

# KOOKABURRA

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2026

## 100 Years of SIM Australia

Dear Friends,

2026 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year of SIM Australia. It is not usual to have those moments in life where we place ourselves in the course of history. A bit of a reality moment of where we've been, where we are and what's ahead.

As SIM Australia enters its centenary of "Serving in Mission", I started reflecting on the vision and heart of one of SIM's founders, Dr. Rowland Bingham for the least reached in Ethiopia *"...a section of Africa containing at least twelve millions of people almost wholly untouched by missionary effort..."*

In 1927, the first SIM Australian mission workers were sent to start SIM's work of reaching East Africa. Today, through God's faithfulness, we see thriving churches in Ethiopia continue to partner with SIM, discipling, mobilising, equipping and now sending workers to reach the world.

Certainly, our small beginnings are something that I reflect on deeply as the leader of SIM in Australia, with a rich history of God's calling and enabling people into mission service today. As we honour SIM mission workers that have gone before us, I reflect on the legacy that we will leave today, so that others will continue to build on God's mission into the future.

As I consider all the hands that have contributed to God's work through SIM's ministry in Australia, I have been encouraged by the words of the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 3:7-8a:

***"It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose."***

We are all God's instruments in His mission story. Regardless of what the task is, it is God who makes the seed grow, as we all work together for the same purpose. In verse 11, Paul shares, "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have - Jesus Christ." What a reassuring truth in the work that we do, together, in Jesus' name!

We give thanks to God and honour our past - for those who planted and watered together for the Gospel over the past 100 years. And as we look to embracing our future in mission, we trust God to provide our future leaders, church planters, teachers, evangelists, medical people, agriculture specialists and more - each of them convinced that everyone needs to hear the Gospel.

Together with Him,



Mal Watts  
National Director



Banner photo:  
Glen Cain, SIM Australia's First Mission Worker  
translating the Bible in Ethiopia

# Join Us in Celebrating 100 Years of Serving in Mission



As we celebrate 100 years of mission through SIM Australia, come hear Phil Bauman, SIM International Director, our keynote speaker in November 2026.

## SAVE THE DATE

**Melbourne: 7 November**  
Celebration Dinner (TBA)

**Sydney: 13 -15 November**  
SIM Community Weekend Away  
Collaroy Centre

Express your interest or find out more at [sim.org.au/events](https://sim.org.au/events)

## SIM Stories: God's Faithfulness in Every Age and Every Nation

### Honouring Yesterday

#### AFRICA: Phil & Janne Andrew



For the many who have served in all parts of Africa in every season and in every age, we remember and give thanks to God for your contributions in making Christ known. For our current and future workers serving in Africa, our encouragement to you is -

'A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.' (2 Peter 3:8b)

*Phil & Janne have been associated with SIM for over 45 years, beginning in Nigeria in 1979. Phil worked in medicine including training doctors, medical consultancy as well as serving as a director in various capacities, including for SIM Nigeria. He was also a member of SIM Australia's National Council for 10 years.*

### Embracing Tomorrow

#### MIDDLE EAST: Len & Helen Salisbury



We would like to give thanks to God for His sovereignty over His people in the Middle East and North Africa. Our encouragement to past, current and future workers serving there is - we, as Christians, need to be completely open to the Lord

and His leading and to not be afraid of how He directs us.

*Len & Helen served as mission workers in Christian radio and broadcast ministries in both the Middle East and the Philippines. Len was the first person to set up the SIM's office modem and internet connection. They survived a 6-day war in 1967 and a Civil War in 1975 in the Middle East as well as the Flower Power uprising in the Philippines in 1985.*

## Share your Story

We invite you to share your story of how God has faithfully used you in His mission.



As we celebrate our 100-year centenary this year, we are collecting stories that showcase the theme of our year; *Honouring Yesterday & Embracing Tomorrow*. We would love to hear your story through these 3 short questions:

1. *What years did you serve overseas, where did you serve, and what ministries were you involved in?*
2. *What was one prominent thing you remember in your time of service that really touched your heart?*
3. *What encouragement do you want to give to SIM mission workers, past, present, future? (Perhaps a song, prayer, bible verse, words of exhortation?)*

Send [media.support@sim.org.au](mailto:media.support@sim.org.au) an email with your story!

## SIM AUSTRALIA & 100 YEARS OF MISSION LOGO/EMBLEM

As we celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> year centenary this 2026, we'd love for you to use our SIM Australia and 100 Years in Mission resources to mark this significant year. Feel free to share them in your prayer updates, newsletters, emails, and any other communications you send out about your ministry with SIM!

Download **SIM logo** and **100 Years** emblem [here](#).



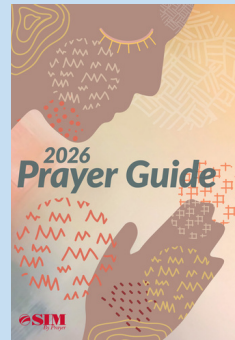
### Our SIM Effect Annual Report 2025 is now available!



As you read through this year's 'SIM Effect' celebrating our 100 years of Serving in Mission, you will get a glimpse of the work God has done in building His foundation over the years.

Download a copy: <https://sim.org.au/simeffect2025>

### SIM Prayer Guide 2026 available to download



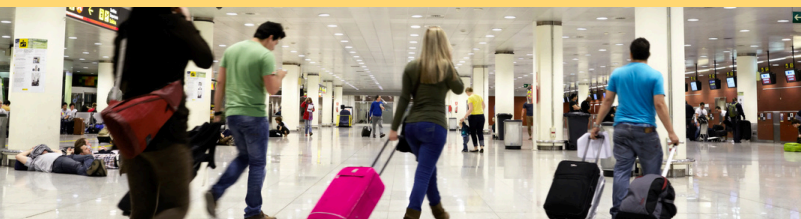
'By Prayer' is our SIM motto and reminds us of our dependence on God in our lives as we serve in His mission together.

The SIM Prayer Guide is a resource to, inspire you to pray for SIM ministries around the world.

Please share this guide freely and broadly with anyone who might join us in praying for what God is doing through SIM!

Download a copy: <https://sim.org.au/sim-prayer-guide-2026>

## COMINGS & GOINGS



### Mission Workers Movements

#### February

- **Ie Lie:** Arrives back from South Africa end of Feb
- **Pete Ong:** Commencing as the new Regional Ministry Coach for SIM Pacific Asia
- **David Spragg:** Arrives in Zambia, 21 Feb

#### March

- **Peter Burke** traveling to Nigeria, 12 March
- **Daniel & Jeanie Ough:** Planning on leaving March for Middle East
- **David Spragg:** Arrives back from Zambia, 21 March

## GET TO KNOW A SIM WORKER

**Brett Flippence**  
Mission Mobiliser NSW/ACT  
(previous Mission Worker in Ethiopia)



#### 1. What's something you enjoy doing outside of work?

I like water activities at the local beach or bay - especially kayaking on the bay with my wife.

#### 2. What do you appreciate about working with SIM?

I appreciate the fellowship, camaraderie and unity of the SIM Australia team.

#### 3. What's a bible verse or quote encouraged you?

Romans 5:1-2a Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

# SIM Australia Home Ministry Team Updates



**Jay Knight** commenced his role on our Executive Leadership Team as our Mobilisation & Church Engagement Director in Australia. We are excited to have a renewed focus on church engagement, as we continue to work alongside churches who send, support and pray for our mission workers around the world.



**Amber Tobias** has begun her role as Security & Crisis Coordinator for SIM in Australia after returning from serving in West Africa. Amber will be helping protect and support mission workers around the globe - monitoring global risks, managing crises and caring for families & churches during emergencies ([security.coordinator@sim.org.au](mailto:security.coordinator@sim.org.au))



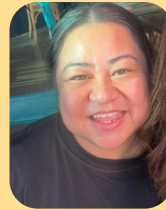
**Danielle Nicotra**, our SIM Australia Writer. After a year of maternity leave has decided to finish with SIM and focus on supporting her new family. We would like to thank Danielle for using her skills & gifts in communications, after serving in mission with us since 2018!



**Steve Early** will be continuing the training part of his previous role, overseeing the equipping of our mission workers, as Training Coordinator for SIM in Australia. He will now be part of our Personnel Team led by Doreen Thomas.



**Andy & Cathy Linton** have begun serving as SIM Mission Mobilisers in Victoria/Tas after returning from serving in West Africa. They will be connecting and journeying with people who have expressed an interest in mission, helping them find a placement in SIM worldwide, and supporting them through the many steps towards being on the mission field.



**Iszy Pamatmat**, our Interim SIM Australia Writer, will be finishing her time with SIM after serving a year with us. We would like to thank her for your sharing stories of our SIM workers and ministries in 2025 and wish her well in her future endeavours and ministry outside of SIM!



## SIM Australia Comms & Media Writer – Applications Open!

SIM is seeking a Communications & Media Writer with a heart for God and a passion for mission to help us mobilise more people, prayer and funds for cross-cultural mission.

This is an exciting opportunity to use your God-given communication gifts to share stories of Christ's global mission through SIM! Applicants who understand cross-cultural mission are highly desirable for this role.

The part-time position with SIM Australia would be for 3-4 days per week and can be worked remotely/hybrid although time zones should reflect the Sydney office hours.

Applications close: Friday, 27 February 2026.  
Apply or share this opportunity with others at:  
<https://www.missionseek.com.au/christian-job/communications-media-writer/346>



## Kookaburra Newsletter - Changing to Bi-monthly

Our Kookaburra Newsletter enables our current Members, Associates, Staff & Alumni Newsletter to hear the latest updates to serve our SIM Community. With a move to bi-monthly, our next Kookaburra issue will now be shared with you in April 2026.

Let's continue connecting and engaging on a regular basis online!

Please join the SIM Australia Family Group on Facebook:

- Our (private) Facebook group is open to all SIM Australia Workers and Alumni.
- Note that you will need a Facebook account to join.
- Please email [media.support@sim.org.au](mailto:media.support@sim.org.au) to receive a personal invitation to join the private group.

We will be posting regular updates about 'What's Happening with SIM' in Australia on this page. We look forward to connecting with you online.

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