

KOOKABURRA

AUGUST 2024

IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS

Dear Friends,

Recently I attended the CMA (Christian Ministry Advancement) conference in Melbourne and it was a really encouraging time where we considered how we are redeemed through what Jesus has done and how we can live redemptive lives. During one session, Rebecca Lambert Smith, a Christian lawyer, spoke on the centrality of Christ, who Jesus is and what Jesus needs to be for each of us to live redemptive lives.

Earlier in the conference, another speaker spoke about the three circles we work in: exploitative, ethical and redemptive. These circles influence who we are and how we work. The exploitative circle (our sinful nature) is where we naturally gravitate, in the same way that gravity pulls us toward the earth's centre. Ethical work involves striving to do the right thing and help others, while redemptive work transcends both.

Rebecca likened overcoming our exploitative nature to the immense power required to break free from earth's gravity in space flight, emphasising that only through Jesus can we overcome this powerful sinful nature. This analogy highlighted our profound need for Jesus and His transformative power in our lives. In Luke 24, we read of the moment when the disciples are invited to truly comprehend who Jesus is when He appears to them in His resurrected body. As the two from Emmaus were sharing that Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, Jesus suddenly appeared in the room with them all. Jesus proclaimed: "Peace be with you" but the group of disciples were frightened, thinking they had seen a ghost.

In Luke 24:38-48 it says, "*Why are you frightened?*" he asked. "*Why are your hearts filled with doubt? Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do.*" As he spoke, he showed them his hands and his feet. Still they stood there in disbelief, filled with joy and wonder. Then he asked them, "*Do you have anything here to eat?*" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he ate it as they watched.

Then he said, "*When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.*" Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' You are witnesses of all these things.'



There is something simply profound in these verses. Countless times we have heard it said that Jesus is the centre of everything. Yet do we truly embody and believe this in everything we do?

It's intriguing that when Jesus said, "Peace be with you," their reaction was the exact opposite. There was no peace in their human response; instead, they were terrified and frightened, thinking they had seen a ghost. Yet, Jesus is precisely the one they needed. It was essential that they understood that He is their risen Saviour. He invited them to touch His hands and feet to truly grasp who He really is. They all stood there when Jesus then asked if they had anything to eat. They continued to stare at Him as He ate, trying to discern, "Is this really Him?"

Jesus is the one that we need and the one that is going to change things for us and the world. We are all a part of the task that is given to the stunned room of disciples. In this passage, the disciples learnt that Jesus is the conqueror of death. They heard Jesus talk about His death frequently. After Jesus' crucifixion, Peter returned to fishing because he thought it was all over. Yet, here is Jesus who conquered death, standing before them.

Jesus also validated His identity and the truth of His physical resurrection to the disciples in this passage. Despite appearing in a locked room, which should have been proof enough, He went further by asking them to touch Him and by eating in their presence, demonstrating He was not a ghost but the Christ. His appearance and His words, "*I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled,*" served as a reminder that He had foretold these events. He opened their minds and enabled them to understand the Scriptures and His fulfillment of them. The proclamation in verse 47 that the Messiah would suffer, die and rise on the third day is the core of the Gospel message. Jesus' post-resurrection interactions with the disciples serve as a testament to the truth of the Gospel, which they, and all believers, are called to witness.

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We are convinced that this is the message that everyone needs to hear. Jesus is who He said He is, He is the fulfillments of the Scriptures and He has called us to be His witnesses. The truth is not only to be believed, but a message to be shared. That is why we go into least reached communities to share the Gospel and to make disciples of Jesus. It's only Jesus that can break us free from our sinful and exploitative nature. He is the one who redeems us and enables us to live a redemptive life for His glory.

Together with Him,



Mal Watts
National Director



SAVE THE DATE: SIMCONNECT 2024

SIMConnect is a bi-monthly meeting that provides the opportunity to connect with other mission-minded Christians; be an encouragement and support to those on the journey into cross-cultural mission; and interact on relevant topics in global mission today. You can also learn more about how SIM Australia is engaged in making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in communities where He is least known and find out how you can be involved in mission.

Dates: 21 September, 19 October & 7 December

Time: 9.30 am - 11am AEST on zoom

To find out more and to register, visit sim.org.au/simconnect.

COMINGS AND GOINGS FOR AUGUST

COMING	
Kirri	Sydney (from West Africa)
GOING	
Pete & Kathryn McCarthy	Côte D'Ivoire (from Sydney)
Robyn Green	Ethiopia (from Sydney)
Ros Barnes	Hungary (from Perth)

A CELEBRATION FOR PHIL & CAROL SHORT

50 Years of Faithfulness! Phil and Carol have been serving on the mission field through SIM for 50 years. Come and join us as we celebrate God's faithfulness and provision, say thank you to supportive partnerships and rejoice in all that God has done over this time.

Date: Saturday 31 August, 2PM - 5PM

Address: NewHope Community Centre Events Room 6 (3 Springfield Road, Blackburn North, Victoria)

Afternoon tea served Cost: \$15 per person

Register at: newhope.net.au/events



Re-Entry Retreat Victoria

Refreshment for cross-cultural workers in transition. Missions Interlink is hosting a residential retreat for singles, couples, families and adult TCK's.

During the retreat, there are opportunities for worship, celebration of your service, relaxation, private conversations, prayer and time alone with God.

You can expect to be heard, understood and appreciated by others with similar experiences. You will be offered the opportunity to recognise and acknowledge how your experiences have enriched and changed you. Some cross-cultural workers will be in transition from one location or position to another. Others find it beneficial to attend a few months or even several years after they leave their field of service.

The retreat is conducted by experienced cross-cultural workers from various fields and agencies. Throughout the retreat the facilitators will be available for informal sharing and prayer.

Dates: 20 September to 23 September 2024

Venue: Lyrebird Park (510 Beenak Road, Yellingbo, Victoria 3139)

For more information and to register, visit missionsinterlink.org.au/events/re-entry-retreat-victoria/352.

MISSION TOGETHER OUT NOW!

Thank you for the part you play in God's global mission and for partnering with us to take the Gospel to the nations. Mission Together is released three times a year to share stories from around the world of how God's faithfulness is at work through our mission workers and ministries.

The latest issue of Mission Together is out now and focuses on how SIM is transforming lives with Jesus' compassion. In this issue, you can read about how SIM mission workers are using their gifts and passions to build meaningful relationships within the community they are serving. You can also learn about some of the opportunities there are for you to serve with your skills in mission across the globe.

You can read the latest issue here: sim.org.au/mt166



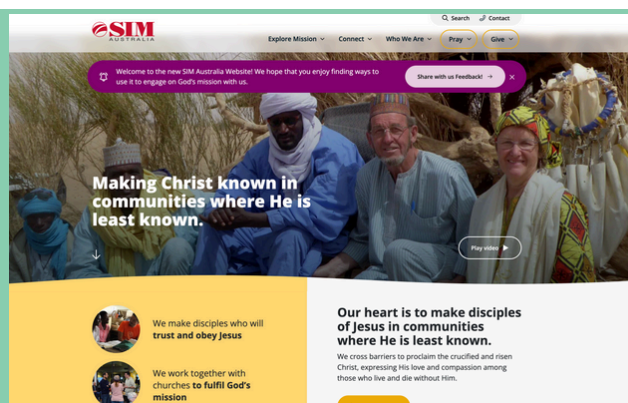
NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH

We are pleased to share with you that SIM Australia has launched our new website: www.sim.org.au!

Please do take the time to have a look at the site and provide us with feedback. There are many changes in both format and content from the previous website, with a focus on interaction rather than just information.

As we have already mentioned, each Member mission worker has a public web profile page where supporters can learn more about your ministry and connect with you. Messages submitted from the website and requests to subscribe to your newsletter will be filtered by SIM Australia before being passed on to you.

We hope you enjoy using the new website, and we'd love to hear your feedback, which you can provide through the survey [here](#). If you have any questions, send us a message on the website's [general contact form](#) or get in touch with the Media Team via email at media.support@sim.org.au.



FUNDRAISING AS MINISTRY

One of the great privileges we have as mission workers with SIM is engaging people in God's global mission story.

Part of this is the way that we encourage people to invest their finances in our ministry, something that many of us may find a daunting prospect. As Redina points out, we should be looking at those we are speaking to as stewards of God's resources. When we invite them to give, we provide them with the opportunity to grow in their faith as generous participants in mission.

Have a listen to her perspective and strategies for engaging people in Biblical Stewardship. I am sure it will encourage you as a participant in Biblical stewardship for global mission. You can watch the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Po7nhqavM1w&list=PLYGxDL2dvuo66LxDpVPEjgLo2LVp9eG->



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