

January 2005 - Global Ministry

Global Ministry Handbook

Need more copies of the new Global Ministry Handbook? Can't find the one sent to your church? The Covenant Resource Center will be happy to send you additional copies. This revised handbook contains valuable information on "Rip 'N Roll" (Congo Bandage Ministry), other Congo medical needs, SIMs and Cross Cultural Opportunities. Cost: \$3. "Rip 'N Roll" brochures are also available. Making Those Crucial Connections with our SIMs

Special Interest Missionaries (SIM's) are a partnership connection that begins at each Triennial Conference when each woman on our many Covenant mission fields, as well as each retired missionary, is linked with a local church Women Ministries group. (A complete listing of partnerships is found in the Global Ministry Handbook available through the Covenant Resource Center or the Women Ministries office.)



Think of it this way: a body must have strong joints. We could not do even the simplest of task -- pick up a pen, without joints . A joint is a point at which two or more bones meet. There are hundreds of such connections in our bodies. In Ephesians 4:15-16, Paul speaks of Christ's body being, "joined and knit together by what every joint supplies". This, he says, is what "causes [the] growth of the body..." Our SIM relationships are the vital joints in Christ's body. As members of Christ's body, our common love for Him gives us a common desire to make Him known. It is

through this vital connection with our SIMs that we will facilitate the most effective work of His body in our world.

The "SIM challenge" is for us to become "world Christians." We do this by familiarizing ourselves with the lives and the on-going work of our Covenant missionaries:

- Covenant Missionary Prayer Calendars
- World Mission Newsletters
- Weekly World Mission Praise and Prayer e-mail updates

Other resources are available from the Covenant Resource Center. Or call: 800-338-IDEA (4332).

Once you have the information regarding your SIM, what, you ask, should be the next step? Write, e-mail, or phone your SIM... Introduce yourself and tell your SIM something about your family, your church, and your community. Then ask your SIM about herself, her family, her interests and the culture she is ministering in. Ask if there are any immediate prayer requests and how you and your group can get involved.

Then, begin to stimulate awareness in your SIM family in your church by: maintaining a Missions bulletin board in a prominent place in your church with their photo, address, birthdays, anniversary (found in the Covenant Missionary Prayer Calendar) as well as current prayer

requests and Special Project request for the current year (check with Global Ministry chair or Spring inSpirit). Be creative - decorate the bulletin board with photos and news clips pertaining to her country of service. Plan an "Ethnic Night" for the entire church with typical food, music, entertainment, crafts, and invite your SIM or other guest speakers who will focus on the work in the country where she serves.

We each can find many others in our local churches that are interested in one or more of the six SIM areas of support:

- 1) prayer
- 2) moral support
- 3) communication
- 4) logical
- 5) financial
- 6) re-entry.

As we make crucial connections as Covenant women we will, in increasing measure, be strengthening the Body of Christ worldwide.