMO:

1. To oversee all 24 ministries in SIM that reach out to communities where people are living and dying without Christ. Having been involved in one of these ministries, "Engaging the University", I have been overwhelmed and excited to learn and hear of what God is doing throughout the other 23. There are so many ways in which we can reach the lost, whether through community health, missional business, education, the diaspora or the devastation of human trafficking. Doors continue to open and God is calling us as a mission to see the new thing He is doing and to enter into the dry and weary lands to bring refreshment, freedom and LIFE!

A window on these 24 ministries.... Buddhism, Hinduism, Muslim, Secularism, Theological and Missiological Reflection, Translation & Literacy,

Orality, Medicine, Trauma Healing, Anti-Human Trafficking, The Arts and Mission, Engaging the University, Youth and Young adults, Children, General Education, Business as Mission, Diaspora, African Strategic Discipleship Ministry, Fulani, Hope for

Life, Radio, Sports Friends and Media.

What will it look like for us to flourish and develop as we engage with our current mission realities? In SIM we have had a tendency of working independently in these ministries. As we live in times where collaboration is key, there may be the need to rethink how we can be more effective as a team. This is something I am keen to think through, and we need wisdom in building ministry teams and learning how to work together.

2. Thinking and engaging with our existing countries and regions to explore new ministry outreach opportunities.

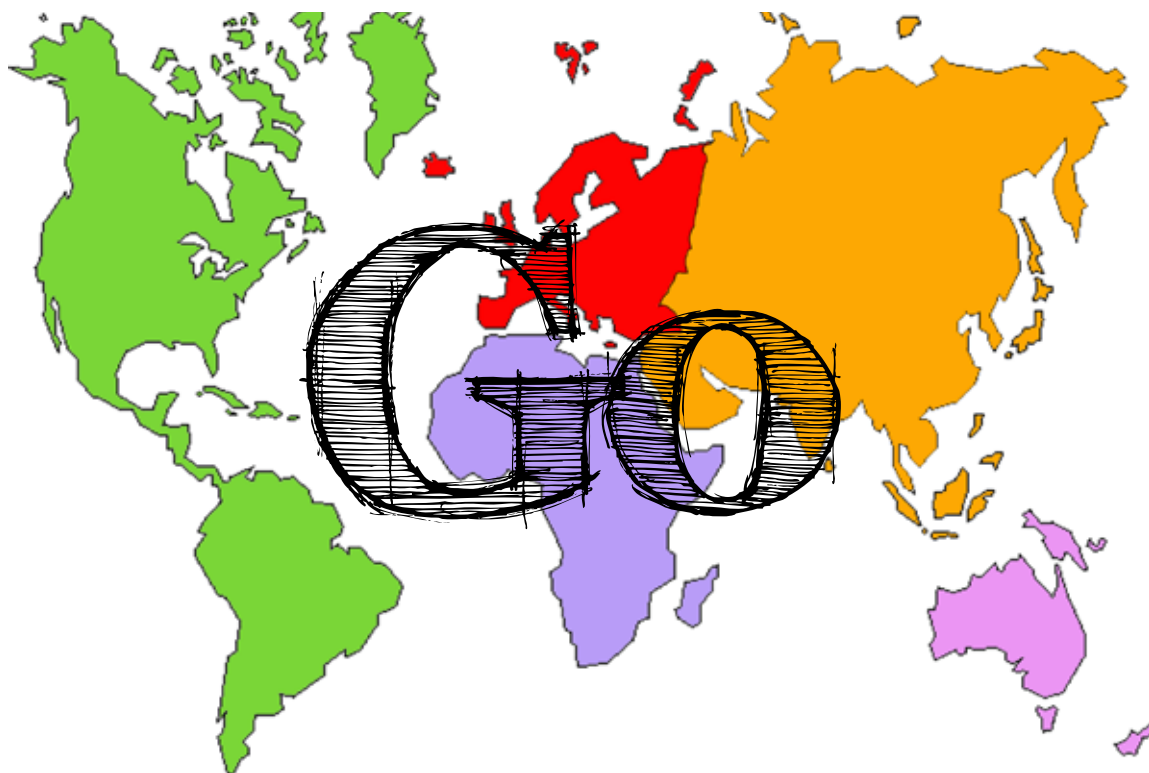
3. Research and examine new countries and regions to work in, and to see what ministry outreach we might be led to develop.

I am excited to see what God will do through the new international initiative of sending Faithful Witnesses into the least reached communities across our world. We will be placing multi-cultural, multi-skilled teams. Our vision in SIM is to see workers going from everywhere to everywhere, but sometimes finances can be a real limitation to this, with some of our workers spending years to raise finances. Our prayer is that through these teams, faithful witnesses will be able to reach the field more quickly through raising funds in other ways to partner them in the challenge. I will be working with these teams once they arrive in location to consider what are the key ways in which we will be reaching out in ministry to the communities they work in. SO.....as you can see there will be plenty of things to keep me busy! And lots of exciting things to keep you praying ❖



How about stepping out of your culture and comfort zone to try something different for once? Challenge yourself and embark on a life changing journey with SIM.

There are many opportunities to serve the Lord in global missions using the gifts and talents He has given you. Serve short-term or long-term. We are passionate about making disciples of Jesus Christ in communities where He is least known.



## OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH SIM SA:

### SOUTH AFRICA:

- Communications specialist: a suitably qualified and experienced missionary to head up communications/ media management from the SIM SA office in Cape Town. To deliver effective external communication content and tools in support of SIM objectives and specific team objectives, to publicise missions and SIM's vision and mission.
- Urgent need for workers to join our team in outreach to Muslims in South Africa.

### EUROPE:

- Gospel workers: through the ENGAGE programme work with the local church to work cross-culturally among different ethnic groups and migrants.

# SIM CORE VALUES

## We are a Gospel Community that is:

### Committed to Biblical Truth

We are committed to biblical truth and joyfully affirm historic, evangelical Christianity. With courage, we declare to the nations the Good News of new life in Jesus Christ.

### Dependent on God

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

### A People of Prayer

Prayer is foundational in our life and ministry. "By Prayer" we praise God, seek his direction, request resources, and call upon the Holy Spirit to empower our ministries.

### Mission-Focused

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

### Church -Centred

We are committed to being a Mission that begins, nurtures, and equips churches to be the expression of Christ in their communities and to reach out with cross-cultural missionary vision and action.

### Concerned About Human Needs

We humbly acknowledge that the ultimate human need is to know God. We also believe that he has called us to compassionate, holistic service in this broken world by alleviating suffering, fostering development, and affecting change in society.

### A Christlike Community

We desire to be a transforming community dedicated to becoming like Christ in love, servant-hood, holiness and obedience to the Father. We believe that following Christ's example means sacrifice, sometimes hardship, and perhaps

even death.

### A Learning, Growing Community

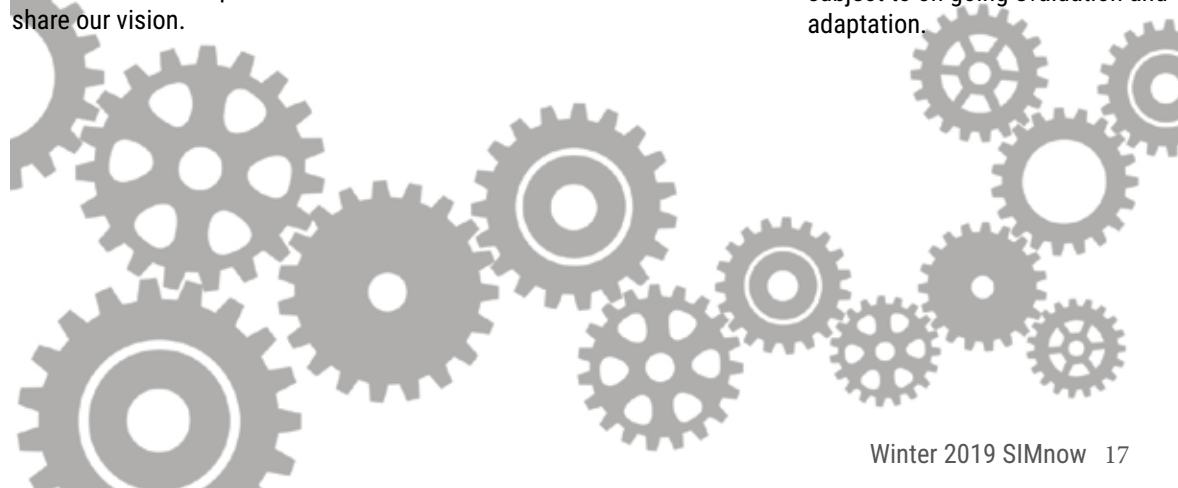
We believe in the worth and giftedness of each person in SIM and of those we seek to serve. We practice giving and receiving discipleship, life-long learning, consultative leadership, mutual development, and training as enduring disciplines.

### Strengthened Through Diversity

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

### Responsive to Our Times

We will respond with creativity and courage to evolving needs and opportunities under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. To be effective and relevant, our ministries, priorities, and structures are subject to on going evaluation and adaptation.



# Giving Hope



by Doug Porter, SIM missionary

**D**oug Porter is working with grades 6-12 as an educator, trainer and coach, focusing on spiritual and physical development throughout the Ubuntu Football Academy.

Ubuntu is a term that speaks of family and togetherness. "I am, because we are" is a phrase that encapsulates the word. Ubuntu Football Academy, established in 2009, is an elite football academy found in the Southern Peninsula, south of Cape Town, South Africa. The purpose of the academy is to mentor, educate and provide opportunity for highly talented football (soccer) players to become leaders in their family, community and the world through football. The boys who are part of the academy are multi-cultural and often come from difficult backgrounds where gangs, drugs and violence are seen as the only way to survive in their communities. Ubuntu Football Academy provides an opportunity to change that community history into a different, more hopeful future.

Football is the passion of many a young boy. Ubuntu has been working with some of these talented

young men from an early age and they had their first class of players complete their high school education and training in 2017. There are several players who have had the opportunity to pursue further education in the United States and there are others who have now gone on to play at the highest levels of South African professional football, as well as opportunities to play at the national team level.

How does an elite football academy make a difference for God's kingdom? By mentoring and training the next generation of leaders. At the highest levels, football players have the eyes of the world on them. When the Truth of the Gospel is established within the hearts of those under the watchful eye of others, they are better equipped to share their faith and understanding of who God has made them to be, and to be confident role models. The communities where these boys come from look up to footballers, especially when the player is from their community. These boys provide hope to other young boys who love the game and want to escape the culture of drugs and gang violence.



As coaches and educators, we have an opportunity to present the Gospel of Jesus to these boys through our lives and encourage them to do the same. Through daily physical training, mentoring, character development, and Bible study, we seek to encourage them in their faith. We walk alongside of them and answer some of the hard questions that they have as they grapple with their beliefs (many boys come from differing faith backgrounds). This is an incredible

opportunity to lay a foundation for the Gospel in their lives so that they can grow into the leaders that God has made them to be.

Just like the sower (in Matthew 13), God calls us to sow generously into the lives we encounter. As we faithfully do this, through planting and watering the seeds of His Gospel, God will be faithful to grow those seeds. ❖❖



# Business as Mission

by John Berry, SIM Missionary

**B**usiness as Mission or Missional Business, as it's known within SIM, is the commercial endeavours of Christians with the intention to use them for missions. There are a number of reasons that Business as Mission is an effective tool to reach people with the Gospel.

1. BAM people can often access countries that missionaries are unable to go to, by using a business or teacher's visa. Computer personnel, financial advisers, English language teachers, and other professionals are often welcome in limited-access countries, because of the skills they bring.
2. Doing BAM usually results in a business person earning an income with which they can support themselves and not have to raise financial support as missionaries, which can be a lengthy process.
3. A BAM business, run in a God-honouring way can make a positive impact on its staff and customers, and open the door for the spread of the Gospel.

I recently had the opportunity to see business as mission in action in Thailand, a country that is 95% Buddhist and a minimal Christian presence. I spent a week in intensive BAM training in Chiang Mai, followed by a week visiting multiple BAM businesses in Bangkok to see how they were run.



The team evaluated each business to see whether they were running their business as a genuine operating business and whether they were being effective in spreading the Gospel. All in all, I visited 13 BAM businesses. This included a motor vehicle retail business, a home cleaning business, a health and beauty salon, three coffee shops, a cooking school, a restaurant, an English language school, a soccer club and three business training schools



designed to help girls caught up in the sex industry and give them alternate employment opportunities.

I was particularly impressed with two businesses. One was the English language school called A-mane, founded by a Christian Thai couple. They had over 273 students enrolled in their classes and were not simply teaching English to Thai students, but were using the school as a platform to share the Gospel with them. The school needs additional Christian English teachers to go and teach English to Thai students.

The other business was the cooking school, aptly called "The Courageous Kitchen." This was run by a young American guy who had come to Bangkok on a short-term mission trip and had seen the need to help Vietnamese refugees living in Thailand. These refugees have no status in Thailand and are unable to get employment or earn an income. He and his wife had rented a building to accommodate these Vietnamese girls and had started a cooking school with the girls to teach Thai cooking to tourists. Our team enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship at the school and I also had a chance to improve my Thai cooking skills.

One observation that concerned me was that in my travels, I did not find one South African doing BAM there. The doors are wide open for South Africans to go and work there or open a business. There are some financial and legal challenges to work through, but it is still a viable opportunity. Pray for South Africans to use their business skills for Business as Mission and in so doing, share the Good News. We can reach people in business that would otherwise never be reached with the Gospel. ❖



## God is on the MOVE

by Megan Jackson, SIM Missionary

**T**wo women, one car, lots of enthusiasm and a heart to be a blessing, set off one bright, early morning in April, to visit and encourage the SIM missionaries who serve in the region of KwaZulu-Natal.

In a time where we as South Africans too often hear the negative side of living in this country and face the impact of injustice on a daily basis, it was wonderful to be reminded that God is working and He is on the move!

From one missionary discipling women who are young in their faith, to a doctor who has been serving in northern KZN for almost 40 years, and all those in between, we were humbled to be able to come alongside, hear their stories and be an encouragement to them.

It was a blessing to visit those serving in Children's Homes, where unconditional love and service was put on display. It was a blessing to visit those serving in a Bible College where the roof is leaking and the building is in need of TLC. Yet the passion to serve and train is palpable. It was a blessing to experience the hospitality from those who have very little. It was a blessing to sit down with a retired

missionary and hear about the years of ministry she and her husband have put in over the years, by God's grace.

What I came away with was a deep sense that God is at work. He is moving in and through these faithful, hard-working missionaries who have left their own homes, cultures and families to serve and minister here in Zululand.

We look forward to repeating this journey in other regions of South Africa. ❖



# Cyclone Idai – the devastation

by Violet Myamba and Chris Maphosa, SIM Missionaries

In March 2019, beginning on the 4th and gathering momentum over a period of more than two weeks, Cyclone Idai crashed into the east coast of Mozambique and cut a path of destruction that affected Mozambique, Madagascar, Malawi and Zimbabwe. Here are two accounts from SIM missionaries working in Zimbabwe:

## VIOLET'S STORY

Through the advent of Cyclone Idai in our country, we have experienced God's love, and have been able to share it with others, as donations of food to feed the hungry, and clothes to clothe the naked have been received from around the world, in obedience to the Word of Christ. I thank God that I was asked by the SIM Zimbabwe Director to be part of those administering the gifts received from SIM International to the intended beneficiaries.

We went on an "impact assessment trip" and found that the roads were so badly destroyed, but we were able to find our way through to the needy. We saw places and faces full of pain and grief, and we also listened to the stories of the needy and those who needed Christian love in action to help in bringing healing.

I will just share one girl child's story of hope and deliverance with you.

Tinashe, who was born into a family of three siblings, is a daughter of a single mum. They woke up to the scary sound of the cyclone and tried to escape, but water and stones hit their house and carried them away. The water separated Tinashe from her siblings and threw her to the shallow side of the water, and



she was safe. She did not, however, know what had happened to her mother and siblings. One of her siblings was found dead the next morning and the other was never found. Two days later, after having been rescued, she discovered that she was in the same room with her badly injured mother in the hospital.



Tinashe's story changed my mind from thinking of stories of pain to stories of deliverance. God delivered His people from the cyclone and healed their wounds in a short period of time. Her face has scars rather than wounds. Her mother's arm is healing quickly. Her greatest worry now is her school shoes and uniform that was swept away by the flood. ❖

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## CHRIS'S STORY

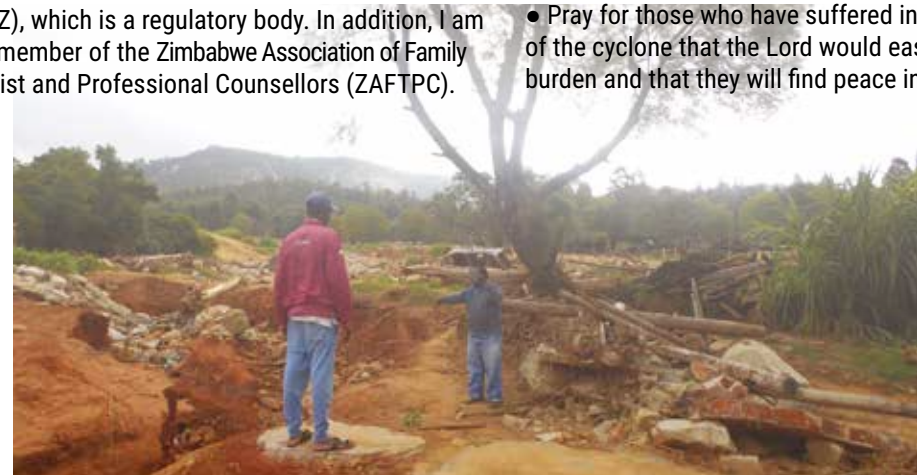
We thank God that as T4T (Today For Tomorrow) ministry, we have been accredited or allowed by the Government to offer psycho-social support to the children and adults affected by the devastation of Cyclone Idai. We have received much appreciation and love from the schools that we are working with, one of which is Nanganu Primary school, where we have many children who lost their parents in the tragedy and had their houses, with all their belongings, swept away. So far we have managed to help by teaching the children and reviving hope in them, encouraging them through donations of books and clothing. The need is great.

Apart from running T4T ministry to the survivors of Cyclone Idai in Chimanimani, I, Chris, have been appointed as one of the counsellors registered with the Allied Health Practitioners Council of Zimbabwe (AHP CZ), which is a regulatory body. In addition, I am also a member of the Zimbabwe Association of Family Therapist and Professional Counsellors (ZAFTPC).



Together with others, we have volunteered to offer professional counselling to the survivors, in partnership with Ministry of Health. This added responsibility has kept me extremely busy, as I also supervise the volunteer counsellors stationed in two Hospitals and four clinics. Part of my responsibility is to source food for the volunteer counsellors and to deliver it to all six stations. The need for counsellors is great, and we hope to continue offering counselling for a very long time. Currently, we have volunteer counsellors teams arriving on a rotational basis, staying for at least two weeks and then exchanging with others. ❖

- Please pray for wisdom and grace, and for resilience for the counsellors who hear all the tragic stories.
- Pray for those who have suffered in the midst of the cyclone that the Lord would ease their burden and that they will find peace in Christ.



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**T**he work of SIM is made possible by people who partner with us through their occasional or regular financial gifts. God calls some to give so that others may go. Your financial partnership with us enables projects, equips people and expands God's kingdom.

If you are able to support this work financially, then gifts can be given using the following bank details: SIM Southern Africa Standard Bank, Blue Route Branch Code: 025609 Account Number: 072877014 Please quote the missionary number when donating and notify us on [za.finance@sim.org](mailto:za.finance@sim.org) Alternatively you may use the online button on the SIM website [www.sim.org.za](http://www.sim.org.za)