

# KOOKABURRA

NEWSLETTER FOR SIM AUSTRALIA MISSION WORKERS, STAFF AND ALUMNI

JUNE-JULY 2026

## Where is our hope anchored?

Dear Friends,

I wonder if you have asked the question: when is it easiest to have hope? Most people would probably say that it is when things are going well—when there is no hardship and we are comfortable and familiar with how things are going. Yet Scripture shows us that the ease of having hope is not the same as the security of hope.

This was certainly true for the Israelites on many occasions, particularly when we read the accounts of the exile and the siege of Jerusalem. Psalm 48 speaks of a season when Israel's confidence was high, when everything seemed to be going well:

***"We had heard of the city's glory, but now we have seen it ourselves—the city of the Lord of Heaven's Armies. It is the city of our God; he will make it safe forever."***

But while prosperity and misplaced confidence gave the Israelites a sense of hope, it often led them into sin and, in the process, to forget God.

In contrast, Lamentations is a series of poems written at the time of the exile. Listen to the contrast we read in Lamentations 3:18:

***"I cry out, my splendour is gone! Everything I had hoped for from the Lord is lost."***

When Jerusalem was strong, the people were full of praise. When they were overrun and taken into exile, their hope seemed to vanish. It reveals how easily their confidence shifted from God to what God had given them, rather than remaining anchored in Him. The astounding thing is what we read in the midst of Lamentations 3. After words of deep lament and defeat, the writer declares:

***"The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning."***

Hope returns not because circumstances change, but because the writer chooses to remember who God is. True hope endures when it is anchored in God, not in the earthly things that surround us.

This kind of hope is never meant to be kept to ourselves. It is meant to be shared. As part of SIM Australia, we are heralds of this hope. We have workers sharing this hope with those who have never heard it before, and whether through prayer, finance, communication, mobilisation or overseas ministry, every role contributes to sharing the eternal hope we have in Jesus with the world.

Together, our work points people to a hope grounded not in what can be built or taken away, but in God. The great fulfilment of this hope is found in 1 Peter 1:4—an inheritance that is kept in heaven, beyond the reach of decay or loss, for those who trust in Him.

Our hope is not in what can be built or lost, but in being anchored in God—the sure foundation even in the midst of trials and hardships. We are called to be faithful heralds of His promise for eternity as we put our faith in Jesus.

Together with Him,



Mal Watts  
National Director



# Healing the Wounds of Trauma



When people experience trauma, the effects can run deep, touching emotional wellbeing, relationships and even faith. Through Healing the Wounds of Trauma (HWT), SIM worker Jennie Girard is walking alongside people as they begin to find hope again.

Developed in Africa to support communities affected by trauma, the HWT course brings together sound mental health practices with a strong biblical foundation. Jennie, who serves with SIM in France, has recently shared this ministry with churches in Australia during her home assignment.

One recent group was run online through Syndal Baptist Church in Melbourne, bringing together participants from different locations. Over seven interactive sessions, the group explored what trauma does to us, how it shapes our responses, and how we can reflect on where God is present in the midst of

suffering. Following this, participants were invited to an Initial Equipping day, preparing them to run Healing Groups themselves and support others on a similar journey.

These groups are deeply participative, creating a safe and confidential space where people can share, listen and be heard.

Jennie has seen significant transformation. As she reflects, *"They come in with... confusion, shame and heaviness... and by the end, they are relieved. There's a joy, there's freedom."*

As interest in trauma healing grows in many places in the world, Jennie's prayer is that more of the SIM family will not only benefit from this ministry themselves, but also be equipped to share it with others.



Trying to keep our emotions hidden or submerged is not helpful nor easy. It takes a lot of energy, which means we can't use that energy for more productive or positive actions. The bottles keep popping up as well - meaning that our emotions continue to pop up or even to make us explode.

**For more information:**  
[SIM Trauma Healing](#)  
[Trauma Healing Institute](#)

## Serving Through Healthcare in Mission



A recent information evening brought together healthcare professionals from across Australia who are exploring how they might serve in mission. Participants included doctors, nurses, allied health workers and students, reflecting growing interest in using medical skills in a cross cultural context.

Andy Linton, a GP who previously served at Galmi Hospital in Niger, shared that mission healthcare is about far more than clinical expertise. It involves learning language and culture, building relationships, and serving with humility and dependence on God.

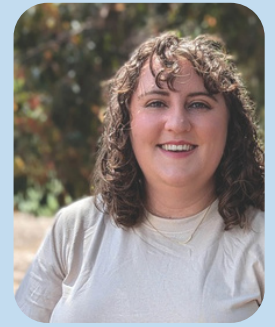
The evening created space for people to connect, ask questions and begin thinking more seriously about next steps. For some, this has already led to further conversations and plans for short term and longer term mission involvement.

The need is wide ranging. Alongside doctors and nurses, there is significant demand for allied health professionals such as physiotherapists, occupational therapists and counsellors, particularly in under resourced settings.

To find out more about current opportunities to serve in healthcare through SIM Australia, go to [sim.org.au/healthcare](http://sim.org.au/healthcare). **As conversations continue, the invitation remains simple: to pray, seek counsel, and consider how God might use the skills he has already given.**

## Get to know a SIM worker –

### **Frances Early** (SIM Australia's Regional Ministry Director in South Australia, Western Australia and Northern Territory)



#### **What's something you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

I love to read. So in my spare time, I am usually listening to an audiobook while I walk my dog, do gardening or a puzzle. Putting yourself into a new world, or an unfamiliar circumstance is a good way to see life in a different way.

#### **What do you appreciate about working with SIM and your ministry?**

The thing that drew me to SIM is the multicultural aspect. I love working with people from all over the world, from different backgrounds and with different opinions, who are all working together for a common goal. From a ministry perspective, I also appreciate hearing people's stories and how God has brought them on a unique journey as they follow Him.

#### **What's a bible verse or quote that has encouraged you?**

*"I might think that there is an unbridgeable gap between myself and the Guatemalan wood carrier. But Jesus carried his cross for both of us. We belong together. We must each take up our own cross and follow him, and so discover that we are truly brothers who learn from him who is humble and gentle of heart."* (From Henri Nouwen's Walk with Jesus).

## Honouring Yesterday

### **WEST AFRICA: Ruth Perkins**



Ruth served for 38 years in West Africa, working in community health and equipping women and local health workers with practical skills to improve everyday life. By teaching on nutrition, hygiene and safe birth practices and working alongside local leaders, she supported

communities to make sustainable changes using the resources available to them.

Communities grew in understanding, health improved and people gained confidence to care for themselves and their families. As Ruth reflects, "We were preparing the soil," trusting God to continue the work in His time.

While Ruth had hoped to remain in West Africa until retirement, her time there came to an unexpected end. From Australia she continued to support the work by developing training resources and encouraging those who carry it forward. **Give thanks for her faithful service and pray that the seeds planted over many years will continue to bear lasting fruit.**

## Embracing Tomorrow

### **EUROPE: Kira**



Kira is serving in Czechia, where she works to prevent human trafficking and support those affected by trauma and exploitation. With a background in counselling, she partners with churches and community leaders to provide training in trauma awareness and trafficking prevention, while also walking

alongside vulnerable women and girls with care and compassion.

As Kira has engaged in this ministry, she has seen how God is at work bringing healing and understanding. She shares, "People feel seen and understood... having language to describe their experiences brings relief and a renewed sense of hope for healing."

Looking ahead, Kira continues to trust God to grow this work—equipping communities to respond with wisdom, compassion and Gospel hope. Please pray for ongoing opportunities, deepening relationships and lasting transformation in the lives of those she serves.

**To support Kira with a tax-deductible donation, go to: [sim.org.au/kira](https://sim.org.au/kira)**

# EOFY APPEAL: GIVE TO HELP BRING GOSPEL HOPE TO A BROKEN WORLD

As **EOFY** approaches, there's a timely opportunity to partner in God's mission through SIM Australia.

This year, we highlight **Kira**, serving in Czechia, and **Frances**, a mobiliser here in Australia. Kira works with women and girls affected by trauma and exploitation, offering care, support, and the hope of Christ. Frances walks alongside people like Kira, helping them respond to God's call and equipping them to be sent.

Our appeal focuses on two key financial needs:

- **Mission Global Fund** – supports mobilisation, equipping and sending workers like Kira to communities where Christ is least known. *Gifts to this fund are not tax-deductible.*
- **Building Freedom Fund (SIMaid)** – supports frontline ministry, enabling work like Kira's through trauma healing, anti-trafficking training, and practical care. *Gifts to this fund are tax-deductible.*

**Together, these funds resource our workers to fulfil God's mission across cultures both locally and globally.**

As the end of the financial year draws near, your giving can make an immediate difference.

**This EOFY, speak to your friends and supporters about how they can help bring Gospel hope to a broken world.**

Go to [sim.org.au/gospelhope](https://sim.org.au/gospelhope) to find out more and share it with your networks.



## RightNow Media Resource

SIM Australia has subscribed to RightNow Media and this resource is available to all Members, Associates, Staff & Alumni at no cost. 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.

RightNow also has a mental health toolkit, with plenty of material to choose from, including topics like "Mental Wellness in the Workplace", "Loneliness", "Understanding Trauma", "Understanding Grief and Loss" and "Overcoming Burnout". You can find the Mental Health Toolkit here [[RightNow Media](#)]

If you would like to sign up for a free subscription – go to:  
<https://www.rightnowmediaatwork.org/Account/Invite/SIMAUS>.

**rightnow**  
MEDIA.



# WHAT'S ON

Go to [sim.org.au/events](https://sim.org.au/events) for more details of events that are coming up!

## SMBC 2026 Global Mission Conference (28-30 July)

Explore how God's mission continues amid global change. Hear from cross-cultural speakers serving worldwide and be encouraged in making disciples locally and globally. Join for one session or all three days.

[www.smbc.edu.au/event/missions-conference](https://www.smbc.edu.au/event/missions-conference)

## ReachOut: Where There is No Church (12 September, Granville)

Hear powerful stories from places where Jesus is little known. Be inspired by testimonies of faith and reminded of the urgent need for the gospel among least-reached communities. Keynote: Dr Mark Syn

[reachoutmissions.com.au](https://reachoutmissions.com.au)

## ReachOut North West: Partnering in God's Mission (5 September, Inverell)

Connect with believers, attend workshops, and explore your role in God's mission. Includes prayer, mission partner interaction, and opportunities for all ages to get involved.

Keynote: Graeme Dunkley

[www.reachoutmissionsnw.com](https://www.reachoutmissionsnw.com)

## SIM AUSTRALIA CENTENARY CELEBRATION 13-15 November, 2026

### *You're Invited!*

Join us for our SIM Australia Centenary milestone celebration,

Honouring Yesterday, Embracing Tomorrow

With keynote speaker: **Phil Bauman,**  
**SIM International Director**

This weekend offers moments of thanksgiving and renewal of commitment to God's global mission. It includes an inspiring time of celebrating God's faithfulness through the century, extended fellowship, worship and enlightening stories from our own missionaries. It is an opportunity to interact and feel the heartbeat of SIM as we step forward in hope.

For more information, please go to [sim.org.au/events](https://sim.org.au/events) or contact [events@sim.org.au](mailto:events@sim.org.au)

## Planning a centenary event?

The SIM Australia Centenary marks 100 years of God's faithfulness in mission. Events are encouraged to give thanks for the past, renew vision for God's mission today, and invite meaningful participation into the future.

As you plan, consider how your event will help people reconnect, reengage, and recommit, and how you will provide a clear next step to engage or commit through prayer, partnership, learning, or service.

If you are planning an event, would like promotion, or want your event included in **Kookaburra**, please contact [events@sim.org.au](mailto:events@sim.org.au).

# Comings & Goings

## June:

- Rae: 1 June - commencing Leave of Absence for initial 12 months
- Joung: 1 June - starting role as a Mission Mobiliser in NSW two days a week
- Lorenzo and Liliana: 8 June - return to field after Home Assignment
- Ros Barnes: 11 June - arrive to Australia for Home Assignment
- Steve and Beck: around 20 June returning to field in West Africa
- Neil and Sil: 23 June - arrive to Australia for Home Assignment (after 12 days in UK and Japan)
- David and Sue: Return to field in Asia in June (TBC)

## July (to be confirmed):

- Jennie Girard: 2 July - return to field in France
- Kira Bambrick: 2 July - arrive in Australia for Home Assignment
- Janet: 21 July - depart for new field
- Robyn Green: 31 July - return to field in Ethiopia after Home Assignment



## 10 Days of Prayer

Between **14 and 23 May, 2026**, SIM set aside **10 Days of Prayer** in preparation for Pentecost Sunday. SIM staff and workers all around the world prayed together, reflecting on God's Word and seeking to draw closer to Jesus. This year the focus was on the **Beatitudes**, shaping prayer around the character and values of Christ's kingdom. As they spent time with Him, many were reminded of His call to live and serve as He did — a call that continues for all of us.

## Share Your Story

As we prepare to celebrate **SIM Australia's centenary**, we would love to hear from you. We invite you to share memories from your time in service, including where you saw God at work. If writing a full piece feels difficult, you can send dot points, or we can arrange an interview and write it for you. You are also welcome to share a devotion, Bible verse, or prayer that was meaningful to you.

**Please send your contributions to [media.support@sim.org.au](mailto:media.support@sim.org.au).**