

KOOKABURRA

SEP 2024

WHY DO YOU WANT TO SHARE ABOUT JESUS?

Dear Friends,

Let's begin with a question: Why do you want to share about Jesus? It might seem obvious, but have you ever considered the reasons behind your desire to make Jesus known to the nations? Is it simply because He instructed us to do so? Or is it because you've personally experienced His transformative power in your life? I want to take a moment to explore these questions by looking closely at the first four verses of 1 John 1. This passage serves as an excellent introduction to a letter written by the Apostle John, describing the magnificence of Jesus.

1 John 1:1-4 says, *"We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life. This one who is life itself was revealed to us, and we have seen him. And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then he was revealed to us. We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that you may fully share our joy."*

Within just four verses, this introduction to 1 John provides remarkable insights that I think answers the question: Why do you want to share about Jesus?

Firstly, **Jesus existed from the beginning**. He isn't merely the carpenter's son from Nazareth who happened to appear one day and start making some wild claims. This is the Jesus who existed from the beginning. In verse 1 it says, *'We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning.'* Jesus is the one who was present at creation and is one with God the Father.

The second thing that the Apostle John talks about is that **Jesus is real**. In the second half of verse 1 it says: *'We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life.'* Consider the testimony from those who have heard and seen Him firsthand. They witnessed Him with their own eyes and touched Him with their own hands. These are genuine eyewitness accounts—something we can rely on. When we contemplate why we share about Jesus, there's no room for doubt because we have firsthand testimonies from people who encountered Him. They testify to the truth of who He is. It's quite convincing, isn't it?

Imagine a court case where the significance of an eyewitness testifying to what they saw and heard is crucial. Yet, despite such credible accounts, some still doubt what the Bible says. But here, we have multiple eyewitnesses attesting to who Jesus truly is. We can trust it. This account comes from the author, representing all the disciples, as indicated by the use of the plural: *'We proclaim to you what we have seen.'*

The third reason we want to share about Jesus is because **He is God**. He isn't someone who lived for a while and then disappeared; He is the giver of eternal life. In verse 2, it says: *'And now we testify and proclaim to you that he is the one who is eternal life.'* So Jesus isn't just a good guy who healed others and performed miracles. He is eternal life. He comes from heaven, dwells among us and has returned to the Father, preparing a place for us. The significance lies in the fact that all the things Jesus said about Himself and demonstrated are recorded here as an introduction to a letter—assuring us that we can trust these truths.

Another compelling reason for sharing Jesus is **the fellowship we experience with Him**. In verse 3, it states: *'We proclaim to you... that you may have fellowship with us.'* This isn't a static concept or a mere historical anecdote; it's genuine fellowship. We become brothers and sisters in Christ, united with God the Father and Jesus His Son. This fellowship extends both horizontally—with one another—and vertically—with Jesus and His heavenly Father. That is a convincing enough reason to me as to why I want to share the Gospel! There is fellowship with Him and fellowship with His church. When people come to know who Jesus is, they join this family of brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

The final reason found in these verses for wanting to share the Good News is revealed in verse 4: **'so that you may fully share our joy.'** Take a moment to reflect: When did you realise who Jesus truly is, and how did it transform your life? Was it a mundane experience, prompting you to carry on with your day, or did it fill you with absolute joy? Knowing Jesus means freedom from worry about eternity and walking through life with Him. The apostle emphasises that there's nothing like this relationship. It brings perfect rest. This letter is written so that others may experience the same joy. It's not merely a taste; it's complete understanding God's Word and sharing it with others.



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I read recently one writer's reflection about the experience of knowing this joy in Christ and it really resonated with me. This is what he said: *'What confronts us here is the intensity of the author's feeling as he reflects on the nature of the Christian message in the light of its very beginnings. Although the events that the message is founded on occurred many years earlier, the immensity of their implication and the abiding mystery they represent retain the power to overwhelm his thinking and extend his literary skills as he witnesses to them. The first paragraph could be described as the author's language of ecstasy.'*

As you serve in various locations around the world to make the Good News known, consider the encouragement from these verses. And the next time someone asks why you're involved in God's global mission, share these four verses. They describe the magnificence of our Saviour and our motivation to share who He is with others.

Together with Him,



Mal Watts
National Director

ReachOut NSW Missions Conference 2024

We will be exploring what it looks like to pick up your cross and Consider the Cost of obeying Jesus' command to go to all nations. Together we will be challenged and encouraged to follow Jesus, wherever he may lead us.

Join us as we learn from God's Word with Seth Fellows, and from missionaries serving globally. Be prepared to connect with our Mission Partners from dozens of Mission Agencies, Bible Colleges and Christian Organisations, and learn how you might get involved in God's global mission.

Date: 7 September, 2024

Time: 8am-6pm

Venue: Pacific Hills Christian School 9-15 Quarry Rd Dural, NSW 2158

To register and find out more information visit:

<https://missionsinterlink.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1920388>.



SAVE THE DATES: SIMCONNECT ONLINE 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.

Resettlement Fund – message to all Members on the Field

Thanks to all our SIM Members who have responded to their finance contact with requests for changes to the Support agreement for this year.

For those Members who have contributed well to the Resettlement Fund in the past, they find at end of service the fund has been a welcome benefit to restart in Australia.

If you have not done so with the Support Agreement being finalised now, could I encourage you to include monies to the Resettlement account.

There is certain criteria for the operation of the Resettlement Fund.

1. It is for use when resettling into Australia, and no other purpose.
2. The amounts cannot be backdated to boost the fund at the last moment
3. The use of the fund is for costs to re-establish you and your family back into Australian life, which can include but not limited to setting up the home, re-training for a new vocation, purchase of a car, setting up for school, such as uniforms and equipment.

SIM Finance Team has received requests to backdate monies to their resettlement account. Unfortunately, it is not possible to backdate. Please look at your Resettlement Fund and if support allows consider the change now, so the fund can build up while you are on the field.

- Graham Ellis (Finance Director)



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.



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