



International Leadership and Services

1838 Gold Hill Road, Fort Mill SC 29715.

Celebrating You | 5 December 2016 | Founders' Day

Dear children of missionaries past and present,

On December 4th, every year, the SIM community worldwide celebrates as a Day of Prayer the arrival of the first Sudan Interior Mission (SIM) missionaries in Lagos, Nigeria. This year I am calling on all of SIM, in accordance with our Founder's Day practice, to set aside Monday, December 5, to give thanks, to celebrate and to pray.

This letter is for you if you are a child of missionaries past or present, from any of the missions which flowed into SIM over the years, whether your parents served during your adulthood or childhood, and for any duration of service. This year's thanksgiving, celebration and prayers is for you. Your personal contribution to the making of disciples, indeed, to the emergence and growth of the church in all corners of the world, is as incalculable as it is invisible. Therefore, on this Founders' Day, the SIM worldwide community is pausing to affirm and acknowledge the remarkable role *you* have played. We celebrate and give thanks for you.

Perhaps you have not been privileged to glimpse the result of your parents' work, to experience the joy of seeing the fruit of their labour. I assure you that their labour and your sacrifice have never been in vain. That I am the one sending this letter to you gives testimony to that fact. I committed my life to Christ while attending a mission school established by SIM, where I was disciplined by a missionary. As a product of SIM ministry over many years, and now not only serving in SIM but leading SIM globally, you can rejoice that your contribution and your experiences have never been in vain. Christ has the victory. I, and millions of others like me, bear testimony to this victory. Because of you and your family, many more, like myself, can understand God's good news. Thank you.

You were born into a family that, in the course of your life, carried the gospel to others, and this necessitated personal sacrifice, which I acknowledge by this letter. We celebrate with gratitude your service alongside your parents. Often the focus of mission work is on your parents and their cross-cultural ministry. However, at times you bore the weight of the calling of God on your parents' lives; thus you have made sacrifices that may have gone unacknowledged by anyone. All children are impacted by their parents' vocation, whether in missions or not. Yet the impact of a missionary vocation on a family is unique.

We acknowledge your own commitment and contributions to the work that was done or is being done by your parents. Perhaps you were active in the work in tangible ways, or you accepted situations into which you were entrusted that allowed your parents to do their work. You may be one who has experienced suffering or adversity, perhaps from separation from your parents at an early age. Some

have had close encounters with diseases, natural disasters, civil unrest, or other hazards. We acknowledge the price that you may have paid so that the gospel of Christ's saving grace can be preached to a dying world.

We celebrate your victories. While growing up in cultures that were not your parents', many have gone on to use those experiences as stepping stones to greater things. Many of you have achieved remarkable things for yourselves, your families, your communities, for the church and for the gospel. For some, growing up in another culture was not always positive; for others, it is one of the greatest gifts from their parents. I hope this is your experience, and even if not, I am thankful that you are still with us to see the result. We celebrate your accomplishments and the accomplishments of MKs all over the world.

Many of you have gone out as missionaries, taking your own children along. Many more have contributed to ministries or to the local communities into which God has placed you. We celebrate your contributions, your resilience, your grace, your hope. Your unique experiences are almost impossible to explain to those who never walked in your shoes. You are often misunderstood in both your host culture and in your parents' home culture. Yet this you have endured with determination, a sense of humor, and ultimately with renewed grace. We celebrate you today as one of "our" MKs, as one of our *masterpieces* created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do. I want to personally thank you for the blessings that you and your family have been to many.

Here are some ways that the mission family will be in prayer for you on December 5:

We pray for renewal and the refreshing presence of the Lord in your life today and always.

We pray that the light of the gospel may shine radiantly in your life and that the Lord will fill your life with joy as you remember the path of your life as an MK and the outcome of your and your family's sacrifice.

We pray for God's victory in your life and in all your endeavors.

We pray for God's lavish blessing over you today and always.

We pray healing for the hurts that you may have suffered or still suffer, and healing from the pain.

With gratitude for you and for all that you have endured for the gospel.

In Christ,



Joshua Bogunjoko

SIM International Director