

By Prayer

November-December 2020

Prayer Focus:

Art, drama, online apps, literature and distribution, recruiting workers, equipment maintenance and technical support

SIM responds creatively and courageously to changing needs and opportunities as the Holy Spirit guides. As we look back on 2020, we can see God's hand sovereignly working, opening new, unexpected opportunities for the gospel. To be effective and relevant in these times, we believe in continually evaluating and adapting our ministries, priorities and structures. In this edition of *By Prayer* we will pray for new programs, approaches to recruitment, and resources and technological advances to increase the spread of the gospel. Some of these were unimaginable last year, including some to this publication. We are confident the Holy Spirit will lead us in 2021 in creative gospel work as we pursue Him together *by prayer*.

November 2020

NOV 01 SUNDAY

International Leadership & Services – The SIM technical support team worldwide helps with mobile phones and hardware issues, adjusts operating systems and gives help with antivirus software, email malfunctions and direction with new tools like TEAMS and OneDrive. Pray wisdom for them in all they do.

NOV 02 MONDAY

Sports Friends – Praise God the Sports Friends ministry continues to thrive and expand! Pray for wisdom for a group tasked with increasing the size of Sports Friends teams to support the continued growth and effectiveness of the ministry.

NOV 03 TUESDAY

Faithful Witness Program – Ask courage and God's provision for church-planting teams forming in eight strategic areas around the world. May many more faithful witnesses join these teams! Pray Philippians 1:11 for team members and grace for new workers paused due to COVID restrictions.

THE AMERICAS

NOV 04 WEDNESDAY

Ministry Focus, Marco/Francesca Barbee, Ecuador – When I first met Elena, her family lived with her in-laws while her husband worked overseas and sent money home. We shared our vision to sell Ecuadorian products in the U.S. and she jumped at the opportunity, renting time on looms to fill orders. The past 16 years, our sales of their products have enabled them to build their own home, school their kids, and buy their own looms. She also opened her heart to Jesus's love! Pray the Lord continues to enable sales, draw people to Himself, and help us begin to launch gospel workers from nontraditional backgrounds.

NOV 05 THURSDAY

Bolivia – There are currently seven Bolivian missionary households serving with SIM around the world. Pray for wisdom as SIM Bolivia collaborates with Richelle Webb of SIM Latinoamerica to eventually assume responsibility and care for these missionary families.

Canada – Praise God for the desire to create and the ability to point people to Him through art. Please pray for energy and ideas to overflow in writers, artists and musicians as they use their gifts to bless others in love.

NOV 06 FRIDAY

Chile – Biblical discipleship is the main focus of the SIM Chile team as it implements recommendations of the strategic country review done last year. Pray for new workers who are passionate about and gifted in biblical discipleship to join in these new plans.

NOV 07 SATURDAY

Ecuador – When pandemic restrictions began in Ecuador, the Waves of Hope SIM radio ministry started airing a series called “The Fascinating World of the Bible.” Pray viewers capture the biblical teachings and Diego uses godly wisdom in sharing the gospel.

NOV 08 SUNDAY

Latinoamérica – Thank God for the social networks SIM Latin America uses to reach Latinos around the world. Ask the Lord to lead them to these networks to fulfill their call to serve Him. Pray those who respond to inquirers have the wisdom to answer their questions.

Paraguay – Praise God for the communications team that has faithfully and strategically created and maintains a multi-lingual Facebook presence (LaSIMParaguay). Pray God uses these efforts to bring more workers to the harvest field in Paraguay from anywhere in the world!

NOV 09 MONDAY

Peru – Please pray wisdom in decision-making for the president of Peru and the officials in charge of the COVID-19 crisis. Lift up those who are in need. Pray for provision and guidance for ministry efforts to meet those needs.

NOV 10 TUESDAY

United States – Fervently praying Matthew 9:38, we’ve sought God’s direction for wisdom and creativity for new ways to recruit workers. Praise Him for innovative ideas. Pray for implementation, responsive hearts, and for many more people who will help SIM make Jesus known.

NOV 11 WEDNESDAY

Uruguay – The La Ruta college outreach this semester has staff meet with groups of five in person to interact on a recorded chat. Please pray for SIM workers Nate and Luisa Harley as they have transparent interactions about faith with two students who don’t yet know Jesus.

EUROPE, NORTH & WEST AFRICA

NOV 12 THURSDAY

Ministry Focus, John-Mark/Sara Sheppard, Liberia – John-Mark creatively uses Scripture he translates to reach the Manya. Faith Comes By Hearing helped him develop an app for smartphones with text and audio of the Manya Bible, which he shared with his Manya literacy teachers. He also works to equip lay leaders in village churches along the Guinea/Liberia border—many of whom speak the language and are in a strategic position to reach the Manya with the gospel. Some have already shared the audio Scriptures with Manya neighbors with positive results. Pray the Lord will use these resources to draw the Manya to Himself.

NOV 13 FRIDAY

France – Praise for the increased growth of SIM France-Belgium. Pray the implementation of a new organizational plan to handle the growth is fluid and efficient for God’s kingdom. Pray also for Jean Salmeron, who is beginning his third term as director.

NOV 14 SATURDAY

Switzerland – Praise the Lord for faithful workers who served many years and have now returned to Switzerland. Pray for Him to lead those who had to cancel their short-term trips this year. Ask God to call more workers from Switzerland to reach those who do not yet know Jesus..

NOV 15 SUNDAY

United Kingdom – Two months ago, SIM UK launched a prayer email aimed to open the eyes of primary-aged children to the gospel needs around the world. Pray for the families receiving this email and the future workers who may be reading.

NOV 16 MONDAY

North Africa – The North Africa team seeks creative methods and opportunities to recruit with sensitivity for the security of its area. Thank God for bringing well-qualified candidates to consider working in the region with skill sets and backgrounds that enhance the work.

NOV 17 TUESDAY

Benin – Praise God! Four thousand copies of the Yom Bible have arrived in Benin and are now being distributed. This is the first complete publication. Pray all the Yom people will love and delight in God's word.

NOV 18 WEDNESDAY

Burkina Faso – Pray for peace to surround the presidential and parliamentary election scheduled for November 22. With many expatriates out of the country during the election, pray for wisdom and strength for team members who remain as they continue the ministry of SIM Burkina.

Côte d'Ivoire – Ask God to give the SIM Côte d'Ivoire team wisdom to promote peaceful relationships with their contacts and point them to the Prince of Peace. Pray for AGIR, a reconciliation ministry, to promote discussions on peace in all levels of society.

NOV 19 THURSDAY

Ghana – Challenge Enterprises takes gospel literature all over Ghana. Pray lives will be transformed as people read tracts and books they buy. Continue to pray for adequate funding and volunteers so gospel tracts and Scripture booklets will continue to be printed.

NOV 20 FRIDAY

Guinea – David, Katie and their children have begun a new term in Guinea. Pray for the Spirit's leading as they discern the opportunities God has prepared for them. Pray their children would experience God's provision, power and love as they transition once again.

NOV 21 SATURDAY

Liberia – Scarcity of qualified, equipped workers passionate about the spread of the gospel can slow or stop progress in the goal of making Jesus known. Pray God calls accountants, administrators, and other technical professionals to join SIM's work in Liberia.

NOV 22 SUNDAY

Mali – Two reliable, durable 4WD vehicles are needed to serve the Mali Faithful Witness team and others going the 375 miles of rough roads from Bamako to their ministry area. Ask God to provide funds for these vehicles and for the team to be able to minister there soon.

Niger – In August the Niger River dramatically flooded, destroying dykes, gardens, and neighborhoods in the capital. Pray for wisdom as SIM Niger makes decisions about their properties and how to best love their neighbors who have lost so much.

NOV 23 MONDAY

Nigeria – The closure of schools and colleges and the associated recession have hit the customer base of SIM Nigeria-approved ministry Africa Christian Textbooks (ACTS). Pray it can continue and thrive in importing and publishing quality Christian books for Nigeria.

NOV 24 TUESDAY

Senegal – Over 2,000 people have one of the Wolof Bible apps installed on their device. Work continues on a new app highlighting 99 names of God as a way to get new people engaging with Scripture. Pray for God's Word to change lives!

NOV 25 WEDNESDAY

Togo – Three small teams are translating discipleship materials into their local languages. Pray for accuracy in word choice and in meaning. Ask God to use these lessons as part of the spiritual understanding and growth process in the lives of new and old believers.

NOV 26 THURSDAY

West African Missions Office (WAMO) – Praise God for His constant care, support for WAMO workers, and successful online training of SIM candidates. Pray for those recovering from the loss of loved ones through conflict or flooding. Pray for good harvests in farming and recruiting new workers.

EAST & SOUTHERN AFRICA

NOV 27 FRIDAY

Ministry Focus, Rob/Meredith Ward, U.S. – Frealem is a lovely lady and maker of Ethiopian pottery who was ecstatic to learn Rob had brought an electric pottery wheel for Bingham Academy. She was even more excited when we and the school gifted it to her. Frealem has used it to provide for her family and extended family, to adopt a son, and help women in need make pottery to sell. God burdened us for Ethiopia's orphans, so we were excited to hear Frealem's plan to open a children's home. Pray for her salvation and that, despite the challenges of COVID-19, she can continue selling pottery and open the home.

NOV 28 SATURDAY

Angola – SIM Angola has four new households waiting to submit visas to enter Angola early in 2021. Pray the pandemic will not disrupt this process and ask God to provide them with patience, grace and faith as they complete support teams during this time of waiting.

NOV 29 SUNDAY

Botswana – Praise the Lord for generous donations and governmental provisions to distribute food to people in need due to restriction measures of COVID-19. The national and later local lockdown has also given H. much needed rest and time to spend with the Lord.

NOV 30 MONDAY

East Africa Service Center (EASC) – The EASC staff is rotating at minimal capacity in order to be protected from COVID-19. Pray protection and safety for the team as it continues to deliver essential services to East Africa workers. *Note:* Name changing to East Africa Regional Services (EARS) in 2021.

December 2020

DEC 01 TUESDAY

East African Office – Pray local churches sending workers into global missions and those involved in mobilizing candidates experience the love, grace, and favor of God more than ever as they deal with the current pandemic in their ministry.

DEC 02 WEDNESDAY

Eritrea – Pray for Eritreans around the world—expats, refugees, prisoners and those living in fear—to experience the overwhelming joy of the birth of our Savior, and to share it with those around them.

DEC 03 THURSDAY

Ethiopia – SIM Ethiopia's biggest recruitment need is in the area of leadership. Pray particularly for a personnel coordinator and an operations coordinator starting next spring.

DEC 04 FRIDAY

Kenya – Life Challenge Africa produces and distributes literature for evangelism and discipleship and has started producing audio tracts and booklets in various languages. Pray for increased production capacity to share God's Word easily and effectively in audio.

DEC 05 SATURDAY

Madagascar – When schools closed in March due to COVID-19, the Bible school of the Independent Evangelical Community of Madagascar had no way to continue online. Please pray for wisdom for Director Mamifeno in knowing when to open the school again.

DEC 06 SUNDAY

Malawi – Pray for SIM's Partners in Hope Hospital for HIV care as it negotiates challenging times, especially financially. Pray for the director and board as they adapt the hospital to changing times. Pray a high standard of care with a Christian emphasis will continue.

DEC 07 MONDAY

Mascarene Islands – More than a thousand tons of oil were spilled from a ship into the Mauritius lagoon, creating significant environmental problems. Please pray for workers to help clean up the coast, and for damage to be minimal, as tourism is a major element of the economy.

DEC 08 TUESDAY

Mozambique – Praise for the first graduating class of 18 students at the SIM Bible school (INTEL). Uphold the leadership as it plans the ceremony with social distancing. Pray these graduates use their skills and knowledge to serve and love others for the glory of God.

Namibia – Please pray Namibia's team continues to be obedient to God in serving Him where they are placed. Pray for wisdom in directing services and spreading the good news to the most vulnerable people, whose lives have been severely impacted by the effects of the pandemic.

DEC 09 WEDNESDAY

Southern Africa Service Center (SASC) – Pray for the staff members at SASC as they work hard in closing the financial year. Pray they will be able to work without any challenges, as most of the work is still done from home because of COVID-19.

South Africa – Praise for God's help in recruiting new workers, including a new director for the South Africa office! Please pray for a gifted media director to lead the production of print literature and online mission promotional materials.

DEC 10 THURSDAY

South Sudan & Sudan – Pray for people with financial accounting gifts to fulfill a crucial technical need for many projects in South Sudan. Pray for servants with a disciple's heart to walk alongside a growing Church.

DEC 11 FRIDAY

Tanzania – Praise God for SIM's partner Light Shine Pre- and Primary Christian School in Lindi. Thank Him for the recent provision of a vehicle to transport students. Pray He provides funds for three new classrooms required for the school's registration in January 2021.

DEC 12 SATURDAY

Zambia – Please uplift the African Christian University (ACU) in Lusaka as it seeks to increase its arts curriculum and eventually develop a degree program in Fine Arts. Pray with ACU for the recruitment of lecturers needed to make this happen.

DEC 13 SUNDAY

Zimbabwe – Thank God COVID-19 has not been as severe as predicted in Zimbabwe and the SIM team has not been sick. It is a miracle. Keep praying for the SIM Zimbabwe team to be innovative and continue ministries under the constraints of the pandemic.

WEST & SOUTH CENTRAL ASIA

DEC 14 MONDAY

Ministry Focus, Bible Society of Egypt – With churches closed, no large events and few chances for sales, the Bible Society of Egypt director was expecting depressing reports. Instead, the sales team enthusiastically shared how open street bookshops are making a difference! Church bookshops are closed, so these shops are the only place to get a Bible in many cities, and their salesmen even make home deliveries to those unable or afraid to leave their homes. Let's pray God's Word "will not return to Him empty, but will accomplish what He desires and achieve the purpose for which He sent it" Isaiah 55:11 (NIV).

DEC 15 TUESDAY

Middle East – Rejoice! Jesus brings the light of justice and rescue to a dark world, revealing God's glory! As SIM's teams join Middle Eastern Christians celebrating Christmas next week or in early January, pray for clear witness and deep impact in this hurting region.

DEC 16 WEDNESDAY

Bangladesh – Thank God for providing for the needs of the correspondence school this year. Pray the Lord's love will comfort the family of a staff member who died of a heart attack. Ask Him for wisdom as the staff explores ways to continue operating in the wake of COVID-19.

DEC 17 THURSDAY

India – Pray for support staff for the innovative business and social enterprise initiatives in South Asia, so more community transformation can take place. Also pray God would bring the right director to continue the vision of the South Asia field.

Nepal – Praise God for local artists who are using their gifts and talents in culturally relevant ways to present Bible stories and translation projects attractively and effectively to reach those who do not yet know Jesus.

DEC 18 FRIDAY

Pakistan – Please pray urgently and earnestly for teachers for around 20 children of Christian workers in Pakistan, so SIM and other groups can continue serving communities far from major towns and cities.

DEC 19 SATURDAY

Sri Lanka – Praise God for the four new evangelistic tracts Kumar has written. Pray for good translations of them into Sinhala and Tamil. Pray for a rich harvest of souls as Back to the Bible Broadcast sells and distributes the tracts.

ASIA-PACIFIC

DEC 20 SUNDAY

Ministry Focus, SIM workers, Philippines/Malaysia – COVID-19 lockdown has provided us more opportunities to share God's Word online. With help, we made six Bible cartoons of Jesus's parables available online for our language group, and a few in another language. The lockdown has also caused the Joseph story from our Genesis film to go viral, with 70,000 views! Our Bible app went live and we just released an app with 50-plus children's stories/books with narration. Pray this app takes off and many use it. Through these, God's Word is going out, even though some oppose. Pray the gates of hell won't prevail against it.

DEC 21 MONDAY

Australia – Pray God will continue to sustain and grant creativity to workers during the pandemic. Pray for God to raise more laborers. Pray for mobilizers as they journey with applicants, leading them to membership in SIM to proclaim Jesus to those who don't yet know Him.

DEC 22 TUESDAY

China – Thank God for new workers planning to join the work in China. Ask God to raise up more who would be willing to serve in a limited-access country. Pray protection for SIM members so they may continue to be a light among the people of China.

DEC 23 WEDNESDAY

East Asia – East Asia's media team produces quarterly and annual publications and maintains a website and Facebook page. Pray the printed literature and online ministries inspire and encourage many people of all ages to get involved with missions.
Indonesia – Many misconceptions have infiltrated the celebration of Christmas in Indonesia. Pray the true message of the gospel of Jesus will permeate Christian hearts and reach out to the 270 million Indonesians who do not yet know Him.

DEC 24 THURSDAY

Japan – Praise God for Japan's newly expanded access to recruit workers from more countries. Pray for God to raise up people to partner with the Church in Japan to reach the 99% of Japanese people who don't know Jesus Christ.

DEC 25 FRIDAY

Korea – Praise God for a newly refurbished SIM Korea homepage, Facebook and Instagram. Ask Him to give the media team creative inspiration for new videos and content to promote SIM Korea. Pray for many young people to participate in the book club to be activated soon.

DEC 26 SATURDAY

Mongolia – Praise God for the number of new workers who have successfully gotten visas to enter Mongolia. Pray for the border to reopen so they can get into Mongolia and serve there.

DEC 27 SUNDAY

Myanmar – Pray for Myanmar to open back up to allow workers to return and normal work patterns to resume so people can earn an income. Pray for the gospel to penetrate people's hearts in times of crisis.

DEC 28 MONDAY

New Zealand – SIM New Zealand prays everyone had a lovely, joy-filled Christmas and the coming year will be filled with blessings and promise.

Philippines – Praise God for the number of Filipinos who are considering serving with SIM. Pray for God's clear direction and provision for them.

DEC 29 TUESDAY

Thailand – Pray for the SIM teams across Thailand engaged in Christmas outreaches at schools and in various communities. Pray the message of the gospel reaches many Thai and they trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

DEC 30 WEDNESDAY

Vietnam – Thank God for appointing an acting director for Vietnam. Pray for couples in various stages of affiliating with SIM and for Vietnam's training ministry. Praise for the translation of training method workshop curriculum for the ministry.

DEC 31 THURSDAY

West Malaysia – Thank God many in West Malaysia have the freedom to read the Bible and respond to the gospel through online apps and social media resources. Pray more local Christian groups develop or use these online resources to share Jesus with many who don't know Him yet.

Thank you for praying.

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

"Gaining God's perspective amid adversity means taking the long view. Our experience of adversity today may be for the work of God in days, months and years to come. It may be for someone's encouragement a generation from now." Joshua Bogunjoko

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14 NIV

In January you will see changes in SIM USA's prayer communications. We are committed to communicating timely prayer needs. Changes in **focus** will allow us to pray for a variety of ministries in which our missionaries are involved. Changes in **frequency** means you will receive prayer items every month. Changes in **format** will bring a shortened publication. Please pray for our team working hard to communicate and celebrate God's global work in the most effective and efficient ways possible. Thank you!

"If you suffer for obeying God, you must have complete faith in your faithful Creator and keep on doing right." 1 Peter 4:19 CEV

In this season of celebrating Jesus's birth, we pray you experience new depths of understanding God's enormous love lavished on us in sending His Son to this sinful world so that we may be reconciled to Him.

Opportunities to help - To contribute to flood relief for Sahel Academy, go to <https://checkout.simusa.org/give> and search for Project 97131 or 97620. To find out more about teaching in Pakistan go to <https://tinyurl.com/TeachinPakistan>