

# **SIM** **now**

**Together again!**

**Leading with Barnabas' heart**

**Leadership & Services Team**

**Testimony from a mission trip**

**Books: *Go Tell It***

**Devotion: Call to me, and I will answer you**



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SIMnow issue 156. The official publication of SIM Southern Africa, an international, interdenominational, Evangelical Protestant mission. Visit us at [www.sim.org.za](http://www.sim.org.za). Publisher Benjamin Pillay; Editor Brian Heffron; Designer Brian Heffron; Proofreaders Kevin DeValk and CJ Visser. Cover photo and all content (unless otherwise noted) are copyright © 2023 SIM and its licensors; all stock photos used according to their licenses. All rights reserved. Reprint and other permission requests should be sent to: SIM Southern Africa, P O Box 30027, Tokai, 7966, Cape Town, South Africa. Bank details: SIM Southern Africa; Standard Bank, Blue Route; Branch Code 025609; Account Number 072877014. Email proof to: [za.finance@sim.org](mailto:za.finance@sim.org). May the Lord Jesus Christ guide and be glorified in all our words, actions, and interactions.

Dear friends of SIM Southern Africa,

“Let’s not become discouraged in doing good, for in due time we will reap, if we do not become weary.” – Galatians 6:9 (NASB)

Having stepped out into a different world after lockdowns, with changes to both work and social lives, many of us have felt the same with church life.

Here at SIM Southern Africa, we have continued to keep on doing good where God has called us to minister—often at great risk. May we be an encouragement to you not to grow weary in doing good, for in due time you will reap a harvest.

In this edition of *SIMnow*, you will read of many people who continue to do good.

Our own Barnabas, Rev. Dr Siegfried Ngubane, shares his passion for those who lead and are led. Read of his zeal to equip and labour side by side with fellow servants, as he spurs them on in his role as Southern Africa Regional Director.

SIM SA had its own Barnabas moment in October, when we finally met in-person again for our annual Spiritual Life Conference. What a blessing to encourage and be encouraged. From the encouragement of Rev. Neil Henry in the Word or quiet mornings beside the stream to evenings of song beside the bonfire, God’s Spirit moved amongst us for His glory.

In this edition, we will introduce to you a special group of people, of whom or from whom you may not hear many stories. I recently read an article that asked this question, “How many rear soldiers are there for every frontline soldier?” It went on to reveal that in World War I, for every soldier on the front line, there were as many as twenty rear soldiers serving as support troops. Please meet the brave men and women who serve alongside me in support of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, ensuring that our onward Christian soldiers are supported in their ministries, ensuring the Gospel goes forth.

Working alongside theological institutions, as Rev. Eugene Chuang does, we continue to build

into the missional perspective of prospective pastors, missionaries and Christian workers.

Be encouraged by Pastor Ashley Lengeveldt as he reminds us to “call on Jesus,” as we struggle with the fallout from COVID-19 or because of prevailing world issues around wars and economic instability, or loadshedding and other issues here at home.

Perhaps, you will be encouraged to tell your story as Brian Heffron reminds us that “The church needs great storytellers.”

Hear the heart of John Berry for the 99 percent of Thailand’s people that are still to know Jesus or answer the question “Why Missions?” with Emma Brewster as she discusses what it means to “Live in the kingdom of God in such a way that it provokes questions for which the Gospel is the answer.”

How can you be engaged with the Holy Spirit in the work that God is doing around the world through SIM? We certainly need as many as possible rear soldiers who will pray with and for us, as many who are willing to partner with us making it possible for us take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to those living and dying without Jesus. If you’re one of those who is an answer to the prayer to the Lord of harvest to send workers into the harvest, please reach out to us and together we will live in obedience to His call.

One day I will get to see all of you who believe in Jesus and have partnered with us, and we will rejoice together!

For Christ alone,

*Benjamin Pillay*

Rev. Benjamin Pillay,  
SIM Southern Africa Director



# Pray

## Rejoice and pray

*“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”*  
— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (ESV)

We come to our Lord not only in petition but also in praise, in delight as well as in dire situations. The Lord hears all.

SIM’s work and workers rely daily on prayer, both our own and that of our many partners and encouragers. You can participate in this vital aspect of the Great Commission.

As you read this issue, please pray for the people and ministries featured—and for gospel work throughout South Africa and around the world.

Request a paper or email subscription to our monthly prayer letter, “Pray Today,” by emailing [sim.sa@sim.org](mailto:sim.sa@sim.org) and consider joining or forming a local prayer group. As always, thank you for your prayers.

Scan this code to get daily reminders in the PrayerMate app.



Photo by Tracy Elliott

# Leading with Barnabas' heart

Text and photos by Brian Heffron, SIM South Africa Communications Manager

From teaching Bible college students to leading churches and missionaries, Siegfried Ngubane has always been passionate about helping others to know Christ and to grow within that relationship.

“I think deep down in my heart, I don't enjoy the spotlight. I know because I have been now in leadership roles for many years, I found myself there, but I'm not a person who enjoys the spotlight,” said Siegfried. “I enjoy being behind the captain and encouraging brothers and sisters and saying, ‘You can do this! You are gifted to do it!’ and I learned all that from the ministry of Barnabas.”

Siegfried has been SIM's Regional Director for Southern Africa since 1 April 2019 (he previously served as SIM SA's Country Director from 2010 to 31 Dec. 2018). The region consists of SIM entities in Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

“The role of the regional director is key not just in encouraging the country directors but also connecting them—not just to each other but also to what SIM is doing globally,” he said.

Within SIM, each country is an entity, complete with its own board and director. As regional director, Siegfried oversees a “golden triangle” for each country between himself, its director, and its board. He especially tries to strengthen the relationship between each director and board to ensure good governance and that the director is well cared for.

“The way I understand this role is that of Barnabas, being an encourager. Barnabas had a huge ministry—Paul benefitted from that and a few others—but we don't hear a lot about Barnabas in the Bible or anywhere else. Even in the books that are written about the people in the Bible, Barnabas is always just mentioned in passing, and I thought that ‘I am that person,’” Siegfried said.

He sits on each entity board whenever he can and tries to connect with each director twice a month, once individually and once in a regional leadership meeting. Those meetings alternate between conducting business, prayer gatherings, and training sessions to which each director can

bring ministry partners from their region.

“It doesn't happen every month, but I try to connect with the directors individually just to find out how is the director doing, what are the challenges he is facing, and how he is doing with whatever situations the country is facing,” he said.

Those challenges sometimes include helping resolve conflicts when the director is involved or feels too close to the situation.

“Barnabas always believed in other people, so that is what I see as my role, and that was the main thing that stood in my mind [when considering taking this role]. The job description was saying, ‘you work with the directors, you encourage the directors,’ but I also help them to be responsible for the roles they have been asked to do in their own countries, help them to be faithful to what they agreed as leaders,” Siegfried said.

“I think I have grown in that area as well—to encourage directors to do the work of leading our teams and working with the boards of the entities—so that's part of the area that I found myself growing in, but still my heart is that of encouraging them to do the work of the Lord.”

Other duties of the regional director include conducting end-of-term reviews with the country directors, helping prepare search committees to succeed them (currently, he is helping find directors for Zambia and Zimbabwe), and reviewing all projects written in the region before SIM International will consider the application.

He also oversees the preparation of the region's annual conference, which includes a directors' retreat, business meetings, guest speakers, Bible teaching and time to relax, visit, enjoy fellowship, and exchange ideas. Last year, its theme was how churches in the region can fight injustices done to children, with relevant specialists helping them understand the issues.

The regional director also helps develop relationships between the mission and churches and other organisations serving the Lord, and he helps encourage them to partner with and mobilise missionaries.

“Because I see the role of the church in missions—and us as mission coming alongside



*Above and below: SIM Regional Director for Southern Africa Siegfried Ngubane gave the keynote address at the Thuma Mina mission mobilisation conference at Union Chapel in Cape Town on 1 Oct 2022.*



the church—I try to facilitate those relationships between the mission in the countries where we serve and the local churches,” Siegfried said.

In addition to inviting ministry partners to the training meetings, the region gears some online seminars toward churches. If funds allow, the region also invites at least four church partners per director to the annual regional conference.

Siegfried not only accepts invitations to be a guest speaker at events and gatherings, but he has also developed his own training programme for pastors. When he is not travelling, he goes twice a week to Hope Africa Collective at the Beautiful Gate campus in Philippi, Cape Town to oversee training for pastors, church leaders, and people involved in ministry.

“Because there is such a big need in Africa for pastors and so many churches without trained pastors, I have taken it upon myself to make sure there is training available for those people who have never received a theological education,” he said.

The programme he developed features courses that last three months, and participants can rotate in and out as they need to between them. The whole programme lasts 18 months.

“Theological education is one of my passions,”

Siegfried said, “and with that, I’m hoping that all theological educators in the region will at least know each other and help each other.

These aspects of his role—encouraging others, helping them grow, teaching theology, and fostering relationships—all connect well with his background as a pastor. In 1995, he finished his theological training and was appointed to start a church in Khayelitsha. Two years later, he was ordained in REACH SA, and when he had obtained his master’s degree, George Whitfield College invited him to the faculty. He taught African studies, worldviews and church planting, and cross-cultural communication for cross-cultural workers, as well as New Testament, pastoral theology, and hermeneutics. He also wrote courses on evangelism, ministry in African contexts, and HIV/AIDS (then at its height in South Africa).

“Loving and shepherding is part of my heart,

**Facing page:** Siegfried with members of Hope Africa Collective, where he teaches theology classes for untrained pastors, church leaders, and people involved in ministry.

**Below:** Siegfried listens to Foursquare Gospel Church pastor Cebo Gqadu introduce him to a theology class at Hope Africa Collective.



really, and in the context where people are hurting and being destroyed by many things—including their own sins—I enjoyed bringing that aspect to the young students that we were training as shepherds,” Siegfried said.

He added that two Bible passages especially guided him during that season. Ezekiel 34 presented a strong picture of the wrong way to be a shepherd. Acts 20 emphasised taking good care of oneself and the church, which the Lord Jesus has purchased through His blood.

“Those two things were very strong elements of talking about our roles as ministers of the gospel and a great reminder that it is actually not our flock. The flock belongs to God and even our calling, it’s a calling because of obedience—it’s God who’s calling us, and we respond to that call by obedience—and of course it’s the Holy Spirit who does all the work,” he said.

“If there’s one thing that I miss [about teaching], it’s just to see that young, zealous group who want to spend the rest of their time serving the Lord by teaching the gospel or being missionaries and so forth,” he said.

How does he see God working through this role?

“What I see and hear from other people is, I

think they see me as a person who brings people together and facilitates unity and reconciliation in strained relationships. I hear people saying, ‘Well Siegfried, you are also a good mentor, and you enjoy seeing other people growing and developing.’ If you look at those things that I hear other people saying, I think God is preparing us in the region to be serving faithfully with all humility and learning from one another, getting ideas from one another, so that we will all grow,” he said.

Siegfried’s five-year term as regional director will end in April 2024, so he is on a brief home assignment to help him finish well. He is seeking the Lord’s leading for what comes next, but he will surely stand behind captains, telling them, “You can do this! You are gifted to do it!”

**Please pray:**

- † for financial support.
- † for Siegfried and Maureen and their family.
- † for wisdom and God’s leading in facilitating ministry in the region.
- † for this home assignment to be restful, fruitful, and help reconnect with churches and individuals.
- † for wisdom and clarity regarding the Lord’s leading for what comes next.



# Together again!

*For the first time since 2019, our team gathers face to face*

Text and photos by Brian Heffron, SIM South Africa Communications Manager





Fellowship and community are among the most important methods of keeping an organisation healthy and focused, so it was a great joy in October to finally hold the annual Spiritual Life Conference in person again.

“It really was such a blessing to be all together under one roof again,” said SIM South Africa People Care and Development Lead Megan Jackson, who helped organise the SLC. “There were many new faces, growing families and familiar friends. One could feel the joy and satisfaction amongst the group as we spent this precious time together.”

The gathering was held at Berachah Retreat & Conference Centre in Malmesbury, Western Cape. About 70 people attended, including about 55 members and their children. The rest were speakers, worship leaders, and children’s programme workers.

“It was so awesome to see how God brought all the pieces together: the speaker and the worship and the enrichment sessions all came together so well. Seeing people laughing and interacting; hearing about how they enjoyed being in small groups to share what God is saying in their lives was especially meaningful to me,” Megan said.

Megan and five other SIMers organised the

SLC, meeting by Zoom to exchange ideas and delegate tasks. For three years in a row, the committee had to work around the pandemic, creating a first-ever online SLC in 2020. In 2021, they planned an in-person SLC but had to convert it to online at the last minute due to the increasing Covid numbers.

“It was a challenge to start planning and then have to decide whether to postpone or cancel or hold an SLC online. The uncertainty during this period was tough, but we were reminded again and again that God was in control,” said Megan, adding that the online SLCs were “successful and appreciated ... [but] didn’t come close to meeting in person.”

Members gathered every morning to worship the Lord and delve into His Word, reconnected with each other in the garden, held a braai, and had campfire singalongs each night.

With so many heartaches and trials in recent years, attendees were also able to sit with counsellors Hans-Georg and Margret Hoprich, German missionaries who have long been friends of SIM.

The SLC theme was “Delighting in God,” with three keynote addresses by Reverend Neil Henry. A lecturer at the Bible Institute in Kalk Bay and



a long-time member of the SIM Southern Africa Board, he spoke on “Delighting in Our Saviour”, “Delighting in Faithful Service”, and “Delighting in His Word”.

There were also five enrichment workshops: “Member Care” by Hans-Georg and Margret; “How to Maintain Spiritual Disciplines for the Cross-Cultural Worker” by Neil and his wife, Trish; “How to Share Your Story” by Brian Heffron; “How to Help Your Child Through Transitions” by Heidi Tee; and “Light Exercise to Worship Music” by Kerry Wiens.

Over and over, the joy of reconnecting with friends and colleagues was visible. Smiles were broad, hugs were long and tight, and conversations were animated.

“It was just profoundly encouraging to be together and to experience the SIMSA family being together. Very grateful for the time—together,” wrote one attendee in a survey afterwards.

“After two years of mostly Zoom interaction, it was such a blessing to catch up with colleagues face to face whom we haven’t seen or contacted for so long. It was also encouraging to meet new team members,” wrote another. “The interaction helped shed the last of the lingering Covid frustrations and to focus on future ministry.”



**Above:** Reverend Neil and Trish Henry gave the keynote addresses and an enrichment session on maintaining spiritual disciplines.

**Below:** German missionaries Hans-Georg and Margret Hoprich were available for counselling and spoke about member care.







# Leadership & Services Team

Photos by Brian Heffron, SIM South Africa Communications Manager

Like every organisation, SIM Southern Africa depends on a wide variety of people and positions, from translators and evangelists in far-flung ministries to sports and youth programmes to leaders and workers providing the services that equip and support those called to every ministry.

While some ministries often attract more attention, prayer and giving than others, every ministry is important to the fruitful and healthy functioning of SIM.

Therefore, we here take this opportunity to introduce these leadership and services team workers to those who pray for and support SIM Southern Africa and its ministries.



*“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.”*  
—1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (NIV)

## **Benjamin Pillay, SIM Southern Africa Director**

Benjamin provides strategic leadership for SIM Southern Africa, leading and supporting a team of dedicated colleagues who provide support to our missionaries and ministries on the field in the pursuit of those living and dying without Jesus. Benjamin also works with church leaders and other Christian institutional and organisational leaders, and together through cooperation can focus on Gospel-centric work, reaching the lost and discipling all believers.

Benjamin is supported by Desireè and their two children, Ezekiel and Tamar.



## **Chantal Lengeveldt, Corporate Services Manager**

Chantal's role involves a range of service functions across our organization. These services ensure the smooth running of our offices and other administrative functions and include: property management, compliance and maintenance; communicating and negotiating with contractors and suppliers; guest house management and maintenance; vehicle management, compliance and maintenance; office management; IT functions; HR administration; and database management.

She is married to Ashley, who pastors a Baptist church, and they raise a beautiful little girl, Tamzyn, whom the Lord sent into their lives five years ago.

## **Freeman Ndlovu, Financial Services Manager**

Freeman maintains the financial health of the organization by overseeing finance department operations. He plans goals and objectives; manages budget preparation; liaises with auditors; analyses costs, pricing, and contributions; develops financial trends and projections; conducts reviews and evaluations for cost-reduction opportunities. He also provides financial reports, interpretations and recommendations to managerial staff, including advising on investment activities and providing strategies that the organization should take.

His wife, Hlengiwe, is looking after their son Ukhona, who is just over a year old.

## **Janice Lewin, Accounts Administrator**

Janice is responsible for the day-to-day financial operational requirements for SIM SA and missionaries within South Africa and abroad. She handles expenditures, transactions between offices, and contributions from local and foreign donors. She also oversees payroll, training and reconciliations. Teamwork is key in Financial Services, and Janice works well on her own and in her team.

She and her husband, John, live at Sunbury Christian Camp, where he is a SIM volunteer attending to maintenance and landscaping with his team. They have two daughters and sons-in-law and four grandsons.

## **Khwezi Makha, Finance Assistant**

Khwezi is responsible for various tasks in the finance department. He prepares the payment of claims, allowances, salaries, and other payments made to third parties involved with SIM. He is also responsible for preparing and sending out the money fund requests; preparing the monthly debits, the bank reconciliation, the SIM trust reconciliation, and the mid-months; and making submissions to the South African Revenue Services and other third-party insurances.

He is also a student at the University of South Africa, doing the Advanced Diploma in Accounting Sciences (SAICA Stream).

## **Fumane Adebisi, SARC Regional Treasurer**

“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31 (ESV)).

Fumane serves as the treasurer of the SIM offices in the other countries of the Southern Africa Regional Council (SARC). She is responsible for monitoring, accounting, and reporting on all the financial activities of the region, as well as providing financial guidance to the entities she oversees. She occasionally volunteers to assist with internal audits on behalf of SIM International at SIM field offices across the world.

She is blessed with one husband, Kay, and two boys, Neo, 10, and Jaden, 3.





**Happy Mahloko, Finance Assistant**

Happy provides general help in finance duties relating to the countries of the Southern Africa Regional Council. She handles payments, reconciliations, inter-office transfers, and distribution of monthly reports. She also helps the financial services manager and regional financial manager with other needs as they arise. Living up to her name, she does her work with joy and dedication.

Happy is a mother to a 36-year-old son, Serame Mahloko (married and residing in Canada) and a proud grandmother to two adorable grandchildren. She serves her church as a treasurer and participates in its ministries to students and those in financial need.



**Lynette Sheldon, Admin & Finance Assistant**

Lynette is in the SIM office in Cape Town and deals with most administrative duties, including answering the phone, welcoming and helping visitors, helping prepare *Pray Today* for mailing, overseeing the address and birthday lists, caring for our cleaning staff and taking minutes as needed for meetings. Within the finance department, she deals with allocating funds, sending missionary reports and dealing with any queries from donors and missionaries relating to this part of the process.

Lynette started with SIM in 2006 and has had the privilege to serve for 13 years in Personnel, two years front line in Admin Care and now for one year with the Finance team. Psalm 27:7



**Ian Galloway, Accounts Assistant**

Ian is responsible for allocating local incoming funds to the various missionaries working under the SIM Southern Africa banner, as well as processing monthly debit orders, monthly income reports for South Africa-based missionaries, and the bank reconciliation. Ian also keeps a record of medical insurance claims for each missionary under SIM Southern Africa.

Ian is a widower and has two adult children (Andy and Aileen) and two grandchildren. He has been with SIM Southern Africa for over 18 years.



**Zimkhitha Ngindana, Finance Assistant**

“But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31 (NLT)).

Zimkhitha provides financial support and assistance to the Southern Africa Region by processing inter-office transactions, handling payment requests and queries from all stakeholders.

Zimkhitha is married to Thanduxolo Thando, who recently obtained his Honours in Civil Engineering. They are blessed with one son, Buchule Hamilton.

**Neil Parmenter, Project Coordinator**

Neil’s role is to support and encourage project managers in the ministries God has called them to. He does this through project planning, approval and renewal, as well as ensuring compliance with SIM guidelines. The role also involves monitoring and evaluating each project, overseeing budgets and financial management and providing regular updates to the Director and other team members. He represents SIM Southern Africa projects to SIM International project services. Neil spent several years working in the SIM Cape Town office and at Living Hope.

His South African wife, Bethan, is a support worker with vulnerable adults; they have two daughters, Zoë, 24, and Isobel, 21.



**John Berry, Stewardship Officer**

John’s role is to help raise finances for the mission through donations, gifts, and legacies. SIM is a faith mission and relies on the generosity of God’s people to help fund the work of the mission so that we can reach people who are living and dying without Christ. This ministry is carried out through fundraising articles in our SIM magazine, fundraising letters and appeals to our constituency and occasional fundraising events. John also maintains and updates the SIM database of donors and supporters who actively partner with the mission.

He has two adult children—Tamarin, working as a nurse at Living Hope, and Vaughan, working in the catering industry.



**Hildegard Steiner, Missionary Ministry Services Manager and Medical Officer**

As the missionary ministry services manager, Hildegard heads up the team who serve as sending and receiving coordinators. She is responsible for the smooth running of the things that arise in connection with missionaries, generally seeing that ministries align with the SIM SA vision and strategy. As the medical officer, she is responsible for all health matters that arise with the South African missionaries who are sent through our offices.

Hildegard and her husband, Winfried, praise the Lord for having been able to serve in missions for more than 35 years. They have three married children and seven grandchildren.



**Stephan Walters, Sending Missionary Coordinator**

Stephan acts as the Sending Coordinator for South African missionaries being sent to countries outside of South Africa. He is responsible for helping new missionaries familiarise themselves with the SIM world and preparing them physically, emotionally, and spiritually to serve in a cross-cultural context. He is also involved in the placement process of these missionaries, guiding them in the practicalities of living and surviving in a foreign culture. When these missionaries come on home assignment, Stephan deals with these preparations as well as with the debriefings.

Stephan lives in Bredasdorp with his wife, Corné, and two children.





**Trudie Robbertze, Receiving Missionary Coordinator**

Each of us is a masterpiece, designed by Father for good works (Ephesians 2:10). In light of this, Trudie believes that each missionary needs to find his/her place to excel for the expansion of our Father’s kingdom. She handles all the placement enquiries and consultations/partnerships. She sees to it that the new missionaries are prepared and oriented properly on arrival. She is also involved (together with the People Care and Development coordinator) with the Annual Reviews and End of Term Reports.

Her husband, Johan, is developing a facility for Youth Work/Retreats. They have two grown children—Hannes, 25, and Dawie, 24.



**Megan Jackson, People Care and Development Lead**

Megan oversees the learning development and care of all the missionaries serving on the South African field. It is very close to Megan’s heart to help and care for those serving on the front lines as she acknowledges that burnout and attrition can be high in this line of work. Her passion is coming alongside people where they are at and being a bridge for resources, care, counselling, upskilling and connection. Her motto in life is, “Love God and Love others WELL.”

Megan lives in Cape Town. She enjoys spending sunny days on the beach, walks on the Sea Point Promenade and spending time with her fiancé, Daniel.



**Heidi Tee, Third Culture Kids Coordinator**

Heidi’s role ensures that SIM is supporting the care needs of missionary children, who grow up in a mixture of their parents’ home culture and the culture where they live. In trying to adapt to two basically “foreign” cultures, the children form their own “third” culture. As simple as this definition sounds, in practice this is not so simple for the children, who often find it tremendously difficult to adapt when their circumstances change. Living in that tension, leaving for the mission field and re-entering their parent’s home country each present needs and challenges, from practical matters like choosing schools to emotional support like debriefings.

Heidi is married to Colin.



**Brian Heffron, Communications Manager**

Following Luke’s example (Luke 1:1-4), Brian prepares “an orderly account” of what God is doing through His servants so believers not present may honour and glorify Him more. He compiles this magazine by gathering and editing other workers’ stories and photos or getting them himself. He also prepares the monthly *Pray Today* newsletter and publishes it in the *PrayerMate* app, and he hopes to publish online more frequently in the coming year. He also served on the planning committee for the recent SIM International Global Assembly in Kenya and took its photos.

His wife, Tracy, is a physician assistant working in cancer medicine. They have two children—Karen, 17, and Billy, 15.

# Give



Photo by Brian Heffron

## ...help reach those in need

Thanks to the faithful support of our prayer and financial partners, SIM Southern Africa is able to minister to people throughout South Africa and around the world.

Contributions help provide equipment, supplies, locations and workers for food programmes, church planting, evangelism, medical care, education, Bible translation, and sports and youth programmes.

If you are able to support this work financially, then gifts can be given online at [SIM.org.za/donate/](http://SIM.org.za/donate/) or through the following bank details:

SIM Southern Africa  
Standard Bank, Blue Route  
Branch Code: 025609  
Account Number: 072877014

Please Reference: Your name and “Partnership” and send a proof of payment to [za.finance@sim.org](mailto:za.finance@sim.org).

# Testimony from a mission trip

By Nomthandazo Hlongwa, Durban Bible College Student

*SIM Southern Africa missionary Eugene Chuang is a teacher at Durban Bible College and helps lead a short-term mission trip for the students every year. He submitted this testimony from one of the student participants.*

All glory to Jesus Christ!

It has been a great honour and privilege (as well as a humbling learning experience) that the Lord Jesus Christ enabled me to partake in this mission trip at Ridgeview, among the Double Portion Family Church (DPFC) brethren.

Not only did the Lord use us for His glory, but He also personally and practically taught me about the true meaning of being a true follower of Jesus Christ. As He said in Luke 9:23, “...Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

A couple of weeks before we went to Ridgeview, the Holy Spirit kept speaking to me and teaching me about the scripture found in Matthew 9:37-38, where He says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.”

I had generally thought I knew the meaning of this scripture until He taught me its true and deeper meaning and said, “The first part (‘the harvest is plenty’) simply means that there are many people on Earth who have not encountered Jesus Christ including atheists, those in false religions, as well as those who are in Christian churches but who are mere church goers. All these groups are found everywhere, including in our families, in taxis, bus stops, on roads, and in corporate places like companies, retail stores, malls, planes, academic institutions, hospitals, jails, etc. However, the second part (‘but the workers are few’) actually means that there are very few individuals on Earth, in all nations, who are truly sold out for Christ, because, if you are truly sold out for Him, you will (sincerely depending on Him) live like He lived, preach what He preached and what He leads you to preach, not however you want to live (while claiming to be His follower) nor what you want to preach or what people want you to preach.”

By His grace and mercy, the Lord made us arrive safely and started to use us in various platforms including teaching sessions, ministries to children, youth, and ladies, evangelism (open air, door-to-door) and revivals at night. From the first day we arrived until the last day, the Lord opened my eyes and heart to know the true meaning of discipleship and ministry.

Personally, in the place where I stay, I am not often exposed to what people are actually going through outside because it is a kind of a place where “minding your own business” is truly practised. We mind our own business with our families (i.e. always indoors, not having relationships that are open and consistent with our neighbours, etc.) and, as a result, we don’t know much about what is happening outside. Unfortunately, as a result, this has affected even the way I view ministry. Hence, as a child of God, I have not really been exposed to what people are going through even in the church, because coming to church for me has always been almost like coming to a workplace where you work (either preach or engage in ministries like ushering, praise and worship), go home, focus on your family and business until the next day, and the cycle goes on and on.

Partaking in this trip has made me shift my eyes from the church building, church formality, religious activities, and the pulpit, and fix them on the lives of the people whom the Lord intends to save and transform into His image (since it has always been His original plan and purpose as shown in Genesis 1:26-28). My heart was touched to learn how many burdens people are carrying even in the household of faith. Burdens like drugs and alcohol, sexual immorality, troubling children, violence and so on and, even how much they are crying out for help, hence the harvest is plenty.

During and even after the trip, I was reminded that the Lord intends to save and transform lives and not merely fill buildings with thousands of people who do not know Him. However, He needs empty vessels whom He will make, disciple, train and fill with His life in order for them to be His



Submitted photo

labourers in His vineyard—hence, “the workers are few.”

In this day and age, some so-called ministers are after big titles, to be esteemed guest speakers, preach on the pulpit what they want to preach and what people want to hear and, where there isn’t much sweat, get paid an honorarium and thereafter focus on their lives. They are not truly sold out for Christ because to be truly sold out for Him you also need to pay the price of sweat. This requires a consistent commitment to life-to-life ministry, such as listening carefully to what people are going through outside the formality of church services, praying for and with them, constantly following up with them to assist in their spiritual growth, and taking care of their needs (including physical ones) as the Lord provides and directs. This is what Jesus did while He was physically here on Earth, impacting and affecting other lives, and His true followers must emulate this.

It is my prayer that the Lord grants me grace

**Above:** Durban Bible College student Nomthandazo Hlongwa leads a children’s programme story about David and Goliath during DBC’s annual mission trip.

in this area and that He will send labourers into His vineyard, i.e., people who will live like Jesus Christ here on Earth, people who are not perfect but who are willing to surrender their lives totally to Him, to depend on Him in everything, to walk with Him, and to be made by Him all the days of their lives for His glory, for “All things were made by Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16).

To Jesus Christ be the glory!

*Nomthandazo Hlongwa is a member of Gospel Power Evangelical Church (ECSA) with a Bachelor of Law from the University of Zululand. She felt called to God’s kingdom and enrolled at Durban Bible College. Thank you to all who give in support of SIM’s commitment to such students.*

# Go Tell It

By Brian Heffron, SIM South Africa Communications Manager

Writing can be difficult, and even experienced writers sometimes struggle to explain or express interesting topics in an engaging manner.

For many missionaries, sharing captivating, inspiring stories of God's work in, through, and around them can be harder than doing the work itself. Prayer letters can become infrequent, and supporters can be left wondering how things are going and how they should pray.

*Go Tell It: How—and Why—to Report God's Stories in Words, Photos, and Videos* may be the help stymied writers need. Written by missionary journalists Jim Killam and Lincoln Brunner, it offers practical advice and clear explanations, and it is suitable for novice, developing, or experienced writers.

The book was recommended to me by friends at the Evangelical Press Association when I began transitioning back to journalism from teaching secondary school. I found it to be a good reminder and have used it in writers' workshops for our fellow SIMers. It would be a good resource for mission offices and guest houses, as well as for individuals and families serving in any context.

"We've written this book because we believe there's a never-ending supply of powerful stories out there—stories that aren't being reported well, if they're being reported at all," the authors state in their conclusion.

*"Publish His glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things He does."  
— Psalm 96:3 (NLT)*

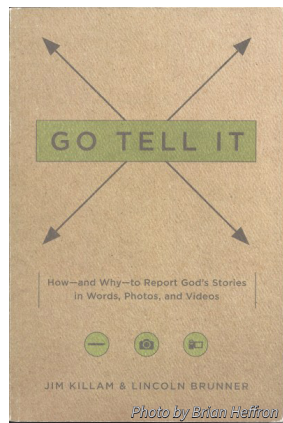


Photo by Brian Heffron

The book consists of eight chapters. "If God Says He Loves You, Check It Out" introduces writers to the importance of pursuing truth and verifying information (this chapter's title alludes to an old axiom of journalists: "if your mother says she loves you, check it out"). "Crossing the Line" deals with preparing for and crossing cultural or geographic boundaries to get stories, as well as with handling sensitive information carefully. "The Unvarnished Truth" explains the ethics that Christians

must especially model in sharing stories. "The Story" coaches writers in identifying a strong focus for each piece. "Interviewing" gives practical advice for helping others speak openly. "The Scenes" deals with using details to help readers feel present and involved. "The Pictures" gives invaluable advice about improving photography, and "The Movies" does likewise for video and audio work.

Part of the book's strength comes from its clarity and accessibility. Killam and Brunner explain their points in plain language and have included numerous anecdotes, examples, and photographs for illustration. They are often humble and forthright in discussing their own mistakes, such as wandering irresponsibly around an unfamiliar city unguided and winding up at a potentially hostile political rally.

"The church needs great storytellers. We'd remember so much better what God has done for us, and we'd be slower to lose our trust in him and turn to what have become our own golden calves: safety and comfort," Killam and Brunner write.

When Luke wrote his gospel, the tools of journalism were essentially five senses, two feet, and a quill, and yet he utilized them to prepare an orderly account for those lovers of God who were not able to witness Christ's deeds themselves. Today, God has provided us with technologies that can help us bring people even closer to the good news of His work among the nations; being good stewards requires that we learn to use such tools effectively and artistically.

# Call to me, and I will answer you

By Ashley Lengeveldt, SIM South Africa Ambassador

As a pastor, as someone who ministers the word of God and counsels people daily, it has become very evident to me that the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting lockdowns have left a deep scar on our society.

There seems to be an impending sense of doom and loss hanging over most of us. It's as if everybody is expecting another wave of Covid or another wave of something bad to happen to us. It's almost as if people have forgotten the fact that our God is an ever-faithful God, that our God is an unchanging God who is always good to us no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in.

Not only is our God good and faithful, but our God also invites us to know Him more. Our God invites us to communicate with Him directly and to grow in a personal relationship with Him, and our God does this by inviting us to call on His name.

The Bible says in Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV), "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

As children of God, on our journey through life, we will encounter crises—and sometimes even crisis after crisis: financial difficulties, retrenchments, ill health, diseases, sickness and even death are just some of the issues that we might face, but no matter how serious the crisis might be, we can always call on God, because God guarantees us that He will answer our prayers.

"Call to me and I will answer you..."

God instructed the prophet Jeremiah to write down this promise as a permanent reminder to God's people that He will answer our prayers.

Our God will answer the prayers of His people. No matter what crisis you find yourself in, God

will answer your prayers. God will either remove the crisis before you, or He will give you the strength to walk right through that crisis.

As God assured Jeremiah of the fact that He made the earth, that He is the Lord who formed it and established it, God assures you today that He will answer your prayers. God is your Creator, the one who formed the universe and set you in it, and as your Creator, God has the power to answer your prayers. God has the power to meet you at the point of your needs no matter how desperate or hopeless your crisis might be. If your heart truly belongs to God and you are walking faithfully before God, then you can call on Him and pour out your heart to Him, and He will hear you and answer you.

Just as it was for Jeremiah, this remains God's promise to you today:

"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."

Pray this with us: "Lord, we thank you for this wonderful promise. Thank you that we can call on your name in any crisis knowing that you will answer our prayers. Thank you that you are a promise-keeping God. Thank you for the revelation of all the great and unsearchable things that we did not know."



Photo by Brian Heffron

*"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."  
— Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)*

# Thailand's hidden treasure

By John Berry, SIM South Africa Missionary

When we think of Thailand, many exotic attractions come to mind: white sandy beaches, thick jungles rich with wildlife, ancient ruins, Buddhist temples, tasty Thai cuisine, diverse markets of food, flowers and cultural items, river rafting, elephant riding, Thai cooking schools and many other interesting attractions. Visitors come from all over the world to Thailand, a land of many treasures.

But there is one treasure in Thailand that is sadly missing—Thailand does not have the treasure of the Gospel. Only one percent of its population are Christian, with only 0.5 percent evangelical. The rest of the population are Buddhists (85 percent), Muslims (10 percent) and other religions. The treasure of the Gospel has not yet entered the hearts of the Thai people, even after 400 years of missionary work.

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field” (Matthew 13:44 (NIV)). This parable shows the extremely high value that Jesus placed on this hidden treasure. As Christians, we need to be praying for the Thai people that they discover this true treasure of the kingdom, and we should be sending missionaries to bring them the Good News.

SIM South Africa is making an effort to reach the Thai people for Christ. Currently, we have four families and a single woman working in the city of Chiang Mai in Northern Thailand. One of the opportunities they have is “The Centre”, a student ministry centre close to Chiang Mai University and another university with over 46 000 students. Our SIM folk teach English to students, play games with them, enjoy food together and have communal fellowship with them.

According to Jacques van der Merwe, one of the SIM workers in Thailand and a leader at The Centre, “This gives them the opportunity to share the Gospel in a natural and relational way.” Several students have accepted the Lord and come to faith, whilst others are not yet committed but are attending church and enjoying Bible studies.

“Please pray with us for more workers, and

for more students to come to faith” Jacques asks.

Short-term teams from churches are also welcome to come and help out at The Centre and minister to students. You can watch a short video of The Centre at <https://vimeo.com/335088947>.

Another ministry need in Thailand is at Ayutthaya, the old capital of Thailand, 40 miles north of Bangkok. This region has been selected by SIM as a Faithful Witness city, where the purpose is to share the gospel with people who have never heard of Jesus Christ. SIM welcomes people who love the Lord and are willing to come and serve the Thai people here, working with a multi-skilled, multi-ethnic team. For more insight, watch this additional video at <https://vimeo.com/399962231>.

How do we go about sharing the treasure of the gospel with the Thai people in a practical way? Not all of us can go, but all of us can pray for these folk—and most of us can give towards this ministry, even if it is a small amount as a once-off or monthly gift. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6 not to store up treasures on Earth, but to store up treasures in Heaven that are not destroyed or stolen. Giving gifts for this ministry is storing up treasures in Heaven that God can use to change the hearts and lives of people as they put their trust in Jesus and receive the gift of eternal life. It costs money to send missionaries to Thailand to bring this good news to people, to live amongst the Thai people, to learn their language, to share the Gospel in a meaningful way and to disciple them as they mature in faith.

If you would love to get involved in supporting and reaching the people in Thailand with the Gospel, please email us at [za.stewardship@sim.org](mailto:za.stewardship@sim.org) or post it to PO Box 30027 Tokai 7966.



# To invest deeply alongside local believers

By Emma Brewster, SIM Int'l Global Director of Ministry Outreach

Reflecting on this question, “Why missions?”, I wonder why we ask it? If Jesus has called us to go into the world, that is a call for all believers everywhere.

We are commanded to at the end of Matthew 28, and this is modelled by his disciples throughout Acts; the first issuance of the great commission came to Abraham in Genesis 12. It is the same now as it was then—we are called from Jerusalem and Judea to the rest of the world.

And yet, this is an important question to ask. Perhaps it comes more from those in the West than elsewhere. Is this because of current conversations around colonialism? Is it because many say, “It’s Africa’s time”? Is it because we say, “It is no longer ‘from the West to the rest...’”?

There have been many books and articles stating many more are sent from the Southern Hemisphere. This is true, but why is that? Could it be that church mobilisation has become stronger and more focussed in the Southern Hemisphere? Are they bolder and more ready to go to the more difficult places? Are we moving away from “West to rest”? Absolutely! But does that mean we don’t cross borders to take the Gospel? Absolutely not! We go from everywhere to everywhere.

Perhaps I have more questions than answers, but one thing that is certain is that it is a Biblical mandate to cross cultures and boundaries to make Christ known. This is why in our SIM purpose and mission, we say “compelled by God’s great love and empowered by the Spirit, we cross barriers to proclaim the crucified and risen Christ ... [and] facilitate that participation in cross-cultural ministry of those whom God is calling.” From the very beginning, God intends to bless His children so that they may be a blessing to the nations.

Perhaps the question should be, “How are we doing cross-cultural mission? As we go, what attitude do we have?” Jesus went about his ministry in all humility (Philippians 2), taking on the very nature of those He went to meet, and crossing the cultural divide to become one of us. He spent time with people—listening to their hearts, eating with them, going into their homes and the marketplace, proclaiming the good news, healing the sick, giving food to the hungry, and focussing on those who had not heard. Holistic mission—this is what it means to follow Jesus.

As we cross cultures to take the Good News, we are to serve the communities we go to, being salt and light. Living alongside the community, we learn from them so that we can be relevant and contextual as we share the Good News.

What worldview are we bringing as we work cross-culturally? How are we honouring our local brothers and sisters as we serve cross-culturally? Not bringing in another culture’s way of doing things was my biggest mistake when I first lived cross-culturally.

We often have superior attitudes as cross-cultural workers; instead, we need to come in all humility, listening to the community we are serving, understanding their ways, and seeking to communicate the Good News of Jesus in a way that is understood. Not exporting our own models or programmes but deeply investing alongside the local church and local believers to make Christ known. Teaming with them to develop an integral and authentic message.

British theologian and missiologist Lesslie Newbiggin said, “Live in the kingdom of God in such a way that it provokes questions for which the Gospel is the answer.” I heard a story from one of our Faithful Witness teams in which someone in their community asked, “What makes a Korean, an Indian and an American come to our community to live together?” We know the answer; our purpose and mission state it. It took each of them to take a step of faith crossing cultures into the community to live as faithful witnesses together.

Cross-cultural work is as relevant, valuable and important today as it ever has been. The key lies in our attitude and in local and non-local believers working on mission together as we seek to make Christ known. God has scattered people from everywhere to everywhere, and as we cross borders, we take the Gospel with us. This is an exciting mission God calls us on together until He comes again.



# GO



## Journey with us on the Great Commission

We come from many different backgrounds—nationalities, ethnicities, denominations and vocations—but labour together for the sake of Christ’s gospel. Whatever your background, we invite you to consider whether God is calling you to serve Him with us. We have many ministries that are praying for more believers to join in helping people with their daily and eternal needs.

Explore the many opportunities to serve the Lord in global missions in South Africa and around the world. Call +27 (0) 21-715-3200 or email [southafrica.sending@sim.org](mailto:southafrica.sending@sim.org) to begin a conversation with us.

*Photo by Brian Heffron*

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