

# SIM NOW

January 2023



**PROJECTS**

“Show me you are here to care  
...and I will care to hear”

# PROJECTS - It's about making an eternal difference in people's lives."

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



**PAUL RUSSELL**  
Executive Director  
SIM Canada

### It was during the Ethiopia famine in 1985 that SIM first began to actively include projects in its ministries.

At the time, the famine created worldwide media attention, and SIM was one Christian agency in the country with the personnel and expertise who were able to play a vital role in saving the lives of many.

The crisis was also a wake-up call to SIM, that ministering to the physical needs of people was important and could go hand-in-hand with addressing the spiritual aspects of people's lives.

This is not to say that SIM workers ignored the physical needs of people in the past. Helping people with their physical needs was just something the worker did. It really didn't have a name. Now

the term 'project' is almost universally understood as the way to address the injustices of the world - lack of water, food, shelter, education, rights, violence, trafficking, and so on.

But for SIM it is more than this. An anonymous African saying 'show me you are here to care...and I will care to hear', for me, sums up why projects are so important to reaching people with the Gospel.

For many agencies - even Christian agencies - meeting the "physical" needs is the end in itself. That's not what we do. Almost every project SIM is involved in has a 'spiritual' aspect to it. The ultimate goal is to bring people to Jesus. Make no mistake the real work of reaching the unreached with the word of God happens daily - whether it is through Bible studies or morning devotions, or whether it is through less obvious means of demonstrating God's love and care through workers practicing what they believe.

But it can get complicated. In some cases, the only way we can have a Christian presence in a region, or a country is through operating projects where only the 'physical' needs are addressed...but in these cases the project allows for the missionary worker to be present on the ground who can build deep relationships with those in need that can lead those impacted by the project to Christ.

Globally, SIM have about 600 active projects including right here in Canada. They range from emergency relief, to drilling wells, operating Hospitals, Schools, Youth Centres and Theological institutions. There are literacy and translations projects, Christian radio programmes... the list is endless.

There are literally thousands of opportunities for you to participate in projects. Skills are needed. Funds are needed, but above all, prayer is needed.

Help us change the world for eternity through projects! ■

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"...though her life was in disarray, something powerful was happening within her."

## RESCUING TRAFFICKED WOMEN IN CANADA



**"Who am I that the Lord of all the earth would care to know my name, would care to know my hurt?"**

This time last year, these words would never have been sung by the precious young woman who is singing them tonight. Crystal beamed as she shared her musical message with the other young women at a "Ladies Night". SIM's Lifeworthy Project runs the monthly worship event together with a specialized team from "The Well", a multi-congregational church based just outside of Toronto in the city of Vaughan. Ladies Night specifically caters to young women in recovery from exploitation in the sex trade. It was Crystal's third time at the event.

She grew up with Christian roots and had felt like she had a solid faith foundation. Crystal was 14 years old when her family moved to Ontario from the U.S. The move was difficult for her, and she began to rebel. Soon, she was mixed up with the wrong crowd. She distanced herself from her parents and from God.

The years that followed were marked by darkness and danger. Eventually, she was exploited in the sex trade. That continued until one especially brutal beating at the hands of her traffickers. Crystal was left for dead. Though she would survive her injuries, she was left with a traumatic brain injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

It's been just over a year since I met Crystal. At the time, she was aging out of youth housing and looking for a safe place to live. She had responded well to the relative safety of a youth shelter, but her uncertain future gave way to anxiety, and her behaviour became increasingly volatile. If the challenges of recovery and housing instability were not enough to cope with, Crystal was required to testify against her traffickers in court. Though the men stood to face several years for their crimes against her, they had been granted bail. That meant she could run into them anywhere and anytime!

Though the details of Crystal's life were in disarray, something powerful was happening within her. During the assault, Crystal had what she describes as a near death experience. It was a pivotal moment that caused her to soften her heart to Jesus, once

again. When I met Crystal and shared the love of Christ with her, she was glad to receive it!

As I helped Crystal search for a safe place to live, we talked about many things. We discovered that we both were music lovers, and I was surprised that my favorite group, 'Casting Crowns', was also hers! The love of Jesus in their music spilled over into the hours we spent looking for accommodation while worshipping God and singing His praise!

Today, Crystal is living independently. She is slowly gaining confidence and overcoming her struggles. We continue to walk alongside her with the love of Christ and rejoice as we watch her grow in her faith. She recently joined Lifeworthy's weekly "Life Group" Bible study and is loving it. Closing off her song, Crystal extolled:

*"Who am I, that the Bright and Morning Star would choose to light the way? I am Yours."* ■

**Lifeworthy has opportunities for workers to join their 'Daughter's Help Program' - they are specifically seeking a coordinator and leaders to work with survivors of human trafficking and participate in group activities and casework.**



**By Penny Flaro**  
Spiritual Care Coordinator - Lifeworthy Project

### **Lifeworthy Project**

CA 090232  
Human sex trafficking in Canada victimizes families from all religious and socioeconomic groups.

The project works in the Greater Toronto Area, the Canadian epicentre for this type of crime.

While human trafficking befalls many girls, the family members also experience debilitating trauma when a daughter endures severe and ongoing abuse.

Lifeworthy provides programs for Parents/family and offers social support and spiritual care for young trafficking victims in recovery.

To give to this project go to [donations.sim.ca/projects/LifeworthyProject](https://donations.sim.ca/projects/LifeworthyProject)  
To enquire about working in this project email the [canada.goteam@sim.org](mailto:canada.goteam@sim.org)

# Without Hidden Abilities, Regan may still be lying in a room by himself all day, hidden away



## REACHING DISABLED CHILDREN IN ETHIOPIA

By Emily Ling

Hidden Abilities Project,  
Ethiopia

### Hidden Abilities Project

ET 092936

In Northwest Ethiopia, the majority of parents with developmentally disabled children are trapped in ignorance and frustration. Many do not know what is wrong with their child and have little or no guidance or resources to help them.

Health professionals, teachers and churches as well as the population as a whole often do not realize that inside that disabled child is a real person. If they and their families are given the support and help they need they can learn, develop to their true potential.

To give to this project go to [donations.sim.ca/projects/Hidden](https://donations.sim.ca/projects/Hidden)

To enquire about working in this project email the [canada.goteam@sim.org](mailto:canada.goteam@sim.org)

Imagine being an outcast, shut in a dark room every day. No touch. No laughter. No hope.

This is the reality for many children with a disability in Ethiopia.

Now imagine coming to a place where you are welcomed. A place where people love you and care for your needs. Hugs and kisses. Fun and laughter. Hope. This is Hidden Abilities.

Hidden Abilities is a therapy center for children with physical disabilities in Northern Ethiopia. It was started in 2014 by a family from Canada who had adopted Ethiopian children, one of whom had cerebral palsy. Their neighbours saw that instead of seeing her as a curse and hiding her, they treated her as a gift from God. Little by little, neighbours and friends started coming to them for help with children who had disabilities. They started Hidden Abilities to try and meet some of the needs of these special children and their families, not only physical but also emotional and spiritual. Through the love and care we

show them, many have come to know the loving God and Saviour who has given them joy and peace despite their challenging circumstances.

Regan is a 6-year-old boy with cerebral palsy who has been coming to our centre for almost 3 years. His mother is single with no regular income. When Regan started coming, he could not sit independently, let alone crawl, or walk. He has made steady progress with regular physical therapy, and now he can walk



with a simple stick for support. Through having more social interactions, he has slowly learned to talk. His family also receive monthly food support. This year he was able to start going to school, and we help him with school fees, materials, and transport. Since Regan is now at school, his mum was able to find more regular work. Without Hidden Abilities, Regan may still be lying in a room by himself all day, hidden away. Now he has

hope and a future. He is one of the many children we have been able to impact, rejected by society but so precious to God.

Currently at Hidden Abilities we have around 80 children who come twice a week for therapy. Some families travel up to half a day to come. We pay the cost of transport there and back for all beneficiaries. For around 10 of the poorest families, we also provide monthly food support and cover the cost of their medical bills. We also have around 15 children who are able to go to school like Regan, and we provide tutorial support for these kids and help with the cost of school for those who cannot afford it. We also run disability awareness and inclusion training in the community, such as at schools and churches, to educate people and break the stigma around disability. ■

***There are opportunities to serve in any of the following roles including: project manager, physical therapist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, and special education teacher. Even if you do not have these qualifications, if you have a heart to love and serve these children in any way you can, talk to the Go Team at SIM Canada.***

# Holistic care takes women from the street and provides a new life



## BRINGING FREEDOM TO WOMEN IN BANGLADESH

### “Feeding my kids and having a roof over our heads are my main concerns in life.”

These were the words that Sanu\*, a 32-year-old woman with three children, shared with a CUP worker.

Her working life started at the age of 10 when she was sent from her village to Dhaka City to be a house helper. Sanu’s family was poor, and her mother believed this would be a better life for her. Sanu ran away from this employment due to the violence of her employers and gravitated to the Mazar (a hub for people living on the streets in that area). This Mazar is home to a network that exploits women/girls in street sex work and Sanu became part of this. After a few years she married a client and then worked many jobs to try and provide for her family and move them off the streets. She has worked in garment factories and loaded bricks for construction. After losing one of her jobs, Sanu returned to the streets to beg as there was no other way to provide for her children.

Leaving street life, Sanu agreed to enroll in the CUP program because she wanted to provide better opportunities for her children. Her middle daughter had already been fostered to an extended family member in the village and her eldest, a 12-year-old daughter, was being helped by an NGO that works with youth. Sanu thrived in the 1-year CUP program gaining more stability, better literacy, and more life skills. Her plan was to transition to our partner business as an artisan and she was excited to gain more skills in this position but following the death of her husband she took over his street cart. In follow-up visits, she advised CUP workers that she is enjoying this new role and it is going well.

One of the challenges of working with Sanu was in the area of supporting her children into education. At 12, her eldest daughter had left schooling behind a long time ago. Her links with a different NGO provided her with opportunities in peer support of other kids living on the street but no vocational skills. Sanu’s youngest is just 18 months old and follow up support will focus on eventually supporting this child into school. The door is open for her eldest to become an artisan herself.

CUP seeks to protect and bring freedom to women and children on the streets of Dhaka in Bangladesh. In this city, there is a large population of homeless mothers and children, and it is difficult to find safe employment. These vulnerable women and children are at high risk of exploitation and trafficking.

CUP offers holistic care to these mothers by inviting them to join a 1-year training program. In the program, they are taught Biblical principals through Bible studies, along with vocational skills so they can find secure employment once they finish the training. The women learn sewing, jewellery-making and attend literacy and numeracy courses. While the mothers attend the program, their children are cared for by the Children’s team who enroll and support them in local schools. This involves lots of advocacy as many schools don’t want to enroll kids that are so far behind in school. Many graduates of CUP transition to work as artisans in a partner business. ■

***CUP has opportunities for volunteers in health, social work, community development, communications, graphic design and business development.***



**By Fiona McIvor**  
Children’s Uplift Programme,  
Bangladesh

### **Children’s Uplift Programme (CUP)**

BD 098336  
CUP provides holistic (mental, emotional, social, spiritual, economical, and physical) support, teaching and training to vulnerable women and children in Dhaka.

Women are provided life skills classes, parenting classes, values training, health classes, Bible classes, recreation classes and adult literacy classes.

CUP also gives counseling to traumatized women and children. CUP also has a Night Shelter for the homeless and unsafe children, minors, and women.

To give to this project go to [donations.sim.ca/projects/ChildrensUpliftProgramme](https://donations.sim.ca/projects/ChildrensUpliftProgramme)  
To enquire about working in this project email the [canada.goteam@sim.org](mailto:canada.goteam@sim.org)

"Today I found a friend!"

## REACHING YOUTH THROUGH SPORT



By **Charles Millette**  
Sports Friends,  
Canada

### **Sports Friends Canada**

CA 509044

Sports ministry is a powerful tool for the Church to build relationships with young people and share with them the hope of the gospel. Much more than a sports coach, these life coaches' mentor and love young people, walking with them through life's challenges to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Sports Friends aims to share a vision for local churches and church planters to use sports as a ministry tool in their communities.

To give to this project go to [donations.sim.ca/projects/sports-friends-canada](https://donations.sim.ca/projects/sports-friends-canada)

To enquire about working in this project email the [canada.goteam@sim.org](mailto:canada.goteam@sim.org)

### **Sports Friends Canada launched in summer 2021, with several new sports ministers participating in a virtual Basic Training.**

When the week for hosting the pilot camps arrived, everyone met in person for the first time: an assembly of coaches and volunteers from different churches in Surrey, BC.

Serving the Lord together is a remarkable thing – it's like the family of God simply coming together! You would never have known that these people did not know each other two months prior as they were praying, eating, hanging out and serving together like long-lost brothers and sisters. The family of God in action is amazing!

Relationships developed quickly between coaches and players, even over just a few days. A caring and authentic coach is able to recognize and affirm the strengths in an individual team member, as well as call out things that will hinder

their spiritual and personal growth and development. One boy faked a foul during a match at camp. He was clearly the most talented player on the field and did not need to cheat at all, but he was mimicking the way he saw professional players behave on television. His coach also happened to be officiating that match and stopped the game to address the issue. He encouraged the young man to use his raw talent and zeal for the game but told him that this team plays differently. This team plays with honour and integrity toward each other, toward referees, and toward the rules of the game. There is no room for deception. For the rest of the week, the young man played uprightly. He experienced greater freedom by acting honestly, focusing on developing his own skills, and honouring those around him.

Not everyone at camp was a great athlete, though. At one camp a certain young attendee participated without much athletic ability but with a genuine desire to be part of a team. Late in day two, just before the game began, he was jumping with his hand raised to catch the attention of the leader. Once the microphone was in his hand he

announced with great joy, "Today I found a friend!" The thrill was evident, and his joy spread throughout the group. This camp had been called 'Soccer' Friends, and true to its name the simple gathering was blessing young people with something sweeter than athletic skills.

Serving in Jesus' Name always impacts the servants, not only those they serve. These camps demonstrated the heart of Sports Friends, which is really not about sports at all, but about ministering through sports to reach the hearts of young people and their families.

Currently, the greatest challenge is to have churches move from running summer camps to implementing year-round sports ministries, that have weekly practices or games. Maintaining a constant connection with kids and parents both on and off the field is essential to building solid relationships and meeting their needs. ■

***There are 3 opportunities to serve on the Sports Friends Canada team: regional coordinator in BC, girls and women's ministry focus and coaches' trainer. Curious about what these roles entail? Talk to the Go Team at SIM Canada.***



## REACHING THE HIP HOP COMMUNITY

It's hard to be both hip hop and Christian... we show up and show Christ

I've been a Christian for 22 years. I've been a fan and student of hip hop culture for 25+ years.

The last 10 years or so, I've been alone in struggling through how to approach hip hop culture in a way that honours God. This past summer, I felt like God was telling me to stop going solo and find other Christians that are in the culture. I was connected with Youngdo and the City Lights crew, where it felt like I was home! With the help of the crew, I've been inspired to dive deeper into my God given passions, and more importantly, dive deeper into the riches of who God is, and how he's calling me to participate in building His Kingdom. The connection, acceptance and edification of the devout, in a hip hop context is an absolute gift from God. Thank God for Youngdo and City Lights!

January 2023 marks the 10th anniversary that I, Youngdo, have been ministering to the hip-hop community. God has been doing amazing things! City Lights hold weekly, monthly, and annual events and programs. We build

faith and friendships where it's been hard being both hip-hop and Christian. We share the gospel and be a witness of God's love and truth. We have people who are great at praying for us and providing support and encouragement.

However, we could always use others to join us in the work. It has been very challenging - but rewarding - building and maintaining relationships by keeping in touch with nearly 200 people who are part of this community. We need others who are willing to learn the culture, love the people, and let God lead. Others who want to help make disciples. Others who are willing to use their gifts, passions, and strengths to share the gospel. Others who can help with events.

Is it difficult? It doesn't have to be. For example, at our weekly breaking sessions. It's a space that allows people to come and practice breaking. It's not a bait-and-switch for telling the gospel. It's just a time to bless them with a spot. However, it's also a place to show the love of God through caring Christians. It requires people who will not reject them based on bad stereotypes, listen to them about dancing and life, and when the topic comes up, share about how Jesus has impacted their lives. Simple.

We also offer Bible Studies, Q&A's, one-on-one conversations, a new monthly online hip-hop service, and a few annual events, including giving away Bibles at a big breaking event. You can bring an understanding of Scripture, but most important is to bring a willingness to understand where people are coming from and to show them grace. In other words, it just requires people to show up and show Christ. It's challenging, but definitely enjoyable.

One dream is a centre/space where people can learn breaking, deejaying, rapping/emceeing, and graffiti writing, alongside discipleship and outreach. We have no idea how or when to go about this and could use advice.

Our vision is for the hip-hop community to explore, follow, and share Jesus Christ. We want to see those in this culture know and show God so much that even the (often false) negative stereotypes change. ■

**God has been growing this mission and the harvest is plenty. It's time for others to join the team. We need full or part time missionary workers and volunteers who are willing to use their gifts to reach this community. Is that you?**



**By Youngdo Kang**  
Hip Hop ministry,  
Canada

### City Lights Ministry

Member #: 045335

This project aims to reach out to the hip-hop community that is yet to come to Christ.

This is a community that knows about God but doesn't really know Him. They've witnessed judgment and hypocrisy rather than grace and truth.

There is often a big gap between the hip-hop community and the church. This project aims to bridge that gap through building lasting and trusting relationships with this unique community.

To give to this project go to [donations.sim.ca/workers/Youngdo](https://donations.sim.ca/workers/Youngdo)

To enquire about working in this project email the [canada.goteam@sim.org](mailto:canada.goteam@sim.org)

# From despair to hope and action



## SOUTH AFRICA - AGRICULTURAL TRAINING & OUTREACH



By Kerry Wiens  
Agricultural ministry,  
South Africa

### Inundo Project

Member #: 053462

Dan and Kerry lead a community based non-profit organization called Inundo Development. It exists to build capacity in people so that they will become God's transformational agents in the world through sustainable, Christ-centred approaches to food, farming, land, and community development.

Dan is an accredited 'Farming God's Way' trainer and mentors and disciples' Christian leaders to use the tool to impact their communities with a holistic message of hope, provision, and freedom.

To give to this project go to [donations.sim.ca/workers/daniel-and-kerry-wiens](https://donations.sim.ca/workers/daniel-and-kerry-wiens)

To enquire about working in this project email the [canada.goteam@sim.org](mailto:canada.goteam@sim.org)

### On World Food Day in October 2022, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reminded us that three billion people worldwide can't afford a healthy diet.

Economic, social, environmental, educational, and political pressures all contribute to this. "The number of people affected by hunger has more than doubled in the past three years," he stated, "almost a million people are living with starvation and death a daily reality." Despite this bleak picture, Guterres was passionate in saying, "Let's move from despair to hope and action."

It sounds like Guterres is speaking from a hope that is deeper than himself, a hope that we as Christians and the global church should be overflowing with. Yet, food and famine are often not met with words of hope, but rather attitudes of indifference, pride, and

ignorance. It's important to note that Guterres does not suggest that hope is enough, he implores us to action.

How do we live with an active hope in our world? Inundo Development is a model and training farm in Durban, created to be a place of active hope where provision through growing food is taught and demonstrated. 'Farming God's Way' teaches people to grow food and helps them come to a deeper understanding of how their heavenly father has already provided many good and valuable resources for them to use in their own development and the improvement of their communities. Dan and Kerry have been teaching 'Farming God's Way' for 13 years. As SIM workers, they are passionate about mobilizing the global worker network to embrace hope and action in addressing food issues in holistic ways.

Bongi recently attended an introductory garden training called Gardens of Faithfulness. She successfully established her first 1m by 2m garden and then started to teach her mother and neighbours. Bongi posted on a chat group, "Thanks to your training team. We had eyes before but since we started this training,

*the change you have made to our family, we really appreciate it, I wish we knew you a long time ago. We met for a good reason. The way we were thinking before especially about farming, has changed."*

For Bongi and others, this is just the beginning. Learning to grow food and start a business is a long-term journey. Inundo is not just about subsistence farming, it is about bringing the increase that God has always intended even for the poorest of the poor. It is about overflow (Inundo means overflow in Latin) and stewarding the abundance that God has given us in a way that brings restoration, reconciliation, and renewal.

With the food crisis in South Africa and beyond, the Wiens have been unable to meet the demand for training and mentoring. One couple from Canada has answered the call and joins Inundo in leadership and development. ■

***Inundo needs a multicultural team of trainers and facilitators. There are also internship opportunities for those who want to learn 'Farming God's Way'. Long term workers would be especially valuable to extend the holistic gospel activity to the places it is most needed.***





**PROVIDING WIDOWS WITH A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

# Despite her circumstances, Genevieve keeps on smiling

**“My heart will always beat to an African drum!” says Soula. Her last trip to Niger was no exception.**

We enjoyed meeting with the widows and their children. They are an inspiration to me when I hear them praising the Lord for the help they received through the Dorcas Widow’s Project.

These widows come from different backgrounds, countries, and ethnic groups but they have developed a great family spirit. They know how to thank the Lord for the provision of their needs.

Through the loans that we provide they start small businesses which allow them to meet their needs and send their children to school. This makes them smile in a society which does not consider widows to have any value.

We love meeting the widows in the Dorcas Home in Niamey, but also visiting them in their houses, which are very small and located in a compound with other families. They often have no electricity or running water. Every widow has a story..

I listen to them with emotion. Although I have heard so many over the years, they always make me cry.

Genevieve’s story is very interesting. She had a difficult childhood, her mother passed away when she was a little girl, her father remarried, her stepmother used her as a servant. When she married, she lived with her in-laws and her husband’s relatives, the extended family, as we call them in Africa. When her husband passed away six years ago, Genevieve had only one 3-year-old boy. Her mother-in-law took her boy because she saw in him her son, who looked like his dad, she said. This happens often in Africa. When I heard her story, my heart was broken. How is it possible that a child could be separated from her mother? Unfortunately, it is possible and very common in that culture. I ask her, “How can you bear it?” She looks at me and with a smile and says, “I have no choice. “How often do you see your boy?”, I ask. “Oh, whenever my mother-in-law allows him to come visit me. She sends him to school in her neighbourhood,” she adds. Imagine the pain of this mom who is all alone. But she keeps smiling. She waits and hopes.

Her little boy listens to our conversation. It’s his story. He keeps silent. He looks sad but enjoys his mom’s hugs. He listens to what I am saying, “But why don’t you insist on taking him back with you?” She replies, “Oh, our culture, that’s not possible!”

I admire Genevieve, she is a precious member of our Dorcas family in Niger. She is very thankful for the loan she received which allowed her to start a small business selling various items in a school courtyard. Right from the beginning of her business venture, she saved \$3 a day to buy a small parcel of land and build a house. We will now help Genevieve build a wall around her little house for her safety. I don’t forget Genevieve’s smiling face and her boy and pray that he will be with his mom soon.

The Dorcas Master Project disburses funds on an as needed basis to 3 Dorcas Projects in Niger, Burkina Faso and Benin. ■

***If you are fluent in French, there are many opportunities to minister to widows in these three Dorcas projects. You may have an admin or finance background, experienced in micro-loans, discipleship, or trauma counselling. Contact SIM Canada today!***



**By Soula isch**  
Dorcas Master Project,  
Canada

**Dorcas Master Project**

CA 090230

This project has 3 main objectives:

- To receive and disburse funds to existing Dorcas Widows Projects in Niger, Burkina Faso and Benin on a ‘where most needed’ basis
- Where practicable and needed support widows’ projects in other SIM countries
- To engage and train the local church so that they can better support widows in their communities

To give to this project go to [donations.sim.ca/projects/dorcas-master-project](https://donations.sim.ca/projects/dorcas-master-project)  
To enquire about working in this project email the [canada.goteam@sim.org](mailto:canada.goteam@sim.org)

# An 'old' Bible with Post-It notes plays a role in creating a 'new mommy'



## FROM SMUGGLING TO SALVATION IN PERU



By Mary Pinkston  
Prison ministry,  
Peru

### Walking in Liberty, is a ministry that supports English-speaking female foreign inmates and ex-offenders in Lima.

The women have been arrested at Lima airport for drug trafficking. Peru is one of the biggest cocaine producers in the world and often foreigners are used to transport the drugs out of the country.

Sally is Malaysian and was arrested in 2019. She was sent to the Santa Monica prison.

She started coming to our weekly Bible Study. In the beginning she had no Spanish or English and relied on translation from another Chinese inmate. She had many questions about why, if God was good, he had allowed her to get arrested.

My teammate Anna received a donation of Chinese material that included a brand-new New Testament that we gave to her. After a few months, one of the inmates called and said that Sally had read the New Testament and

wanted to know what was in the Old Testament that the Bible kept referencing.

The only Bible we had was one that had been donated that was well used with post-it notes in Chinese. It was sent in, and we prayed that God would use the annotations to help her understand His word.

In October this year, Suzie wanted to see me before she was deported and obtained special permission for me to visit her face-to-face. Due to the pandemic and the prison rules, we had only been able to hold monthly zoom visits and have not visited face to face in over two and a half years.

She is Asian and to show her respect had saved money to provide a snack for us to share during my visit. She also gifted me some of her origami art. It was very humbling to be shown such respect.

She has learned a little English and Spanish over the years. We talked a little and when it didn't make sense, we used her Chinese/Spanish Bible to communicate. With passion in her eyes, she told me how her youngest child really liked this 'new mommy' who is kind and loving on the phone. Now when

she phones them, she tells them how much she loves them and misses them. Then she smiled and laughed as she told me how much she enjoyed cleaning for 5 Peruvian soles (\$1.70). The way she explained her life before prison she didn't seem to be a very kind woman or a hard worker.

She was adamant that she wants to be water baptized. We didn't have time enough or language for me to ensure that she understands fully the significance of what she has asked, but the light in her eyes tells me something has changed.

She is scheduled to be deported next month but has a strong desire to stay and work for a short time in Lima. She is worried that when she arrives home, she will be arrested. We are praying that the God who has drawn her to Himself will provide a way for her to be baptized and protect her when she returns home. ■

***Do you speak Spanish and have a heart for women in need? There are many short and longer-term opportunities available for those with counselling, discipling, or social work skills. Talk to SIM Canada!***

### Peru Prison Ministry

PE 091073

The ministry reaches out to English speaking women who have been arrested for attempting to traffic cocaine out of Peru.

As a tangible expression of the love of Jesus Christ this project endeavours to meet the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of the women, through a welcome package and regular visits to the prison bringing emails from home, sharing Christ's love through Bible study, singing and individual prayer time with the women. When released on parole the women are invited to continue the relationship through discipleship/mentoring and church involvement.

To give to this project go to [donations.sim.ca/projects/PeruPrisonMinistry](https://donations.sim.ca/projects/PeruPrisonMinistry)

To enquire about working in this project email the [canada.goteam@sim.org](mailto:canada.goteam@sim.org)



# 'Deep Roots' is changing lives, sewing the seed of the Gospel in South Sudan

## MAKING THE GOSPEL ACCESSIBLE IN SOUTH SUDAN

**“My wife and I are spiritually hungry, would you come to our house to teach us from the Bible?”**

This request came from Harun (Aaron), one of our clinic health workers. I was amazed and so happy to hear of their request.

For a number of years, Harun had been struggling with anger issues. The Lord was speaking to his heart about this. Through prayer and personal Bible study, Harun is growing in his walk with God.

However, living amongst neighbours who have the same anger problems makes it so hard not to slip back into old ways of dealing with issues. Harun and his wife Micha want to grow deeper in the Lord, to grow in their walk with God and to resist such temptations.

And so, at his request, I began a Bible study on Saturday evenings with Harun, Micha and their neighbours.

Every Saturday, I arrive at 4pm and I sit and chat with Micha and Rebecca (their neighbour) over a freshly roasted cup of coffee. Our visiting

continues while I watch them make their evening meal. They are thrilled to have me join them for their simple meals of kisura (thin bread) and vegetable soup.

By the time we start our Bible study, the sun has gone down. And so, with a flashlight in our hands, Harun begins reading his Mabaan Bible. When people hear Harun reading the Bible, their neighbours gather around to listen, including his dear elderly auntie sitting on her grass mat on the ground.

We have been reading in Genesis. After Harun has finished reading, I begin going through key verses and explaining these scriptures to them. We have a great discussion time together, learning what God has to say to us. Before I leave, we spend time to pray for each other.

How precious it is when God's people come together to read His Word and to pray together. This is the body of Christ!

Convinced that no one should live and die without hearing God's Good News, our SIM Church Discipleship Project aims to see the Body of Christ in South Sudan with people living out a vibrant faith, deeply rooted in Scripture. We want to invest our lives into relationships so that

individuals and communities can grow in their knowledge, understanding, and application of God's Word in their context.

SIM missionaries and local church partners join to work together in evangelism and discipleship. The Church Discipleship project supports these missionaries who to go into the local Mabaan communities and refugee camps with transportation and materials.

The 'Deep Roots Bookstore' is highly subsidized, providing Bibles, songbooks and literature at a low cost so that the material is affordable to everyone in this area of South Sudan.

And now, the new Deep Roots Resource Centre provides a library with over 200 theological books for personal study.

It's a place where we offer Bible teaching programmes. Currently, there are over 100 young people learning how to read and write in their own language. Their desire is to study God's Word! ■

***What an opportunity we have to be part of what God is doing in South Sudan! Would you consider joining us? Talk to SIM Canada today!***



**By Sandy Ewan**  
Church Discipleship Project,  
South Sudan

### **Church Discipleship**

SS 098103  
SIM invests in the South Sudan by providing access to Scripture, facilitating transportation to ministry, training local Christians, and working with them to reach the lost in their communities. The aim is for individuals and their communities to grow in knowledge, understanding, and application of God's Word in their own context to equip them to evangelize the unreached, their neighbours, with the hope of Jesus.

To give to this project go to [donations.sim.ca/projects/SouthSudanDiscipleship](https://donations.sim.ca/projects/SouthSudanDiscipleship)  
To enquire about working in this project email the [canada.goteam@sim.org](mailto:canada.goteam@sim.org)

"I saw the hand of God in allowing me to go to school..."



## TEACHING CHILDREN IN BURKINA FASO



By Mark Dartnell

Action for Children Project,  
Burkina Faso

### Action for Children

BF 093927

There are many children in Burkina Faso who have no access to good education due to poverty and or poor school environments in the public system.

This project began with a desire to demonstrate God's love by providing children with basic necessities that would allow them to attend school on a regular basis. It has grown into providing a primary school that includes a good learning environment as well as biblical teaching.

To give to this project go to [donations.sim.ca/projects/ActionforChildren](https://donations.sim.ca/projects/ActionforChildren)

To enquire about working in this project email the [canada.goteam@sim.org](mailto:canada.goteam@sim.org)

### Ismael, a Burkinabe elementary teacher, accepted a tutoring job with a SIM missionary worker.

The goal was to help Mark, the missionary worker, improve his conversational French. However, language quickly took a back seat to learning Ismael's story and catching the passion he had for the children of the school he worked at, located in Sakoula - a small, poor village on the outskirts of Ouagadougou.

Out of their friendship and partnership, and financial assistance from several Canadians, was born student sponsorships, a well for the village, equipment for the widows for their income generating efforts, summer VBS programs, and a school-day lunch program for the students. The positive impact on the community led the Chief of Sakoula to grant a parcel of land to Ismael.

The Action for Children Project began with the objectives to

- Facilitate access to education
- Improve general health and nutrition
- Expose children to the Gospel
- Assist children in their physical, mental and spiritual

development.

Today, this land houses Wend Kuuni ("God's grace") Christian school for about 500 pre-school, elementary and secondary students as well as a vocational sewing class for young ladies.

Over the past twelve years, twelve classrooms, latrines and a perimeter wall have been built through the faithful financial and prayer support of Canadian donors. Students, teachers, parents, the local evangelical church and Sakoula residents have all voiced their pleasure with the school and the positive impact it has had on the community.

*"I have been going to the school for 6 years. Before this I was not allowed to go to school; only my brothers could attend. The school has been very helpful to me. I saw the hand of God in allowing me to go to school. I was able to benefit from biblical and academic teaching and I have just passed my final exam and I am very pleased."* says Stephanie.

The team of teachers at the school add, *"We are the teachers team. We are grateful to all those who support this school. This ministry has allowed us to grow spiritually and socially. Through this ministry we have found work as a teacher at the school, and we are able to feed our families and*

*educate our children. Our prayer is that this ministry continues to prosper"*

Ismael has shared that the young ladies in the vocational training have told him they are very grateful to learn a trade, so they do not have to turn to prostitution for income.

For the past 4-5 years, since a grade 6 was added, Ismael reports that students have consistently had a 90-96% pass rate; to enter secondary school - consistently higher than the country average.

Currently, the school is accepting several students from families recently displaced from northern provinces because of terrorist attacks. These families have left their homes and farmland with nothing more than what they could carry as they fled their villages. Many of the children will need to be sponsored to be able to attend Wend Kuuni school. ■

***There are always opportunities for teachers to serve for a short-term, for people to run Bible Studies, sports programmes, and assist with summer VBS camps. And, a long-term missionary worker, trained to assist special needs students would open the many doors to the community. Talk to SIM Canada today!***