

The way of Jesus is one of joy; yet, not without pain. Your missionaries are at times discouraged by stressors—the overwhelming needs around them, spiritual opposition, bureaucratic barriers, noise, air pollution, isolation, multiple transitions, financial pressures, conflict, lack of progress in work, and adjustment to a new home, language, and culture. Over the past year SAMS missionaries also have experienced robbery, unplanned returns, sickness, separation from loved ones, and many losses.

Yet, your missionaries are encouraged in their calling through the prayers and the support of sending churches, your Society, and you! Building a strong foundation and making repairs when needed are vital. Here are a few ways that your missionaries are being encouraged through your Society:



Both pain and joy are part of the missionary journey. At the Retreat in Rwanda this pair-of-ducks (paradox) were introduced through the teaching.



SAMS Sender Marilyn Chislaghi prays for Missionary Meredith Omland at Board & Missionary Retreat

1. Training and continuing education lay the groundwork for fruitfulness in life and ministry. Missionaries receive training in Ambridge and from ministries that focus on preparing cross-cultural servants, fully covered by the Great Commission Fund and the Equipping the Saints Fund.

2. Staff and missionaries that promote thriving. The SAMS Home Team is committed to helping missionaries build the framework of ongoing support. God has blessed your Society with dedicated missionaries committed to forming fellow missionaries through vocational coaching, spiritual direction, pastoral care, language and culture coaching, and ministry to missionary children and their parents.

3. Missionary retreats, connecting, and restorative programs help provide the tools to enable all the preceding to function together to grow God's Kingdom. Your Society attends to those in need of restorative care, comes alongside missionaries, and refreshes missionary saints through retreats that are focused on worship, rest, and growth. (See testimonies from retreats this year on the reverse!)

One key way you can join this missionary care team is giving to the Great Commission Fund (GCF). The GCF helps care for missionaries who make disciples for Jesus Christ in partnership with the global Anglican Church, both near and far. Consequently, as your Society commits to caring for missionaries, would you prayerfully consider making an extraordinary gift or a monthly donation toward the Great Commission Fund? And may Jesus encourage you in your walk with Him!

Partnering with you in our shared role of sending,

Stewart

Stewart Wicker, President and Mission Director



God builds up cross-cultural servants through missionary retreats.

"Many years ago, while talking with a friend, I referenced missionary Helen Roseveare, that she would rather "burn out than rust out." I had ascribed to Helen's sentiment for many years. My friend responded that I didn't need to "out" at all. The Lord used her comment to give me permission to pursue rest and life-giving activities. I was blessed in February to be a part of a retreat with SAMS missionaries serving in the Americas. I am thankful for the many ways in which the Lord takes care of me! He has reminded and encouraged me once again to get away with Him."

—MEREDITH, MEXICO



LEARN MORE
ABOUT GIVING
TO THE GCF.

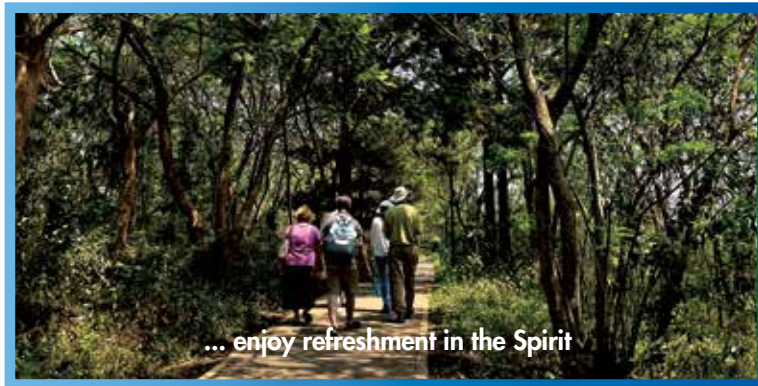


Your missionaries...

...experience worship, teaching,
prayer, and fellowship

"Last week we had the treat of a lifetime as missionaries. We attended the SAMS Retreat for East African missionaries – five days of refreshment in the Word, worship, prayer and discussion in the beauty of Kigali. We give thanks to the Lord and to you for making this retreat possible."

—RICHARD AND MARTHA, UGANDA



... enjoy refreshment in the Spirit



... encourage one
another and share
love and care in Christ

"The retreat SAMS held for its missionaries in East Africa provided a chance to cross a border and experience another country, to share with colleagues whose experiences have been very different from ours, and to enjoy fellowship, prayer, and learning."

—RICHARD AND CATHERINE, UGANDA

"We are thankful to serve with an organization that embraces rest and fellowship. It was life-giving to be together with other missionaries, and to be encouraged by a sense of solidarity around the joys and challenges that we experience."

—WADE AND CHELSEA, RWANDA

