

SIMGLOBAL

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Equipping THE Church

In this issue

- PAGE 3 A colorful glimpse of global impact
- PAGE 4 Equipping pastors' wives
- PAGE 7 Radio reaches new regions

THE CALL

I'd like to be the first to welcome you to *SIM Global*. Please take a look around and get to know our new format. As you do, I think you'll notice that, although the look



BRUCE JOHNSON
President SIM USA

has changed, our overall message and purpose of this publication have remained the same.

SIM Global was designed with you mind. It replaces both *Serving in Mission Together* and the Harvest newsletter. You'll continue to find updates on projects from around the world, as well as inspiring stories from the

front lines of ministry. In addition you'll find features that make reading more interactive.

I know you'll enjoy the new photo feature, "SIM at Work around the World," full of exciting photos from our teams across the map, but I'm personally excited about "Answering the Call," which you'll find on the back. There is a prayer calendar for those who wish to join us before God's throne on behalf of our brothers and sisters worldwide. We'll also use that section to highlight ways to engage more deeply as a partner with SIM.



SNAPSHOTS



» Two program participants of **Sports Friends** in Ethiopia, where SIM missionaries began sharing the gospel **almost a century ago**. Sports Friends invites youth to learn more about the sport they love, and experience the love of God.

One of SIM's core values is that we are 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 in cross-cultural missionary vision and action."

Our involvement in Ethiopia is a perfect example. SIM missionaries entered Ethiopia in the **1920s** only to be driven out by war in **1937**. With regret and prayers, they left behind them 75 newly-baptized believers. But after the Italian army was ousted a mere four years later, the missionaries returned to find **thousands of new believers**... and a desperate need for discipleship and training!

That was the foundation of the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church (EKHC), which today numbers more than **4,300,000 baptized believers in 5,017 congregations**. They have their own mission school and missionary outreach, ministries to human needs and development projects, Bible schools, theological colleges, women's and children's work, urban ministries program, and a literature publication center—the true success of an **SIM beginning!**

To read more about SIM's history in spreading the gospel around the world, visit www.simglobal.org.



ON THE COVER

In this picture, pastors of the forgotten people in eastern and coastal Kenya are waiting eagerly to receive book sets full of training, literature and inspiration from SIM Kenya's **Christian Worker's Book Set** project. These book sets are not only designed to **equip the leaders for ministry**, but also to facilitate networking among program participants.



AROUND THE WORLD



» Equipping the church takes place in a **wide variety of settings** with people from all walks of life. Some SIM missionaries serve on soccer fields. Others conduct trainings like the one seen here in Bolivia.



» SIM's **Internal Theological Education Scholarship** project is addressing the lack of trained leadership in Ethiopia by awarding church members and leaders, like this student, with scholarships for further education and growth.



» In regions like Africa, where 60% of the population is under the age of 25, **Sports Friends** has proven a powerful outreach tool—breaking down barriers and building relationships not just with program participants like those pictured here, but also with community leaders and parents. The SIM ministry **equips church leaders** to start sports programs in their own communities, using the **universal language of sport to share the Gospel**.

Waves of corrugated metal roofs undulate up and down steep hills—the flimsy tops of mud-walled “flats” built on the unstable foundation of mud and refuse. The improvised buildings are packed so closely together that, from above, it’s difficult to see the narrow alleyways that count for streets here. This is Kibera, one of the world’s largest slums, found near the heart of Nairobi. The population is so dense that experts can’t agree on the number of people living in the informal settlement, which is roughly the size of Central Park. But it’s unsurprising to find such sprawling desperation in Kenya’s capital. A shocking 60% of Nairobi lives far below the poverty line.

On the ground in Kibera you’re assaulted by the overwhelming pressure of overpopulation and poverty. Here, at least three people share each ten-by-ten-foot flat with nothing but a cloth door to separate them from the garbage dumps and open sewage in the street. Barefoot children, whose parents are too poor to send them to school, play in the alleys, ignoring the garbage that has become part of the ground they walk on. Their mothers cook what food they can find over coal or paraffin. There are no amenities here, no infrastructure.

But that doesn’t mean there’s no hope. The people here have dreams. They plan their future homes, blue-printing them on waste paper. They have drive, often walking miles in search of any casual job available and working for less than two dollars a day. They have dignity, furnishing and decorating their tiny cubicles with as much normalcy as possible. And they have faith....

A surprising number of slum churches have sprung up, some small and independent, others part of the bigger Kenyan denominations. In either case, the pastors have little to no ministerial training, and their wives none at all. Still, these women are called on to lead meetings, assist in pre-marital counseling, settle disputes among church members, teach the children, help families with domestic and health needs, and provide hospitality. And while laboring to meet the overwhelming needs of a community drowning in poverty, these pastors’ families struggle to make ends meet themselves—congregational giving may not even reach \$50 a month.

It’s in this context that Dorcas Ministries of SIM Kenya and director Ruth Omungo are making an incredible difference, one woman at a time. An Anglican pastor’s wife, Ruth is pouring into Kibera in a unique way—through these untrained pastors’ wives. Her experience in missions, counseling, psychology, and church work, along with her teaching skills and compassion, make her an incredible resource for these women.

With Dorcas Ministries, Ruth is empowering this group of women to minister effectively alongside their husbands, preparing them to help the other women of their community face social challenges with courage. In addition, Dorcas is equipping these pastors’ wives with skills to supplement family income through small-scale businesses.



PRAY / GIVE / GO

- Pray for the women in the discipleship program to grow in faith, and for unity among the churches in the slums.
- Give a scholarship: \$140 trains one woman in 21 entrepreneurial skills!
- Thinking on a bigger scale? \$400 provides a month of operating expenses.
- Consider helping Dorcas Ministries first-hand. Inquire about taking a short-term work team to Kenya!
- For more information on Dorcas Ministries, visit www.simglobal.org.

*In one of the world's largest slums, Dorcas Ministries is bringing much more than hope. Project director **RUTH OMUNGO** equips poverty-stricken pastors' wives for ministry and for life.*



Mary Kyalo, left, and two other program participants at a Dorcas Ministries training event.

A **HEART** FOR WOMEN
MEANS **HOPE** FOR KIBERA

Dorcas training has helped Mary become a better minister in her church, but it has also helped put food on the table and pay for her children's school fees.

Dorcas training teaches practical skills such as how to make and market things like laundry soap, shampoos, tie-dye, and yogurt. These trades allow pastors' wives to supplement their families' income while training other women from the community as well. But an even more valuable portion of Dorcas training is the discipleship and leadership training that the pastors' wives find here—the time spent with their sisters in worship, Bible study, and prayer.

Mary Kyalo,
a Dorcas Ministries

graduate, mentioned that it was a relief to meet with other pastors' wives, to find that she wasn't the only one facing the challenges of church life amidst extreme poverty. Before training Mary felt inadequate.

"I didn't know how to minister," she said. "I feared talking to people in the church. But now I know that I can really help [my husband's] ministry!"

Dorcas training has helped Mary become a better minister in her church, but it has also helped put food on the table and pay for her three children's school fees.

Each pastor's wife who completes Dorcas

training goes home ready to be more effective in ministry, with skills to share at her home church and in the surrounding community of Kibera. But the impact of this program is even greater; it is not confined to the slums. The skills gleaned here are also valuable in rural areas.

Mary's ministry has also reached the village outside Nairobi where she was married 13 years ago. There, using the things she learned at Dorcas Ministries, she trained the villagers on HIV/AIDS and taught income-generating projects. She also helped a group of women with money management—showing them how to organize an informal banking system. Now she's planning to return to speak about facing the challenges to marriage found in Kenyan rural culture. She is passionate about sharing what she's learned and increasing the impact of Dorcas Ministries, but this project is facing major challenges.

Last year Mary wanted Ruth and a group from Dorcas Ministries to accompany her to a rural area to train a group of women there, but travel funds were not available and project money had dwindled to almost nothing. It's painful knowing the value of what you have to share, but not having the means to share it. However, if Ruth Omungo and the Dorcas women have anything, it is faith in God and hope for the future. With plenty or in lack they are eager to continue carrying the life-giving lessons they've learned into the slums, to other parts of Nairobi, and beyond.



» A group of women meets for a training in fabric dyeing. Dorcas training teaches women practical skills such as how to make and market things like laundry soap, shampoos, tie-dye, and yogurt. These trades allow pastors' wives to supplement their families' income while training other women from the community as well.

EARS TO HEAR FEET TO GO

*In Olger's home province of Loja, Ecuador, **RADIO HOPE** is helping missionaries spread the message of life and truth—all with the vision of putting an end to the area's "unreached" status and spreading churches throughout the region.*

Frustrated, Olger impatiently flipped through the radio stations. Not finding any music worth listening to, he settled on a station and only half listened. But God had a message for him that caught his ear. That day Olger ended up listening to Radio Hope, and he heard a broadcast that impacted him deeply. Hungry for more, he began tuning into the program daily.

Around town Olger had become infamous, an alcoholic always up for a party. So when he decided to change his life style and leave liquor behind, even his family couldn't believe it. He started attending Bible

studies

and SIM preaching courses, and with constant prayer he saw his wife and daughters, one by one, believe in Jesus.

Together the family started going to a house church

led by SIM missionaries Daniel and Lucinda Kahn. SIM's goal is always to inspire and equip local leaders, and with their mentorship the church soon moved to Olger's home.

Reached through Radio Hope, Olger himself has now become part of the movement to bring salvation to one of the largest unreached areas in Latin America. Once an infamous alcoholic, he is now a leader and teacher, his face full of excitement and joy as he shares God's Word and invests in others.



» SIM's partnership with **Radio Hope** is making a difference in Ecuador. On the day that Olger was baptized, his wife Sara and their daughters were also baptized. (Olger, pictured with his family, is second from left in the black shirt.)

PRAY / GIVE / GO

- Pray that Olger, his family, and his church would continue to grow in faith.
- Ask that God would send more church planters to Loja province.
- Has God touched your heart for these people? SIM needs church planters! You could invest whatever gifts you have to build the Kingdom in unreached Loja.
- For more information on Radio Hope, visit www.simglobal.org.



ANSWERING THE CALL

- » **PRAY** Our ministries cannot succeed without God’s help and blessing. Your prayer partnership with us is vital! Join us over the next few months as we pray for needs around the world. Together we’ll be praying for:
- All of the prayer requests mentioned in this newsletter including the women of Dorcas Ministries and increased funding for the project, Olger and his Family, and the ministry of Radio Hope.
 - The country of **Japan** as people face a long recovery, and churches reach out with the love and care of Christ in this time of difficulty.
 - Safety and wisdom for the people of **Sudan** as their country is in the midst of political transition.
 - Peace and the safety of God’s people, and SIM missionaries, in **Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire**. Political unrest has led to warring factions and excessive violence.
 - Strength and safety for Christians in **Jimma, Ethiopia** where attacks upon them have recently been renewed.

» **GIVE** There are many ways to support what SIM is accomplishing worldwide. You can support a project that is dear to your heart, or a missionary overseas. But did you know that you can also give to SIM as an organization? Giving to the general fund is a great way to let God direct your donation, making sure it goes to where funds are needed most.

To give by phone: (800) 521-6449

To send a gift in the mail:

SIM, P.O. Box 7900
Charlotte, NC 28241

To give online: www.simusa.org

» **GO** Being a missionary doesn’t always mean church planting and pastoring. Unique opportunities for reaching the unreached come through many varied avenues—and even the mission field needs IT!

For less than a year, you could use your IT and computer skills to make an impact for the Kingdom of God in the Asia/Pacific region. A business-based ministry is providing internship opportunities for individuals to develop computer skills while working on real projects with unbelieving employees.

You could experience for yourself what business-based ministry is about. Are you interested in this strategic opportunity to live among unreached people and show them what it means to be a follower of Christ? If so, contact Dan Linsz at dan.linsz@sim.org or (704) 587-1406 for more information.



» At a dedication ceremony in the West African nation of Benin, Pastor Pierre Barassounon gives SIM Missionary Grace Bernie a **newly-translated copy of the Monkolé New Testament**. Work continues as the Monkolé translation team tackles the Old Testament.