

SIM *now*



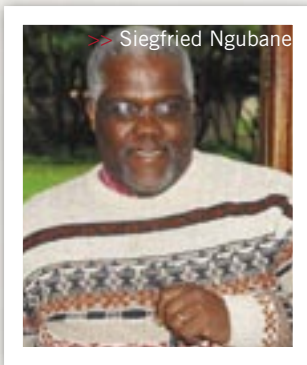
Will you be Jesus'
HANDS and FEET?

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Romans 10:14-15

SIM By Prayer
Serving in Mission

Planting, strengthening, and partnering with churches around the world



>> Siegfried Ngubane

From the Director

Greetings from the fairest Cape



Its spring and springtime refers broadly to ideas of rebirth and renewal. As Christians, when we see the flowers blossoming all around us, we are not only reminded of God's creation but also our regeneration and the new life He has given us through Jesus Christ. Our business is to go and tell people about this new life in Christ. We praise God for those men and women who have given and are still giving their lives to serve Him. In this issue of SIMNOW we focus on the ministries of our missionaries both in South Africa and those serving in other parts of the world. We also introduce you to our new SIM SA family members.

Rev. Siegfried Ngubane

New Missionaries on the block



I am Joanne Ling from a small town in Malaysia called Sibul. Most of my career experience is in Graphics, Interior design and education. In Malaysia I ran a children's care facility, taking care of about 40 children. This is my first term as a missionary. God called me through a vision of M* women and children. My family are all Christians except my brother, please pray that he too will come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. God has blessed me with a family who support me in my call to serve God here in Cape Town. I have come to share God's love with M* women and children and be their friend. I am glad that I can be part of the M ministry team in South Africa. ■



We're live on Facebook so join us here: <http://www.facebook.com/SIM.SouthernAfrica>



Anna Chew — I grew up in a Buddhist family. In fact, I don't remember much of my childhood. The only thing I recall is that I was always sick and my mother really pampered me.

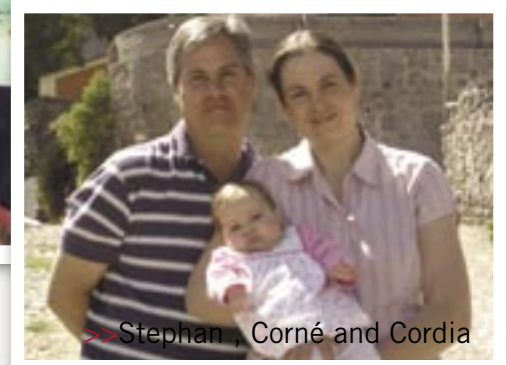
I accepted Christ in my final year of high school. I was very zealous to share the Gospel with all my friends. I joined Campus Crusade Ministry for 2 ¼ years (1985-1987). I obeyed my Dad and finally resigned from Campus Crusade Ministry and worked as a quantity surveyor for 7 years. Then, God called me through a vision. In the vision I saw a lot of people inside a burning fire, they were crying in agony. This vision stirred my heart so much that in the middle of the night I woke up and cried and cried for the lost souls. Finally, I surrendered to God and went to theological school to equip myself to be a pastor. I graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1999. Then I was a pastor for 5 churches throughout Sarawak.

It was during my prayer time and asking God where I should go that God showed me Africa. Thinking of the hostile environment, I made excuses to run away from the calling, but God kept reminding me of the death, and eternal hell of the lost souls of M* and this made my heart ache. I asked God "Am I really the best person for this assignment? Will the people respond to me? Will I find satisfaction and fulfilment?" I was scared and all I could do was to keep on praying.

As I prayed, the desire to come to this mission field became stronger. God's words challenged me that Christ uses ordinary people like you and me. "I'm weak but HE is strong" and "I can do all things in HIM who strengthens me." God was patient with me, HE taught me to submit. Though I do not know what tomorrow may bring, I can trust in HIM. As HE led, I went. I believe my past experience in North Africa also doing M* Ministry will be a great help in serving God here in Cape Town. I am anxious, but looking forward to what God is going to achieve through my obedience to His call on my life. ■

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Stephan, Corné and Cordia

Bring LIGHT to a world of DARKNESS

by Stephan & Corné Walters, Peru

It is 4am in the morning in the deepest Canyon in the world. In the dark and bitterly cold temperatures the villagers are up and ready to get to their fields with shovel and pick. It is Sunday morning but to them it is just another day. Many villages are scattered throughout the rugged Andes mountains and daily life is hard. So many people we come across are confused about the Gospel while others are amazed when reading Genesis for the first time or discovering that the rainbow is not something evil. For the most part the people hold on to their ancient Inca religion while others have superficially embraced the Roman Catholic faith. What is it like to live here, 10 hours away from civilization and without decent medical facilities? It is a place where people work to live and live to adore their saints by drinking and dancing around a statue of an idol. We have even had power or water cuts in our village so that the next door village could celebrate their saint with sufficient water and electricity. From the elderly to the very young ones who are present, everyone at the "fiesta" has one thing in common: they are in desperate need of Jesus.

The believers here are few and far between and they are still like babies in their faith. How heart-warming is it for us to see believers coming from their fields where they

have worked since 5am to attend a Bible meeting, sitting in the bitterly cold temperatures at 3500m above sea level, unwilling to go home after the service. Some believers will sometimes walk hours on this mountainous terrain just to attend a 2-hour Bible study. One such elderly lady fell off her donkey coming down the mountain and hurt her shoulder badly, but even though she was in pain she still attended. In one particular mountain village where we had worked a year before, we had such a wonderful surprise. The last time, as part of sharing the gospel with them, we had played outdoor games with the kids until it was very dark. Now arriving in this same village, the kids came running to the vehicle like wildfire and 2 boys of 10 literally threw their arms around me. Even though they hadn't seen us in nearly a year they remembered us.

But sadly the work in the Canyon is extremely exhausting because of the ruggedness of the mountains and the remoteness of most villages. The spiritual darkness is very tangible in this place and yet in spite of this God provides many opportunities for us to share with the unbelievers. They often know very little about the Bible and are stunned when they start reading their Bibles. Such is the life in the Canyon. God will accomplish His purpose, but for the moment the labourers are few and the villages to reach are many. ■

Short-Termers' experiences

At SIM, a "short-termer" is someone who volunteers and participates in a SIM ministry for a limited time, usually between 3 and 24 months.

Fiona Elliot, Lily of the Valley, KZN

I arrived at Lily at the beginning of April. So much has happened that it seems hard to know where to start . . .

My focus is on early intervention and prevention of future difficulties, so I am working mostly with younger children, trying to develop their social interaction and early (pre-verbal) communication skills. I have started some early interaction groups with the nursery age kids and they are going well.

However, it has become clear that my role here will be far wider than just a Speech & Language Therapist. There is a huge pastoral element to my work which is exciting as I have a real heart for getting to know these children far deeper than just at surface level. I am blessed that, because I have been to Lily a few times in the past, I already know the children well and they trust me. I have a good relationship with the older boys here, but my aim is to get alongside the older girls,



befriend them and walk with them. This will not be an easy task as they are quite a challenging bunch . . . but I am not working in my own strength, and I am trusting God to break down barriers.

I am acutely aware of the need to lift everything to God in prayer as there are so many needs here, and each day brings new challenges.

A new girl arrived at Lily recently, who is very sick following a bout of TB and meningitis. When I went to meet her I only just managed to stop myself from visibly reeling in shock; I have never seen a child looking so ill. Our main aim at the moment is to ensure that she receives proper nutrition to regain strength in her wasted limbs.

I am incredibly blessed that I have my own accommodation which is slowly starting to feel like home. It is so different from my life in England. Living on the edge of a game reserve provides some amazing vistas . . . and watching giraffes strolling

through the trees at dawn or dusk is an incredible privilege.

Fiona Elliot is from England, serving as a Speech & Language Therapist at Lily of the Valley Children's Village in KZN. ■

Sybill Coradi, Lambano Sanctuary, Gauteng



Having left the far away country of Switzerland in February 2010 I clearly wasn't quite sure what exactly was awaiting me here at Lambano Sanctuary in Johannesburg. Although I was looking forward to coming to the mission field, I felt that leaving home and letting go of everything I held dear was a greater challenge than to embrace the "new" I was facing here.

As I look back over the 18 months I have already spent here, my heart is filled with gratitude. I have come here to be a house mother at one of the homes that Lambano offers to children who are HIV positive. My days are filled with the laughter and energy of the children I share my life with, and each one of them has become very dear to me.

Lambano runs five houses. Four of them are homes for 7-8 children who are HIV positive and need a place to stay. The fifth house is our hospice or step-down-facility where we provide medical care for sick children. This is not a permanent place. Children get referred to us by clinics, hospitals, social services etc. As soon as they have recovered, they go back to their families, homes or to await placement.

The medical care we offer is quite wide ranged. Some children need testing as well as oversight during the

process of starting the treatment. Others need nutritional rehabilitation and other times children come for palliation and need a place where they are cared for in their last stage of life.

Being a nurse I work at the hospice when my children are at school and have meanwhile come to a deeper understanding of the challenges and problems which children infected and affected by HIV/Aids have to face.

It is our goal to care not only for their medical but for their spiritual needs as well. To introduce them to the Saviour and bring everlasting hope into their lives is our desire.

To hold fast to that hope that lies in Christ alone has become my challenge but joy as well. Seeing mountains of obstacles and drawbacks in our quest to bring healing and recovery to the hurting has at times left a feeling of despair in my heart. But the Grace of God has shown me many times that: "hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Romans 5, 5 (Sybille Coradi is from Switzerland, serving at Lambano Sanctuary in Gauteng) ■



Jenna Ruddick, Lambano Sanctuary, Gauteng

Last Christmas was very different for me. I missed the snow. Christmas doesn't feel quite right when it's hot and sunny, and I'm in shorts and t-shirts. Christmas morning started early in my house. I have no idea what time they

actually woke up, they woke me up at 06h00 which on the grand scale of things isn't so bad. We had a breakfast of fruit, muffins and croissants which was a nice treat for all of us. After church we opened presents and there were paper, toys, clothes and sweets everywhere. The children were thoroughly blessed by many generous people who gave lovingly and thoughtfully. It was hard keeping up with which toys belonged to which child, but with the help of toy boxes and a marker pen, I think we got it right in the end – for the most part anyhow!

All the children and staff then joined together at one house for a braai (barbeque). The food was great and plentiful, the sun was shining and we all had a swim to cool off. In all honesty, we couldn't have asked for a better day to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Christmas day is only one day in a year and I'm thankful that we don't have to wait until the 25th December every year to remember Jesus and what He means for you and for me. I'm grateful that He's my God and King every day of the year.

Ministry has had some heartbreaks as you would expect in this line of work.

Kamva was 18 months old suffering from Down's syndrome and underwent surgery to have a hole in her heart repaired. The surgery was successful but she picked up a severe infection during her recovery process and was unable to fight off the infection. Kamva had severe learning disabilities and we're thankful that she has been made whole and perfect in the presence of our God.

Smangele was 16 years old, HIV positive and could no longer fight the infections that she kept getting. Her last days were spent with family. She passed away peacefully and with people around her who loved her greatly.

Recently we have lost three children, and while that is sad, it is also a privilege to be a part of their lives for whatever time period that may be. It is also an honour to be there at the end for them. To be able to offer comfort and support to anyone in their last hours is very humbling and a special gift that I believe God has given me. I've enjoyed being able to nurse these kids in their last days – offering love, comfort and touch so that they know they are not going through this on their own. With each child we pray for them and when appropriate share God's love and gospel with them. Our God is merciful and gracious, and for that I will be eternally thankful and I look forward to seeing these little ones again – whole and perfect.

Jenna Ruddick is from England serving in an orphanage and hospice in Gauteng. ■



>> The Mozambique Team

Country Life — The Team in Mozambique

by Belinda Paetzold, Mozambique

Mozambique reminds me of a huge crooked tree, bearing the scars of many difficult centuries. Scars of 470 years of colonialism, roughly 31 years of war and who knows how many years of drought, flooding and other scarring times. Yet, the tree still grows despite all these difficult times - the people always springing back and getting on with life, albeit a hard one!

SIM Mozambique focuses mainly on the unreached north of this vast country. Although Portuguese is the official language many other languages are spoken in the north - Mahkua-Meeto and Xirima, Chiyawo and Lomwe are just a few. Definitely there is a great need for workers! Let me give you a glimpse of some of the missionaries working here....

The SIM team in Mozambique consists of 17 missionaries. 3 families live in small villages, 2 missionaries teach in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique, and the rest live in towns in the northern half of the country.

Janice Peters (from the USA) has been the director for the past 7 years. Janice lives in the main city of the Niassa province, Lichinga. Apart from all the work she does as director she has also been involved over the past year in a new Yao church in Namacula, a township in Lichinga. The Yao people are still largely an unreached people group with strong Muslim-animistic roots. The church began as just a small Bible study

group which grew to a few families. With the help of a supporter they were able to purchase a small church building with a house on the property for Jefry, who leads the church.

Stuart and Sindia Foster (USA) live in Gurue where they are translating the Bible into Lomwe. The Lomwe people live in the Northern half of Mozambique. There are about 1,500,000 Lomwe speakers - many churches without Bibles in their own language! The Fosters have translated about 75% of the Bible so far. Stuart and Sindia also started PROFORTE ministry which helps in developing church leadership and also encourages small Bible schools as they grow. Sindia also homeschooled their children of whom the last has just finished high school and will be going to University soon.

Tim and Michele George (from the USA) live in Lichinga working mostly among the Yao people. They have been focusing on learning the Yao language and culture. Tim is a Bible teacher and he assists churches and individuals with Biblical training. Together they have been involved at several small churches in presenting courses on marriage, parenting and other Bible studies - equipping and discipling the Yao believers. They are also involved in handling some of the administration for the SIM team including the finances and managing the guesthouse in Lichinga. Michele also home-schools their 3 young children.

Alfred and Belinda Paetzold (from South Africa) live in a small Yao village where they are also currently learning the Yao

language and culture. To be a Yao means to be a Muslim! Their strategy is to learn Chiyao until fluent and then present the Gospel in the people's mother tongue, teaching them chronologically starting in Genesis 1:1. Getting to know the people and building strong relationships are part of their ministry. Alfred helps with small projects in the community – being the only one with a welding machine makes him quite popular around the villages! Belinda home-schools their three boys and also helps out with minor medical problems that the villagers have.



>> The Paetzold family

Claude Widmer (from Switzerland) is doing his year of civil service in Mozambique. Lichinga has a population of about 100,000 of which 60% are under 20! Through the Floorball project Claude disciples, trains and builds into the lives of many young people. There are so many lessons to be taught through sport – fair play, loving others, responsibility. Another aspect of his work has been running computer classes for the young and old. It is very rewarding to see their joy and amazement as they do something new on the computer – something they never thought was even possible. The youth are an emerging new culture, open and ready to listen to the Gospel.



>> Bernard, Christiaan and Stefan Paetzold

Millie Webster (from the USA) has lived in Cuamba for 6 years and has built good relationships in and around Cuamba. Millie uses her nursing background in presenting health and nutrition talks at the local hospital in Cuamba. She has a Bible Study with Secondary School students encouraging the youth to grow in their knowledge and understanding of God, searching the Scriptures with them to find God's response to the many challenges that they face. At her house she sells books and informally disciples those who come to her door with questions and concerns. Millie also encourages adult literacy within churches where there is a need – just imagine not being able to read the Bible for yourself!



>> Millie Webster

Our team is looking forward to welcoming future missionaries Kenny and Carla Overton (USA) who will be stationed in Cuamba with Millie. Ken and Carla will be arriving at the end of the year. Ken will be helping missionaries with maintenance and repair work and he would also like to set up a construction and carpentry workshop for the people in Cuamba - mentoring and discipling through relationships formed there. Carla is a nurse and will help Millie where she can, apart from teaching their 3 children.

As you can see there is a variety of work being done in Mozambique! Please pray for this beautiful, vast country – pray for the people who desperately are in need of God's love and salvation! Pray for a church deeply rooted in the Word, making a difference in their communities. "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers.....few!" ■



Adapting to life in Central Asia

by Henry, Central Asia

Travelling Train Travails:

We were booked on a 3-tier air conditioned coach. Every cubicle consisted of eight bunks stacked three high facing each other with two more bunks in the passage; there was no privacy as there were no doors or curtains between the passage and our bunks. On the top bunk, the bedding was piled up for the eight bunks. The train departed and there was chaos as people were shouting, arguing and fighting with many and huge pieces of luggage in the narrow passage in both directions to get to their bunk numbers. Eventually eight strangers, with two foreigners among them (the only foreigners on the train), were facing each other in a very confined space at the start of a 14-hour journey.

Soon it grew dark and as if triggered by some signal, our fellow travellers started getting ready for bed. The middle bunks had to be raised and hooked up, bedding was distributed and almost everyone started making their beds. That was the end of sitting. Then everyone removed their shoes and lay down for the night, clothes and all. Someone would decide to turn out the lights later. Soon the snores and breathing filled the air and we felt alone among the strangers in the dark.



<< inside the train

<< Train Station



Going to the toilet can be a health hazard as they are all eastern style toilets and water is used for hygiene purposes. In a fast moving train this ends up in a wet mess and the smell at times can be awful. But, if you have to go, you have to go!

The Local Hospital:

Our train ride took us to a very rural part of the country, to visit the only hospital serving an area of 38 villages and at least 165 000 people where we have workers. Eight years ago the hospital was almost closed down and at the time there were only five known Christians in the district. A Christian doctor took over the hospital which now serves as a beachhead to focus on kingdom ministry and

<< Village



serving the abject and entrepreneurial poor.

Besides the medical work and basic health care training being done, various other "holistic" activities and programmes have been started. When we visited, there were 80 sewing classes and the ladies also receive development and micro-enterprise training. Young men

from the area are trained in how to repair and install AC's and run their businesses.

A typical local village is made up of 10-15 different groups according to tribal and caste distinctions spread over 3-4 square kms. The tribal people are normally the poorest with no education, living in mud huts and doing menial labour, scavenging for food. In the villages around the hospital district, 108 schools have been started, many under trees. Community development and various forms of health work and initiatives flow from the hospital. Teams go out into the villages, each team is accompanied by two spiritual workers that pray, share their faith and do follow up. The school also becomes the church and Sunday school venue on Sundays. They are reaching 6500 children and have trained 500 teachers.

Our Ministry Team:

Our ministry is to help our workers be effective and fruitful in what God has called them to do. Before our workers return home after their term of service, we do an End of Term (EOT) assessment. These are very useful for us to get to know them better and to understand their ministries.



<< Ministry to Women

Many blessings and problems are shared. Please pray for us as we draw closer to the team and seek ways to support and minister to them.

Please pray especially for the children of our team members. We spend time with the older children to help them to adjust to their rather unusual life of moving between cultures. Recently, we spent time with some children and asked them questions, one was "What do you NOT like about this country?" Their responses made us realize that these children need much prayer as they live lives that are not always "normal". One child said "Seeing a human skull on the side of the river". Another spoke about seeing dogs tear apart a body that had washed up at the side of the river. Then there was the discussion about the time they saw a family of three on a motorbike being hit by a truck and seeing the woman run over. This is

the reality for many children who live in rural areas where things are not as protected and comfortable as they may be back home. At least they have loving parents that help them and stand by them during times like this.

Then there are the children of this land, many who do not always have parents close at hand to help them work through the horrors of the world around them. Pray for more workers to come and share the love and compassion of Jesus. ■



<< Children's ministry

Internet Opportunities

The new communication-age with Twitter, Facebook, Internet relay chat, Skype, YouTube, websites, emails, SMSes, MXit and other social networks have gripped the young and not so young generations alike. Not only young and old, but people from all nations, colours and walks of life are using these new communication media. You find people, from atheists to Zoroastrians on the Internet, including Muslim people.

Some Muslims have a scholarly approach and publish research articles, journals and books on their faith, Muslim demographics and theology. Others "hang" out in chatrooms, just being excited to talk to someone across the globe. A number of Islamic organisations use YouTube-videos to propagate the Muslim faith. Websites offer anything from Qur'an search engines to Qur'an recitals and Islamic music. South African Muslim businesses are listed in online directories. Local mosques have websites. The list goes on.

In this same techno-environment Christians have the same access. Not only do Christians contribute to websites on the Internet, they also share their faith online in many ways on Muslim sites and services. The Internet provides an opportunity even for the not so techno-savvy person to connect with Muslims. It is easy to pick a chatroom on the Internet and strike up a conversation with a Muslim as long as one is tactful, yet uncompromising. The anonymity of a chatroom allows Muslims to ask questions they normally would not in a face-to-face encounter.

In a sense, the Internet is the biggest library that ever existed. Christians can find many valuable sources for our witness to Muslims on the Internet. The www.answering-islam.org webpage for example, provides an alphabetical index to Islamic words, topical discussions, answers to questions and online books. The www.injil.org website features literature and articles for Muslims. The www.kickstart.org.za page provides evangelistic materials and training resources in South Africa. Our CCM website (www.ccm.org.za) is a portal for the CCM-network. ■

> > Pray that God would orchestrate many divine appointments on the Internet so that seeking Muslims will find committed Christians who will share the Good News with them

What is Your Ministry?

By Shathi, Central Asia

I had a feeling that I was being watched. I looked up suddenly and he bolted round the door. Shocked, I couldn't move for two or three seconds. Pulling myself together I headed on after him armed with a broom. With one smooth motion I lurched forward. WHAM!! I nailed him on the head.



I had just killed my eighteenth mouse; a task I'm becoming freakishly good at!

"Excuse me, what is your ministry?" a young smartly dressed woman finally decided to ask. I had just completed a full 15 minute presentation at a church during my home assignment on that very thing! Part of me wanted to tell the story of the mouse I killed, but I stopped myself. Nobody wants to hear that! So, I gave my normal rendition of "I teach English three times a week, which gives me enough time to work with groups or individual believers or non-believers in the area of discipleship and training. I'm also the Personnel Coordinator, which means I'm responsible for member care and continual orientation for the foreigners on the field." The young lady smiled politely and moved on, clearly uninterested in what I had to say.

I don't blame her at all. If I was in her shoes I would do the same. The problem is that my "rendition" misses out on the things that I call "interruptions" that make each day anything but typical and are the reason I love doing ministry in Central Asia.

I sit with a group of about 20 ladies every week in an area not far from where I stay. They all work in the overcrowded but important garment industry. They all come from the village and now live in temporary housing (something similar to squatter camps, but far more people!). All are Muslim, which makes the fact that they cram into a small room to hear Bible stories all the more interesting. With the exception of one, no-one can read or write. They find my mouse story hilarious! One



lady says that she almost cooked a mouse once. Another says that she kills at least four a day. I feel like an amateur with my eighteen.

They love to do my hair (they don't like my curls, so hair oil is their remedy!) and they enjoy plucking my eyebrows. I let them! All these things make them feel connected to me and I with them. Through the plucking and the combing, I usually tell them a story about the most remarkable prophet the world has ever known.

A prophet who walked on water, healed the sick, fed over 5000 at one time (they love that story) and who was able to forgive sin. A prophet who loved each of them so much that he died for them. Could an ordinary prophet have done all these things?

Not an average Bible study. Would I have come to this country if I had known that ministry would some days consist more of me having my hair done, wading through water, having cups of tea and joking about mice than simply teaching Scripture? Probably not.

The greatest challenge is to read through the gospels and to see that Jesus was always

willing to engage, not just at the times that suited Him.

From this I am learning that ministry here is about being willing to make connections. Giving ladies the opportunity to engage with me in a personal way rather than just to preach at them and leave. ■



Live Love

by Ryan Saunders, Thailand

“You have made known to me the ways of life; You will enrapture me (diffusing my soul with joy) with and in Your presence.” Acts 2:28 (Amplified)

You quickly learn in Thailand that being and talking in “super-spiritual” language here means absolutely nothing. Your words here are simply that just words. They have no meaning. The only way to speak here is through your action. You cannot just speak it. **YOU HAVE TO LIVE IT!** You have to live love. If you only talk love here you will reach nobody! **LIVE LOVE!** Live it in your smile, live it in your passion, live it in your enthusiasm, live it in your helpfulness, live it in your day to day loving.

I truly wish that many people back in South Africa could experience this. It’s easy for all of us to talk the “Christian talk”, believe me, I see how good I have gotten at it. I get asked a basic question here and out come the super-spiritual answers. Why mission work Ryan? Because I felt a call to Thailand; felt the Holy Spirit leading me here; God is seen in the beauty of the earth and it is beautiful here all great answers back in South Africa and don’t get me wrong, all very true! However over here blank stares. You realize that these words



mean nothing here! It’s your action of love that speaks volumes. If I look back now, my answer would simply have been **TO LOVE** and then done my best to live it. Serve people, make an effort to communicate, smile a lot, laugh a lot, show in my actions that I know that an all loving God loves me and that fact allows me to love that greatly in return in all areas!

From now on, the answer to every question I get asked here is love. Simple and irrevocable love a love that I can only exhibit due to my relationship with Jesus Christ my Saviour! He loves through me I am simply the vessel I am just learning to be more of the vessel and less of the captain. ■

An Average Morning at Mseleni Hospital

By Victor Fredlund, Mseleni

As I returned from my run, the sun was starting to redden the sky. It would soon be time for work. As the sweat trickled down my face I read “I will make you fishers of men.” Lord, let me reflect your love to people today.

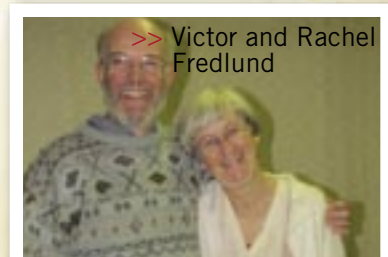
Three young people, KwaNhlamvu Youth Survivors, would be arriving at 06h45 for prayer before they started to work. I showered quickly. Forty unemployed school leavers had joined the project raising chickens and gardening to get two days work at R220 per month. It was to be a stepping stone for them to something better and an opportunity to share God’s message with them. Already a number had been through the programme and gone on to further training, employment or started their own business. Mr Zulu, an older Christian man, had been engaged to help guide the youngsters.

We read from John “in My Father’s house there are many rooms ...” We prayed “God, thank you that you have prepared a place for us!”. One young man wanted to speak to me about

a training course in ambulance work he had come across. His family was unable to help him. We made arrangements to pay for the course. It was time for me to head to the hospital. At 07h20 we would read a Psalm before starting our combined teaching ward round.

At lunch time, as I buttered my slice of bread, I heard the workers cutting the grass outside discussing what heaven would be like. On facebook chatter, one of our local young doctors, whom we helped through medical school, asked his mates “How should a doctor behave in his local church? I want to do the right thing!”.

Thank you Lord, that You are working in the lives of those around, drawing people to Yourself. Help me to lift You up, honouring You! ■



Positive Ray

Empowering Communities
and Churches to tackle
the impact of HIV and AIDS

by Daniela Van den Berg, Cape Town

An estimated 5.7 million people were living with HIV and AIDS in South Africa in 2009.

In Positive Ray's Prevention programme we aim to educate community members about the effects of HIV and AIDS. We encourage people to know their status and offer Voluntary Counselling and Testing services to communities and schools. This is proving to be a great success. On average 175 people are tested per month. Recently 57 young people were tested in one school and only two tested positive.

We serve workplaces, schools, prisons, clinics and neighborhoods. In 2009, prevention work in 8 communities reached 40,980 people. The Schools Programme creates awareness of HIV and AIDS and encourages youth to adopt healthy lifestyles (reduce risk of infections), and postpone sexual debut. A recent survey in the schools we serve revealed that the rate of teenage pregnancies in these schools has drastically reduced since we started working there.

We use the GOLD (Generation Of Leaders Discovered) programme to facilitate and conduct prevention education and leadership training in these schools. It proves to be making an impact in helping young people to discover themselves.

This true story tells us of Richard (name changed) who was very reserved, doubting his abilities, when a Positive Ray Peer Educator started working with him. Gradually he helped Richard to build confidence and to discover himself and his talents. They realized that Richard was a talented football player. He was then encouraged to use his talent to build confidence. He was also invited to become part of the Peer Education Group. Shortly after that Richard was chosen to be part of the school football team. His talent was then recognized by the local municipality and eventually he was chosen to be captain of UGU Municipality soccer team. Richard said that if he hadn't joined the peer education group he would have never found out about his talent and he would not be where he is now. Richard is now a Senior Peer Educator.



Another true story highlights the value of "strat chats" (informal discussions that young people like to engage in): Siabonga's (name changed) mother died some time ago. After the death of his mother he went to stay with his uncle hoping to find safety. Instead, his uncle abused him. Siabonga, now a grade 8 learner, felt that there was no point for him in going to school. What was his hope for living? He longed for acceptance and it did not take long until he got involved with the wrong friends. His new friends introduced him to drugs and alcohol. Was that not enough to confuse him? Then he started asking about his father - nobody knew him or even his name. His mother never told him either. He resented his mother for this; it pushed him over the edge. One of our volunteers saw through the tough outer shell and recognized the pain Siabonga carried in him. He engaged in a "strat chat" with him and miraculously Siabonga opened up. He was willing to accept help and was referred to a social worker. Now he is trying harder in school. His uncle is under the watchful eye of social workers.

Positive Ray is one of SIM South Africa's HOPE for AIDS projects. HOPE for AIDS is a grassroots response to the challenges and opportunities HIV and AIDS creates for us believers to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world. ■



>> Salome and Herman Viljoen

On the Move Again

by Herman and Salome Viljoen, Gauteng

We both grew up in Elandsfontein, which in those days was a railway town near what is now the Oliver Tambo International Airport. We both went to the same school, but to different churches. We became engaged in 1971 and, prior to joining AEF, started working alongside an Associate AEF missionary who was involved in outreach among the Indian people on the East Rand.

We joined AEF as associate missionaries in 1974, and in 1975 we planted our first Indian church in Actonville. In 1980, despite having small children to care for, we were both called into full-time theological training at the AEF-run Johannesburg Bible Institute, where we graduated in 1983 at which time we became career missionaries with AEF. Later Herman obtained his BA Degree in Theology through ICBM – International College for Bible and Missions.

After 14 years in Actonville we were asked to go to Durban. This was followed by a move to Ladysmith in KZN where in 1987 we had the privilege of establishing a new church among the Indian population in association with AEF's sister denomination, the Evangelical Church in South Africa.

After nine years there, the time had come for us to move away from the work amongst the Indian communities which we had been part of for 25 years.

We served as Acting Field Director for AEF in

Pietermaritzburg for a year and then as Public Relations Officers for AEF in Gauteng during 1997/1998. By this time the Johannesburg Bible Institute had closed down and we were called to run the Johannesburg Correspondence Bible School in Roodepoort, a

ministry which reached out to prisoners. This work built up to about 18 000 students in more than 120 prisons. Sadly the work was terminated by SIM in 2005 due to lack of finance as the students were not in a position to pay for the courses themselves. During the eight years of service with this Correspondence Bible School we were also greatly involved with the planting of another Indian Church in Lenasia. This church called El-Shammah Evangelical Church is now a thriving multiracial church



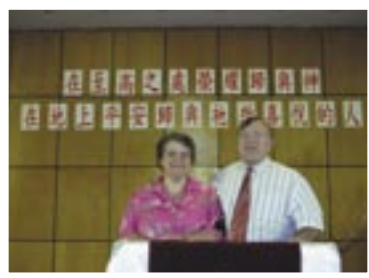
with its own Pastor and council.

We then moved to serve the Chinese church in Edenvale, which is pastored by SIM missionaries, Frank and Ada Tuan. Until recently we found ourselves preaching and teaching through interpreters, finding many opportunities of serving the Chinese community. A new Chinese congregation is now in the process of being born and established in the Bryanston/Randburg area, between 30 and 40 people attend regularly every Sunday morning and our home is also being used for a Wednesday and Saturday evening Chinese Bible Study and Prayer. Herman and Pastor Bik Sing Sia a Chinese pastor and his wife who are also SIM missionaries handle this.



But the Lord has other plans for us before we retire. Please pray with us as we join SIM's Positive Ray project in Port Shepstone in October 2011, which is an HIV/AIDS ministry that reaches out to the schools and community with Biblical teaching, counselling and preventative testing. We will also reach out to the Chinese people, who are living and doing business in and around Port Shepstone. We are trusting God for suitable accommodation, provision, grace and strength to continue ministry for the next 6-7 years before our retirement.

We have now been married for 39 years. Two of our children are married, our eldest son Cobie is married to Annie and they have a son Joshua. Our daughter Petro is married to Mark and they have 2 children, Amy and Matthew and Ryno our youngest son aged 23, lives with us. ■





The LORD at Work

By Margy Cowell, AMCARE, Gauteng

It was Nampula, northern capital of Mozambique. She was a pretty plump teenager and he was a slim young man. They introduced themselves to me as students of the Bible Correspondence Courses that I sent out – the first ministry that I was assigned in Mozambique. They were engaged.

Next time I met them was as students at the AEF/SIM founded seminary in Maputo, where I occasionally taught a course. Marriage had benefited Lázaro, but Eva was thin. I asked them if they would house-sit my flat while I was away. When I returned, Eva was recovering from serious illness. My flat was no longer considered safe due to the actions of a criminal who was targeting foreign women. So it was suggested to me that we occupy the flat together. It was a learning experience on both sides. During the years we shared the flat I think I learned more from them (especially about the culture

and hospitality) than they did from me. However, Lázaro had a vision for ministry to children and I, who was now training Sunday School teachers and writing Sunday School materials, had a burden to run Vacation Bible Clubs, and a weekly Wednesday children's club in the flat. Lázaro and Eva proved a wonderful help. I witnessed the birth of Eva's first baby – I was excited about this for weeks.

In 2001 I had to leave Mozambique for a while. The mission felt that this couple would benefit by further study in South Africa. Lázaro has now concluded master's degree studies and is, at least temporarily, the principal of the same Seminary in Maputo where he studied. Eva is concluding her master's degree in theology and development, and is the happy mother of three sons. One of the boys from the Wednesday Bible Club is now studying to be a pastor. Two other young people who helped with the

>> Please Pray for: Mozambique

- Guidance for our teams in working with the Yao, Nyanja, Makua, and Meetto people groups.
- Perseverance, wisdom, and dedication in culture and language learning.
- Progress in the Lomwe Bible translation and the production of Bible portions and materials in Lomwe.
- Innovative wisdom to develop programmes (such as health clinics, community development, literacy, HIV & AIDS, education, and English teaching) in order to improve people's lives and open doors for effective evangelism.

Vacation Bible Clubs became actively involved in children's ministry. Because of this, the church has sent them to Bible College. Because of the welcoming atmosphere of my flat, with Lázaro and Eva living there, a young Rwandan refugee began visiting us weekly. Now he and his wife have themselves received Bible training and are Bible-teaching missionaries to Zionist congregations in Mozambique. As for me, hopefully I learned to be more patient with people in general, as a result of the years of living with Lázaro and Eva.

In all of this, the Lord has been at work accomplishing His purposes for each of us. Praise His name! ■

Margy Cowell has since left Mozambique and is seconded through SIM to AMCARE in Gauteng SA.

WHAT IS AMCARE ALL ABOUT?

The word AMCARE stands for “Alberton Methodist Care and Relief Enterprise”.

AMCARE began in 2002. It includes all race groups in the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan area (South East Rand) and has the following programmes:

- **Victim Empowerment:**

A ministry to victims of domestic violence. It includes Hannah House, a shelter with capacity to receive 20 women and children.

- **Skills training:**

Training is offered in catering, sewing, carpentry and home-based care for the sick and elderly. A full-time agriculturalist trains unemployed women to run vegetable gardens and organise themselves into co-operatives. 170 domestic and 3 large co-operative vegetable gardens have been started in the townships of Thokoza and Edenpark. Gardens on the AMCARE premises provide fresh food for food parcels distributed by our food bank to the sick and needy.

- **Department for the elderly and disabled:**

A hygiene team goes out and bathes elderly and handicapped people living in Alberton itself. The social worker visits elderly people in Alberton and Thokoza who have been referred for help. A Support Group has been formed in Edenpark to look out for the welfare of the elderly in that community.

- **HIV and AIDS department:**

This consists of:

- A clinic that is fully equipped to test for HIV and TB, and offers counselling. The clinic has a licence to dispense ARVs.
- 30 trained Community Caregivers who are responsible for caring for the physical and social needs of 400 families affected by HIV and AIDS.
- Support groups for people who are HIV positive, and their children.
- Our children’s programme which is responsible for some social work services to 400 orphans and vulnerable children, including several child-headed families.
- A food bank ministry which supplies AIDS patients and their families with food support. AMCARE runs food kitchens at 3 High Schools, and also at 5 clinics on the day when patients receive their TB or anti-retroviral medication.

A team of social workers and social auxiliary workers work with these departments.

At the AMCARE base, a shop which sells second-hand clothing, books, videos, furniture, fridges, washing machines etc, helps raise money to maintain AMCARE in operation.

MY OWN WORK WITH AMCARE

AMCARE is doing a good job of addressing the clients’ physical and social needs. My task is to see that more is done to address their spiritual needs. Initially I worked with HIV and AIDS Department in the 2 Children’s Support Groups, teaching God’s Word to the children.

This year my work has changed. Each month I have the privilege of doing an hour’s Bible Study with the 30 Community Caregivers. We have been studying Bible stories which can be used to explain salvation to patients. There is the possibility that I might in the future do similar studies with the social workers.

Apart from this, I now work in the Department of the Elderly and Disabled. This includes visiting the elderly and infirm in their homes, and accompanying the social worker to the Support Group for the Elderly in Edenpark. ■

AMCARE is faith-based and largely depends on donations. I will not be receiving any remuneration from AMCARE but will continue to depend on my team of donors for financial support.

>> Please pray for the various projects at AMCARE and my ministry with them.

>> Margy Cowell



Regional Representative Training

During the month of September the Cape Town office hosted a training week for our new Regional Representatives. They were taken through training modules which included an introduction to SIM projects in South Africa, Digital Resources like our website as well as a presentation on how to raise up short term teams. Overall we were very encouraged by our new Regional Representatives and what they have to offer and will be supporting them as much as we can as they go back home.

If you would like to know more about SIM please contact the Representative in your area:

Western Cape
Mr Letson Kamwana on 082 816 5659

Eastern Cape
Mr Alastair Jolley on 021 715 3200

Gauteng Region
Mr Alan Wainwright on 084 416 2890

Free State
Mr Moabi Mokhoba on 083 766 1939



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