



SIM
Serving In Mission
www.sim.org.au

evangelism & church planting

SIM began as a result of our pioneers' obedience to Jesus Christ's command to "Go and make disciples of all nations." They had a deep compassion for the millions in the then Sudan who knew nothing of the Gospel. They were committed to giving their lives to bring them the light.

Today there are still millions who don't know who Jesus is or what He has done for them. SIM has many opportunities for you to work among unreached people groups, whether in an urban or a rural setting.

To be a church planter you must be prepared to leave your own culture and divest yourself of anything that would hinder the communication of the Gospel in the culture you enter. This requires a commitment to learning the language (mother tongue) and a willingness to enter into the culture of the group.

It is essential to have a heart of compassion for lost people, and an absolute conviction that "salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12. It means building relationships which demonstrate the love of God in actions and words.

The passion of a church planter's life is to make disciples. Making disciples means bringing people from a point of not understanding who God is and His salvation plan for condemned humanity, to a place of understanding what God has done in Christ to rescue them, so that they can make an informed decision about becoming a disciple of Jesus. Following this it is important that the church planter teaches the new believers, who are identified by signs of repentance, faith and baptism. They are to be taught to obey all that Jesus commanded. The goal of this teaching is not knowledge but obedience.

This means that the church planter must not only teach the Scriptures faithfully but also model what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, so that he can say, like Paul, "Follow my example as I follow Christ."

To make disciples we must be disciples. This requires us to take up our cross daily and follow Christ that we might be good mentors to those we live among. It means wanting to be with people and delighting in sharing God's Word with them.

There is no more privileged task. "The Great Commission is given by the highest authority in the universe, and it is binding on all disciples for all time. No other task comes with the same authority, the same universal scope or the same eternal consequences. To go into the world and make disciples of all nations is the most exciting, most urgent and most necessary task in the world." Joe Kapolyo

In the work of church planting there are many possibilities for creative ministries, such as teaching English, sports evangelism, literacy, business ministries, children's ministries, health education, and others, which will enable you to build relationships, make disciples and teach believers.

There are many people groups who are still unreached. Church planters are currently needed in Burkina Faso, Niger, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Asia, Peru, Paraguay, Senegal, Uruguay, Chile and in many other areas.

There are also countries where church leaders are asking people to join them in making disciples and teaching believers. They are also looking for people who can assist in leadership training and development.

Some positions exist for interns who can develop their gifts and abilities for church planting working alongside an existing church plant or established ministry in various capacities.

Qualifications:

- Good understanding of Bible and ability to explain it to others
- Long term commitment
- Sometimes professional degree (required for visa)
- Cross-cultural training
- Language learning acquisition course (eg. MILL SIL.)
- Understanding of beliefs of target group
- Some prior experience of ministry

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