

SAFETY LAMP

INTERNATIONAL MINERS' MISSION

*Introducing **Miners** to the **Master***



We in the International Miners' Mission (IMM) have both the opportunity and the privilege of reaching out to mining communities around the world with the amazing good news of forgiveness through Jesus.



Many miners live very tough lives in harsh conditions. The risk of accident, injury and even death is ever present yet most give little thought to what lies beyond this life. So it is our mission to get alongside them where they live and work and share the gospel with them. We do this through local indigenous churches and evangelists and we praise God that over the years many miners have been saved.

We are always looking for others to join us in this service for the Lord and would ask you to prayerfully consider if this might be a Christian endeavour you could be involved in. It is an exciting and challenging ministry and it calls for going out into the highways and byways of this world but this is what our Lord asked us each to do in His name.

Please do think about joining us.

Michael Jarvis
Chairman, International Miners' Mission UK

Our Vision:

Bringing the Word of God to miners around the world.

Miners sometimes work in remote and dangerous places, exploited and overlooked, needing their communities transformed through faith in Jesus Christ.

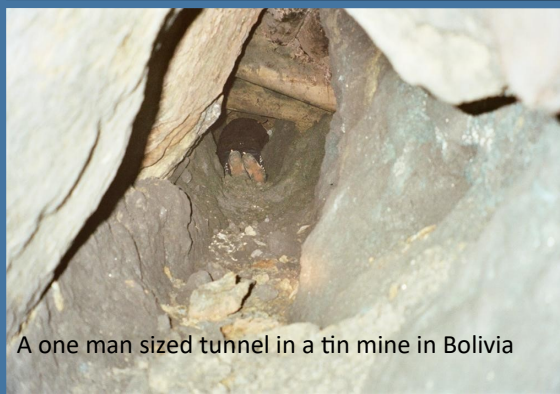
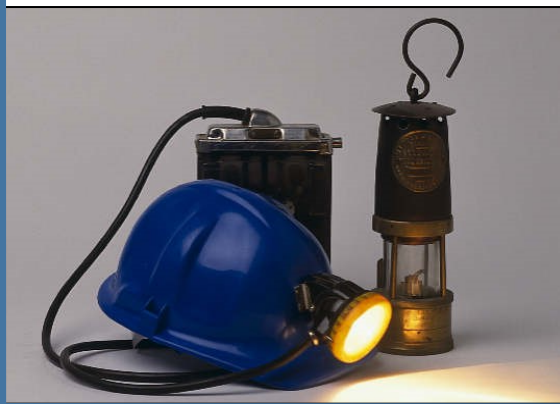
International Miners' Mission (UK) currently sponsor outreach to mining communities in 6 countries.

Front cover: Rev. Elijah Dube preaching the Good News to miners on their way to work as they enter one of the deep gold mine complexes in the West Rand area of South Africa

FACTS ABOUT MINING

Home-made shafts in the ground searching for gold can be very dangerous and can collapse, burying the miners underground. It estimated 15 percent of world production of precious metals, gems, and other minerals are produced from such mines.

Every year the combined mining and quarrying industries worldwide extract rocks, minerals and coal from “mother earth” equivalent to digging a pit three feet deep the size of SWITZERLAND.



A one man sized tunnel in a tin mine in Bolivia

WOMEN AND GIRLS

Young girls some as young as 10 year old are exposed in small scale mines to many dangers – from flying rock, dirty water, suffocating dust and accidents involving heavy tools too large for them to handle.....girls and young women in the mining environment can be vulnerable to sexual harassment and abuse.

It is estimated that up to 3000 men can be killed or injured in mine-related accidents throughout the world each year. Small mines are seen as the most dangerous. On top of this there are premature deaths and sicknesses, poor working conditions, working around dust, mercury poisoning, hazardous gases, fumes and loud noise.

BURUNDI



Probably the poorest country in the world!

IMM sponsor Etienne and Chantal, evangelists to reach out to the artisanal gold miners working in Northern Burundi. They contact the miners with various strategies.

- They now have 13 **Good News Clubs** which are very effective in reaching the children. And there are many, many children! It is estimated that the average age of the people of this heavily populated country is only 16!
- Two **Christian youth clubs** are reaching out to the many teenagers in the area, where mining can attract many to work (sometimes illegally) when they should be attending school.

Etienne has three '**Discover**' **groups for adults**, many of whom are involved in the mining work. They also get involved in serving 70 Batwa (pygmy) families through nutrition, house building, education and medical care schemes.

ETHIOPIA

Although there are commercial opencast gold mines near Shakisso in Ethiopia most of the local people are involved in looking for gold in the gravels along the river valleys. It is a very wet, dangerous and dirty activity with very little precious metal to show for all the effort that goes into seeking it.

The miners have to get permission from the land owner before they can look for gold and the same land owner requires the lion's share of what is found. The process of mining involves digging the gravel, removing the larger stones and then using the panning method to find the few flakes of gold that might be present. It is hard back-breaking work day-in and day-out all day long.

IMM has been partnering with the growing number of Churches in the Shakisso mining area for 16 years. The current vision is for a new **Bible Training Centre** to be built on land already available to train more pastors and ministers of the Lord.





Jesus said... "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

"I never cease to thank God for the fact that the International Miners' Mission came to my mining community." said one Central European coal mine engineer.

INTERNATIONAL MINERS' MISSION is committed to encouraging local church groups to send out their own evangelists to mining communities. This is often pioneer work involving hardship in the Lord's service.

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED?

BY COMMITTING TO PRAY Our 'Prayer Link' and bi-monthly newsletter 'Safety Lamp' are available on our website or can be sent to you by mail on request.

BY ARRANGING A VISIT TO YOUR FELLOWSHIP/CHURCH MEETING
DVD presentations and talks give fascinating insight into our ministry.

BY SUPPORTING US FINANCIALLY

Please use the Donation Slip provided, or make a payment through a Bank Transfer to:- **International Miners' Mission. Sort Code. 60-01-20.**
Account No. 88839877

Contact us through our Website: www.minersmission.com
or Email: d.shillitoe@minersmission.com

KENYA



Migori County lies near Lake Victoria in south-west Kenya. The Migori Greenstone Belt is the host to many hundreds of small scale gold mining sites, mainly of an artisanal nature. It is a large area and has a population of some 500,000 inhabitants. Gold mining has been an ongoing activity in Migori County for many years. There are many environmental and health challenges connected to the work in the mines.

MINER TO MINER MINISTRIES (M2MM) in Kenya was launched in August 2016 and is going from strength to strength. Reverend Captain Simon Okoyo (*The gentleman in the middle above*) of the Anglican Church of Kenya is reaching out to many artisanal and small scale gold miners in and around his parish. He is particularly struck by concepts of MINING GOD'S WAY and is very supportive of this initiative.

This includes mercury free mining and Fair trade, ensuring that precious metals and stones can be traced from mine/miners to shop and everybody is rewarded fairly.



Mining God's Way

ROMANIA



THE TESTIMONY OF LIVICA CAZAKU

“I attended the Jiu Valley Mining School and after that I worked as a mine foreman. When my aunt died, I moved to Sâmbotin village and I worked at the coal mine there. It was hard work and I toiled in the mine for 18 years. At this time I had a lot of bad things in my life. I became an alcoholic, that made it very difficult for my family. I tried to change my life and I prayed to God to help me. And He did!

During my time at Sâmbotin mine there was a big explosion and my eye was injured. It was awful. My left eye was blown right out of my face. After that I had to retire. It was a hard time for me. I tried to find work in my village to help me support my family.

After a while I heard that there were some people in my village who wanted to start a Baptist church, but they could not find land for a church building. Oh, it was great for me because it was good that there could be a house for Jesus our Lord near my home! It seemed good to me to offer my land so that they could build a church. Now I am so glad because God’s house is here. Every Sunday I go to the church and pray for the people of my village that they may hear the Word of God and become Christians”.



Sâmbotin Baptist Church



SIERRA LEONE

Jayne, IMM facilitator in Sierra Leone, shares her experience of her time spent with Pastor Dennis Mannah, recently, working in the Diamond Mining

area, Tongo Fields. “On one of the evenings we had the opportunity to see the Jesus film ministry in operation, as we accompanied Dennis on an outreach trip to a rural area. It was amazing to see the whole village community and people from the surrounding area come to watch the film in the local language of Mende – the first time they would ever have seen a film in their own heart language. From the smallest child right up to the area Chief, everyone seemed to come out to watch the film, which was shown outdoors in the centre of the community. After the film, some Christians stayed behind in the village to answer questions and continue discussions. Dennis advised us that they are regularly showing the Jesus film in the surrounding areas, and it was a blessing to see first-hand how effective it can be in up-country outreach in rural areas”.



UKRAINE



IMM has been supporting church growth ministries in the Eastern Ukraine, where there are many large coal mines and a huge salt mine. The work to reach many in the mining communities has been interrupted by the severe fighting that has broken out over the last 3 years. This has caused many to flee the shelling and fighting in the area, including many miners and their families.

One Christian coal miner, Miron had to flee the fighting with his wife and family of 8 children as their house took a direct hit from a shell. Along with many other refugees, the family now have to seek food aid from the local church that IMM support.



IMM INTERNATIONAL

IMM SWITZERLAND oversee the mine ministry work in **Zimbabwe**. Here Pastor Chingovo leads a Bible Study.



IMM USA support pastors and evangelists in many mining areas in the Andes Mountains. Miners in **Bolivia** worship the Tio in the mine, as they believe the devil is the god of the underground who will protect them.

IMM SOUTH AFRICA “Miners Bible School” discipleship courses are well-established in the West Rand Gold Mine areas and in the Platinum Mine District around Rustenburg. ‘Disciple Making’ is so important in these mining communities.



IMM AUSTRALIA focusses mainly on the **Philippines** and have teams of evangelists who visit the remote mines teaching and supporting the miners.

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