

KOOKABURRA

FEB 25

WHO GOD IS

Dear Friends,

When we read the news, we are often confronted with the world's troubles. The uncertainty, chaos and changes can be overwhelming, especially when starting your day with headlines that make it seem like everything is collapsing. We can often feel threatened, pushed and crushed on every side, both physically and spiritually. It's not just the physical challenges like fires, storms, politics and wars. It is also spiritually, we face the rejection of God, questioning of our faith and erosion of our beliefs in culture as Jesus' followers. This constant pressure can be overwhelming, affecting everything we accept, believe, trust, and adhere to in our lives.

Recently, I've been reflecting on the first 8 verses from the prophet Nahum in the Old Testament. This is an amazing prophecy that applies to all of us. We don't often fully consider who God is – the wonderful, powerful and almighty God we serve, who knows each of us. Phil Wickham sings a great song called "The Battle Belongs to You." The lyrics to the chorus are:

*"So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
Oh God, the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night
Oh God, the battle belongs to You"*

And I wonder, is this what we do in practice? Do we hand it over to God and say, "The battle belongs to You"? Or do we hold onto it ourselves and struggle through, forgetting that He is God? Do we feel overwhelmed by the battle and say, "Where are You, God? I don't know where You are"? These lyrics remind us that the battle does indeed belong to God. We can and must trust Him with it!

Nahum 1:1-8 is a great reminder to us that the battle belongs to God. I encourage you to take a moment to read those verses now. What is your reaction after reading this passage?



This prophecy comes at a time when Israel is enduring the long and painful oppression of the Assyrians. They are living under this pressure, yet God is using them as His instrument during this time and purging these people. There are three verses that I want to highlight to you.

The first verse I would like us to reflect on is verse 3: **"The Lord is slow to get angry, but His power is great, and He never lets the guilty go unpunished."** It almost seems like a contradiction, but it's a perfect balance. One author said: "It's a restraint born of meekness, not of weakness. Not to be misunderstood as passivity." I thought that was a great way of saying it. We shouldn't just think, 'Oh, God just sits here and lets everything happen.' He is slow to anger, but that doesn't oppose the fact that His power is great. And we shouldn't think it is not because He is slow to get angry; God is engaged in this world. Sometimes we can think, 'Where is God? He isn't doing anything.' But the warning is not to lose sight of His greatness because of His patience with us. So, I think that is a wonderful verse, particularly after it talks about Him being a vengeful God *"filled with vengeance and rage."* He is, but He is slow to get angry, slow to exercise those things.

I love verse 7 too, and the first part of this verse says: **"The Lord is good, a strong refuge when trouble comes."** If you have read the verses that come before, what a great thing it is to have the One who causes those things, to be the One who is the refuge. Another person I was reading said: "When you read those verses that say: *'In His presence the mountains quake and the hills melt away, who can stand before Him?'* These are the results of God simply passing by; they can't even stand in His presence." This is the result of Him exercising His greatness in the world. But God's goodness is foundational to who He is and the faith we have in Him. And God defends His people by being their refuge. What a refuge we have! So, we can trust Him, can't we? Because He is the refuge when troubles come.

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Finally, in verses 7b – 8a it says: **“He is close to those who trust in Him. But he will sweep away His enemies in an overwhelming flood.”** This provides a great comparison to those who trust Him and those who don’t. He is the refuge who protects those who trust Him, but at the same time, He can sweep away His enemies in a flood. Verse 8 ends by saying: **“He will pursue His foes into the darkness of night.”** We can trust Him, and we need to trust Him. When we think about what we do in this world with SIM, we want people to come to know Jesus and trust Him. Trust this God, trust this faith and know this God. It’s an encouragement not to be fearful about what is happening in this world but to have complete faith that we have a refuge. A wonderful quote I read recently said, **“Goodness in God does not obviate His judgement.”** We can trust that our God is good and just. I think sometimes we can emphasise the good part of His character and overlook the judgement, but we need to hold the two in balance, just like this passage.

So, my encouragement to all of you is to remember who God is for us today. What a heavenly Father to know, serve and trust. The One who is good, the One who is a judge, the One who is slow to get angry and the One whose power is great. The battle belongs to God and we have assurance in who He is. There is a faith and trust relationship that must exist with Him. He is close to those who trust Him. That means trusting Him in the storms and difficult times because He is close. He is our refuge, protector and rock. So, despite the world events we read about in the news or the storms we may be navigating personally, we can trust Him because He is more powerful than anything else. He really does have the whole world in His hands!

Together in Him,



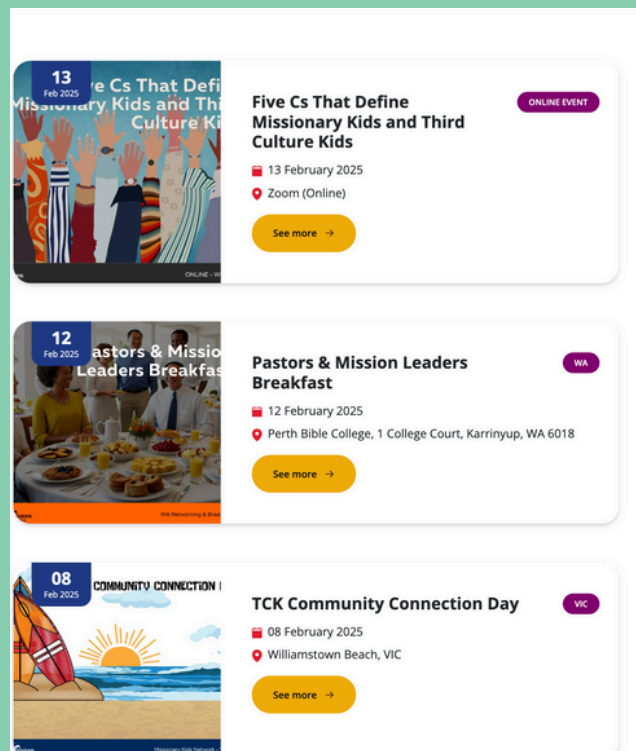
Mal Watts
National Director



UPCOMING EVENTS

If you're interested in staying updated on mission events around Australia, take a look at SIM Australia's events page: <https://sim.org.au/events>.

It's a wonderful resource to find meaningful opportunities and connect with others. We hope you'll join us at an upcoming event!

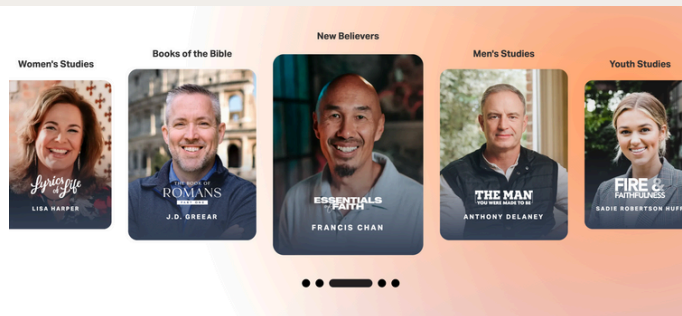


- 13 Feb 2025**
Five Cs That Define Missionary Kids and Third Culture Kids (ONLINE EVENT)
13 February 2025
Zoom (Online)
See more →
- 12 Feb 2025**
Pastors & Mission Leaders Breakfast (WA)
12 February 2025
Perth Bible College, 1 College Court, Karrinyup, WA 6018
See more →
- 08 Feb 2025**
TCK Community Connection Day (VIC)
08 February 2025
Williamstown Beach, VIC
See more →

RightNow Media - Free Subscription

A library of Christian resources is available to you!

SIM Australia has subscribed to RightNow Media and this resource is available to all Members, Associates, Staff & Alumni at no cost. Please note that your immediate family is welcome to subscribe if they would like their own account.



About RightNow Media

RightNow Media is a library of Christian resources designed to support Christians in their walk with Jesus. These resources include devotionals, bible studies, kids' videos, and teaching on various topics such as marriage and parenting, leadership and personal godliness. You could think of it like a "Christian Netflix"!

The videos can be streamed through a web browser, or by downloading the app "RightNow Media" on your device. There is an option to listen by choosing audio only.

**If you would like to sign up for a free subscription - go to:
<https://www.rightnowmediaatwork.org/Account/Invite/SIM AUS>**

Thank you for serving as Christ's witnesses in communities where Christ is least known! We hope that this resource is a blessing to you and your relationship with Jesus.

We would value your feedback and are happy to respond to any questions. Get in touch by emailing media.support@sim.org.au.

MTCC Easter Convention

Meet the SIM team at MTCC Easter Convention. Join us this Easter for this wonderful all age event as we hear from our Bible Teachers, Charles Price and Dave Fowler. For many, Easter Convention is an annual tradition, a time to come together to renew and make new friendships.

Registrations now open, with \$100 deposit to secure your booking and accommodation with the remainder payable two weeks before the event.

Date: 17 April, 2025

Time: 4pm AEST

Venue: 237 Beacon Road North Tamborine, QLD 4272

To register and find out more information visit: https://sim.org.au/sim_event/mtcc-easter-convention-2025.

URGENT OPPORTUNITY - Bingham Academy

Bingham Academy (BA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia is seeking an experienced leader to serve as Director. The successful candidate will guide our school to achieve excellence in academic programs and Christian education. The goal of Bingham Academy is to prepare our students to impact the world for God's glory.

Founded in 1946, BA is an International Christian K-12 school with more than 300 students from over 35 countries. Approximately one-third of the students are Ethiopians, while the majority comes from families of missionaries and the international community. Bingham currently follows the Cambridge International Curriculum for both primary and secondary education. For more information about the school, visit www.binghamacademy.net.

In collaboration with the Bingham Academy Board (BAB) and a Leadership Team from the founding mission, the Director is responsible for shaping and implementing the strategic plan of the school, including capital development.

Additionally, the Director provides leadership for approximately 140 expatriate and Ethiopian staff and is entrusted with the welfare of staff and students. The position requires outstanding interpersonal skills to communicate effectively with the primary stakeholders of the school.

Get in touch with a Mission Mobiliser to find out more about the role by visiting sim.org.au/talktous.

URGENT OPPORTUNITIES - SIM Benin Togo

SIM Benin Togo's vision is to:

- see a witness of Christ's love where He is least known in Benin and Togo
- see disciples of Jesus expressing God's love in their communities
- see Christ-centred churches spreading the gospel locally and beyond

We would like to strengthen our teams where they work among the least reached, among children, in training and in administration and leadership. We can't wait to see what God will do in us and through us. We dream of investing more into young people's lives, in sport and in communities where Christ is the least known.

We'd love to have a conversation about how you might further God's work in Benin and Togo. Our team currently consists of 19 people, eleven nationalities, in 5 locations in Togo and Benin.

Get in touch with a Mission Mobiliser to find out more by visiting sim.org.au/talktous.