

# By Prayer

## September-October 2020

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### Prayer Focus:

**Compassion ministries of agriculture, clean water, community health and outreach, human trafficking, and hunger and famine.**

SIM believes God has called us to compassionate, holistic service in this broken world by alleviating suffering and fostering development, while humbly acknowledging the ultimate human need is to know God. SIM seeks to follow the example of Jesus, who compassionately met the needs of people while He also spoke eternal truths. Compassion ministries give us the opportunity to offer both physical and spiritual healing to those seeking relief from physical pain. When people find both physical and spiritual health and life, societies are changed. Journey with us as we open our hearts to areas in the world where suffering is being relieved and workers are strengthened *by prayer*.

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## September 2020

### SEP 01 TUESDAY

**International Leadership & Services** – Pray for an initiative by SIM ministry leaders (ministry point people) to equip churches and communities for a holistic, gospel-based response to COVID-19. This includes four video modules and training of facilitators in SIM fields.

### SEP 02 WEDNESDAY

**Sports Friends** – Give thanks that Sports Friends was able to work with local churches to deliver basic food necessities to more than 300 vulnerable families in the most affected areas of Lima, Peru.

**Faithful Witness Program** – Faithful Witness teams in Chad and Mali focus on building relationships through meeting human needs. Pray these ministries demonstrate Christ's love by enriching the community through providing veterinary services and community health support.

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## THE AMERICAS

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### SEP 03 THURSDAY

**Ministry Focus, Neil and Ingrid (Canada), S. Asia** – Before COVID-19 struck, Ingrid visited children with disabilities to do physiotherapy. Now, with lockdowns in place, she has a telehealth ministry, treating a patient in stroke recovery through WhatsApp--a first for her. Each daily session requires one family member on the phone and another doing the exercises. The patient has made great progress, especially since his son does the exercises twice a day. Neil uses WhatsApp differently, to meet with and pray for people with various illnesses. Pray their ministries would open conversations about the gospel.

### SEP 04 FRIDAY

**Bolivia** – SIM's medical teammates helped build a mobile field hospital and prepared provisions for jobless people and others who are suffering. Pray stamina and safety for Director Teresa, doctors Steve and Meghan, and nurses Caitlin and Daisy at Allinta Ruwana Clinic.

### SEP 05 SATURDAY

**Canada** – Praise God for no COVID-19 cases at the Benin HIV/AIDS clinic so far. Thank God for teammates who are keeping the clinic open while workers are in the USA. Pray people follow guidelines for safe contact and travel to limit COVID-19, and workers can return soon..

### SEP 06 SUNDAY

**Chile** – Praise for Chile's interim director who began in July. Pray special wisdom and capability for him in adjusting to his new role, as well as dealing with the unusual times and uncharted situations daily challenging him and the team.

### SEP 07 MONDAY

**Ecuador** – Through Ecuador's compassion ministry, Firstfruits Garden Project, people learn to grow basic, simple-to-cultivate vegetables for their families. Pray they meet Jesus while they hear Bible stories of how the Creator loves them and wants to restore their lives.

#### SEP 08 TUESDAY

**Latinoamérica** – Praise God for the development of an online course for churches to use to increase their vision for missions. Pray many who take the course hear God's call to serve Him. Pray also for Director Julieta Murillo, as she is experiencing some health issues.

#### SEP 09 WEDNESDAY

**Paraguay** – Samuel and Kate McDowell are doctors in rural Paraguay, learning language and culture and seeking which of the many unreached communities nearby to engage long-term as church planters. Pray for continued protection and spiritual impact as they treat patients.

#### SEP 10 THURSDAY

**Peru** – Medical and dental ministry trips have been suspended due to COVID-19. Pray for wisdom in finding creative ways to do medical ministry in the city of Arequipa and guidance in when to safely resume outreaches to rural areas in Abancay.

#### SEP 11 FRIDAY

**United States** – The U.S. office is transitioning to outcomes-based budgeting. Pray God would give us wisdom to budget for strategies that will produce the outcomes we believe He is leading us to accomplish. Pray also for good change management.

**Uruguay** – Please pray God would continue to help students currently going through the three-year training process of Catalyst. Ask Him to help them grow in their love for the Lord and in their ability to serve others in a biblical, Christ-like manner.

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### EUROPE, NORTH & WEST AFRICA

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#### SEP 12 SATURDAY

**Ministry Focus, Sherry, West Africa** – In November we held a trauma healing session for persecuted Jesus-followers from a nearby country. I was humbled by the pain, sufferings and testimonies of God's protection they openly shared. While there, God supernaturally delivered them from their infirmities. One lady was changed so powerfully that her husband became a follower of Jesus too! Now this couple has been rejected by family, and are living with the pastor of the underground church. Pray their experience of God will encourage their church to trust the Lord through trials.

#### SEP 13 SUNDAY

**France** – Priscilla is a midwife who recently moved to a Fulani community of a West African country to help women with health issues and reach out to them with the good news of Jesus. Pray for ease in learning the Fulani language and growth of good relationships.

#### SEP 14 MONDAY

**Switzerland** – There will be lots of repair and transformation of the more than 100-year-old location of the Swiss SIM office until November. Please pray for God's help and grace for the construction work, and for those who have to do office work in less favourable conditions.

#### SEP 15 TUESDAY

**United Kingdom** – SIM UK's board and Director's Leadership Team have a strategic review in 2020/21. Pray they wisely plan to encourage a greater diversity and number of evangelical churches to reach many more people with the gospel in, to, and from Britain and Ireland.

#### SEP 16 WEDNESDAY

**North Africa** – Through a partner organization, SIM supports community development, capacity building, job creation and social justice. This partner is in urgent need of a new international director. Please pray God provides a person for this team's significant leadership role.

**Benin** – Pray the Dorcas widows will continue to meet regularly for prayer in smaller groups. Several have lost family members recently. Pray they would grow in their faith and be an encouragement to one another.

#### SEP 17 THURSDAY

**Burkina Faso** – Praise God for SIM's partnership with churches to distribute food and other basic supplies to internally displaced people in the East even though the team was smaller due to COVID-19. Continue to pray for all those who have been displaced by violence.

#### SEP 18 FRIDAY

**Côte d'Ivoire** – Praise for growing team unity. Ask God for wisdom and insight as the team seeks to establish two new projects and plans to renew their vision in 2021. Pray wisdom for Jean Seri in leading the radio project, and for October 31 elections to be peaceful.

#### SEP 19 SATURDAY

**Ghana** – Last year the Church and SIM started a project to help people suffering from destruction caused by too much rain. Pray rains this year would be at the right time and amount to produce a strong harvest. Pray also for funds for the project to keep helping people.

#### SEP 20 SUNDAY

**Guinea** – One of SIM's partner organizations works closely with university students who often have critical needs of food and lodging. Pray for a deep work of the Spirit as they meet physical needs and study God's Word together.

#### SEP 21 MONDAY

**Liberia** – Liberians in remote villages often lack access to basic healthcare or to Christian witness. The Evangelical Church in Liberia sends medical and evangelistic teams to these villages to minister to both needs. Pray for success for this outreach partnership.

#### SEP 22 TUESDAY

**Mali** – Mali is a landlocked country that suffers drought and famine from time to time. Pray for an abundance of appropriate rain to produce a bountiful harvest this year.

#### SEP 23 WEDNESDAY

**Niger** – With workers split between Niger and the USA because of disrupted travel plans, all are exploring creative solutions. Pray for reliance on God and for His peace to permeate the team and country. Pray for good crops this rainy season, since crops last year were poor.

#### SEP 24 THURSDAY

**Nigeria** – As Nigeria opens to provide work and food, virus cases increase. Health services are under great pressure treating COVID-19 patients, and numbers are likely to rise further. Pray wisdom for those making strategic decisions for the country and medically.

#### SEP 25 FRIDAY

**Senegal** – Kody and Jennifer Sanderfer are starting a holistic community health project in a semi-rural area just outside Dakar. Pray for good connections with villagers, mutual comprehension in Wolof, and wisdom as to which health issues they should focus on initially.

#### SEP 26 SATURDAY

**Togo** – SIM missionaries live in a city where the majority are of another religion. May their natural friendships with neighbors flow into conversations to share the good news of Jesus as they lend a listening ear, help with needs, and show kindness.

**West African Missions Office (WAMO)** – Praise God for nine new SIM members approved through online interviews! Pray their churches and communities support them spiritually and financially so they can be ready to go. Ask God for an end to COVID-19 in His timing and for workers to wait patiently on Him.

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### EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA

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#### SEP 27 SUNDAY

**Ministry Focus, Pat Walcott, South Sudan** – We were holding a weekly eye clinic, using the Bible in several languages as reading material. A generous gift of Arabic Bibles has enabled us to pass out 57 to willing recipients. One man who was depressed came to get glasses. After the eye exam and fitting, he agreed to take an Arabic Bible. Our worker said, "I hope you use your new glasses to read this book and learn how much God loves you." He left and is reportedly doing better. Simple eye exams have led to 50 people accepting Jesus and Arabic Bibles going into areas not yet reached. Pray God will change hearts!

#### SEP 28 MONDAY

**Angola** – Praise God for good rains that ended several years of drought. Pray the staff at Tchincombe Cattle Ranch grow in faith in the Lord while the Fosters are in the USA. Ask God to wisely guide the UIEA\* Church in choosing a future management plan for the ranch.

#### SEP 29 TUESDAY

**Botswana** – Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Tanner family wasn't able to return to the UK in June as planned. Praise God they used the additional time to disciple local Christians through videos. Pray the family settles into the UK well once a flight is available.

#### SEP 30 WEDNESDAY

**East Africa Service Center (EASC)** – Continue to pray for the East Africa Service Center team as they work to supply services throughout the impact of COVID-19. Pray also for godly key leaders to be identified to fill multiple director and coordinator positions.

## October 2020

#### OCT 01 THURSDAY

**East African Office** – As the effects of COVID-19 continue, pray the East African Office staff effectively encourage churches and partners suffering from the economic impact of the long-lasting pandemic. Pray churches use this time to spread the light of Jesus in their communities.

#### OCT 02 FRIDAY

**Eritrea** – Ask God to continue to strengthen and grow the Eritrean Church worldwide. Ask steadfastness for those in prison and in refugee camps. Continue to pray for a SIM ministry coordinator for Eritrea.

**Ethiopia** – Please pray for Ethiopia's medical and compassion ministries to find innovative and effective ways of ministering to both physical and spiritual needs during this unique and difficult time. Pray for boldness in sharing Jesus and a receptiveness in listeners.

#### OCT 03 SATURDAY

**Kenya** – The demand for ventilators and oxygen remains higher than the supply across Kenya. Pray for Kijabe Hospital staff and other medical teams to be beacons of hope with colleagues and patients as they continue to work tirelessly to mitigate the impact of COVID-19.

#### OCT 04 SUNDAY

**Madagascar** – Due to travel restriction related to COVID-19, the Good News Hospital in Mandritsara is extremely short staffed. Please pray for wisdom in balancing personnel needs and risks once international flights are possible again.

#### OCT 05 MONDAY

**Malawi** – Lazarus Chakwera, former head of the Malawi Assemblies of God Church, became Malawi's new president with 60% of the vote. This is a praise and call for ongoing prayer for Malawian Christians. Pray he, along with his ministers, will lead with integrity.

#### OCT 06 TUESDAY

**Mascarene Islands** – Praise God for the limited freedom to assemble at church! Continue to pray for the number of COVID-19 cases to decrease in Mauritius, since the economy is based largely on tourism. Pray the Church reaches out to those who are hopeless without Jesus.

#### OCT 07 WEDNESDAY

**Mozambique** – Pray wisdom for the SIM team as it figures out how to follow governmental guidelines for reopening and protecting students at INTEL (Instituto Teologico de Lichinga) Bible school, and for members of a new church plant and their extended families during the pandemic.

#### OCT 08 THURSDAY

**Namibia** – S. is working to build greater awareness of human trafficking and is trying to get a project registered with the government. Pray both of these efforts meet with success. Also please pray Michael Knight continues to have a smooth adjustment as acting director.

#### OCT 09 FRIDAY

**Southern Africa Service Center (SASC)** – The pandemic is greatly impacting the finances and movements of missionaries. Countries are planning online SLC\* events. Some directors are moving on or retiring by the end of 2020. Pray for God's peace, guidance and wisdom in the midst of all these changes.

#### OCT 10 SATURDAY

**South Africa** – Praise the Lord for food distributed during COVID-19 and for His provision for these communities. Pray the EBC\* and SIMSA agricultural project for faithful gospel witness to widows and orphans augments job creation, discipleship, and helps alleviate poverty.

#### OCT 11 SUNDAY

**South Sudan & Sudan** – Pray God continues to grant strength to the South Sudanese community health workers in Doro who have been shorthanded throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Give God praise for partners in the mission aviation field who continue to help maintain a vital stock of meds.

#### OCT 12 MONDAY

**Tanzania** – SIM's government registration needs to be renewed to continue working permits and to get new permits for more workers. Pray all the paperwork goes through smoothly. Pray for more workers to come reach those on the southeast coast living and dying without Jesus.

#### OCT 13 TUESDAY

**Zambia** – Give thanks that Dr. Snell has joined the team at Mukinge Hospital. COVID-19 has meant no short-term doctors for most of this year, so pray for refreshment and stamina for the doctors who have carried the extra workload.

**Zimbabwe** – The Famine Relief project using Farming God's Way positively impacted and improved food security for poor rural farmers. The growing season just started. Pray farmers stay in the project. Pray for increased funding before the end of 2020 to keep the program active.

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### WEST & SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA

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#### OCT 14 WEDNESDAY

**Ministry Focus, SIM worker, South Asia** – Aanshi's mother died when she was three, so she grew up on the streets with friends. This led to life as a sex worker and a tense marriage. At 20 she left for a better life in another country, but was caught in the sex trade there. She was released after eight months, for no reason, and went back to a hard life with her husband and his new wife. Aanshi's friends, former clients of our Children's Uplift Program, persuaded her to join. She's now getting counseling and holistic training in life skills and literacy. Pray the Lord will bring her to himself.

#### OCT 15 THURSDAY

**Middle East** – Child Friendly Spaces in North Iraq serves some of society's most vulnerable, including children with special needs. Staff, many themselves refugees, have been deeply impacted by the love and witness of local believers managing the centers. Pray for lasting fruit!

**Bangladesh** – Children's Uplift Program (CUP) works with trafficked women. Pray the staff will be a channel of God's love through which these women can find healing and wholeness. Pray God will give them the peace, security, acceptance and salvation that only Jesus can provide.

#### OCT 16 FRIDAY

**India** – The COVID-19 lockdown saw increased domestic violence and sexual abuse. Pray wisdom for partners giving mental health training and counseling to trafficking survivors, community projects, and churches so people experience Jesus' power to heal and change hearts.

#### OCT 17 SATURDAY

**Nepal** – A team of three works with remote communities through preschool, health, and hostel programs, as well as with church involvement and community outreach. Pray for discernment in selecting a new location. Pray for continuing language learning, too.

#### OCT 18 SUNDAY

**Pakistan** – Give thanks for the opportunities the Lord has provided to minister the gospel to women and children who have faced abuse and domestic violence. Pray for God's healing, and for wisdom for the SIM team as they serve.

#### OCT 19 MONDAY

**Sri Lanka** – Please pray for Kumar as he is in discussion with a small local sending agency for SIM to partner with in sending out missionaries. Pray for clarity in thought, open discussions and mutual benefit so kingdom outreach will be expanded.

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## ASIA-PACIFIC

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### OCT 20 TUESDAY

**Ministry Focus, SIM worker, Southeast Asia** – Kalili sells candy and cigarettes in our city, but feels unwelcome by local people due to her religion. During quarantine it is worse, as the government only gives leftover relief goods to their group after first providing for others. Together with SIM, we were happy to provide help for her family. She asked, “Why do you do this? You share when most are in survival mode.” We told her it was because of God’s love. This brought tears to her eyes. She stated her family wants to know more about Jesus and our Bible. Pray we present Jesus clearly, and they experience His saving grace.

### OCT 21 WEDNESDAY

**Australia** – Praise for God’s provision in the year-end appeal for funds for the COVID-19 emergency response project for hospitals in Galmi, India, Nigeria and Liberia. Pray ministry work through these hospitals continues to bless their communities.

### OCT 22 THURSDAY

**China** – Please pray God would raise up more workers to join the China team. Pray also for provision for many members who need to raise more financial support before they are able to return to China.

### OCT 23 FRIDAY

**East Asia** – SIM EA has compassion and community ministries in Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines. Please pray for more resources so the work can bless more people and make a bigger impact on lives. The relationships built open doors to sharing the gospel.

### OCT 24 SATURDAY

**Indonesia** – Pray for wisdom and grace for Josh and Shell Bowen as they work alongside local believers to establish relationships with marginalized groups in East Nusa Tenggara through community development and health initiatives.

### OCT 25 SUNDAY

**Japan** – As a part of partnering with the Church in Japan to multiply disciples, the missionary team is responding to felt needs. Pray for Japanese people to experience God’s love through ministry to orphans, disaster victims, food banks, and micro-businesses.

**Korea** – COVID-19’s prolonged presence is wearing out medical workers. Day laborers have lost jobs and small business owners are in danger of closing. Pray the Korean Church takes the lead in helping those in trouble and continues sending workers to share Jesus.

### OCT 26 MONDAY

**Mongolia** – Pray for Christian doctors and nurses in Mongolia who help people with their medical needs as well as those recovering from COVID-19. Pray for their safety and opportunities to share the good news with their colleagues and patients at this challenging time.

**Myanmar** – Pray for new initiatives in reaching out to communities to truly benefit the people and to spread the good news of Jesus. Ask for the interactions to help people transform how they live without fostering dependency on outside sources.

### OCT 27 TUESDAY

**New Zealand** – Please pray for SIM NZ as it continues to work with a large number of mission partners who are still in NZ or waiting to go on their first ministry assignment. Pray team support, member care and prayers will help keep them motivated.

### OCT 28 WEDNESDAY

**Philippines** – SIM runs feeding programs in five urban communities to enhance the health of children. Pray good relationships build trust with people and leaders, and lead to spiritual conversations. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow seeds of faith planted in the hearts of these people.

### OCT 29 THURSDAY

**Thailand** – Pray for the Hope for Life Thailand team as it comes alongside many who are vulnerable and whose health, finances, relationships and emotional wellbeing have been impacted by COVID-19. Pray God will provide opportunities to share His hope and light.

#### OCT 30 FRIDAY

**Vietnam** – Join in thanking God for training partners who are teaching workshops in the absence of SIM workers due to COVID-19. Pray for clarity on when workers should return to join them in training. Pray God will appoint the right person to fill the country director role.

#### OCT 31 SATURDAY

**West Malaysia** – Migrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees are in need due to COVID-19. Other families suffer due to the closing of their workplaces. Pray the Church will regard this crisis as an opportunity to show the empathy and solidarity of Jesus with the hopeless.

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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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Please keep in mind the rapidly changing environment caused by COVID-19 as you pray through this edition. Graciously apply godly wisdom in praying for events that may be happening very differently than presented.

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3:12 NIV*

*"Sometimes we are doing so much that our families are missing us. This [COVID-19] is just making me rethink life generally. We see God working through all of this." Sports Friends Coach*

Because you Prayed – In May you prayed for medical help for Mukinge Hospital. This edition celebrates the coming of Dr. Snell!

*"Truth becomes hard if it is not softened by love; love becomes soft if it is not strengthened by truth." John Stott*

*"Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love." Lamentations 3:32 NIV*

*By Prayer request* – To enhance the usefulness of our prayer ministry and stay sensitive to our times, we are evaluating our prayer tools. Pray for us as we reimagine this ministry to increase our audience and strengthen prayer support for SIM USA work and workers.

Meanings of acronyms starred in requests:

- 9/28 **UIEA** = união de Igrejas Evangélicas de Angola or Union of Evangelical Churches of Angola
- 10/9 **SLC** = Spiritual Life Conference
- 10/10 **EBC** = Evangelical Bible Church