International Conference on SIM History in Africa  
9-13 July 2013  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Tuesday Evening Opening Programme

“Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.  
he who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow,  
will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.”  
Psalm 126:5,6

Chairperson for the evening  
Dr. Paul Balisky  
SIM Ethiopia (retired; conference convener)

Opening song  
Mrs. Lila Balisky  
SIM Ethiopia (retired)

Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees and looks to God alone;  
Laughs at impossibilities and cries it shall be done.....(repeat).  
Charles Wesley (historic SIM chorus)

Conference Conveners  
Dr. Tim Geysbeek, SIM Int’l Archives Director  
Dr. Joanna Bogunjoko, SIM Int’l Archives Collections  
Dr. Tibebe Eshete, Whitworth University, USA  
Dr. Shobana Shankar, Stony Brook University, USA  
Rev. Gary Corwin, SIM Int’l Missiologist  
Mrs. Dotsie Corwin, SIM Int’l Expeditor and Media  
Dr. Ronald Shope, Grace University, USA

Greetings from  
Dr. Steve Bryan  
SIM Ethiopia Director and conference convener

Greetings from  
Dr. Desta Heliso, EKHC Vice-chairperson,  
Ethiopian Kale Hiywet Church  
Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology, Director

Greetings from  
Dr. Joshua Bogunjoko  
SIM International  
International Director, SIM Int’l.

Keynote Speaker  
Ato Shiferaw Wolde/Michael, LL.M; MA  
Published author, Ethiopian law and government positions,  
Leader in the Evangelical Churches Fellowship of Ethiopia,  
CEO of the Child Development Training and Research Centre

Closing Song  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Benediction  
Dr. Howard Brant  
SIM Ethiopia (formerly SIM Int’l)  
Daily Reflections on Mission from Acts

Refreshments and fellowship  
http://www.sim.org/index.php/content/history-conference-update
GENERAL INFORMATION

● Venue: Tegen Hotel, Comoros street House# 343, Kebele 08/15, Yeka Sub city, near the British Embassy
● The conference is open to the public, and there is no registration fee.
● Each person will be given 20-25 minutes to present their paper, followed by a discussion.
● For more information about the conference, contact Tim Geysbeek at tim.geysbeek@sim.org.

Row 1: Joshua Bogunjoko (SIM Intl.), Dotsie Corwin† (SIM Intl.), Yusufu Turaki* (JETS), Barbara Cooper* (Rutgers), Mahamane Addo* (University Abdou Moumouni), Reuben Maiture* (Ahmadu Bello University), Tibebe Eshete* (Whitworth University), Tim Geysbeek* (SIM Intl.)

Row 2: Shobana Shankar* (Stony Brook U), Maxwell Darteh* (Challenge Cinema Today), Ron Shope* (Grace University, U Nebraska-Lincoln), Titus Amralo* (Maranatha University College), Lila Balisky (SIM Canada), Joanne Brant (SIM Ethiopia), Pamela Walker*† (Carleton U, U Ottawa), Mailafiya Aruwa Filaba* (Nasarawa U), Joanna Bogunjoko (SIM Intl.), Wendy James* (Oxford U), Dogara Gwanna* (Nasarawa U), Paul Todd* (Africa Christian Textbooks)

Row 3: Andrew Barnes* (Arizona State U), Paul Balisky* (Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology), Steve Bryan (SIM Ethiopia), Musa Gaiya* (U Jos), Howard Brant (SIM Ethiopia), Alvyn Austin* (York U), Tesfaye Yacob**† (Ethiopian Comprehensive Plan), Douglas Johnson* (South Sudan National Archive), Ben Hegeman* (Houghton College), Samuel Kunhiyop*† (JETS), Gary Corwin (SIM Intl.)

*presenters of history papers †added to the original photo
Missing: Ato Shiferaw Wolde/Michael (CDTRC) and Desta Heliso (EKHC)
Photo credit: Dotsie Corwin
PROGRAM

Tuesday, July 9

5:00 – 6:30 p.m., Dinner

7:00 – 8:30 p.m. Opening Program

We are happy to report that Steve Bryan, who will be bringing greetings in the opening program will also be able to join us for most of the Conference sessions.

Steve Bryan is SIM Ethiopia director (Ph.D. Cambridge Univ.). He is also a regular Professor of New Testament at Ethiopia Graduate School of Theology and formerly served as its Dean. He has written The Duel: A Spiritual Fight between Immoveable Object (Fundamentalism) and Irresistible Force (Free Will).

Wednesday, July 10

8:45 – 8:55, a.m., Howard Brant, Reflection on Mission

Howard Brant was raised in Ethiopia of SIM missionary parents and has served his whole adult life with SIM in Ethiopia, Ghana, and International leadership as Deputy International Director for SIM in Asia. More recently still he has returned to Ethiopia serving in leadership and mission training with rural Ethiopians. He is author of Acts: Courageous Witness in a Hostile World, a commentary with a particular focus on answering questions important to the Church of the Global South (D. Miss., Trinity Evangelical Divinity School).

9:00 – 10:30 a.m., Origins of the Sudan Interior Mission (Panel 1)

Chair: Gary Corwin

Gary Corwin serves as SIM Missiologist and is also Associate Editor for the Evangelical Missions Quarterly (graduate degrees from East Stroudsburg University, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and Northwestern University). He is co-author of a popular seminary text, Introducing World Missions: A Biblical, Historical, and Practical Survey, and is currently working on Serving in Mission: A Short History of SIM from Its 19th Century Roots to Its 21st Century Reach.

Alvyn Austin. “Toronto the Good:’ The Sudan Interior Mission and Canadian Evangelicalism, 1891-1930.”

Alvyn Austin is the son of China Inland Mission parents and author of Saving China: Canadian Missionaries in the Middle Kingdom 1888-1959 (Ph.D. York University, Toronto). He taught Chinese history at several places including York University, Univ. of Toronto, and Brock Univ., and is an avid student of late 19th century religious life in Toronto, Canada.

*Tim Geysbeek* grew up in Liberia and Nigeria, and worked in both countries as an SIM missionary. He taught at Grand Valley State University and other universities in Michigan before he moved to South Carolina to become SIM International’s Director of Archives and Research (Ph.D., Michigan State University). He is also an adjunct professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

10:30 – 11:00 a.m., Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., The “Problem” of Islam (Panel 2)

Chair: Benjamin Lee Hegeman

**W. Paul Todd.** “‘Other religions may be termed non-Christian – Mohammedanism must be termed Anti-Christian:’ Evolving Christian attitudes towards Islam in Nigeria.”

*W. Paul Todd* is senior editor for Africa Christian Textbooks, having served previously in numerous teaching and administrative roles with Jos ECWA Theological Seminary. He is author of “The attitudes of the Evangelical Church of West Africa towards Islam in light of ethnic and religious violence” (Ph.D., Queen’s University of Belfast).

**Yusufu Turaki.** “SIM in Central Sudan: The Founding of an African Church within the Context of African Tradition, Islam, Colonialism and Missions.”

*Yusufu Turaki* is Professor of Theology and Social Ethics, Jos ECWA Theological Seminary, Nigeria (Ph.D., Boston University). He is author of *Tainted Legacy: Islam, Colonialism and Slavery in Northern Nigeria* and *Theory and Practice of Christian Missions in Africa: A Century of SIM/ECWA History and Legacy in Nigeria 1893-1993*.

12:45 – 2:00 p.m., Lunch

2:00 – 3:30 p.m., African Evangelism (Panel 3)

Chair: Musa Gaiya


*Reuben Goje Maiture* is an ordained minister with ECWA and has been teaching Christian Education in public schools since 1985. He is currently the Secretary of the National Association of Christian Religious Educators of Nigeria (NACREN formerly NABKTN). He is presently the Coordinator CRS and lecturer with Ahmadu Bello University Zaria (Ph.D., University of Jos).

**Andrew Barnes.** “‘Shadow and Sunlight’: Images of Christianization from the pages of *The Sudan Witness.*”

*Andrew Barnes* is Associate Professor of History, Arizona State University, USA (Ph.D. Princeton University). He is author of *The Social Dimension of Piety* and *Making Headway: the Introduction*
of Western Civilization in Colonial Northern Nigeria. He is presently working on a study of the International Missionary Council, the forerunner of the WCC, and its role in the promotion of social engineering projects in colonial Africa.

3:30 – 4:00 p.m., Break

4:00 – 5:30 p.m., Missionized Histories: I (Panel 4)

Chair: Paul Balisky

E. Paul Balisky, along with his wife Lila, are veteran SIM missionaries having served in Ethiopia from 1967 to 2005 in many capacities including assisting the Kale Heywet Church to launch theological schools at the diploma, bachelors, and graduate levels (Ph.D. University of Aberdeen). He is author of Wolaitta Evangelists: A Study of Religious Innovation in Southern Ethiopia, 1937-1975.

Dogara Gwamna. “Sudan Interior Mission (SIM) and the neglected Gbagyi Story.”

Dogara Gwamna is a professor at Nasarawa State University, Nigeria. He holds a Ph.D in New Testament studies from the University of Jos where he taught for twenty-one years before moving to Nasarawa State University, Keffi. He specializes in Contextual Theology and on Religion and Conflict in Nigeria. He is the current National Chairman of the Nigerian Association of Biblical Studies and Dean, Faculty of Arts Nasarawa State University Keffi. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Religion.

Teso Yacob. “Contributions of SIM (1950-1963), for National Incorporation of Wongel Amagnotch Andinet Mahebar, (WAAM), that grew towards the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Chruch (EKHC).”

Tesfaye Yakob is National Manager of Ethiopian Comprehensive Plan. This is a Bible Translation program for 27 Ethiopian Languages that have no Bible text in their Mother tongue. This program is owned by the Bible Society of Ethiopia, SIL, Kale Heywet Church, and several other churches and groups. Tesfaye is a part-time instructor at the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology. He has also served as the Medical Director of Ras Desta hospital in Addis Ababa and General Secretary of the Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church (M.D, Addis Ababa University).

6:00 p.m. – Evening, Dinner in Addis Ababa

Thursday, July 11

8:45 – 8:55, a.m., Howard Brant, Reflection on Mission

9:00 – 10:30 a.m., Missionized Histories: II (Panel 5)

Chair: Paul Balisky

Benjamin L. Hegeman. “A ‘Protestant-Evangelical’ missiological evaluation of the coming of the Gospel to the Kingdom of Baatonu (Benin).”
Benjamin Lee Hegeman is Missionary Scholar in Residence as Islamic Missiologist, Houghton College, USA. He is a life-long kingdom-focused missiological researcher, curriculum-writer, teacher, and consultant with long-term experience in language learning (Dutch, English, French and Baatonu). He is an SIM career missionary with 25 years of overseas experience with Christians, traditional worshippers and Muslims (Ph.D., Rijks University of Utrecht, NL).

Tibebe Eshete. “Accommodating changes: The SIM Youth Center and alternative elite initiatives in Ethiopia.”

Tibebe Eshete is Visiting Assistant Professor of History, Whitworth University, USA (Ph. D., Michigan State University). He is author of The Evangelical Movement in Ethiopia: Resistance and Resilience, a one-of-a-kind treatment of the subject.

10:30 – 11:00 a.m., Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., The Medical Missionary (Panel 6)

Chair: Pamela Walker

Pamela Walker is Professor of History, Carleton University, and Joint Chair, Women’s Studies, Carleton University and the University of Ottawa, Canada (Ph.D., Rutgers University). She is author of Pulling the Devil’s Kingdom Down: The Salvation Army in Victorian Britain, and has research interest in 19th century missionary movements directed at British Jews and African American Evangelicals in England.

Barbara Cooper. “A Lifetime of Service: SIM’s contributions to Niger’s health history seen through the career of a mission nurse.”

Barbara Cooper is Professor of History, Rutgers University, USA (Ph.D., Boston University). She is author of Evangelical Christians in the Muslim Sahel and Marriage in Maradi: Gender and Culture in the Hausa Society in Niger, 1900-1989 and many others works on women, gender, and social history in Niger.


12:30 – 1:30 p.m., Lunch

Afternoon and evening in Addis Ababa: historical tour and dinner

Friday, July 12

8:45 – 8:55, a.m., Howard Brant, Reflection on Mission

9:00 – 10:30 a.m., The Medium is the Message (Panel 7)

Chair: Tim Geysbeek

Ron Shope served with SIM at Radio ELWA in various capacities between 1976 and 1986. Since leaving Liberia he has served as Professor of Communication and Research at Grace University in Omaha, Nebraska. He also serves in an adjunct position with the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He has also conducted workshops on qualitative and mixed methods research with Dr. John Creswell in the USA, Canada and Australia (Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University).


Mailafiya Aruwa Filaba is Professor of History, Nasarawa State University, Keffi, Nigeria. He has written five books, and co-edited ten books and journals. One of his many articles is “SIM in Benue – Gwari District.”

10:30 – 11:00 a.m., Break

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Local Church histories (Panel 8)

Chair: Barbara Cooper


Mahamane Addo is Pro-Director of the Department of History, University Abdou Moumouni, Niger (Ph.D., University of Aix-en-Province). He is author of The Cultural Potential of Africa, Another Way of Thinking about Development: the Case of Niger.

Titus Amralo. “An Assessment of the Commencement and Growth of the Bible Church of Africa in the Accra District Church Council.”

Titus Amralo is Lecturer, Maranatha University College, Ghana. (Th.M., Akrofi-Christaller Institute). He is author of “An Assessment of the Commencement and Growth of the Bible Church of Africa in the Accra District Church Council.”

12:45 – 2:00, Lunch

2:00 – 3:30 p.m., Considerations of Testimony and Biography as Evidence (Panel 9)

Chair: Yusufu Turaki

Shobana Shankar. “Christian Conversion Testimonies as Sources of History in Muslim Northern Nigeria: Gender and Politics of Identity.”

Shobana Shankar is Assistant Professor, Stony Brook University (SUNY), USA (Ph.D., University of California at Los Angeles). She has also served as a Visiting Assistant Professor of History at Georgetown Univ. She is author of Who Shall Enter Paradise? Christian Origins in Muslim Northern Nigeria, c.1890-1970 (forthcoming 2014), and co-editor of Religions on the Move: New Dynamics of Religious Expansion in a Globalizing World.

3:30 – 4:00 p.m., Break

4:00 – 5:30 p.m., Perceptions of Missions and Missionaries (Panel 10)

Chair: Ronald Joseph Shope

Wendy James. “Remembering Chali: an ‘internal’ perspective on the legacy of the SIM project in the Upper Nile/Blue Nile borderlands, 1938-63.”

*Wendy James* is Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology, Oxford University, UK (D.Phil., Oxford University). Her distinguished research career for more than four decades and her prolific writing record defy easy description. Her distinctions which are also many include being a Fellow of the British Academy, having served as President of the Royal Anthropological Institute, an honorary doctorate from the Univ. of Copenhagen, and being appointed CBE, for services to scholarship. She currently serves as Vice-President of the British Institute in Eastern Africa.


*Musa Gaiya* is Professor of Church History, Department of Religion and Philosophy, University of Jos, Nigeria (Ph. D., University of Jos). He is a specialist on African church history and new religious movements. His many publications include *The Pentecostal Revolution in Nigeria, The Complexity of the Shari‘ah Debate in Nigeria*, and an article entitled “Christianity in Northern Nigeria, 1975-2000.”

5:30 – 6:30 p.m., Dinner

7-8:30 pm, Musical Program

Saturday, July 13

8:45 – 8:55, a.m., Howard Brant, Reflection on Mission

9:00 – 11:00 a.m., Histories of Education (Panel 11)

Chair: Mahamane Addo


*Douglas H Johnson* is an historian and former publisher. He is currently advising the government of South Sudan on border issues and the revival of South Sudan National Archive. He has written, edited or co-edited thirteen books and special journal issues and is currently working on four more books on different aspects of South Sudanese history (Ph.D., University of California at Los Angeles).

*Samuel Kunhiyop* is General Secretary, Evangelical Church Winning All, Nigeria (Ph.D., Trinity International University). He is also Professor of Theology/Ethics at Jos ECWA Theological Seminary, and one of the authors of the *Africa Bible Commentary*.


*Maxwell Darteh* is an ordained minister and acting National President of the Bible Church of Africa in Ghana (Maranatha University College and Th.M., Trinity Theological Seminary). He has served as a cinema evangelist, prison chaplain, and counselor with Challenge Enterprises of Ghana (CEG), and is currently the manager of Challenge Cinema Today, the cinema outreach wing of CEG.

11:00 – 11:30 a.m., Break

11:30 – 12:30 a.m., Reflections on the Conference

Joshua Bogunjoko

*Joshua Bogunjoko*, SIM International Director, brings two decades of leadership and mission experience to his role as the first African to lead this large mission organization. He is a family physician with significant training and years of experience in surgery who also holds a Master’s Degree in Leadership and Management from Briercrest College, Canada. Sent by their church in Nigeria, the Bogunjokos have served with SIM since 1995.

12:30-1:30, Lunch

Revised final program, including group photo, additions made to the original program, and a video of the opening program (31 August 2013).