

# By Prayer

May-June 2020

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## Prayer Focus:

### **Church relationships and partnerships within and without SIM, seconded workers, and mission outreach activities and trips**

SIM has over 4,000 workers of more than 65 nationalities serving in over 70 countries. Because the Great Commission is a shared responsibility and opportunity, we partner with national churches and like-minded missions in places where our workers minister and where SIM does not have a presence. These partnerships multiply ministry and help proclaim the unity in Jesus Christ that is so winsome to those seeking God. This edition of *By Prayer* features partnerships with churches and other agencies, sharing workers (seconding) between agencies and more, all to further the reach of the gospel. Your participation in SIM's ministries *by prayer* is one of our most valuable partnerships.

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## May 2020

### MAY 01 FRIDAY

**International Leadership & Services** – SIM's longtime mission partner in Germany, DMG, became fully SIM on January 1.

Praise God for the many years of flourishing partnership that has brought us to this new season. Pray for the Lord to send many more German workers into His mission.

### MAY 02 SATURDAY

**Sports Friends** – Praise God for Hope Church in Richmond, Virginia, which embarked on their eighth trip to Ethiopia to share God's love at a Sports Friends camp last summer. Pray God would raise up many more churches to partner with Sports Friends!

### MAY 03 SUNDAY

**Faithful Witness Program** – Praise God for partnerships with Africa Inland Mission (AIM), Worldwide Evangelization for Christ (WEC), and The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM) to place workers in a community where Jesus is least known..

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## THE AMERICAS

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### MAY 04 MONDAY

**Ministry Focus, Tony and Jean Floyd, Paraguay** – Youth camp this year was a great success, and led completely by Paraguayans! I only helped in the kitchen, feeding 90 or so. The kids loved the "Rambo," a muddy obstacle course, and talks on "You Are Not Alone." Our son Luke loved leading worship, and at least four kids gave their lives to God. We see camp as one way to reach the whole of Paraguay—uniting our SIM churches, giving teens friendships with Christians from other towns, broadening their perspective on God and their world. Pray for building funds, unity in leadership, and many kids to be impacted by the camps.

### MAY 05 TUESDAY

**Bolivia** – Dr. Phil and Jan, lifelong workers in Bolivia, will minister to the SIM Bolivia team at the Spiritual Life Conference, June 30–July 4. Phil ministers to pastors throughout Latin America. Pray for this time of study and renewal for SIM Bolivia workers..

**Canada** – Pray for SIM Canada's Faithful Witness - Canada project, which is investing in partnerships with non-Euro Canadian churches to mobilize and support new "non-traditional" workers.

### MAY 06 WEDNESDAY

**Chile** – Part of SIM Chile's strategic plan is to strengthen relationships with local churches and partner with them in ministry. Pray for Manuel and Lucy as they meet with church leaders in Buin, their new home, with the goal of working together.

### MAY 07 THURSDAY

**Ecuador** – Pray SIM Ecuador works in a relationship of love, confidence and mutual collaboration with the local church, in commitment to biblical truth, evangelism, and discipleship, so they both display the good news of Jesus Christ with those in their communities.

#### MAY 08 FRIDAY

**Latinoamérica** – Please ask God to supply abundant support for Latin American workers. Raising support is especially difficult. Ask for more donors to help finance the SIM Latinoamérica office as well, so staff can continue sending workers.

#### MAY 09 SATURDAY

**Paraguay** – Pray the relationship between SIM Paraguay and local Church leaders strengthens vision and impact within churches and the community. Ask for greater unity and growth in developing new leaders and helping one another be and stay strong in faith and vision.

#### MAY 10 SUNDAY

**Peru** – Pray for Christians in Action Church as they seek to reach out to their community through holistic ministry, and for two SIM workers who labor with them. Pray for wisdom in forming relationships with community members and success in introducing them to Jesus.

#### MAY 11 MONDAY

**United States** – SIM USA is striving to partner better with churches to identify and prepare new workers. Pray for wisdom and insight to work well with pastors and mission committees. Ask God for key church partners to journey together in discovering new ways to partner.

**Uruguay** – Thank God for the opportunity to reach students from the interior who are staying in SIM-owned student housing in the capital. Pray for fruitful relationships with a worker from El Salvador who has come for 6 months to live among the students to mentor them!

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### EUROPE, NORTH & WEST AFRICA

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#### MAY 12 TUESDAY

**Ministry Focus, Pete and Carolyn Bitner, Togo** – Last year our small denomination of churches began its own Bible institute, in faith, with nine students and five wives. They made it through their first year despite struggles and questions. In their second year, they are now meeting in rented rooms in a small city close to the church and home of the director, Pastor Sylvain, who is the main professor. Students do church ministry on weekends, with some evangelizing in nearby villages. Ask God's provision for qualified teachers for each module, since Sylvain is away several times a year for his own theological studies.

#### MAY 13 WEDNESDAY

**France** – The Mission Discovery program has been cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 crisis. Please pray God will use those who registered, even though they aren't able to minister abroad this summer.

#### MAY 14 THURSDAY

**Switzerland** – Several of Switzerland's long-term workers are leaving service, but no new workers are planning to go long term. Please pray the Lord of the harvest will call workers willing to serve Him wherever He sends them.

#### MAY 15 FRIDAY

**United Kingdom** – The results of a multi-mission agency research project to map intercultural ministry across the UK are being collated for publication. Pray this research increases the effectiveness of UK churches in making disciples of the nations locally and globally.

**North Africa** – Churches in parts of North Africa battle the enemy who works to destroy the unity of believers. Ask for those called as peacemakers to gracefully build unity in their fellowship. Pray SIM workers model unity well and encourage these peacemakers in their efforts.

#### MAY 16 SATURDAY

**Benin** – The SIM-related Church in Benin is gathering May 20-22 for a biannual council meeting. Pray God will direct their discussion and grant wisdom and courage as they seek to implement their vision of 600 new churches by 2022.

#### MAY 17 SUNDAY

**Burkina Faso** – Pray for the local Church as it grieves over attacks in the North where church members and others in the community died. Pray for those who mourn, for those who are causing harm, and for the Church to continue to be a light in these difficult circumstances.

#### MAY 18 MONDAY

**Côte d'Ivoire** – Praise God for the completion of a new church in northern Côte d'Ivoire. About 700 heard the gospel preached in their own language, and nearly half heard the good news for the first time! Pray abundant fruit grows in fertile soil from this church.

#### MAY 19 TUESDAY

**Ghana** – Praise God for fruitful meetings with the Good News Bible Church and SIM Ghana, which culminated in a memorandum of understanding. Ask God to guide the leaders as they look together at strategies to equip the Church to reach those who need to hear God's good news.

#### MAY 20 WEDNESDAY

**Guinea** – Pray for the ministry of Guinea's audio media studio, which provides resources for Christian workers from multiple organizations and churches. Pray for God's leading as they seek a qualified recording technician.

#### MAY 21 THURSDAY

**Liberia** – SIM Liberia, through ELWA Hospital and the Evangelical Church in Liberia, is conducting healthcare outreaches to remote underserved areas. Pray the teams effectively minister relief of physical suffering and make Jesus known where He is least known.

#### MAY 22 FRIDAY

**Mali** – As SIM Mali seeks to focus church planting in villages, pray the Lord provides a pastor to care for and nurture the church already established in one of the villages.

#### MAY 23 SATURDAY

**Niger** – Several church leaders appreciated the combination of theological teaching and practical experience in a recent Advanced Security Training. Pray SIM Niger can facilitate future trainings and walk well with their brothers and sisters in increasingly insecure times.

#### MAY 24 SUNDAY

**Nigeria** – Normally summer brings changes of SIM workers going for holiday and interns and others arriving. COVID19-related travel restrictions are forcing change. Pray wisdom for those who need to leave urgently, and health and protection for those waiting it out.

#### MAY 25 MONDAY

**Senegal** – Seconded to a WEC missionary school, Eli and Margaret act as dorm parents, teach, and are involved in many other capacities. Pray for good ongoing relationship building, the upcoming Seniors Weekend camp and finishing well with six dorm students about to graduate.

#### MAY 26 TUESDAY

**Togo** – SIM workers Pierre and Pete, along with two workers from partner denominations, are invited to the ECWA-Togo (SIM-related denomination) board meetings held several times each year. Ask the Lord to give them wisdom, as they're often looked to for advice and ideas.

**West African Missions Office (WAMO)** – Praise for five new accepted members through WAMO and 20 candidates for orientation in June. Pray the COVID-19 outbreak will decrease so this training and other planned ministries can proceed. Pray for a couple who lost a baby at birth and another raising support.

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### EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA

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#### MAY 27 WEDNESDAY

**Ministry Focus, Eduardo and Jocelyn De Souza, CEML Hospital, Angola** – God's plans are bigger! Our Minnesota team came to show God's love in various ways, but their focus was painting a 120-foot mural on the wall of our patient housing. We've faced a lack of Bible knowledge when sharing the gospel with patients, and fear of spirits, so we dreamed of a mural that would powerfully picture the gospel from Genesis to Revelation. Recently a group of local artists saw our mural and loved it. They are now reproducing it on one of the largest walls of a busy street in Lubango! Pray knowledge of God increases.

#### MAY 28 THURSDAY

**Angola** – Overland Mission (OM) and SIM are working together to strengthen evangelism in southwestern Angola. Ask God to expedite visas for a new OM couple eager to join SIM workers and Tchicombe Christians in reaching out to neighboring farm communities.

#### MAY 29 FRIDAY

**Botswana** – March update: H and her foster son's church joined them in a week of prayer. Praise the Lord for this unity around one suffering member. While the fight is ongoing, there already is a big change. Please continue to proclaim Jesus' victory over this spiritual battle.

#### MAY 30 SATURDAY

**East Africa Service Center (EASC)** – The EASC team's desire is to be able to serve more SIM countries. Therefore, pray with them for increased wisdom and unity among their team to be able to provide excellent service in a cost-effective manner.

#### MAY 31 SUNDAY

**East African Office** – Pray the East African office works promptly with partner organizations, ministries, and sending churches as it aims to finalize candidate workers and their respective assignments with the right member care and evaluation.

## June 2020

#### JUN 01 MONDAY

**Eritrea** – Continue to pray for prisoners for Jesus to be released. Ask for radio broadcasts to reach many hungry for Jesus and for Eritreans to be united in tireless efforts to strengthen the Church inside the country's boundaries and in the diaspora.

#### JUN 02 TUESDAY

**Ethiopia** – The SIM Ethiopia team is focusing on "Equipping the Church TO GO Where Christ is Least Known." Pray the Holy Spirit speaks through them and the Church as they work among hard-to-reach people groups. Ask for fruitful partnerships with other like-minded organizations.

#### JUN 03 WEDNESDAY

**Kenya** – Pray for smooth leadership transitions in the SIM Kenya office and wisdom in decisions regarding potential placements.

**Madagascar** – With only a few long-term doctors, the Good News Hospital regularly experiences occasions when there is only one doctor per department. Praise the Lord for stamina and energy for those times. Please pray for more long-term doctors—Malagasy or expatriate.

#### JUN 04 THURSDAY

**Malawi** – Praise God for SIM's partnership with the Africa Evangelical Church in discipleship, youth, children, and leadership training. Plead for more pastors to answer God's call and the leaders and finances to train them. Ask for loving relationships at all levels..

#### JUN 05 FRIDAY

**Mascarene Islands** – Praise God for opportunities for SIM missionaries to partner with churches in the Mascarene Islands. Pray these relationships are strengthened as they work together in service and outreach efforts. Ask God to provide wisdom and fruitfulness in these partnerships.

#### JUN 06 SATURDAY

**Mozambique** – Please pray visas for two new workers are approved soon. One is from Chile and another from Malawi. They will serve with SIM Mozambique doing evangelism and children's ministries.

#### JUN 07 SUNDAY

**Namibia** – SIM Namibia's team is excited to host a church team from the US at the end of June. Pray all details work out smoothly, travel is uneventful, both the teams see God glorified by this trip and many are introduced to saving knowledge of Jesus.

#### JUN 08 MONDAY

**Southern Africa Service Center (SASC)** – Please pray the SLC gatherings held by the region’s teams bless and invigorate them, and for the regional council taking place this month. Please pray also for the SASC team, working with very few staff and awaiting a new services manager.

#### JUN 09 TUESDAY

**South Africa** – Pray good rest, fellowship and encouragement from the Word as the South Africa team hold their Spiritual Life Conference June 29–July 3. Also pray for The Bridge Team, a training partner equipping people to share the gospel with those who don’t know Jesus.

**South Sudan & Sudan** – Pray the partnership between the Sudan Interior Church and SIM stays strong while SIM Sudan seeks a new director. Ask for their united efforts to make Jesus known continue drawing interest, and for a new director to be identified soon.

#### JUN 10 WEDNESDAY

**Tanzania** – SIM partners with churches in worship, evangelism efforts, and Bible studies as well as interacting with a wide range of interdenominational ministries. Pray for loving, growing relationships that spur followers to share Jesus with friends who do not know Him.

#### JUN 11 THURSDAY

**Zambia** – Give thanks that SIM is working together with Christian Health Service Corps (CHSC) to find medical help for Muinge Hospital. Pray for the two doctors and their families joining the team this year through CHSC.

#### JUN 12 FRIDAY

**Zimbabwe** – Pray God sends more workers to Zimbabwe. The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are very few. Also, Zimbabwe is in the rainy season and has had rain for the past two months, but with it came malaria. Pray God heals the land of malaria.

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### WEST & SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA

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#### JUN 13 SATURDAY

**Ministry Focus, SIM worker, South Asia** – As physician and speech therapist, we have started caring for patients at a rehabilitation hospital that serves patients with stroke, spinal cord injury, cerebral palsy, and leprosy. One patient came after his stroke with little use of his right side, not able to speak or swallow. Receiving hope and compassion, his demeanor has transformed. He now smiles and interacts, although his severe disabilities may not improve. As a follower of the majority religion, pray he may experience Christ’s love and miraculous healing to testify to Jesus’ power and goodness.

#### JUN 14 SUNDAY

**Middle East** – Rejoice and pray for a church-based community health outreach to underserved and refugee families. Weekly medical clinics and follow-up home visits prayerfully aim to promote physical and spiritual health, build relationships and demonstrate Jesus’s love.

#### JUN 15 MONDAY

**Bangladesh** – SIM Bangladesh’s most pressing need is for two couples to start a new team at a technical training center to disciple young men while training them in motorcycle and mobile repair and electric wiring. Pray God soon sends skilled couples with a heart to disciple.

#### JUN 16 TUESDAY

**India** – Please pray for the interns who are now in India placed with SIM’s partners. Ask our Father to help them find favor, wisdom, good health and a deep sense of purpose and mission as they get involved, and for them to return home feeling blessed and refreshed.

**Nepal** – Two SIM families seconded to International Nepal Fellowship (INF) help provide health care in Nepal. Pray for a strong Nepali believer to be selected as superintendent for their hospital. Pray patients and coworkers see Jesus in the lives of SIM and INF workers.

#### JUN 17 WEDNESDAY

**Pakistan** – Sadly, the decision had to be made to close Murree Christian School, where SIM MKs have studied for 65 years. Please pray for solutions to the MK education crisis in Pakistan, and for people with a heart for MKs to step forward to minister there.

#### JUN 18 THURSDAY

**Sri Lanka** – SIM Sri Lanka seeks to partner with a small sending agency in the country. Please pray for God's wisdom and leading through the process as they discuss the details of partnership, and for good understanding and relationships which will bless them both.

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### ASIA-PACIFIC

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#### JUN 19 FRIDAY

**Ministry Focus, Eric and Sue Takamoto, Japan** – Nozomi Project is a faith-based social enterprise bringing income, dignity and hope to women in Ishinomaki, Japan by training them to craft high-quality jewelry, mostly featuring broken pieces of pottery left in the wake of the 2011 tsunami. Now we are working with a team in another Asian country to create a sewing project for vulnerable women there. Local Nozomi and church friends visited with us, and we've loved seeing God give them new vision. One young lady we visited has already left her job at a red-light bar! Pray God will guide and bless, and lives will be changed..

#### JUN 20 SATURDAY

**Australia** – There are many in communities affected by the bush fires still adjusting to a new normal life, as they lost loved ones, homes and businesses. Pray comfort for those suffering from trauma, and strength for churches banding together to assist these people.

**China** – Please pray for the members of the China team who have been out of China for a few months due to COVID-19. Pray God would help them as they settle back into ministry in China.

#### JUN 21 SUNDAY

**East Asia** – Many churches in East Asia are sending workers directly. Pray for wisdom in engaging and partnering with them to facilitate success in their mission endeavor. Pray also for these churches to understand and invest in good member care.

#### JUN 22 MONDAY

**Indonesia** – Pray for God to lead with discernment in finding and choosing godly people for the SIM Indonesia Board of Directors. Pray also for wisdom in developing a strategic ministry foundation, mobilization of workers, and registration with the government.

#### JUN 23 TUESDAY

**Japan** – Much of SIM's work in Japan is done through a strategic partnership with Asian Access. Please pray this partnership will help the 99% of Japanese people who do not know Jesus Christ to be transformed by the gospel.

#### JUN 24 WEDNESDAY

**Korea** – SIM Korea seeks to increase the number of churches and donors to better serve their missionary families and ministries. Ask God to raise up more young people to work in missions. Pray for inner peace and protection for Korea from the coronavirus.

#### JUN 25 THURSDAY

**Mongolia** – Pray the relationships between supporting churches and workers grow in their connection through strong financial support as well as diligent, reciprocal prayer, transparent communication, loving care and deeply connected partnerships.

#### JUN 26 FRIDAY

**Myanmar** – Please pray for opportunities to make meaningful connections with people and to speak the truth of God's Word both to fellow believers and to those who are lost. Pray for peace in an ever-fluctuating environment.

#### JUN 27 SATURDAY

**New Zealand** – Thank God for the New Zealand team and the work they do. Pray He raises more committed people to invest in missions and equip those He calls. Pray passionate people skilled in many ways answer the need to reach those around the world who do not yet know Jesus.

#### JUN 28 SUNDAY

**Philippines** – Praise for existing SIM Philippines partnerships and relationships with other organizations and churches. Pray these relationships continue to be strengthened and for new partnerships to be developed.

#### JUN 29 MONDAY

**Thailand** – The Wells family is one of the many SIM families serving on church planting teams in partnership with Overseas Missionary Fellowship International (OMF) in Thailand. Pray for resilience in this frontline ministry and for open hearts to the gospel.

#### JUN 30 TUESDAY

**Vietnam** – Churches and mission groups collaborate with SIM to train church leaders in theology, marriage and family, but workshop schedules were disrupted due to COVID-19. Pray for God's quick healing and for restoration of a normal training calendar.

**West Malaysia** – Praise God for the growing network of churches and partners joining the work in West Malaysia. The COVID-19 outbreak made the start of 2020 challenging for church activities and outreach. Pray God's protection over all so the gospel will continue to advance.

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#### Thank you for praying.

If you would like to receive these prayer calendars by email, please reply to [simusa.byprayer@sim.org](mailto:simusa.byprayer@sim.org). To update your postal address or request to be added or removed from this mailing, call (800) 521-6449.

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*"...to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:21NIV*

*"We may not see eye to eye but we can still walk side by side." David Garrison*

Praying for Missionaries – Many requests are long-term, needing ongoing prayer. Some, like the ones following and to the right, need frequent, fervent prayer. Keep praying and listening to the Holy Spirit, for your prayers have far-reaching effect!

*"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way." Ephesians 1:22-23 NIV*

*"God has chosen us, the church, to be a blessing to all people. You are blessed to be a blessing." Nicky Gumbel*

*"...Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church." 1 Corinthians 14:12 NIV*