

Issue 3 of 3 - 2022
For Christians Only

SIM now

SERVING SERIOUSLY

*“Whatever you do, work at it with all
your heart, as working for
the Lord, not for human masters.”
(Colossian 3:23)*



SIM
EAST ASIA
Serving In Mission
国际事工差会

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Serving Seriously

*Dr Stanley Ling, Advisor,
SIM East Asia*



In line with SIM East Asia's main theme for 2022 **"Moving Forward"** we have so far focused on two key topics in SIMNow, which relate to our attitude of serving God- **"Serving Sacrificially"** and **"Serving Steadfastly"**. This last issue for 2022, focusing on **"Serving Seriously"** will summarise our reflections on serving God. The key verse for this issue is **Colossian 3:23 "Whatever you do, work at it with your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."** The first two chapters of Colossians deal with the doctrine that all things are created by Jesus, through Jesus and for Jesus (1:16). The supremacy of Jesus is the foundation for our attitude of serving God and living our lives for Him. From Chapter 3 onwards, Paul teaches how to live out our practical lives based on the doctrine.

The Bible Study in this issue by Ps Alvin Tan gives us some insight into how we should live seriously – by being obedient, serving in team and living mission-focussed lives. The testimonies from our missionaries are about their own journeys and experiences in serving God seriously. Some of them are indeed serving in very difficult situations. We praise God for the new colleagues who are

joining us in the SIMEA office. Though they did not write in this issue about how they serve God seriously, we know for sure that they are not taking their decisions to serve with SIM lightly. Each one of them has prayed and thought through very carefully before deciding to serve with us, like taking pay cut and making sacrifices to come on board.

Whilst working on this issue, we received the sad news of the sudden home going of our retired missionary - Rev Frank Tuan from Taiwan. He and his wife Ada (and son, Steven) served for more than thirty years in South Africa, initially among the local people until God directed them to serve among the increasing number of migrant Chinese in Johannesburg. He is our forerunner in SIM Chinese Diaspora Ministry. He planted several churches not only in South Africa, but also in nearby countries such as Mozambique, Lesotho, and Namibia. He served his Master, sacrificially, steadfastly, and seriously till the end of his life! What an example for us to follow!

May God's name be honoured and glorified!
Blessed Christmas and joyous new year!

"The supremacy of Jesus is the foundation for our attitude of serving God and living our lives for Him."

Disciples Who Serve Seriously

*Alvin Tan, Senior Pastor,
Bartley Christian Church*

In the passage from Luke 5:1-11, we can see three important lessons being taught by Jesus when He called His first disciples.

Serious in Obedience

When Jesus said to Peter, “Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch,” he answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything” (vv. 4-5). When Peter and his fisherman friends who were expert fishermen, had worked hard all night and caught nothing Jesus asked Peter to move their boat out into the deep waters again and let down their nets to catch fish. Though Peter did not understand what Jesus was doing and why, he obeyed Him: “But because you say so, I will let down the nets” (v. 5). Peter took Jesus’ words seriously and responded with obedience.

Today, Jesus continues to call us to discipleship, to live our lives by faith and in obedience to Him. We may not understand what He is doing in our lives, but our response is to obey and walk with Him by faith. Are we serious in obeying Him?

Serious in Teamwork

“When they (disciples) had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So, they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats” (vv. 6-7).

Jesus’ call to discipleship is not meant to be a lonely journey but to join the body of Christ, to support and share each other’s joy and sorrow. To be part of a team is to be able to laugh together in joyful times, to shed tears and to share one another’s pain in times of sorrow. Are we serious in being team players?



Serious in Mission

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people. So, they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything, and followed him” (vv. 10-11). Here, Jesus’ call to Peter and us today is to refocus and set our ultimate purpose in life to reach out to others who do not know Jesus and help them to come to faith in Him through knowing, loving, worshipping, and serving Jesus. Jesus called Peter to a new purpose in life; “stop chasing the fish but start catching men.” Are we serious in winning souls for Him?

Even as we walk with our Lord, let us commit ourselves to be serious in obeying Him, serious in being team players and serious in being fishers of men.

“Today, Jesus continues to call us to discipleship, to live our lives by faith and in obedience to Him.”



Moving forward Seriously

Sammy & Rita, Asia

“Jesus’ grace, strength and power are my secrets to move forward seriously in the ministry.”

Serious in village ministry

Later I began to manage a youth vocational centre. The youth of the local communities came to study technical skills in our centre. I taught them Bible every day and developed a deep relationship with them. I rejoiced when I realized that they were able to understand well when I spoke and soon became my disciples. Whenever I visited the villages with my students and shared the Gospel in the official language widely spoken, they translated my message into their tribal language. They liked to serve the Lord and they soon became my translators and assistants in the ministry. They were confident to stand in front of people and serve along with me. The Holy Spirit truly led them to grow spiritually too.

Serious in training youths

The local church leaders were very happy with my idea of encouraging the youth and involving them in ministry. They allowed more of their young believers to join our leadership training programmes. The local pastors invited my students to go with them to serve in the villages and family churches too. It was a breakthrough for the local church to start focusing on training their youth.

Jesus’ grace, strength and power are my secrets to move forward seriously in the ministry. Though speaking the local language was initially my biggest challenge in the ministry, I praise and thank God for using me to bless my students, the new disciples, and the churches too.

I love this verse, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9) as it really makes me glad to know that the Lord can be glorified even through a simple man like me. There were many challenges particularly with speaking in the local language in the field.

Serious in language learning

When I first arrived in the field, I started my two-year full time language course. But despite my best efforts I could not speak the language well even after 5 years. Though I managed to pray after 3 years and share a Gospel message after 4 years in the local language I still lacked the local accent. One day one of the church leaders told me that I should soon speak the local language well. Yes, I wanted to but I really could not. Of course, I felt very ashamed but did not give up.

Serving Seriously Amidst Challenges

'Paul', West Africa



“But I realized the need to be determined to continue to serve our Lord seriously even amidst dangers and fears.”

Serving in mission is one of the most humbling and exciting experiences in one’s life. When I began to reflect on the topic “Serving seriously” I was reminded of an incident that occurred during my early days in the mission field. I remember vividly that on a particular night, as I was sleeping outdoors, I heard loud noises at midnight. So, I woke up startled and looked around for the source of the noise. As I looked on, I saw the scene of guns being fired just a kilometre or so away from where I stood. I was shocked and startled by the scene unfolding in front of me; it seemed as though there was utter chaos and confusion. I heard gun shots being fired continuously and many getting injured. I saw people screaming, crying and running for their lives. I stood dumbfounded and shaken for a moment.

Serving seriously amidst fears

After some time, my leaders and team members started calling each other rigorously to keep a tap on the team and the situation at hand. As I looked at the chaos right in front of my eyes, some of my team members started talking about fleeing the country as they feared that the unrest would turn bloody and dangerous. In situations like these most people tend to run in search of stability and

comfort, being fearful and scared of what lies ahead. But I realized the need to be determined to continue to serve our Lord seriously even amidst dangers and fears.

Serving seriously with faith

At times, in the service of God we may be destined to go to dangerous places and our faith will be rigorously tested. But I realized that such moments will give Satan the opportunity to take advantage of our fears and worries, blinding us from seeing the bigger picture which God had planned for us.

For me, at that moment of fear, I was reminded of Romans 14:8-9 where Apostle Paul says “If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.”

At that very moment, I decided not to leave the country no matter how chaotic the situation would turn out to be. Now when I look back at that incident I realize how important it is for us to serve Him seriously no matter what we encounter in the mission field.

Serving Seriously through Business and Life

'Samuel', Asia

Our calling was, to simply come and serve in Asia. And what we do now is something that we have never experienced nor expected until we arrived on the field with our five children. We have never learnt nor considered running a business overseas when we were in Japan. But we are experiencing the Lord's abundant provisions far beyond our expectations, desires and abilities.

Serious preparation for service

First, God gave me an opportunity to work in a company in Japan run by a believer. Later, through him, I found a partner to develop a business strategy. God then provided a business mentor to learn about kingdom business and then a business consultant who trained me to develop my business plan. God also provided for our huge financial needs miraculously. Thus, it appeared as if our Lord had put His plan in place for us long time before we came to the field. All those things happened amid the pandemic.

Serious partnership in service

God called us to this difficult, but exciting field to serve in His mission. It is true that it has been very challenging to use business as mission platform here in this country. But He has given me multiple non-Christian business friends around me. I enjoy building new relationships and sharing my testimony with them.

Serious presentation of Christ in service

The most challenging part is for us to present ourselves as true followers of Christ by living the Gospel before sharing the Gospel with those of other faiths. Only when we follow genuinely the one who is our King & Good Shepherd, people around us will begin to smell the sweet fragrance of Jesus our wonderful God. How true it is that our Lord has His own plans to accomplish His mission through His servants!



“Though at times, I experience hardships and difficulties, it gives me tremendous joy to serve the Lord, as I know that our God is faithful and He will accomplish what he started among us.”

Serious in persevering amidst service

Sometimes I do get discouraged when things do not go well but still, my Shepherd comforts and guides me to walk continually behind Him through His divine presence and His Word. Though at times, I experience hardships and difficulties, it gives me tremendous joy to serve the Lord, as I know that our God is faithful and He will accomplish what he started among us. I am often encouraged by these words of Apostle Paul: “And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).

SIM East Asia's Colleagues



Director, Chinese Diaspora Ministry. Rev Tan Kah Beng, is a mechanical engineer turned businessman turned missionary who served in Central Asia for twenty-five over years as a church planter. He is currently pursuing his doctoral studies in missions, and another doctoral study in pastoral care. His wife, Annie Tan, is a graduate in social work. Rev Kah Beng and Annie joined SIM East Asia on 6 June 2022, with a vision to bring the Gospel to the Chinese Diaspora. They are blessed with a married daughter.



Coordinator, Indonesian Diaspora Ministry. Pastor Suhandy Yao has an honours degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and a Master of Divinity degree. He started his career as a Consultant with a private firm, later served as a Pastor at Glory Joy Christian Church and as Mission Executive at Grace Singapore Chinese Christian Church. Suhandy joined SIM East Asia on 1 September 2022 with the vision to mobilize the Indonesian churches for world mission. Married to Susan, Suhandy is blessed with a son and daughter.



Advisor and Consultant, International Students' Ministry. Dr Toh See Kiat is the founding Chairman of Goodwins Law Corporation, former Member of Parliament, former President of the Consumers Association of Singapore, and former Professor at the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Tyndale University, Canada. See Kiat, served among the International Students in Toronto before joining SIM East Asia on 1 November 2022. He is married to Dorothy and blessed with a daughter and son-in-law.



Deputy Regional Director. Dr Ng Khee Yang, who has a Doctorate in Civil Engineering is a Professional Engineer. He has worked as a lecturer and Centre Director at Singapore Polytechnic and later as Assistant Director at Singapore Institute of Technology, before joining SIM East Asia on 1 October 2022. Khee Yang has been an active member of Hebron Bible-Presbyterian Church and former ministry leader of the Navigators (Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Polytechnic ministries). He is happily married to Chee Shan and blessed with two daughters and a son-in-law.



***In Memory of Rev Frank Tuan
Sacrificial, Steadfast, Serious Service***
Rev Frank Tuan who served in South Africa as SIM Chinese Diaspora Ministry Pioneer, went to be with our Lord on September 15, 2022. Sent by Taiwan Covenant Church, Rev Tuan, his wife Ada and son Steven went to South Africa in 1991 and established the South Africa Chinese Covenant Church. Rev Tuan travelled to many African countries like Namibia, Mozambique, Lesotho, Zimbabwe for evangelism and church planting. Since his retirement in July 2018, Rev Tuan continued to serve as the volunteer General Secretary of the Taiwan Covenant Church in Africa.