

SERVING ON THE EDGE

Pre-Field Service Handbook



SIM
Serving In Mission

Serving Where Christ
is Least Known

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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
- MissionPrep IMPACT (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).

■ Tax Deductible Receipts

All funds received by SIM and for which an income tax receipt has been issued

finances

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 to 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 have been raised 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. If you are considering large personal purchases, check with the SIM treasurer for the appropriate options to access your funds. 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 or credit 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. All missionary flights that are considered an eligible ministry expense must be purchased through SIM's Travel agent, RAPTIM TRAVEL (wepartner.na@raptim.org).

SIM's Travel Agent will work with you to 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

If you are feeling unwell after your return, seek medical attention immediately. Be sure to alert the medical provider that you were traveling and where you have been to ensure you receive appropriate testing. This is particularly important if you were in a malarial zone..

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. You will complete a new online assessment questionnaire and an appointment with one of the IHM doctors 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

OUR PURPOSE

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

Therefore, compelled by God's great love and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we:

- *cross barriers* to proclaim the crucified and risen Christ, expressing His love and compassion among those who live and die without Him,
- *make disciples* who will trust and obey Jesus, and become part of Christ-centred churches,
- *work together with churches* to fulfill God's mission across cultures locally and globally,
- *facilitate the participation in cross-cultural ministry* of those whom God is calling.

OUR VISION

The vision of SIM is to see a witness to Christ's love where He is least known, disciples of Jesus expressing God's love in their communities, and Christ-centred churches among all peoples.

BY FAITH WE SEE...

- **in the world:** A vibrant testimony to the gospel through character, word and action among communities where currently Jesus is least known. Followers of Jesus living out the gospel in unity and in the power of the Holy Spirit, making disciples who trust Him, obey him, and play a full part in church life. Churches serving their communities and reaching out with the gospel locally and globally.
- **in SIM:** A community growing in faith, in obedience to Jesus, and in ministry competence. Workers crossing barriers with the gospel, being and making disciples of Jesus, expressing His love and compassion. Multi-ethnic and multi-skilled teams serving together in love and harmony. Courageous leaders investing in the development of others for life transforming ministries. Effective partnerships with Christ-centered churches and organizations facilitating the spread of the Gospel.
- **in eternity:** The redeemed from all tribes, languages, peoples and nations worshipping the Living God.

SIM CANADA
sends
missionaries
FROM Canada
to more than
65+ countries
worldwide,
receives
missionaries
TO Canada,
ministers
IN Canada
alongside the
church

OUR PASSIONATE DESIRE IS TO BE USED BY GOD TO CHANGE THE WORLD!

We are convinced that God's primary means of relating to and transforming the world is the church. Thus, where there is no church, we are committed to evangelism and starting churches. Where a church exists, we are committed to strengthen the church through teaching the Bible, developing leaders, and equipping the church to fulfill Christ's Commission. Our ideal church-mission relationship is a dynamic interdependent partnership that reaches out together to love the unreached world.

SIM IS NOT A CHURCH DENOMINATION,

yet our primary purpose is to facilitate local churches to send cross-cultural missionaries. We seek to humbly serve and boldly challenge churches in their obedience to God's mandate to be witnesses in all the world. In many countries, the emerging church is catching the vision for cross-cultural missions but needs help to establish sending agencies. Our desire is to assist churches to set up mission boards with the hope that some of their missionaries may be dual members with SIM. We desire to be a church-planting mission and a mission-planting mission!

WE ARE A GENERAL MISSION

We appreciate and work closely with specialized missions in Bible translation, radio, development, evangelism, medicine and aviation. Our distinctive is not our methodology, but our church-focused vision. We are seriously involved in Bible translation, hospitals, radio, development and aviation, but all these are a means to plant, strengthen and partner with churches. Our focus is the church, not a strategy.

SIM HAS OVER 2,000 ACTIVE MISSIONARIES AND 2,000 NATIONAL WORKERS

They come from about 70 different countries and serve in more than 70 countries in every continent of the world (excluding Antarctica). Established in 1893, SIM includes Africa Evangelical Fellowship, Andes Evangelical Mission, International Christian Fellowship, and Sudan Interior Mission. Through SIM's ministries over 9 million people have become believers, and more than 18,000 churches have been established.

SIM CANADA IS A CANADIAN CHARITY

SIM Canada is a registered Canadian charity (Registration #12994-7537-RR0001). SIM Canada is a member of Missio Nexus (connecting the Great Commission community of North America). SIM Canada is also a member of, and accountable to, the Canadian Council of Christian Charities.

about SIM

WE ARE A GOSPEL COMMUNITY THAT IS:

■ COMMITTED TO BIBLICAL TRUTH

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

■ DEPENDENT ON GOD

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

■ PEOPLE OF PRAYER

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

■ MISSION-FOCUSED

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

■ CHURCH-CENTERED

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

■ CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN NEEDS

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

■ **A CHRISTLIKE COMMUNITY**

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

■ **A LEARNING, GROWING COMMUNITY**

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

■ **STRENGTHENED THROUGH DIVERSITY**

We are intentionally interdenominational, international, and multiethnic. We believe this expresses the unity of the body of Christ in the world. We believe we will be more effective in ministry as we incorporate the richness of cultural diversity in SIM and celebrate our oneness in Christ.

■ **RESPONSIVE TO OUR TIME**

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

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 SIM's Personnel Principles and Practices.

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.

Opportunity will be given for the missionary to continue processing the experience by reflecting on what God has done in their life and ministry.

For Associate missionaries, an appointment 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 a SIM volunteer is also an option for further ministry with SIM.

commitment

All SIM personnel (Associate, Member, staff, volunteer) is 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

The Sudan Interior Mission began when three dedicated young men landed at Lagos, Nigeria. The oldest was only 25. But each man wanted to establish a Christian witness among the 60 million people living and dying without Christ in sub-Saharan Africa - what was then known as the Soudan. Unable to interest established missions - most of which said reaching the Soudan was impossible - the three set out, following God alone.



As was common in the nineteenth century, all three came down with malaria. Walter Gowans of Toronto, Canada, and Thomas Kent of Buffalo, New York - respectively died of dysentery and fever. The only person who went into the Soudan with Gowans and Kent and survived the journey was their Liberian “cook” Tom Coffee. The third, English-born Rowland Bingham, returned to his home in Canada, still determined. Bingham made a second attempt to reach the Soudan, but once again came down with the fever and had to return home. Unable to return to Africa himself, Bingham sent out a third team. In 1902, the party successfully established a base 300 miles inland. From this base, the work of SIM began in Africa.

Trial to triumph - growing stronger



In 1893, off the southern tip of India, the Ceylon and India General Mission (CIGM) began work among Ceylon's Singhalese Buddhists and Tamil Hindus. From that island the work begun by B. Davidson, D. Gardner, W. Mallis, and G. Wilson, all Englishmen, expanded into South India, later reaching across the subcontinent and eventually to the Philippines.

Also in 1893, Charles Reeves and M.E. Gavin left their homes in Australia. A Eurasian Christian from Poona, India, had come to Australia in search of missionaries to work in his home area. Reeves and Gavin answered the challenge and set sail under the name Poona and Indian Village Mission (PIVM).



In 1968, CIGM and PIVM joined to become the International Christian Fellowship (ICF).

In 1909 New Zealander George Allan landed in Bolivia to minister to the Quechua Indians.

Allan's Bolivian Indian Mission grew in the years that followed to become the Andes Evangelical Mission (AEM).



In the 1980s, AEM, ICF, and SIM merged to become what was then known as SIM International.

In 1998 when Africa Evangelical Fellowship (AEF) merged with SIM. AEF officially began its work in Cape Town, South Africa,

in 1889, under what became known as the South Africa General Mission under the leadership of Andrew Murray, Martha Osborne, Spencer Walton, and George Howe. Starting from urban South Africa, missionary efforts spread into many of the other countries and people groups of southern Africa.



The most recent addition occurred in 2016 when Middle East Christian Fellowship (MECO) joined hands with SIM. MECO was formed in 1976, as a result of mergers with the Lebanon Evangelical Mission established in 1860, Middle East General Mission founded in 1898, and the Arabic Literature Mission founded in 1905.

SIM Today

SIM numbers close to 4,000 workers, drawn from more than 50 denominations and 70 nationalities. SIM now serves in over 70 countries worldwide.

Interdenominational from the start...

Walter Gowans was a Presbyterian, as were George and Mary Allan. Thomas Kent was Congregational. Rowland Bingham was a member of the Church of England, then joined the Salvation Army, and was later ordained as a Baptist minister. In deciding that the mission should be interdenominational, SIM founder Rowland Bingham stated: "He is blind who does not recognize that in other denominations are some of the best saints that God and grace have made."

your checklist

- Contacted home church and pastor.
- Application materials completed and returned:
 - Application form, fee and photo
 - Child Protection and Conduct Policies
- 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 with SIM's Travel Agent.
- Visa application completed and visa received (if required for placement).e.
- 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)
- 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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