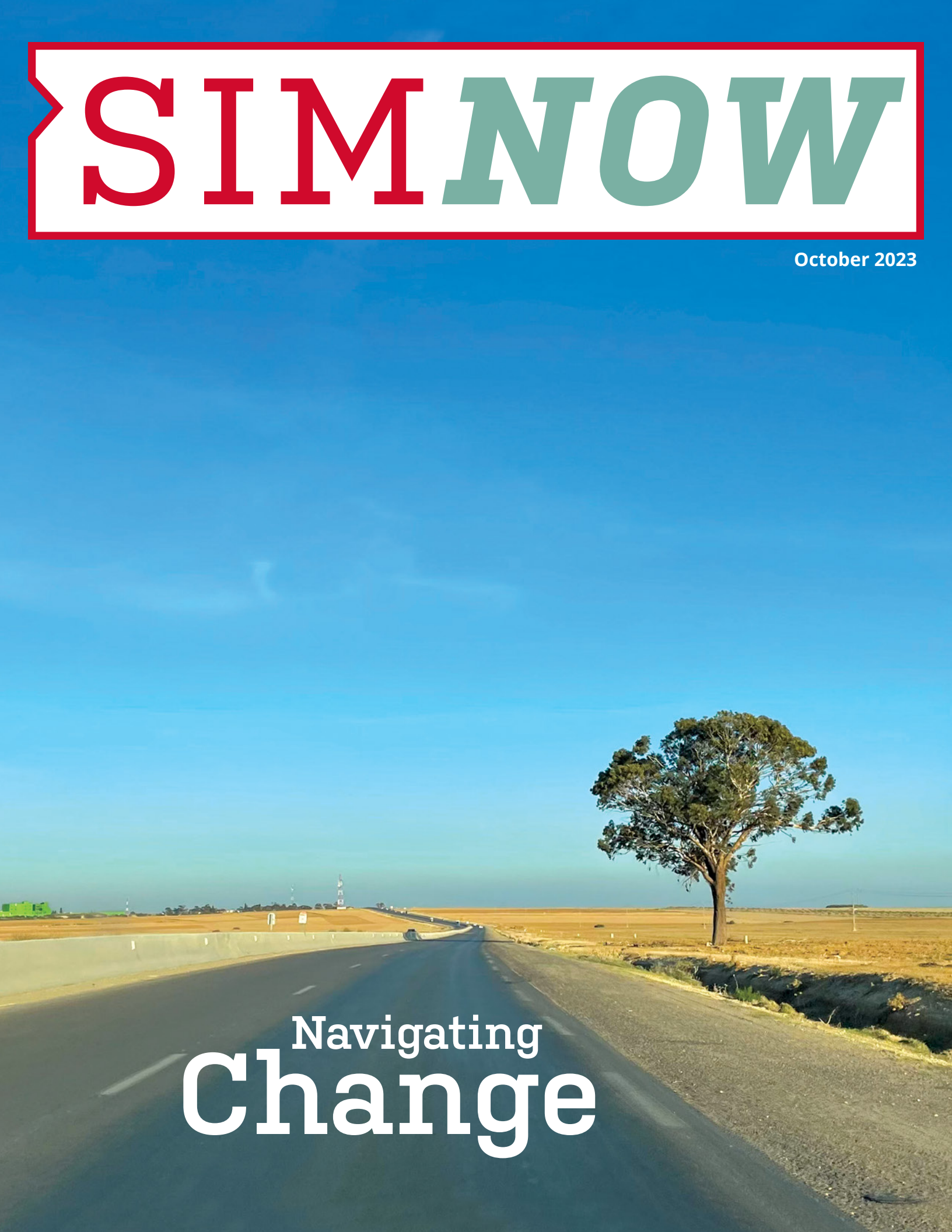


# SIM NOW

October 2023



Navigating  
**Change**

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**There is only one  
constant in life,  
and that is Jesus.**

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



**RUSSELL WOLF**  
Executive Director  
SIM Canada


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Canadian Centre for  
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**It was a time of great change for our family when we left the agriculture industry in June of 2014. For four generations all our family had known was agriculture.**

The impact on the family and the uncertainty about the future was incredible!

What did the future hold? What was the next chapter going to look like? We did not know. Our only knowledge was that there was an unwavering desire for change. As we now know, some nine years later, God was wanting change in our lives.

We found comfort in knowing that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. There is only one constant in life, and that is Jesus. Our Lord Jesus gave us the confidence and courage we needed.

### **Change is inevitable**

It is all around us, big and small. Unfortunately, much of the change we have seen in recent times is not pleasing to our Heavenly Father. What is the best way to determine whether the change we experience is pleasing to God? Jesus, the only constant in our lives, must remain at the centre of our lives. The Word of God never changes, so we need to stay rooted in it.

Reflecting upon SIM and the changes it has undergone over the past 130 years, it is almost overwhelming. The first motorized vehicle was tested on the road in 1893, and today vehicles can travel without human interaction thanks to artificial intelligence. In 130 years, we have gone from the excitement of a carriage not needing a horse to pull it, to driverless vehicles. I am sure when Frank Duryea made that first road test, he never dreamed that automobiles would be what they are today. In the same way I am sure that Walter Gowans, Roland Bingham, and Thomas Kent could not imagine that people in remote

areas of our world could view the story of Jesus on a solar powered device. SIM has continually adapted the way the love of Christ is shared as the world around us continued and continues to change. SIM has been able to share the gospel over 130 years by adapting to the changing world, but more importantly, staying true to God's word, and believing in Jesus who never changes.

### **Change is something that we often fear**

We often worry about the future, and what it will bring because we do not feel in control of our lives. The wonderful news is that God has a plan for us, for SIM Canada. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." — Jeremiah 29:11.

We need to continue to trust our Heavenly Father and allow the change to grow us, so that we can continue to grow in Christ, and share His love with those who have not yet heard. ■

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**No matter what the road ahead holds, I know that you will be my help!**

**At the end of last year, I bought a t-shirt with the slogan “Look Back and thank God. Look Forward and Trust God.”**

I really felt that that attitude was one that I wanted to embrace in this season of transition. You see it was just in June of 2022 that I left a field (Niger) and ministry (Sahel Academy) that I have come to love and in which I have invested the last 15 years of my life. I have known for some time that my parents were reaching a stage in life where they would benefit from my presence a little closer to home and so I had made the decision to return to Canada.

God, in his sovereignty, knew that it was just at this time that they would need me. Only two months later my mother was diagnosed with congestive heart failure due to a leaky mitral valve and it took ten months for her to receive treatment. I do look back over this time and thank God for all the ways He has shown up and provided for us at just the right

time. There has also been a lot of waiting, wondering, and seeking to trust God for a job and housing in the big city of Toronto.

In June, God put together those two pieces of the puzzle in a way that only He could, providing me with a job teaching grade two in a Christian school and an affordable apartment. I am overwhelmed by His kindness, and I am choosing to look forward with trust because I see that God has opened the door. It is a choice though because change is challenging! A short visit to my future classroom gave me plenty of room for anxiety. My position is a new one and so the resources in the room for second grade weren't immediately evident. What kind of curriculum will I have to work with? What kind of manipulatives will be available for my students? I'm told we must cover some of our own specials like Art, PE, and French and I don't exactly know what that means for me. Most of these (except for staffing) were not things that I have worried over in my teaching job at Sahel Academy. I had lots of questions and it was unsettling.

But in his gracious way, God

reminded me of the motto on my t-shirt, “Look Back and Thank God. Look Forward and Trust God.”

Look back at Sahel Academy and thank God for the abundance I experienced there. Even though it was on the edge of the desert far from a teacher store, I had an incredible number of resources available to me. There was rarely a time that I went without Music, Art, or PE! Okay, I'm not going to lie, I do remember sweating it out teaching PE to Kindergarteners and First Grade for a month or so - it was exhausting! Thank you, God, for the abundance of resources, laughter, joy, relationships, and memories I experienced at Sahel! Look forward to Immanuel Christian School and trust God. Thank you, God, that you led me to this new school and that in time there will be answers to my questions. No matter what the road ahead holds, I know that you will be my help!

Look back and thank God. Look forward and trust God. I have the feeling I will be chewing on these words for awhile as I continue to walk the road of transition. ■

**By Beth Botheras**

# "We knew that his adventure would require change."



## CHANGE IS THE KEY TO ADVENTURE

By Joy Falk

**This past year has been an intense season of change for my husband and I. In January 2022, we began the process of joining SIM so we could head to South Africa and serve at Inundo Development Farm.**

Since that journey began, we've been making plans. We knew that his adventure would require change. We'd be saying good-bye to family and friends, we'd be moving and selling possessions, leaving behind what was familiar and having to learn to flex and adjust. Some changes were expected, and we were excited about them. Other changes were hard to embrace, and others were unexpected and required us to alter plans. Each step along the way, Proverbs 16:9 became more relevant to us as we were having to trust that the Lord was determining each of our steps,

even if they were different from what we originally expected and planned.

One of the words I would use to describe this past year is pivot. With each change we had to make, we had to learn to pivot, this didn't always go smoothly, and we didn't always flex willingly. But as we've walked this journey, God has used these pivots to refine us, to reveal his heart and ours. We can see that with each interruption, whether expected or unexpected, God has been for us.

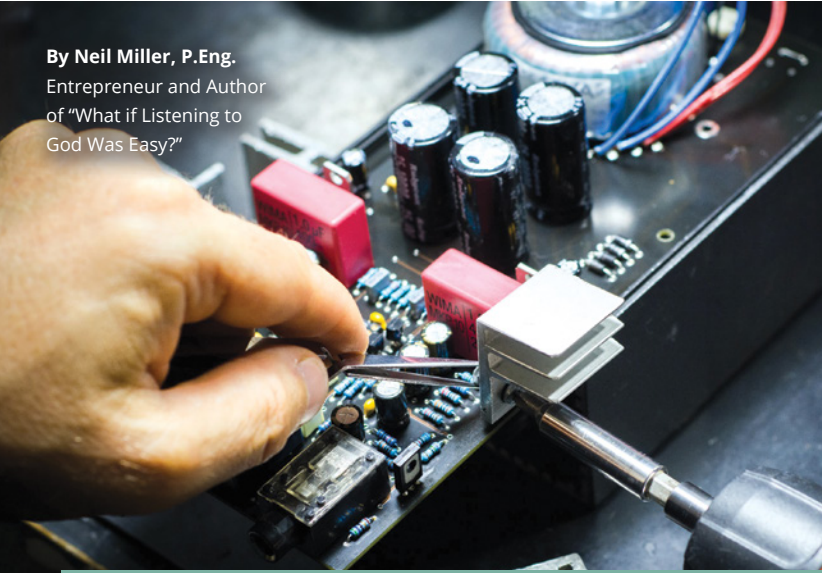
***He never left us, He was always moving, always working.***

We asked Him to help us see Him at work and to help us keep our eyes fixed on Him. He did things in ways that we couldn't always see or understand at the time. As we look back now, we can see how He was for us, providing people, strength, grace, courage, wisdom, peace, and direction in each situation. He didn't answer our prayers the way that we had asked, but He was faithful, and

He did answer. Our perspective was challenged with each pivot to evaluate whether we trusted God's plan, God's way, His character or did we only trust Him for what He could do for us and the way we wanted. As we wrestled through this, we discovered that God is so much bigger than we could ever imagine, and His heart is for us.

Colossians 3: 1-2 "So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." This is a convicting passage but has come to life for us as we've been learning that when we focus on the problem or obstacle, we forget how big God is and we question and doubt Him. But when we focus on who He is, His heart for us, His goodness, His love, He becomes bigger, and the problem seems smaller. ■

***Proverbs 16:9 "A person's heart plans his way, but the LORD determines his steps."***



By Neil Miller, P.Eng.  
Entrepreneur and Author  
of "What if Listening to  
God Was Easy?"

# "Life skills in one career situation can be used in another."

## UNEXPECTED CHANGES: FROM ENGINEER TO ENTREPRENEUR

**For as long as I can remember, I felt that God wanted me to serve in missions when I grew up.**

As a child I was always tinkering with electronics, building radios, and anything else I could figure out how to make with parts unsoldered from broken electronic devices. I chose engineering as a profession with the intention of using an engineering degree as a ticket to a closed country or using engineering skills on the mission field.

As I approached graduation from university, I prayed about the future. My heart attitude was, "Lord, here I am, send me somewhere." To my disappointment, the Lord told me to get a job in Canada. It seemed that my childhood dream of serving in missions was shattered. The passage that God used to speak to me was the story of Joseph. He had to remain in prison for two whole years (Genesis 41:1). Living and working in Canada was akin to

a prison for me, but my only option was to do what I felt the Lord was telling me to do.

After university, I got a job in electronics design and prototyping. In many ways, this was a dream job. Not only did I get a salary to do something as fun as my childhood hobby, but I had an unlimited budget for parts and very expensive tools. During this period, I obtained my P.Eng. certification. Looking back, I can see the value of this work experience, both professionally and personally. But at the time, although I enjoyed the work, it felt like the death of my dream of going into missions.

After working there for two years I attended Urbana. Finally, the Lord gave me permission to explore overseas. I wrote to several missions, but SIM was the only one that listened to me regarding the work I wanted to do. Since I had been working in electronics, I wanted to try something different. I asked to work with youth and young adults. SIM gave me the opportunity to teach at a Bible College in Sudan. I resigned my

job and went to Africa.

After working in Sudan for two years, I came back to Canada with the intention of becoming a long-term member of SIM and then serving in Sudan for the rest of my career. But the further along the application process I went, the less peace I felt. I could not understand why. Abandoning the process at this stage made no sense. I finally told SIM that I had misgivings about my next steps. I did complete the application process, but the country of service was left undecided.

Several years later I understood why the Lord did not give me peace about returning to Sudan. Issues developing on the field would have made my stay there very short. But at the time all I knew was that I didn't have peace about going forward.

I returned to my previous job as an engineer as I prayed and researched other countries that could use my skills. I eventually settled on a country in Asia. Over the next two decades I worked in several positions in that country, but never directly in engineering. However, the problem-solving

skills I developed during my engineering career served me well in my various roles.

Now, almost 30 years after graduating from university, the Lord is leading me to another career change: to be an entrepreneur. I am building a computer training and e-learning business to reach out to young adults in Asia.

Over the years, I have learned several things about change. First, God loves us deeply. He can protect us from unwise choices if we listen to him. Second, life skills in one career situation can be used in another. Problem-solving skills learned in engineering benefited me in other roles. Third, God does speak and guide us when our hearts are open to him. We may not understand the reasons why the Lord is leading us down a particular path, but there are good reasons. Working in Toronto for two years before going into missions turned out to be a wise decision I never regretted. Not going back to Sudan also was an excellent decision, but something I didn't understand at the time. ■



## NAPKIN NOTES SKETCH ROUTE TO CENTRAL ASIA

By Tim Allan

### **A quickly scribbled diagram on a fast food restaurant napkin is a treasured souvenir of Bill and Doris's journey into mission.**

The jotting showed the possible routes the young married couple could take to confirm God's call on their lives. Although they did not realize it, it was a key signpost on their pathway to serving with SIM.

Bill and Doris, who have three young children, now plan to serve long-term in Central Asia. If you had told either of them that would be their career path when they met at college, they would have laughed at you.

Bill was looking forward to an engineering career, thinking he would most likely stay in the same company for most of his life. Doris, who had gone to college on a Navy scholarship, knew she

would be spending the next seven years moving to wherever she was posted.

God's first surprise was that Bill, despite his reluctance, realized he would have to put his career second if he wanted to be with Doris, who was about to start training to be a submarine officer.

***"I couldn't see how God could use an engineer and a submarine officer in mission."***

He said: "After Doris graduated, she was posted to South Carolina, and we moved down there. I didn't know what to expect but I found an engineering job and we joined a good church. We began leading a small group and got really involved, with lots of opportunities to host and felt quite settled.

"Even though we were a small church, it was missional, and we helped support some mission

workers. But we thought our role would always be sending, rather than going ourselves.

"After about 18 months or so, Doris was posted to the other side of the country, so we had to uproot and start all over.

"I had to give up my job and when we moved, I had a few months without a job. She was on a schedule which meant she was away for three months at a time, and then home, but still working, for four months.

"It was tough at first, but I eventually got a job, we found a good church and we began to enjoy our new life. Again, we were involved in hosting small groups, often including people who weren't Christian. But I couldn't see how God could use an engineer and a submarine officer in missions."

God had another surprise in store. It just so happened that the church they had joined supported an SIM mission couple serving in Asia.

And when the couple spoke to the church during a home assignment, Bill and Doris began to see what might be possible. The four of them even went out for lunch and the couple patiently explained the various routes into mission, plotting them out on that napkin.

Doris left the Navy at the end of her term so she and Bill could start a family and, some time later, God produced another surprise.

Bill saw an exciting job in Philadelphia and wanted to take it – yes, the man who had thought he'd stay put all his life now wanted to move across the

country again.

He said: "I was as surprised as anyone, but the job was right in my specialist area.

"By this time we had two kids but Doris agreed to move, so we headed off again, packing all our stuff into a van and going.

"God surprised us again because while we were driving over, we had a call from someone at SIM with an engineering background! He wanted to get to know us and, I think, show us engineers could go into mission."

The area they moved into was very multi-cultural. They made friends with an Egyptian couple on their street and, again, opened their house to students and others for Bible study. Increasingly, they were finding people coming who did not know Jesus but were eager to learn.

From there, they took a 16-week course in cross-cultural mission and moved through the SIM membership process.

Bill said: "By then we were thinking it might be possible for us to go, but we did not really know where. We knew we wanted to go where the gospel had not been shared widely, so we were thinking it could be the Middle East, North Africa or Central Asia."

While they were at the SIM USA's office in Charlotte, God surprised them again. By his grace, their time in the guest house overlapped by one day with a couple who were serving in Central Asia with their own young children. If ever Bill and Doris needed confirmation of God's calling, that was it.

Now, of course, God's big surprise is that they will soon be living in that very region, doing the same work. At first, that will involve learning the language and culture and neither of them has any idea where God will take them after that.

As they know, God loves to surprise his people. All his small surprises in their lives are now pointing to that big surprise of full-time mission in Central Asia. ■

# The Plans of God Are Trustworthy

By Anita Wolf

*Who would have thought that a cast on my wrist would produce an opportunity for ministry?!*

***Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's plan that prevails. Proverbs 19:21***

## **Change is constant and inevitable.**

Change can be especially hard when we are not the ones initiating the change. I make plans all the time. Sometimes they are well thought out plans, sometimes they are quickly strung together. We make plans, and we work towards a goal that we are certain is God's plan for our lives. Often when things do not turn out as we expect them to turn out, we're disappointed and discouraged. Change can make us fearful when we forget that God is in control of our plans and our life. Change can also be exciting, a new job, a new home, a new season, when we trust God's direction in our life. While change is always happening, we can be certain that plans of the Lord never change.

***But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations. Psalm 33:11***

When I arrived in East Africa two years ago, I had plans as to what my ministry focus would be. I would quickly learn Arabic and once I was living in South Sudan, I would focus my energies on sharing the gospel with the women in the refugee camps. Within one month of living in Nairobi, I was hit by a car while I was standing on the sidewalk waiting to cross the road. Just a bad bruise I told myself, my doctor confirmed my diagnosis. I was to give my wrist, which took the brunt of the force of the car, time to heal by wearing a brace and resting. After our move to Doro, the physically demanding

life we lived continued to increase the pain in my wrist until it was necessary for me to return to Nairobi for surgery. Surgery and a six-week recovery period was certainly not in my plans. I couldn't imagine it being God's plans either, but God, who is faithful, used this opportunity to grow my faith and give me many opportunities to share the gospel. I shared the story of Jesus with my surgeon, the nursing staff, Uber drivers, restaurant servers and even people on the street who were curious to know what had happened to me. Who would have thought that a cast on my wrist would produce an opportunity for ministry?!

After my return to Doro, God again changed my direction and I began work at the Grieve Memorial Clinic, working in the pharmacy storeroom and taking over the financial bookkeeping. This work gave me plenty of opportunities to share the gospel and provide encouragement for our clinic staff and the missionaries working at the clinic.

God has again changed to direction of my ministry. My husband Russell and I have moved back to Canada as he has accepted the position of Executive Director of SIM Canada. God has not yet revealed a ministry focus for me yet. I know that God has a perfect plan all worked out and He will reveal it when the time is right. Change is constant and inevitable. Amid difficult changes, we can trust Jesus to sustain us. We can grow in faith when we learn to embrace change. We can trust God's plans. ■

***"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11***



# a life of tragedy into a story of grace and redemption

## PURPOSE IN THE UNPLANNED

By Amy Lou Hutchison

### **My life story could be titled something like, "Nothing Turned Out the Way I Planned."**

In many ways, I am the least likely person to become a missionary. But in the Lord's wisdom, sovereignty, and dare I say, irony, He has turned a life of tragedy into a story of grace and redemption.

Five years ago, I planned to leave my position as restaurant manager to work in an office while applying for missions. Before I had the chance to resign, I was told out of the blue that ownership was changing hands, and my position no longer existed. I was not prepared for a painful departure like this. But had I resigned when I'd planned to, I would have missed a job offer that came within days of my dismissal. A job that graciously supported me as I prepared to go overseas.

Once on the field, what I had envisioned for how life and the ministry would operate turned out differently than expected. While some changes were more

welcome than others, the Lord was softening my heart, and providing me with opportunities I wouldn't have had otherwise.

Why I would leave a stable job and cross the ocean to work outside my field of training befuddled some of those I worked with. What did I have to offer these children? In moments of doubt, I was reminded that the Lord clearly led me here, and as has often been the case, was using the unplanned circumstances and experiences from my life to play an important role in the ministry.

Growing up in poverty gave me compassion and understanding for the people I worked with. My experience of childhood bullying, my parents' divorce, and mother's illnesses taught me empathy, and allowed me to enter the suffering of others. I had opportunities to speak into the lives of young women struggling in difficult relationships with their parents and wrestling with the sovereignty of God in suffering.

The years of providing palliative care for my mother were invaluable in training me to tend to the medically fragile children

I worked with. The time I spent nannying and singing kids to sleep as a young woman proved useful as I sat in the orphanage day after day comforting distressed and traumatized children.

In the country I served, being unmarried was seen as a failure. One day a cleaner at the orphanage approached me and spoke into my translation app: "You have no husband and no children. But you love these children!" She communicated it in such a way that I believe she was acknowledging how this stage of my life was a blessing to the orphans I was caring for.

So, while my journey into missions turned out to be nothing like I'd imagined, these are a few of the ways I've experienced the truth of Romans 8:28 over the past year. My faith was strengthened as the Lord graciously allowed me to see how He was working in and through my so-called disadvantages. We never know how the Lord will use the unexpected "disruptions" for our good and His glory ■





**“Every talent, friendship, move, job offer — even every failure and success — was orchestrated by a loving Father with a plan.”**

## **CHOOSING DIVINE LOVE, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE**

**For Calli and Ryan Fawcett, it wasn't a matter of if God would invite them to cross-cultural ministry, it was mostly a matter of when.**

After years of preparation the Lord confirmed his call for them to serve on one of SIM's Faithful Witness teams, located in Ayutthaya, Thailand.

SIM's Faithful Witness initiative will support Ryan and Calli. The goal of the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic team is to live out a full expression of biblical diversity and the unique way Jesus' reveals himself through people. Team members are focusing on outreach in the areas of sports, community health education and English language learning.

The Fawcetts will attend Thai language school during their first year in Ayutthaya, which will also serve as a ministry avenue. Ryan and Calli can tutor university students in English and build relationships with them. Ryan and Calli are gifted at making people feel known. They don't force it —

they simply love their neighbours as themselves with intentionality and grace.

While the Fawcett family arrived in Thailand at the beginning of November, their journey to join SIM's Faithful Witness team began years ago.

They were born into a story and an anointing that the Lord prepared uniquely for them.

“Every talent, friendship, move, job offer — even every failure and success — was orchestrated by a loving Father with a plan.”

Initially, God encouraged the Fawcetts to focus on local ministry. As they welcomed three children into their family, Ryan and Calli lived out their faith in Charlotte, North Carolina.

During these waiting years — preparation years — the Fawcetts resembled many of us who carry unfulfilled desires in our hearts. They were ordinary people in the thick of day-to-day life, raising babies, striving to be mentally present in their current home, while dreaming of their future home and ministry overseas. This tension of living in both the “now” and the “not yet” gave God space to do his best work.

Calli shared that much of that

work occurred in their marriage.

She laughed and said: “Jesus has not been messing around. Ryan and I have really felt that God, from the very first day we stepped onto campus at SIM, has allowed for us to experience some brokenness in our marriage that we didn't realise existed.”

She continued: “It directly impacted our understanding of God's love for us, which directly impacts our understanding of God's love for others.”

In the healing process, Ryan and Calli experienced renewed freedom and joy that has strengthened them as a couple. The Lord brought this about in the familiarity of Charlotte so they can thrive in the newness of Thailand.

Calli said: “Something I keep coming back to is the word ‘unseen.’ This idea that the things that no one else sees — the thoughts we have, the responses we have, the way we doubt, the way we believe, the way we trust, or the way we are discouraged — those are the things that God sees and finds very, very important. God has been reminding me that he wants those things to be under his lordship also.” ■

**By Amy Bareham  
Chapman**

**"God is working in us, teaching us things, breaking our pride, and leading us into questions about our future."**



## **WE SERVE A SENDING GOD**

By Aaron Bryant

**We serve a sending God. Just as the risen Christ stood among his fearful, timid disciples, pronouncing peace and sending them out to their work, so he now sends his followers into their appointed work.**

And God has sent Christoph and Johanna Gondek from Germany to their appointed work in Paraguay.

The Gondeks didn't lack career options. Christoph, a chemist, and Johanna, a nurse, were set up well in their professional lives. During those years of learning, God was working in their hearts. One day, Christoph met DMG International and SIM missionaries, Jonathan and Christine Winarske, who are both from Germany.

Jonathan and Christine served on the SIM team in Paraguay coordinating short-term placements from around the world. Prior to their move to Paraguay, the Winarskes were building a support team and shared at their church in Aalen, German.

Christoph had been working in a nearby city and was encouraged by their story. After getting married in 2019, the Gondeks went to Paraguay with help and guidance from the Winarskes. Praise God!

God has given Christoph and Johanna the gift of humble service. They believed God was sending them to work at Alto Refugio, a foundation that "offers support to people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS."

Christoph began serving in a janitorial capacity: fixing lights, painting walls and solving unexpected problems at a moment's notice. Johanna served by preparing food in the kitchen, washing dishes and visiting residents.

Johanna said: "We didn't think God has drawn us here to do a specific task only we can do. ... we're working properly and intending to be a blessing [in all] we did."

Their willingness to serve without notice 'behind the scenes' and without worldly applause is a stark reminder that God often calls us into places we feel unprepared for.

One day, Johanna met a father with a very ill son, aged 25, with HIV and AIDS related challenges. The father did not have a job and was unable to provide food for

his family. He was overcome with thankfulness for the love and care that Alto Refugio gave him and his family. Johanna listened and served; she also thanked God for the ability to be his hands and feet to this family.

With the restrictions put in place due to COVID-19, the Gondeks' roles changed. Alto Refugio was temporarily closed, but the Gondeks were not deterred. They served in a guest house called Refugio Primavera, in much the same way: cleaning, folding, fixing, preparing.

While their plans were to depart in August for Germany to "find new jobs, serve in the local church community and encourage people in faith," they knew God may have other plans for their lives. So, they loosely hold their own plans.

In the meantime, they know God is using this time for his glory. As Johanna and Christoph reflected on why God sent them to Paraguay, Christoph said: "We suppose more that God is working in us, teaching us things, breaking our pride, offering us time to talk to him, and leading us into questions about our future. It is a very precious time for us, even though it is not so easy for us each day." ■



# Call on me and I will answer you

## GOD'S THE BOSS: SARINDRA'S STORY

**We might think that when we become believers, we still get to choose what to do with our life; what jobs would be worthwhile to do as Christian and which ones might not feel that way anymore.**

You know, a spectrum. On the one hand calling people as a telemarketer at dinner time, and on the other being a pastor in full-time ministry, studying and preaching his word. We want to do something meaningful with our lives; to feel we've somehow contributed to God's work.

That's the journey Sarindra has been on since Jesus found him. He had been spending his days at the bottom of bottles of alcohol in Madagascar's capital, Antananarivo. But that's when God got a hold of him.

He remembers: "When I saw the poster, saying 'There is an urgent message from God for you', I went to the conference for 15 days. When the conference

ended after 15 days, the pastor said, 'Who wants to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour?'

"My friend and I looked at each other, thinking: 'What have we been doing here? Just getting to know the word of God, or accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour?'"

He accepted the Lord right there and then, and it wasn't too long before God started speaking to him.

"Then, a bit later, there was a word from God that I saw in Jeremiah 33:3 'Call to me and I will answer you...'"

That's nice but waiting for an answer seemed superfluous. Sarindra was already busy laying out plans for himself. Thinking of work for God that would be worth his while now that he was following Jesus.

"I was not satisfied with just accepting Jesus. I said: 'If I want to follow God, I must study his word'. So, I did a two-year training program of studying the word of God.

"When I finished, I was still not satisfied. I said to myself: 'Maybe I will become a pastor', and I decided to become a pastor."

God calls people to be pastors. But the answer God was

giving Sarindra was not that. He was saying, 'Call to me, and I will answer you.'

In the end the doors to the pastorate closed.

"I sat down very disappointed. What was I going to do?"

He turned to look again at the verse from Jeremiah: 'Call on me and I will answer you.'

And God answered.

Sarindra discovered that the Good News Hospital was looking for a multiskilled technician. He was amazed, remembering what he told God; what he agreed to.

"Because when I prayed to God when I was newly converted, I said, 'If you free me from alcohol and everything else, then I will serve you and do your will no matter where.'"

"Sarindra was amazed when God, having saved him from alcoholism, asked him to join in the work of spreading the gospel, not as a pastor, but as a technician."

No matter where... If He gives it to you, it can be used for His glory. Even if it doesn't seem that way at first. He took the job working in maintenance at the Good News Hospital in Mandritsara. And he sees it as the Lord's work.

Sarindra says: "My feeling is that maintenance supports and helps ensure the smooth running of all the services of the hospital, especially the preaching of the gospel. For example, if a car is being used to go and preach the gospel in a community church, maintenance must take care of the car so that the gospel can be preached. This means that maintenance is a means of enabling our co-workers to fulfill the vision of providing healthcare and sharing the gospel."

Whether the work is preaching or maintenance, if you give your life to God, He will use you. But remember, He's the one in charge. That means He calls the shots.

"It confirms what we do here is our mission. Because that's what I told God: if you change my life, I will do your work anywhere. The thing is this: when I work in a hospital, my boss is God."

God's the boss. We might not always get to choose what "worthwhile" work looks like. If you're ok with that, you can go ahead... call on Him. He'll answer you. ■



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