

The Richey Report

OCTOBER 2011

SIM
Serving In Mission

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'PARTNERING WITH AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES IN SENDING MISSIONARIES FROM ANYWHERE TO EVERYWHERE'

ON THE HOME FRONT

Dear Friends,

Life in the Richey household has been lived in a whirlwind of activity lately. It is amazing how quickly days, weeks, and months roll by, finding us nearing the end of our first ministry assignment. We never cease to be amazed at all the Lord continues to do in and around us as we travel this path He directs. We thank Him for allowing us to walk at least part of the way with you in partnership in this Great Commission. It is a continual reminder that we are never alone in the wider Body of Christ—how blessed we are!

The kids are all doing well. Garrett moved into his own place recently, which he shares with three other guys. Living in the city allows him to be within walking distance of work, and a great deal closer to uni with a tram running directly to LaTrobe's Bundoora campus. Grant has settled into a new career as a telecommunications high rigger. Climbing 200-metre towers often perched atop high-rise buildings is exciting and rewarding work, and we are thrilled he enjoys what he is doing. Julia finishes up her high school studies this week and will sit exams in November. It has been a long, hard year, and we are very proud of her for the attention she has given her studies. Julia also achieved her "P-plater" status, successfully passing her driving test after 127 hours of learner driving. We are taking full advantage of having a new errand-runner in the house until the newness wears off! Jill, too, is finishing up the school year and sitting her year 10 exams. After much wrestling with choosing VCE electives, she has settled her courses and will begin year 11 studies on 2 November. Recently Jill declared she doesn't want to "just live life, but do something more significant". This was following some timely missions exposure at a Kairos barbecue (Kairos is a world missions course Dad & Mum just completed) and the report of veteran SIM missionaries who serve in Niger, W. Africa. How exciting to see God at work in our kids' lives!

Deanna has been sorting out travel plans for our mini-home assignment, as well as preparing the house for departure. She has begun looking into resuming her studies. Stan is also working to ready things for our departure and button things up in the Victoria office so things run smoothly in our absence. We will both breathe a sigh of relief when the plane takes off, we're certain, and we will try not to worry about leaving the boys behind this time.

Thanks for praying for us!

Stan & Deanna, Garrett, Grant, Julia & Jill



REVIVAL AT CHINESE METHODIST CHURCH

With months of planning and preparation, we were able to hold an *Expand!* missions training event hosted by the Camberwell Chinese Methodist Church. Ruth Chieng, a member of our Victorian State Leadership Team, kindly organized the event which included participants from five other churches in the area. Michelle Koh, one of the newest members of our SIM Australia team, flew down from Sydney to translate for Stan as he spoke in six sessions over the weekend event.

For those who don't know, *Expand!* is a "missions 101" basic training course we are developing

to help facilitate training in missions in the context of the local church. It is designed with the local church in mind, to help everyone find their place in fulfillment of the Great Commis-



sion. From the Biblical basis of missions, to formulating mission strategy and practical how-to's of praying for and supporting cross-

cultural workers, the course is designed to help those interested in global missions take it to the next level.

That is exactly what happened at the Chinese Methodist Church. When the challenge was given during the Saturday night session, the entire congregation filled the front of the church and down the aisle prayerfully seeking how the Lord would have them join in the great task of reaching the unreached with the Gospel. Response far exceeded everyone's expectations, once again demonstrating that God can do "exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think" for His glory! Continue to **pray for these brothers and sisters in Christ**, that God would continue to fan this flame of revival as they follow Him in obedience.

Developing Strategic Partnerships for multiplication of Mission!

IN USA 20 NOVEMBER—27 FEBRUARY!

We are counting down the days until we board the Qantas flight that will deliver us to our homeland and loved ones we haven't seen in many years. We already have several meetings on the calendar and our travel schedule set. We will be headed north Dec. 2-15, speaking in S. Carolina along the way, and catching up with friends in Pennsylvania Dec. 5-13, before heading back to Florida via the SIM offices in N. Carolina. The remainder of our time will be in Florida. God has provided us places to stay, but **we are still in**

need of a vehicle to use.

If you would like to schedule us to come to your church, Sunday school class or small group, or arrange a dessert meeting for us, we would love to share the great things God is doing around the world that do not always fit into a prayer letter! Or, if you can help with a car, we'd love to hear from you. Send Stan an email at: stan.richey@sim.org.au.



BY PRAYER...

THE PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS PERSON HAS GREAT POWER AS IT IS WORKING. JAMES 5:16B (ESV)

- **Praise for response at the Chinese Methodist conference**
- **Praise for great SIM World VIC Conference**
- **Pray for upcoming travels especially in regard to Qantas strikes**
- **Pray for a car for a fruitful furlough ministry**

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!

This month marked the one-year anniversary of our stepping into the role of State Ministry Directors for Victoria and Tasmania with SIM. It has been a year of developing new relationships with churches across the area, as well as re-establishing long-existing relationships with faithful mission supporters. We have been busy learning as much as we can about the history of SIM's work around the world, and praying that the Lord reveals His plan for the future of the work here. With

many missionaries finishing up and returning home to Australia, we have been **praying earnestly for the Lord to raise up new workers for His harvest field**, and to help us utilize these veterans here at home so their involvement in mission can continue. The Victoria office has successfully transitioned from the years of experience brought to the table with the retirement of our PA, Pat Hughes, to the new gifts and abilities of her replacement, Ruth Davis. The Victoria State Leadership team has expanded, and God has unified our team under the leadership of our State Chair, Mark Wilkinson. We are nothing short of amazed at how the Lord has carried us through this past year and allowed us to expand the profile of SIM for His glory, both here, and around the world. This has happened in many significant ways:

- We were able to get out **our first State Newsletter** to better be able to communicate with all of our churches and individuals pressing needs of global missions that they can be involved in. It also allows us to showcase our new workers preparing to go out so they can be lifted up in prayer.
- We witnessed the **commissioning and departure of our first long-term member**, Sil Ruddle, to language school in Paris on her way to project management in Benin, W. Africa.
- With the help of a great team of volunteers, we hosted our **first SIM World Victoria conference**, in which we were able to honour our recently returned missionaries for their years of faithful service overseas. Workshops on a variety of mission topics allowed us to share and challenge others to greater involvement in mission through prayer, giving and service. Our expectations for a first conference were far exceeded with over 90 in attendance, and the feedback from the event was tremendously encouraging. The spirit of unity and purpose were evidence of God at work among us, and we were humbly blessed to be a part of this.



Sil Ruddle Commissioned



Veterans Honoured



Full house at SIM World!

WHEN GROWN MEN CRY

We were recently at a church in Essendon where Stan spoke about "Filling the Gap with Grace" in relationships. It is what God did for us, and it is what we must do in demonstrating His love to others. This particular meeting had been rescheduled when Stan came down with pneumonia several weeks prior, making it God's perfect timing. At the end of the service, several men shared how they desperately needed to hear this message. One man in particular was visiting church for the very first time, having come at the invitation of a friend. He shared through tears how his life was falling apart in *atypical Aussie bloke style*. We learned later that He doesn't yet know Christ, and he spoke about the message for days afterwards. **Pray that the Lord continues to draw this man to Himself, and praise the Lord with us for His perfect timing of events.** We are always amazed at the opportunities He gives us to share this precious hope that changes lives.

Join Our Support Team!

We need prayer partners! Send an email to deanna.richey@sim.org.au to let us know you are praying with us.

We need financial support! You can donate online using the following links. Be sure to put "Stan & Deanna Richey" as the missionary you are supporting or #32194 as the missionary ID.

In Australia –
<http://www.sim.org.au/onLineGiving.shtml>

In the US –
<https://usenet.sim.org/SIMGift/missionaries.php>