

KOOKABURRA

APRIL-MAY 2026

The rest of our time

Dear Friends,

As we serve together in God's mission, it's worth reflecting on how we live for Christ in **the rest of our time** God has given us. 1 Peter 4:1-11, which has the title in my NLT translation as **Living for God** or as one writer stated, **the rest of your time**, is a great letter offering encouragement for all believers. It speaks powerfully to Christ's servants about leading distinctive lives and being equipped by God for the work He will do through us.

Peter gives three motivations in living distinctive lives in chapter 4:

- **Therefore**, since Christ suffered (v1)
- **For you** have had enough of living for the world (v3)
- **But** all who ignore or oppose God - their judge - will have to answer to Him (v6).

Peter reminds us that following Christ will mark us out as distinct, as we arm ourselves with the same attitude as Christ, including a willingness to suffer (v1). In verse 2, Peter points us towards a desire to do God's will. This is why many of God's people leave their home to serve in places that others have never heard of or would rather avoid.

Obedience to do God's will and a readiness to suffer are deeply connected. Together, they shape a life that honours Christ and sets us apart from the world. Living this distinctive life may seem difficult, but Peter reminds us that God equips us through prayer and love (vv. 7-9). He urges believers to be "earnest and disciplined" in prayer (v7), a call that resonates strongly with SIM's motto: **By Prayer.**

1 Peter also points out the importance of showing deep love for each other, telling believers to cheerfully share a meal or their home with whoever needs a meal or place to stay. At our home while serving on the field in West Africa, Jenny always made space for one more at the table or in the guest room. This hospitality encouraged others and equipped them for the work God had called them to do.

The last few verses of this passage remind us that we all have been entrusted with a gift. An encouragement to find yours and 'use them well to serve one another' (v10). The ultimate goal, as we apply these things, is that everything we do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ (v11). We are equipped for service so that people will see Jesus in us and glorify Him for what they have received.

How long is **the rest of our time**, on this earth? Only God knows. As we consider the time remaining, may we ask God how He is calling us to live distinctively and serve faithfully, wherever we are.

May God give you more and more grace and peace.
(1 Peter 1:2b)

Together with Him,



Mal Watts
National Director





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

To celebrate our centenary, we are collecting stories that showcase the theme for the year; *Honouring Yesterday & Embracing Tomorrow*. We would love to hear your story through these questions:

1. *What does being a past / current mission worker with SIM mean to you?*
2. *What were some unique experiences you had with SIM that made your time special?*
3. *How has God worked through you in mission and what impact has He helped you make for the Gospel?*

Send your stories to media.support@sim.org.au.

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

Honouring Yesterday

SOUTH AMERICA: Phil & Dianne Marshall



When we arrived in South America, the Andes Evangelical Mission (AEM) had newly merged with SIM. The merger added more workers - and it has been a privilege to witness the organisation become more diverse over the years. .

In our centenary year, we honour those who have served before us. As we pass the baton to others, we pray that God would continue to raise up more workers to serve Him, according to Jesus' prayer in Matthew 9:38.

Phill and Diane have served with SIM for over 40 years, including 13 years in Peru and 7 years in Singapore. Diane led SIM's global Hope for Life ministry for 12 years and later became Deputy International Director for the Asia-Pacific region in 2012. In 2017 she became SIM's first Global Director for Regional Development.

Embracing Tomorrow

EUROPE: Samuel and Hayley Wiggins



Our family comes from Nambucca Heads in NSW and we are planning to serve God in France with the view to share the Gospel with minority groups such as refugees and migrants. Our goal is to serve God in seeing unreached people know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour!

Samuel and Hayley are planning to go to France in 2027. They are currently working towards organising placement, completing SIM training and beginning to raise support. Hayley and Samuel are both school teachers and are blessed to have three wonderful children.

To support the Wiggins, please go to sim.org.au/wiggins.

SIM AUSTRALIA & 100 YEARS OF MISSION LOGO/EMBLEM

As we celebrate our centenary this year, we'd love for you to use our SIM Australia and 100 Years in Mission resources to mark this significant year.

Go to the links to download the [SIM logo](#), [100 Years emblem](#) or [banner with both](#).

- Use the emblem in your email signature.
- Add it to your prayer letter or newsletter, positioned alongside the SIM Australia logo.
- The emblem can also be used anywhere the SIM Australia logo appears (as you'll see on our website).



Vale John Freeman (1941-2026)



Many within the SIM Australia community will remember John Freeman, who faithfully served as National Director of SIM Australia from 1997 to 2003. John passed away on Friday 13 March 2026, four weeks after his cancer diagnosis.

John's life was marked by a clear sense of God's calling, expressed through a lifetime of leadership and service with Africa Evangelical Fellowship (AEF) and SIM.

Shortly before his death, he was visited by Malcolm Watts, National Director of SIM Australia. When Mal remarked that life looked a little rough, John replied with a grin, "It's okay, I know where I'm going and it's so much better." Before joining SIM, John and Pauline served with AEF in South Africa from the early 1970s, including during the apartheid era. Through cross-cultural ministry and practical hospitality, John became known for his commitment to reconciliation and pastoral care and was recognised by his peers in senior leadership roles.



John returned to Australia to serve as National Director of SIM Australia from 1997 to 2003, taking up the role as AEF and SIM were merging. He led through this transition with steady, pastoral leadership, earning the trust of staff, mission workers and church leaders. From 2011 to 2021, John and Pauline served together with SIM Seniors, a ministry caring for retired and former SIM mission workers and their spouses. They travelled widely, offering pastoral care through visiting, encouragement and prayer.

SIM Australia gives thanks for John's life, faith and enduring legacy in global mission. We honour Pauline and thank John and Pauline's children (Stephen, Andrew, Debbie and David) for sharing John so generously with the mission community.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." (Matthew 25:23)

Africa Evangelical Fellowship (AEF) and the Merger with SIM



Australian mission workers have been engaged in Africa throughout SIM Australia's history, with sustained involvement across multiple generations. From the mid-twentieth century, Australian workers also served with Africa Evangelical Fellowship (AEF), particularly in southern Africa, where its ministry focused on evangelism, Christian literature and the development of local leaders. John and Pauline Freeman were among those Australians who served with AEF, including many years of ministry in South Africa alongside local churches and Christian workers.

In the late 1990s, AEF formally merged with SIM, bringing their mission workers, supporters and leadership into a shared calling as one mission community. For SIM Australia, this merger strengthened long-standing commitments to mission in Africa, as people with shared mission and values continued to serve together. As a result, former AEF mission workers continued serving among some of the least-reached peoples, in Africa and beyond.

SIM Gathering for Niger Returnees

In mid-March, SIM Australia facilitated a gathering for mission workers, who left Niger recently due to the current security situation. This was one of three gatherings held by SIM in Europe, the US and in Australia.

Over five days, participants spent intentional time reflecting on their ministry and the withdrawal, processing their grief and reorientating themselves as they considered options and capacity for redeployment to other countries. A children's program ran alongside the adult program.

Doreen Thomas (Personnel Director), one of the organisers of the Australian gathering said, "God's involvement in the preparation and our time spent together was evident as He led and guided throughout the week."



During a session on *Storms of Life* in the gathering, participants lay their burdens on a rock and then built a memorial of thanks to God for His faithfulness and leading.

While the time at the conference offered space for rest and reflection, the journey for these workers is far from complete. One of the many important topics covered during the retreat was discerning together how SIM Australia will continue to walk with each person in this next season ahead. This included ensuring those workers who remain convinced of their calling have the capacity for redeployment to other ministries and fields.

Though their season in Niger has ended for now, our workers remain convinced of God's ongoing call to serve among the least reached, and we are walking alongside them as they discern future ministry opportunities. Your prayers, encouragement and financial support continue to be invaluable as together we seek God's plan for their future service.

Comings and Goings



April

- **Lisa A:** End Home Assignment and return to the field in Asia.
- **Martin and Lid Barley:** Arrive in Australia for Home Assignment after one month in the USA.
- **Matt and Alisa Tingle:** Return to Thailand after Home Assignment.

May

- **Emily & M:** Return to field in Africa.
- **Ian and Theano Ratcliff:** Depart Kenya for Home Assignment.
- **Michael and Kerry Fischer:** Arrive from Peru to Australia for Home Assignment.

Get to know a SIM worker

Alan Millhouse Across Ministries - Australia



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

I enjoy camping, 4WD, hiking, kayaking and fishing.

2. What do you appreciate about working with SIM?

I love the community, fellowship, SIM's vision and our partnership with local churches. I also love seeing the way God reveals Himself and His heart for the nations through the Across team.

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

A beautiful verse on God's Grace: *"I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."*
2 Cor 6:2b

MobComm26: Serving Together in God's Global Mission



Participants of MobComm26 with passports

MobComm26 (SIM International's Mobilisation and Communications Conference) was held from 2–6 March 2026 in North Cyprus, gathering SIM mobilisers and communicators from all around the world. Participants reflected on what faithful ministry looks like in today's world, learned from one another's best practices and explored how God is moving people strategically into new areas of service with SIM.

Jason Lau (Comms & Partner Development Director), attended the conference on behalf of SIM Australia, saying it was a time "of connecting with others and hearing what God is doing to reach places where Christ is least known."

A significant outcome of the conference was a shared sense of global direction within SIM around mobilising more workers to serve in the Middle East and North Africa. SIM International is now working to develop a focused mobilisation and communications effort, with the aim of launching this later in 2026. This reflects our ongoing commitment to see the Gospel proclaimed among least reached communities, in wise, prayerful and culturally relevant ways.

Please pray for our global mobilisation and communications teams across SIM, that God would continue to raise up and send workers, open doors for the Gospel and use our combined efforts to bring glory to Christ among the nations.



Participants at MobComm26