



THE SAFETY LAMP

Bi-monthly Newsletter of the International Miners' Mission

"Introducing Miners to the Master"

Celebrating the work and witness of IMM in mining communities around the world

Issue 400

October—November 2026



**The
International
Miners' Mission**



**IMM Global Conference
Celebrating 120 years
of
Christian Ministry
to Miners**

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
23-24 OCT 2026**

**We invite you to join us
for our 2nd online
IMM Global Conference
via Zoom
where we will hear from
Miners, Pastors,
Supporters and Trustees
what God is doing reaching
mining communities with
the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ in North and South
America, Europe, Africa,
Asia and Australasia**

**For details about joining
contact John Doohan
johndoohan30@gmail.com**



WELCOME!

This year International Miners' Mission is celebrating 120 years since the founding of the ministry to miners by Richard Glynn Vivian. Details of the world-wide Zoom Conference are shown on the front page.



A portrait of Richard Glynn Vivian from 1909.

Mining and the need for light.

It is worth thinking back to the early days of the IMM.

Richard Glynn Vivian sadly lost his sight around the age of 70. However, this tragedy then moved through a number of remarkable God-given events finally leading to Glynn Vivian's conversion to Christ in 1903. Suddenly his spiritual darkness turned into LIGHT! He felt in his heart he could truly see! This went on to the founding of the IMM on the 18th October 1906, initially under the name Glynn Vivian Miners' Mission.

A friend of mine had an experience while on holiday this year. He and his family visited Beamish Museum in County Durham. One of the highlights was a guided tour through a former coal mine. As they walked deeper underground, the guide suddenly switched off the lights. Instantly everything disappeared. There was no outline of the person next to my friend, no sense of direction, nowhere of knowing where to put his next step. It was surprisingly unsettling.

For most of us, true darkness is rare. But for miners working underground darkness can be a reality. Glynn Vivian knew this personally. He was also part owner of a coal mine, which supplied coal to the large copper smelting and refining works in Hafod, Swansea. Glynn also had met miners in various parts of the world during his travels as a younger man. He visited Chile to see the copper mines there.

We remind ourselves of the words of Jesus, "I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
John 8,12

As you know, the Safety Lamp is the symbol of the IMM.

Sincerely in Christ's service **David Shillitoe (Hon Editor)**



A miner working somewhere in South America

Why miners?

Currently (2026) there is a world-wide boom in mining. The demand for minerals in some cases is outstripping supply. As a result, prices of some minerals have rocketed. However, in many countries, particularly those of the third world, miners live and work in difficult, often remote places where most minerals are found.

Miners' work is hard and strenuous, often dangerous and frequently without proper safeguards. Mining can be physically debilitating and the stresses of living for many mining communities are challenging, to say the least. Miners are frequently, but not always, at or near the bottom of the social ladder; many hundreds of thousands working just to survive. They can also be subject to temptations such as drink, prostitution and gambling.



Miners in a Mine shaft in Bolivia



A visit to an artisanal gold mining site in northern Burundi

Why IMM?

The majority of Christian mission agencies focus on large population clusters, language groups or unevangelised tribes. Investigation shows that no other mission organisation has the call of God to outreach in mining areas exclusively.

God has placed on IMM a unique burden to seek out miners and provide the means to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ into mining areas particularly where there is little or no outreach.



Artisanal mining for diamonds in Sierra Leone

The founder's vision

Richard Glynn Vivian wrote in 1906 –

"I call on you all, who daily enjoy the comforts of coal and metals – without them the world and you could not exist – to join me in doing something for the bodily and spiritual welfare of miners by your prayers and giving what you can."

UKRAINE - The healing hand of the Lord

Pastor Vasiliy emphasises the great need of spiritual and physical healing in this war-torn land of Ukraine.

Support for miners' families



"We see a great need to provide help for many miners who have been displaced because of the war. Please pray that they may be encouraged, as we provide them with basic provisions. We tell them that the support comes from the International Miners' Mission and they are so grateful."



Operation Samaritans Purse



Church would care for her and present her with a Bible. Please pray for Svetlana, that she may find Christ as her Saviour and Lord."

"We have been hospital visiting and distributing Bibles to patients, some sadly due to horrendous wounds received because of the war. This lady, Svetlana has had to have both her legs amputated, probably due to treading on a land mine buried in the ground. She was amazed that the

Pray for my family



"We ask you to continue to pray for protection for me and my family. We live in dangerous times here in Dnipro. There are constant daily bombardments of rockets and drones coming in and damaging the city. My eldest son, Alexander has been press-ganged into the Ukrainian army, along with two other men from our church. Please pray that I may be able to secure Alexander's release."



Pray for the Church here in Dnipro



"Thank you for all your friendship and support for our ministry. The need here is very great, so your prayers and financial support are such an encouragement to us. People are coming to Christ as they find hope in the message of forgiveness and love. May God bless you all."

Vasile Dmitrev

The International Miners Mission (Glynn-Vivian Miners Mission Incorporated 1906)

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