

SIMnow

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April 2026

Abiding In Christ

*"Abide in me, and I in you.
As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself,
unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you,
unless you abide in me."
(John 15 : 4)*

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SIM
EAST ASIA
Serving In Mission
国际事工差会

For Christians Only

In Gratitude and Faith

Dr Stanley Ling, Editor and Chairman

We thank God for His grace that keeps us steadfast and able to share good news.

We are grateful for Watson, who faithfully served as SIM East Asia Regional Director during the challenging COVID-19 years. As his five-year term concludes, he and his wife will return to Malawi to continue their mission work.



We also thank Dr Ng Khee Yang, who joined in 2022 as Deputy Regional Director, and Ps Suhandy Yao, who as the Coordinator for SIM Indonesian Diaspora Ministry. In April, they assumed the roles of Regional Director and Executive Director. May God guide them as they lead us forward in His mission.

After stepping down in 2021, I served three years as Advisor. In November 2025, in light of new government policies in Singapore regarding charity leadership nationality, I was reappointed Chairman of the East Asia Board until 2028, with Rev. Caleb Chian as Vice Chairman. I also thank God for the privilege of continuing as Editor of *SIM Now* this year.

In these uncertain global times, we invited missionaries and Ps Joy to share on “Abiding in Christ.” May their testimonies encourage us to remain in Him, bear fruit, and faithfully fulfill His mission.

A Sincere Farewell

Watson Rajaratnam, Former Editor and Regional Director

My heart overflows with gratitude to God for His grace, strength and wisdom which have been sufficient for me during the last five years. I thank Church leaders, mission partners, and my colleagues in SIM East Asia for the privilege of serving together. We have pursued the Great Commission together, remembering that “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few” (Luke 10:2).



As I look forward to my continued service for my Lord in Africa, I repeat Missionary David Livingston’s prayer of dedication one month before his death: **“My Jesus, my King, my Life, my All; I again dedicate my whole self to Thee.”**

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Since 1893



Organisational Change in SIM East Asia Region

As SIM East Asia grows and also to be more aligned to SIM International global structure, the entities within SIM East Asia Region will be grouped into Cluster A and Cluster B, effective April 1, 2026.

Cluster A includes: SIM East Asia Ltd, SIM-Region C, Philippines, North East India and Taiwan.

Cluster B includes: SIM Country B, Indonesia, East Malaysia, West Malaysia, Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore.

Cluster A consists of those entities which have grown to a certain size and signed on as Member of SIM Global Assembly. Cluster B consists of SIM entities that are still developing and working together with shared resources.

While all different entites continue to cooperate closely and inter-dependently, Cluster A entites will be more self-sufficient in serving the missionaries and churches. Cluster B will operate under SIM East Asia Limited whose office is in Singapore. It is also a charity organisation. This operation is headed by an Executive Director (ED), Ps Suhandy Yao.

The Regional Director (RD), Dr Ng Khee Yang has oversight of the East Asia region and he is the representative of SIM International Director for the region.

For ease of communication, we request that churches, supporters and friends from Cluster A connect with the signatory Entity Directors and the Regional Director. For Cluster B, please contact the non-signatory Entity Directors and the Executive Director.

Email addresses:

- **RD: rd.eastasia@sim.org**
- **ED: eastasia.ed@sim.org**

Please continue to pray and support our ministries to ensure the Gospel preached to the least-reached communities in the world and nurture disciples where we serve!

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give...” (2 Cor 9:7)

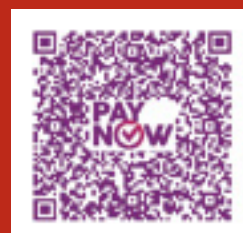
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Abiding In Christ

Pastor Joy, Member Care Facilitator,
SIM East Asia

Introduction

John 15:4–5

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

The central message of John 15 is that the Lord Jesus is the true vine and believers are the branches. It emphasises the importance of abiding in Christ, loving one another, and bearing fruit. This is the key to the believer's life and mission, revealing the relationship between believers with the Lord Jesus, God the Father, and the world. It also foretells the coming of the Holy Spirit, which is the foundation of the believer's life and service.

Abiding, Dwelling

In these two verses, the word **“abide”** (or **“remain”**) in verses 4 & 5 appears six times. In the original text, it means **“to dwell”** signifying a genuine fellowship with the Lord through reading Scripture, prayer, and obedience to His word thereby drawing life from Him. The relationship between the Lord Jesus and believers, just as branches are joined to the vine to bear fruit, must be one of constant abiding in Christ in order to glorify God. Apart from the Lord, believers can do nothing. This metaphor shows that the source and effect of spiritual life come from union with Christ.

When believers are born again and saved, they are already **“in Christ”**, but not necessarily **“dwelling in Christ”**. Dwelling in Christ means that in all matters, great or small, life is **“from Him, through Him, and to Him”** (Romans 11:36).



**They are already
“in Christ”,
but not necessarily
“dwelling in Christ”.**

Thus, **“dwelling in Christ”** means having a deep union and fellowship with the Lord Jesus; enjoying His life, power, and riches and to no longer be enslaved by sin and the world but to grow continually into the likeness of the Son of God. This highlights that union with Christ is a continuous spiritual fellowship — obeying the guidance of the Holy Spirit, experiencing God's grace and power, and receiving joy, strength, and victory.

The foundation of the believer's life — its vitality, power, and fruitfulness — comes entirely from **“dwelling in Christ, abiding in Christ”**. The **“fruit”** here refers to the believer's whole life and service. Bearing fruit is the natural outcome of a mature life; it is the outflow and manifestation of the inner life of Christ. **“Every good tree bears good fruit”** (Matthew 7:17). If believers do not have genuine fellowship with Christ, drawing abundant life from Him the true vine, they cannot bear the fruit of Christ's life. They will ultimately be cut off by the Lord.

Conclusion

In summary, these two verses call believers to maintain a continual and profound connection with the Lord Jesus, so that they may live a fruitful life and bear witness to Him, glorifying God. Therefore, believers must **“abide in Christ”** and **“dwell in Christ”** to bear fruit for the Lord, and to have a beautiful testimony in both life and service — bringing glory to God and blessing to others.

Abiding In Christ Amid The Unexpected

Dr Chow Hsun Tao & Yook Wai,
Singapore



In December 2025, we were scheduled to go home for our annual vacation. Just before we left the field country, a terrible incident happened to one of our colleagues. Every few days after that, we continued to receive updates of changes in the field station as a result of this incident.

In short, it resulted in the evacuation of the majority of the missionary community, and we were asked not to go back.

We went from shock and anger to frustration and finally to a deep sense of sadness. Our initial thought was that there was still food in the refrigerator, followed by the plants and pets we left behind. Next, we wondered among the hospital employees whom we've worked closely with. Finally, we grieved for our fellow missionaries who had to leave the field suddenly.

Our first time to Niger was in 1991 when we were there for three months as short-term missionaries. Since then, we have known and served together with the local people for more than 20 years. We have always reminded ourselves to finish well; yet we did not have the chance to say a proper goodbye; this was the most difficult part for us.

As the reality of not returning to the field started to sink in, we started to ask “what next?” As this change happened unexpectedly, it felt as if something had been yanked away from our feet and we were left dangling and trying to grasp at something to hold on to. We also had to honestly address questions of identity: Where, and with whom, does our security belong? Do we trust our Lord enough to let go of what we consider precious? Will we fix our eyes on Jesus, and trust in His sovereignty and goodness? We suddenly realised that the Bible verses that we had clung to and had helped us in the past were mere knowledge residing in our head! After a period of quiet reflection and prayer, accompanied with much sighing and tears, we sensed the Lord Jesus telling us “**just stay with me**”.

What this means to us is a relationship of many conversations with Jesus at any time of the day; time to talk and also to listen to what He is saying.

Now we are also connected and grounded. In Africa, the WIFI was erratic and sometimes unavailable. Abiding in Him was like getting an “oh-wow” unlimited WIFI access to all the available resources, to help in all situations, all the time.

We understand now that the Lord is reminding us to abide in Him as Jesus is the true vine that has life when all else seems dead. There is dependence and trust, and it is a continual process. “**In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength**” (Isaiah 30:15). Jesus is the root that holds everything together and gives the branches (us) life, and He will cause us to bear fruit as we abide in Him.

Abiding In Christ Amid Hopelessness

Grace Ngan, Director,
SIM Hong Kong



I would like to share testimonies from East Africa in which we chose to abide in Jesus when challenges in ministry were encountered.

As a hospital speech therapist, I encountered cases for which there lacked human solutions: a HIV-positive patient whose speech and swallowing abilities deteriorated due to late discovery; two epileptic baby twins in a remote area who suffered seizures every five minutes but lacked healthcare; a patient who lost her voice without evident cause with suspected psychological or spiritual issues; cleft palate patients who were only able to receive surgery as adults. We could only pray and abide in Jesus as He alone understood and was able to comfort them. As I prayed, God changed my complaining heart towards acceptance.

Despite the challenges above, we had some encouraging experiences where we saw God's hand at work. For example, there were two female patients from a remote area who had big lumps in their throats. After cancer was eliminated, the lumps were diagnosed as cysts. A pastor took them to the hospital for surgery and their whole community gave thanks to God. This was a significant breakthrough. The two patients and the pastor broke through cultural boundaries as a male cannot bring a female out of the community. For us, we needed to trust God for the results of the surgery. If that was cancer, the community might blame us for not treating the patients well and the costs could be unaffordable too. But we trusted God would provide help, so we went ahead to bring the patients to the hospital, and took the opportunity to share the meaning of Christmas to some staff. We thanked God who gave us these opportunities to share His message. As we abide in Jesus, we are sensitive to every step that He is guiding us.

There are also some encouraging testimonies from the team who shared their faith with non-believers. For example, someone from another faith ultimately ended up abiding in Jesus. This person had a bad attitude towards Christians at the beginning but a

foreign colleague who could speak her language well, changed her attitude towards Christians. Then, another bold believer was willing to take her to a fellowship meeting where she would have a chance to know the Christian faith better. Finally, a local pastor led her to Jesus. Leading someone to faith requires teamwork. She faced a lot of challenges after becoming a Christian but still, she was willing to share her faith with others. Another lady from a different religious background also faced lots of challenges due to her faith, including the health of her son and her marriage. But by faith and vision, she was determined to translate the bible. She prayed to God when she translated each bible verse, one verse for one of her people. She is the first believer in her tribe to translate the bible. Many years later, quite a few books were translated, and she led many to Christ. Finally, we have a believer who by faith and prayer had a chance to renounce her old beliefs. By doing this she could go to church more regularly. Glory to God! By abiding in Jesus, all these friends have spiritual breakthroughs. They can go to church regularly, share the good news with others, and do God's work (e.g. bible translation).

Serving in East Africa has deeply taught me that human ability is limited and resources are scarce. Yet when we choose to trust in God and remain in Him, He grants us faith, wisdom, and breakthroughs. Whether it is the helplessness in medical needs, the barriers of culture, or the challenges of faith, only by abiding in Christ can we witness His works, experience His grace, and become vessels in His hands to lead more people to Him.

**"Yet when we choose to trust
in God and remain in Him,
He grants us faith, wisdom,
and breakthroughs."**



Abiding In Christ Amid The Ordinary

Hanna, Japan

On New Year's Eve, I attended a gathering and met new people. During introductions, someone asked me, "What does a missionary do?" I paused, struggling to find the right words. Every day feels so ordinary that it's hard to explain what I do. Before coming to Japan, answering "What do you do?" was simple—I had a job title and clear responsibilities. But being a missionary is different. It's not about a position or a title; it's about loving God and loving people—living each day clinging to Jesus and reflecting Him in my life.

My life here isn't as glamorous as I once imagined a missionary's life would be. There are no grand stages or dramatic moments. Instead, it's a daily choice: choosing Jesus, choosing to love and serve the people He has placed around me. Nothing fancy—just striving to live a life worthy of the death and resurrection of Christ. And yet, as I reflect on this seemingly ordinary life, I'm amazed at how God works in extraordinary ways through it.

Take Mio-chan, for example. She's one of the kids in the English class I teach once a week at our church. When we started, there were only three kids—now there are twelve. Mio-chan was very shy; every time I called her name, tears would stream down her face. Her mom sat beside her for comfort during the first month. But as more kids joined and we completed our three-month curriculum, I noticed a remarkable change. Mio-chan stopped crying. She began helping her friends with answers and blossomed into the sweet, fun, and caring child she truly is.



When I spoke with her mom, she shared how much Mio-chan enjoyed the class and how it helped her overcome her fear and shyness. Through this English class, we've also been able to invite families to church events, giving them opportunities to hear the Gospel. Slowly, relationships deepen, and children experience the love of Jesus in tangible ways.

This is just one of many stories of how God moves in my ordinary life here in Japan. Nothing extraordinary—just abiding, choosing Jesus daily, and loving the people He loves. And in these simple, faithful steps, God turns the ordinary into something beautiful and eternal.

**"Nothing extraordinary—
just abiding, choosing
Jesus daily, and loving
the people He loves."**

Announcement



Dr Ng Khee Yang, Regional Director

My mother-in-law has a fruitful lime tree. One day, a very strong wind broke one of the branches, resulting in the branch being detached from the tree. Within a day, devoid of water and nutrients, the leaves withered, and the branch could no longer bear any fruits. It was useless.

We, too, may face many strong winds in the form of life's challenges, such as being in poor health, or bearing heavy family and/or work responsibilities.

I urge you not to let these challenges tear you away from abiding in Christ. Instead, spend time each day reading God's Word, bringing your burdens to Him in prayer, and allowing His presence to strengthen you. Stay away from sin and temptations, and find encouragement and accountability from fellow believers.

Since joining SIM East Asia in 2022 and preparing for the role of Regional Director in April, I have been constantly reminded that as our workers seek to reach the lost and disciple the saved, **"our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms"** (Ephesians 6:12).

Do keep all our coworkers and me in your prayers, that we shall continue to abide in Christ. Only then can we continually tap on the power of Christ and be able to effectively and faithfully discharge our duties.

Dr Ng holds a Doctorate in Civil Engineering and is a registered Professional Engineer. He has previously served as a Lecturer and Centre Director at Singapore Polytechnic, and later as Assistant Director at the Singapore Institute of Technology, before joining SIM.

He has been an active member of Hebron Bible-Presbyterian Church and formerly a ministry leader with the Navigators, serving in the Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Polytechnic ministries. Dr Ng is happily married to Chee Shan, and together they are blessed with two daughters and a son-in-law.



Ps Suhandy Yao, Executive Director

Since joining SIM in 2022, I have deeply experienced God's grace. During this time, I have faced challenges in many areas—support, finances, ministry opportunities, and even health. Yet God has continually shown His faithfulness. Each week I experience His abundant grace and learn to remain in Him, always connected and dependent.

At different stages of life, especially when facing pressure, responsibility, or uncertainty, our faith can easily become shallow or weak. Just like some plants that grow quickly but have shallow roots, our spiritual life may look busy and active on the surface, but struggle to endure when difficulties come. Jesus calls us to build a life and ministry that is rooted deeply, growing steadily, and bearing fruit in His time.

SIM is now entering a new stage of ministry, and we sincerely invite you to pray for SIM. As we take on new responsibilities and enter new areas of service, this passage reminds us that the most important calling is not simply to work harder, but to remain in Christ. When we remain in Him, our roots grow deeper, our lives mature, and our ministry bears lasting fruit.

Ps Suhandy pursued Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical & Electronic Engineering) from Nanyang Technological University, and served in the marketplace for 6 years. He holds a Master of Divinity (Biblical Studies) from Singapore Bible College. He served as a Pastor at Glory Joy Christian Church for 3 years and as Missions Executive (Pastor) at Grace Singapore Chinese Christian Church, his sending church, for 10 years.

Ps Suhandy has long been actively involved in ministry among the Indonesian diasporas. He previously served as a Deacon at Bukit Batok Presbyterian Church (Indonesian Congregation) before answering the call to full-time ministry. During his university years, he was also part of the founding Executive Committee of the NTU Indonesian Students' Christian Fellowship under the Fellowship of Evangelical Students. Ps Suhandy and his wife, Susan, are blessed with a son and a daughter.