

mission
from Canada
to Canada
in Canada

SIM
Serving In Mission

taking the gospel to the world

serving on the edge

PRE-FIELD SERVICE HANDBOOK



*moving
God's people
into God's
mission*

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welcome!



Thanks for your interest in applying to serve as a Missionary with SIM Canada.

SIM provides people like you the opportunity of serving the Lord in Africa, Asia or South America.

This pre-field handbook will help to answer some of your questions. Feel free to call us at any time for further clarification. We can help!

We are praying for you as you embark on this journey.



*John Denbok
Executive Director
SIM Canada*

ways to serve

The needs and opportunities to serve with SIM are almost unlimited!

SIM has two tracks for missionary service:

- ▶ Member Missionary (for long term service - more than 12 months)
- ▶ Associate Missionary (for short term service – up to 12 months).
- ▶ SIM Canada will also partner with churches and schools to facilitate the placement of short term Teams.

The SIM Member Missionary track is for those prepared to serve for an extended length of time and involves comprehensive screening and pre-field preparation.

The SIM Associate Missionary track is for those who are available for a limited period of time (up to 12 months) to volunteer with existing SIM ministries or ministry partners. It is an opportunity

- ▶ to grow and be stretched as a disciple of Jesus Christ
- ▶ to gain a better understanding of what cross-cultural ministry is really like (mission exposure)
- ▶ to use existing skills and gifts or gain experience in a cross cultural context (i.e. internships)
- ▶ to gain a realistic view of missionary life through involvement in actual missionary situations.

The objectives for all SIM Missionaries is that they will

- ▶ Continue to grow spiritually, socially and mentally through involvement in the Lord's work.
- ▶ Experience living by faith and trusting God to supply all needs while serving in mission.
- ▶ Be an advocate of mission and help expand mission vision through interacting with what God is doing through SIM in Africa, Asia, South America, and Canada.

steps to serve

Pre-field preparation involves various stages. Within each stage there are a number of steps or tasks to be completed. These steps are generally done in a specific order, but some of them may be done simultaneously or in an order that is personalized to the missionary candidate.

Following is an overview of pre-field preparation. All steps apply to both Member and Associate Missionaries, but Member missionaries are involved in a more comprehensive screening and orientation process.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

This is the first stage of pre-field preparation and is the time for the missionary candidate and SIM to get to know each other. The steps of the application process include:

- ▶ Completing the SIM application form
- ▶ Following up references
- ▶ Lifestyle Interview
- ▶ Theological compatibility
- ▶ Health and Psychosocial screening and assessments

ORIENTATION

There are a variety of methods that SIM will use during the orientation stage of pre-field preparation. Some examples are:

- ▶ A pre-field preparation kit including required reading materials. This usually is sent to the missionary candidate with their acceptance letter.
- ▶ Remote or on-line lessons/webinars
- ▶ Mentoring/Coaching
- ▶ Residential orientation sessions
- ▶ SIMCO (SIM Candidate Orientation in Toronto)
- ▶ MissionPrep COPE (2-week Cultural Orientation for Personal Endurance and Enjoyment)
- ▶ Language Schools and/or MissionPrep PLANTS (2-week Principles of Language Acquisition)

RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY (RDM)

This stage of pre-field preparation can begin once a missionary candidate has officially been accepted for service with SIM. Building prayer and financial support is an important part to serving in mission. SIM will provide missionary candidates with the tools and support required for this stage of pre-field preparation.

Everything SIM requires during pre-field preparation is in the context of ensuring that the missionary candidate is as prepared as possible to enter their new culture and thrive in their ministry.

communication

RELATING TO YOUR HOME CHURCH AND SUPPORTERS

SIM missionary candidates are encouraged to share their mission plans with their church (pastor/mission committee) even before making formal application to SIM and to keep them informed throughout the pre-field preparation stages. Sharing experiences and giving updates to prayer and financial supporters while on ministry assignment is also important. They will partner with you through their prayers and giving so regular communication with supporters is part of the SIM missionary's ministry.

One important communication tool is the prayer letter. Other methods of social media (Facebook, Blogs, YouTube) are also helpful.

It is important and required that all communications (letters, email or anything posted to a social media site) be approved before being sent or posted. For the missionary candidate, communications will be approved by SIM Canada staff. Once on the field, approval must come from the missionary's SIM supervisor.



finances

EXPENSES

SIM is a faith mission. Each SIM Missionary will raise support to cover all the expenses related to their application, selection and preparation process as well as field placement requirements (monthly support). If a Missionary candidate decides to drop out of the process prior to leaving for their assignment, they are responsible to reimburse SIM for any deficit in their account.

A breakdown of the estimated costs will be provided upon acceptance as follows:

- ▶ **Travel**
includes airfare and other travel expenses from the missionary's home to place of ministry. For Associate missionaries it may also include a mission approved exposure trip within their assigned country to observe other SIM ministries.
- ▶ **Visa, Entry/Exit Fees**
as required for the placement.
- ▶ **Emergency Medical Insurance**
to supplement provincial health plans, as these plans have limited coverage for expenses incurred outside of Canada. Member missionaries will join SIM's comprehensive health coverage plan.
- ▶ **Administrative/Service Fees**
are a monthly amount to help SIM provide the necessary personnel and services related to recruiting, orienting, debriefing and caring for all our missionaries.
- ▶ **Daily Requirement**
(Associate Per diem) includes an allowance to cover basic living costs, field administration and housing. The Daily requirement is specific to each field country. Additional funds may be included for ministry expenses related to the placement.

▶ Monthly Support

(Members) includes allowance, housing, benefits and other costs personalized to the missionary and related to their placement.

▶ Pre-field Preparation

Orientation training costs, room and board, and related travel.

Other Approved Expenses include items such as medicals, malaria prophylaxis, required travel immunizations, notarization of documents required for visas, prayer letters, and international drivers permit (if needed).

Outfit Expenses (for Member missionaries) to set up a household and purchase a ministry vehicle if required.

Language school or courses if required for the placement.

NOTE: KEEP RECEIPTS for any approved expenses paid for personally as SIM is unable to issue a reimbursement without original receipts. SIM will reimburse pre-field preparation expenses when funds are available to do so.

▶ Personal Account

SIM Canada can set up a personal account for deposits towards the expenses incurred or to cover any personal expenses that may be needed during the overseas assignment such as long distance telephone calls, vacation, etc. Any balance in this account will be refunded upon return to Canada. (NOTE: it can take up to 3 months to close a missionary account). Funds deposited in a personal account are not tax receiptable.

INCOME TAX IMPLICATIONS

Associate Missionaries Serving Less Than One Year: The daily allowance is not payment for services but rather a reimbursement for costs only. Since it is not considered income, it is not subject to income tax or CPP deductions and does not need to be claimed when filing tax returns.

Member Missionaries Serving More Than One Year are considered employees of SIM Canada. The support allowance is considered income and is subject to income tax and CPP deductions. Funds are raised to cover these deductions and this income needs to be claimed when filing tax returns. (SIM will provide a T4 form).

finances

► Tax Deductible Receipts

All funds received by SIM and for which an income tax receipt has been issued are considered Mission funds. Should a missionary withdraw from SIM prior to becoming active, it may be possible to return donations provided that the tax deductible receipts have not yet been issued by SIM.

A tax deductible receipt cannot be issued for personal gifts. However, personal funds may be channeled through the SIM Canada office and drawn on through your field office.

PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

Upon acceptance the Missionary candidate will receive a personalized cost estimate (for Associates) or support requirements (for Members) and the SIM Canada office can begin receiving donations for the trip/ministry.

The acceptance package will include instructions explaining how support can be sent SIM.

For Associate Missionaries, all funds required to cover the TOTAL expenses must be received in cash and/or in pledges prior to the missionary's departure.

For Member Missionaries, tickets for travel to the field can be purchased when all one time costs and at least 90% of the required monthly funds are on hand or pledged.

ON THE FIELD

Each missionary pays for living expenses out of their allowance. For Associates, the daily allowance is often sufficient to provide for some incidentals. Normally the cost of field administration, housing (which often also includes utilities, guard wages, repair fund, etc) is sent directly to the field office.

► Personal living expenses may include:

FOOD:

If living with another missionary, there will be a fixed rate for board.

TRAVEL:

All travel costs other than those for mission business are the missionary's responsibility. If traveling with another missionary, expect to contribute towards the trip.

MEDICINES & MEDICAL CARE:

Be sure to keep all receipts to apply to the insurance provider for a refund. Emergency or major medical expenses may be cared for in consultation with the field treasurer and your insurance provider.

PERSONAL ITEMS:

Other expenses such as personal necessities, the purchase of souvenirs and artifacts are considered personal items. American Express travelers' cheques should be used for carrying funds for large purchases. In some countries it may be possible to access personal funds using a bank debit card (ABM). There is often a service charge to withdraw such funds. Keep in mind that in many countries travellers cheques or ABMs may be available only in urban centres. When planning to use a bank card outside of Canada, it is important to notify the bank well in advance to avoid the account being frozen.

documents

PASSPORT

A valid passport is required for all placements outside of Canada.

VISA

Details on applying for a visa will be provided by SIM Canada's Visa Coordinator.

INTERNATIONAL DRIVERS PERMIT

If required for a placement, this may be obtained through the local branch of the Canadian Automobile Association.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Every one of legal age should have a Will and Power of Attorney in place. Ensure these documents are completed or updated as necessary prior to departure. SIM will need to know the location of these documents.

▶ Last Will and Testament

Even though SIM provides a simple Will form with the acceptance package, a Will is an important legal document, and as such, SIM recommends a Will be drafted by a reputable lawyer.

▶ Powers of Attorney

Just as everyone should have a will, everyone should also have a power of attorney, both for their property and, where possible, for their personal or medical care. A power of attorney is an instrument that allows a person to appoint another to act on his or her behalf when he or she is not in a position to do so. Again, a power of attorney is an important legal document and it is advisable to seek the counsel of a lawyer and consult with your immediate family while preparing such a document.



travel

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

The Missionary candidate is responsible for arranging transportation to and from pre-field orientation in Toronto. This expense may be reimbursed from the missionary's SIM account once sufficient funds have been raised.

SIM's Travel Agent will arrange travel to the field and back again by the most direct economical route.

It is sometimes possible to make a stopover or side trip when returning from an assignment. This is viewed as a personal trip so any additional charges related to this personal trip will be charged to the missionary's personal account. If a stopover is approved, the details must be arranged with SIM before the ticket is purchased.

If changes to the original booking are made for personal reasons, any additional costs related to the change will be charged to the missionary's personal account.

The missionary's family should be informed that SIM is NOT responsible when this type of additional personal travel is undertaken.

TRAVEL ON THE FIELD

Travel on the field will be coordinated by the Mission. When possible, SIM tries to arrange some ministry exposure travel in order to give Associate missionaries a more comprehensive view of the work and local culture. The area/field treasurer will be instructed as to what funds are available for this extra travel. Expenses beyond that amount are the Associate missionary's personal responsibility. Approved mission exposure trips do not apply to vacation travel, which is paid from personal funds.

medical care



DURING THE APPLICATION PROCESS

SIM Canada uses the services of International Health Management (www.ihm.ca) in Toronto to facilitate the selection and preparation of SIM personnel for international assignments. A number of assessment tools will be completed by the candidate and evaluated by IHM. Each candidate receives a Health Risk and Travel Advice report. Information regarding health issues that may impact placement are shared only with those handling your application and placement, and only with your permission.

PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

▶ Provincial Health Insurance

For placements longer than 6 months, SIM will provide a letter to present to the candidates local provincial health office to request provincial insurance coverage be continued during the placement, and to ensure it will still be in effect on return home.

▶ Emergency Medical and Travel Insurance

Insurance is mandatory for all who are going overseas with SIM. SIM Canada normally makes the arrangements for this insurance for all SIM missionaries. For Associate missionaries, if a change or extension is required, the Associate is responsible to arrange for emergency medical insurance to be renewed and provincial health insurance extended accordingly.

▶ Immunizations

The IHM report will include travel advice and the immunizations required for the placement. Many of these immunizations are not covered by provincial health insurance. However, some private or Extendicare plans may cover them. Either way, keep all receipts related to the required immunizations. The cost for all required immunizations is included in the cost estimate. Immunizations should be completed two (2) months prior to departure.

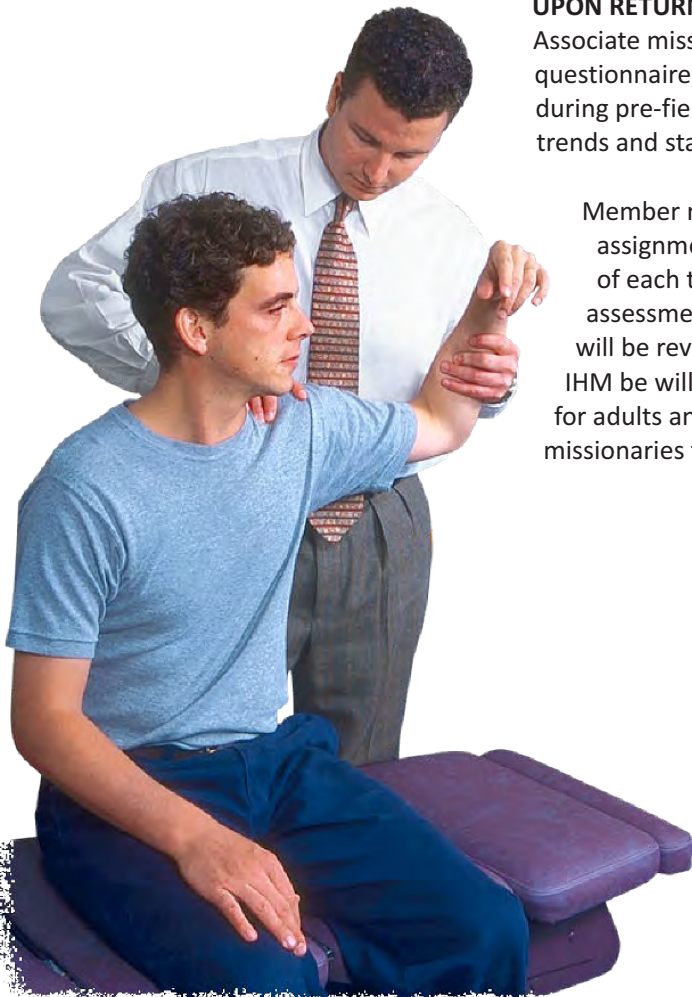
ON THE FIELD

If illness should occur on the field, the Mission will use whatever resources are available to try to bring the person back to a state of health. (See also Finances - On The Field) The staff at IHM in Toronto are available for email or phone consults as well. (www.ihm.ca)

UPON RETURN

Associate missionaries may be asked to complete an on-line questionnaire, similar to the assessment tool completed during pre-field preparation. This allows IHM to track health trends and statistics of SIM Associate missionaries.

Member missionaries will visit Toronto early in their home assignment. A new medical report is required at the end of each term, or on a cycle previously agreed upon. The assessment tools completed during pre-field preparation will be reviewed and an appointment with the doctor at IHM will be arranged. IHM also offers re-entry debriefing for adults and children. SIM Canada encourages all missionaries to take advantage of this additional service.



about SIM

This section of the Handbook is made up of excerpts from the SIM Manual (for Members). The following matters concern the Associate missionary as well.

WHO WE ARE

SIM is a community of God's people who delight to worship him and are passionate about the Gospel, seeking to fulfil the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.

OUR MISSION

The purpose of SIM is to glorify God by planting, strengthening and partnering with churches around the world as we:

- ▶ evangelize the unreached
- ▶ minister to human need
- ▶ disciple believers into churches
- ▶ equip churches to fulfill Christ's Commission (Matthew 28:19,20)

OUR VISION

The Glory of God in the worldwide Church is our highest vision.

Through eyes of faith we see people from all nations, tribes, and languages worshipping around the throne of God.

In areas where we are given responsibility, we see SIM, empowered by God, vigorously engaged in integrated ministries of:

- ▶ Evangelism
We see every person—child, woman and man—having the opportunity to hear, understand and joyfully respond to the Good News and become a part of a local church fellowship.
- ▶ Discipleship
We see believers growing in Christ, living in obedience to the Scriptures, and discipling others.
- ▶ Ministry to Human Need
We see each person, family, church and community transformed in response to the unconditional love of God and embracing a biblical worldview.
- ▶ Partnering in Missions
We see all churches that relate to SIM empowered to fulfil their missionary potential with SIM as a catalyst, assisting them through creative, interdependent partnerships.

OUR BELIEFS

Those who serve with SIM are committed to the essential truths of biblical Christianity. These include the following:

GOD

There is one God who exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is the almighty Creator, Saviour and Judge who governs all things according to his sovereign will and is accomplishing his purposes in creation and in the Church to his glory.

THE FATHER

God the Father is the source of all that is good. He initiates creation and redemption which He accomplishes through his Son and the Holy Spirit.

GOD'S WRITTEN WORD

The Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, is God's written Word, revealing for all peoples his character and purposes. It is the final authority in all matters relating to belief and behaviour. The Holy Spirit moved the human authors of the Bible so that what they wrote is inspired, fully reliable and without error in all it affirms.

THE HUMAN RACE

Humanity is the climax of God's earthly creation, bearing his image, designed for relationship with Him, and being the object of his redeeming love. All people have sinned. This results in guilt, death and alienation from God as well as the defacing of every aspect of human nature. People are unable to save themselves from sin's penalty and power and from Satan's dominion.

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ, both fully God and fully man, entered history as Saviour of the world. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived an exemplary sinless life in perfect submission to the Father and in loving relationships with others. He died on a cross, rose bodily and ascended to heaven where He is advocate for his people and is exalted as Lord of all.

about SIM

SALVATION

Christ's sacrificial death, in which He bore the punishment due to sinners, is the only and all sufficient basis of God's provision of salvation for all people of every culture and age, expressing his love and satisfying his justice. By God's grace the repentant sinner, through trusting alone in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, is put right with God, adopted by the Father into his family and receives eternal life.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit makes the work of Christ effective to sinners, giving spiritual life and placing them into the Church. He indwells all believers, empowers them to love, serve, witness, and obey God, equips them with gifts and transforms them to be increasingly like Christ.

THE CHURCH

The universal Church is made up of all who have been born of the Spirit. It finds local expression in communities of believers called by God to worship, fellowship, proclaim the Gospel and make disciples among all peoples, reflect God's character, engage in works of compassion, contend for truth and justice and celebrate baptism and communion.

THE SPIRIT WORLD

The holy angels are personal spirit beings who glorify God, serve Him, and minister to his people. Satan is a spiritual being who was created by God but fell through sin. He, along with other evil spirits, is the enemy of God and humanity, has been defeated by the work of Christ, is subject to God's authority and faces eternal condemnation.

THE FUTURE

The Lord Jesus Christ will visibly return to the earth in glory and accomplish the final triumph over evil. God will make everything new. The dead will be raised and judged. Unbelievers will suffer eternal punishment in separation from God; believers will enter into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God, glorifying him forever.

OUR CORE VALUES

SIM is a 'Gospel community' that is...

- ▶ committed to biblical truth
- ▶ dependent on God
- ▶ a people of prayer
- ▶ mission-focused
- ▶ church-centred
- ▶ concerned about human needs
- ▶ a Christlike community
- ▶ a learning, growing community
- ▶ strengthened through diversity
- ▶ responsive to our times

conduct

SELF DENIAL

In keeping with New Testament principles, missionaries must be prepared to forego customs, habits, or practices which may be acceptable in their home environment but which in a cross-cultural context may cause an offense to others or bring the mission into disrepute.

CONDUCT

Christian conduct is of utmost importance. Lying, deceit, breach of trust, theft, fraud, physical aggression, abusive behaviour, gossip, complaining and fault-finding are inconsistent with the life of a missionary.

DRESS

SIM Missionaries must dress in keeping with the scriptural principle of modesty, and must not be careless or untidy in appearance. Guidelines for dress and conduct are established in light of counsel from missionaries and church leaders in the countries where SIM ministers.

ABSTINENCE

For the sake of good relations and witness, it is the policy of the Mission that SIM Missionaries abstain from the use of tobacco and intoxicating beverages while in their area of service. Christian liberty in such matters in one's own culture is recognized. However, in keeping with the scriptural principle of not causing offense in the use of liberty, SIM Missionaries are required to abstain from tobacco, illicit drugs or alcoholic beverages during their service with SIM.

DATING

Development of exclusive dating relationships is not encouraged during the Associate missionary's term of service on the field because of the potential distraction from ministry opportunities and the development of other relationships. Member missionaries should refer to the SIM Manual.

SEXUAL PURITY

It is essential that as Christians we maintain an unblemished reputation in matters of sexual morality. The Bible not only commands us to abstain from sexual impurity, but calls God's servants to live "above reproach". The primary consideration must be the credibility of the missionary's life and witness to the host community, which may have stricter standards than the sending community, the supporting church, or even the host missionary family. In many non-western societies even people's perception of a situation could destroy the Christian witness. Therefore, SIM Missionaries must be exemplary in their relationships:

- ▶ avoiding any situation which can be construed as having immoral implications;
- ▶ giving no reason for suspicion as to the wholesomeness of interpersonal relations;
- ▶ not yielding to or being subject to situations which lend themselves to gossip. Premarital and extramarital sexual relationships, homosexual acts, sexual harassment, viewing pornographic materials and child abuse, are viewed as being incompatible with Christian standards and values for any person serving with SIM.

safety

PROTECTION

Members of SIM depend on the living God for help and protection and not on human agencies. While availing themselves of privileges offered by governments, they must make no demands on government agencies for help or protection, although in emergencies such assistance may be requested as a favour. The following principles will guide missionaries who work under repressive regimes:

- ▶ SIM Missionaries are guests in the country. The expression of political preferences is prohibited.
- ▶ SIM Missionaries must submit to civil laws within Biblical bounds (Acts 4:19; Romans 13:1,2).
- ▶ SIM Missionaries should seek ways to maintain a positive witness for Christ and to foster church survival and growth.

RANSOM

SIM recognizes the extreme anxiety experienced by abducted persons and the equally extreme anguish caused to the next of kin in the event of kidnapping and demand for ransom payment. However, it is SIM policy, in common with other mission agencies, not to pay ransom as such payments would only encourage further acts of kidnapping and be used to finance acts of terrorism, whether or not it is beyond the means of the Mission to meet such demands. However, in such an emergency SIM will take the following steps in order to stimulate prayer for the victim and their families:

- ▶ Except where it is felt that publicity might prejudice the release of the captives, the Christian Church worldwide will be informed of the situation in order to stimulate prayer for the victims and their families.
- ▶ The host government will be informed immediately because it has responsibility for the safety of expatriates.
- ▶ The rights of citizenship of the abducted person(s) will be exercised in seeking the help of the respective governments.
- ▶ Where possible, attempts will be made to obtain the release of the victims by reasoning with the kidnappers. However, it is not always possible or desirable to establish direct links between a mission and kidnappers.
- ▶ Sending Offices will do all in their power to assure next of kin of their concern and of the practical steps being taken to secure release and to exercise a spiritual ministry, as opportunity affords, to anxious relatives.
- ▶ It is recognized that those in authority closest to the situation must be trusted to make appropriate decisions in light of prevailing circumstances, e.g. discerning between politically motivated demands and armed robbery, and the limits of SIM responsibility where other parties are involved.

extension

EXTENDING YOUR TERM OF SERVICE

Associate Missionary

It is recognized that the limited screening carried out for Associate missionaries (0-12 months) is not satisfactory for extended placements. No extension may be made without full consultation between both the field and SIM Canada administrations. The field office must forward a written request to SIM Canada for an Associate missionary's extension which will then be considered.

If approved, funds to cover extensions must be received or guaranteed to the SIM Canada office one month prior to the extension, otherwise the Associate must return home.



coming home



EVALUATION

End of Term reviews are completed near the end of an assignment or term of service. There is a section for the missionary and their supervisor to complete and an opportunity will be set up to debrief with the field supervisor or personnel director.

RE-ENTRY DEBRIEFING

Debriefing is an important part of a missionary assignment.

Member missionaries return for their Home Assignment via the SIM Canada office in Toronto for re-entry appointments and health checkups at IHM.

Associate missionaries normally return directly to their home province at the end of their term.

The Regional Director/Mobilizer will arrange an appropriate time to meet with the returning missionary in their home region. This will be an opportunity for the missionary to continue processing the experience by reflecting on what God has done in their life and ministry.

For Associate missionaries, an interview with the finance office will also be set up to tie up any loose ends related to their account. A final accounting of an Associate trip may take up to three (3) months to complete.

Missionaries who have completed their term of service are now considered Alumni of SIM and as such may be invited to attend SIM functions and have opportunity to share their experiences with others. Becoming an SIM volunteer is also an option for further ministry with SIM.

commitment

The Member Missionary will receive a copy and be asked to read the SIM Manual. Membership in SIM requires signing the SIM Commitment, as agreement to live and serve in accordance with SIM's Statement of Faith, SIM's Core Values and the SIM mission policy.

The Associate Missionary is a missionary serving under contract for a specified period of time and therefore he/she does not have the same rights and responsibilities as full members, such as voting. Wherever possible the Associate Missionary will be assigned to areas and jobs for which he/she is recruited, but the final authority for assignment will rest with SIM. The Associate Missionary will also be asked to sign the SIM Commitment, as agreement to live and serve in accordance with SIM's Statement of Faith, SIM's Core Values and the SIM mission policy.



FACILITIES

The following facilities in which SIM has involvement will be available to the Missionary at rates established by the field of service:

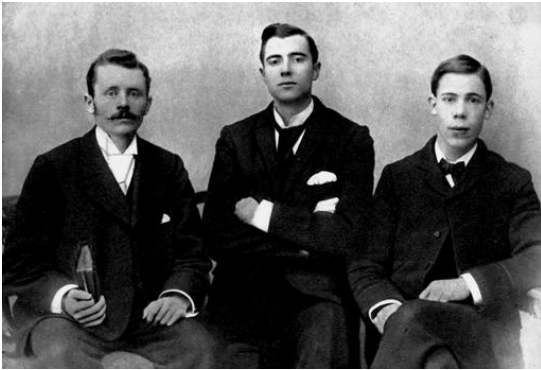
- ▶ Guesthouses
- ▶ SIM mission schools
- ▶ Hospitals
- ▶ SIMAIR.



history

Many thousands of self sustaining and self governing congregations have come into being through SIM's diverse ministries. These churches are made up of over ten million people.

REACHING PEOPLE IN AFRICA



The work of SIM in Africa began in 1893 with an attempt by Walter Gowans and Rowland Bingham of Canada and Thomas Kent of the USA to penetrate the unreached interior of Nigeria, then known as the Soudan.

Unable to interest established missions in their

venture, the men set out on their own under the name Soudan Interior Mission. Within months, two of the men died of malaria. The third man, Rowland Bingham, returned to Canada, where he established a board of directors and then returned to Africa for a second attempt. Again the missionary party contracted malaria and had to return home.

Finally Rowland Bingham, unable to return to Africa himself, sent out a third party. In 1902 they succeeded in establishing a base 500 miles inland. From there, SIM's work spread to other parts of Nigeria, then to neighbouring countries, and in 1927 across the continent to East Africa.

In October of 1998 SIM merged with Africa Evangelical Fellowship. AEF officially began its work in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1889 as the South Africa General Mission under the leadership of Andrew Murray, Mrs Osborne, Spencer Walton and George Howe. Today the Mission works in just under 30 countries across the continent.



REACHING PEOPLE IN SOUTH AMERICA

SIM's work in South America began when Andes Evangelical Mission (AEM) merged with SIM in January 1982. AEM was founded in 1907 as Bolivian Indian Mission by New Zealander George Allan, to reach the Quechua and Aymara Indians of Bolivia. In 1965, with the Mission's expansion into Peru, the name was changed to Andes Evangelical Mission.



Today SIM works in Bolivia, Peru, Paraguay, Chile, Ecuador and Uruguay. Catholicism is the dominant religion in all six countries. All have strong European influences and large numbers of mestizos (people of mixed European and American Indian descent).

REACHING PEOPLE IN ASIA

SIM became active in Asia in January 1989 when International Christian Fellowship merged with SIM. ICF was itself a merger of Ceylon & India General Mission (CIGM) and Poona & India Village Mission (PIVM).

CIGM was born in Scotland in 1893 and began its outreach among the Singhalese Buddhists and Tamil Hindus in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). Work rapidly expanded into south India and later into the north, eventually spreading into Pakistan, Bangladesh, and the Philippines.



PIVM was founded in Australia in 1893 by Charles Reeves, and worked in western India. PIVM and CIGM merged in 1968 as International Christian Fellowship.

With the exception of the Philippines, the populations among whom SIM works in Asia are predominantly Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist. Minority groups have been most responsive to the gospel, while others have been resistant.

The total population of the Asian countries where SIM ICF works is over one billion, or one fifth of the total world.

your checklist

- ▶ Contacted home church and pastor.
- ▶ Application materials completed and returned:
 - Application form, fee and photo
 - Child Protection and Conduct Policies
 - Signed Agreement (Page 25).
- ▶ Medical forms or on-line health questionnaires completed.
- ▶ Police checks completed.
- ▶ Letter of Acceptance and Pre-Orientation Package received.
- ▶ Instructions received concerning travel, visa application, immunizations, malaria prophylaxis, and finances.
- ▶ Passport obtained and sent to SIM Canada office if requested.
- ▶ Visa application completed and returned to SIM Canada office.
- ▶ Made travel arrangements to/from SIM orientation
- ▶ International travel arrangements, including any stopovers, made with SIM Canada office.
- ▶ International Driver's Permit obtained (if needed).
- ▶ Will and Powers of Attorney made out or updated. Leave copy with emergency contact person. Last Wish given to the SIM office.
- ▶ Waiver and Medical Release signed (Associate missionary)
 - SIM Manual read and signed (Member missionary)
- ▶ Extra travel insurance purchased by SIM.
- ▶ Contacted your Provincial health insurance office to inform them of the dates you will be overseas.
- ▶ Malaria prophylaxis medication started, if needed.
- ▶ Immunizations completed.
- ▶ Required reading and reports completed and books returned (if necessary).
- ▶ \$100 in cash (US funds) for use in case of an emergency.

who to call

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