

KOOKABURRA

NEWSLETTER FOR SIM AUSTRALIA MISSION WORKERS, STAFF AND ALUMNI

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2026

Honouring the Past, Embracing the Future

Dear Friends,

During the last two weeks of July, I have had an amazing time walking in the footsteps of those who have gone before and seeing the ways God worked through them.

My NZ counterpart, Rob Reynolds, and I wanted to recognise the 100th year of SIM Australia and NZ. So together with the SIM Ethiopia leadership team, we organised a seven-day visit to Ethiopia, with a desire to live out our centenary theme: 'Honouring the Past / Embracing the Future.'

I set out on this trip as a SIM leader, but I was not prepared for the way that it impacted me personally. Looking back, three moments stand out.

The first was preaching at a Kale Heywet Church in Addis Ababa, where I spoke from 1 Corinthians 3:7 about God's action in His mission and His invitation to participate in it. Unbeknownst to me, it was also graduation day for students from the church's Bible school. Over 250 people filled the church, many preparing to be involved in mission. God had laid on me the right passage as I challenged the congregation that we are working for the King and it's not about us.

The second moment was flying to Hawassa and visiting two hospitals and the Wolaita church compound. Here we met with Pastor Hailu, who is 97 years old and has been sharing the gospel for 83 years. He was one of the first converts from the original ten who came to Christ in the region. We also interviewed Abraham, a lecturer at the Wolaita Evangelical Seminary and the grandson of one of those first ten believers. I have never met a man who simply shines the love of Jesus. He shared how, through the faithful witness of those early believers, the number of believers boomed during Italian occupation when all the mission workers had to leave.

The third was visiting the cemetery at Miango in Nigeria. We often talk about counting the cost and embracing sacrifice, but here it was before me in rows of small graves marking the children of mission workers. It was very moving, with some graves unmarked and others with children who died within a year.

These snapshots are just three small reminders of the foundation on which we continue to send mission workers around the world. The churches, the hospitals...all ask us to keep sending workers to partner with them. I counted it a great privilege to be able to visit; the people we met counted it as a great honour that we came to spend time with them.

So we continue to be part of God's global mission story. The churches in countries like Ethiopia and Nigeria are growing and they are now the ones sending workers to places where the Gospel is weak or non-existent.

As we honour the past and embrace the future, may we never forget the truth of 1 Corinthians 3:7-8: "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."

Thank you for working together as we share that same purpose; Convinced that everyone needs to hear the Gospel.

Together with Him,



Mal Watts
National Director



 **SIM**
AUSTRALIA

100 YEARS IN MISSION

EOFY 2026 Results: Thanking God for His Provision

This year's EOFY Appeal, themed "Bring Gospel Hope to a Broken World", was a wonderful reminder of God's faithfulness and the generosity of the SIM Australia community.

Throughout the appeal period, supporters gave generously to bring hope to people in need and support the mission of sharing the Gospel.

Through God's provision and the generosity of supporters across Australia, more than **\$500,000** was given to support SIM Australia's ministry to mobilise more people and help vulnerable communities around the world.



We give thanks to God for many people who continue to partner with SIM through prayer and financial giving. We also recognise the efforts of SIM workers whose contributions helped make the appeal a success.

As these funds are put to work, we pray they will have a significant impact in communities around the world, bringing the hope of the Gospel to people who need it most. May lives be transformed for God's glory as supporters, workers and ministry partners continue to serve together in His mission.

Please continue to pray for SIM Australia, including our mission mobilisers who equip and support workers as they share the Gospel in places where Christ is least known.

Partnering with Mission Workers



Behind every mission initiative are workers who rely on prayer and faithful partnership. Kira, whose work in Czechia was featured in this year's EOFY appeal, is currently in need of financial support to continue her ministry amongst those affected by trafficking. Other SIM mission workers are also raising support to return to the field.

Would you prayerfully consider partnering with Kira or another mission worker through a regular pledge or prayer, helping them to continue the work that God has called them to do? Go to their pages to find details on how to give or pray.

Kira (Czechia)
sim.org.au/kira

A&R (Middle East)
sim.org.au/ar

Robyn (Africa)
sim.org.au/green

Janet (West Africa)
sim.org.au/janet



Representative image via Canva

The Prime Timers' Expo is based on a simple idea: this stage of life can be a strategic time for serving Christ. Many people have greater flexibility, a wealth of experience and wisdom, and opportunities to make a lasting kingdom impact.

Sue and her husband, David, are discovering that for themselves.

The couple are preparing to serve with SIM in Asia, but the path there began long before they considered overseas ministry. For many years, they attended a church near a university, building friendships with international students, mentoring them and visiting some in their home countries. Looking back, Sue can see how God had been preparing them for cross-cultural ministry all along.

Now, after decades of following Christ and serving others, Sue and David are preparing for a new season of ministry, caring for and encouraging mission workers and their families. Sue believes their stage of life brings some unique opportunities. Their children are grown and independent, and they are able to draw on a lifetime of experience serving others and seeing God's faithfulness.

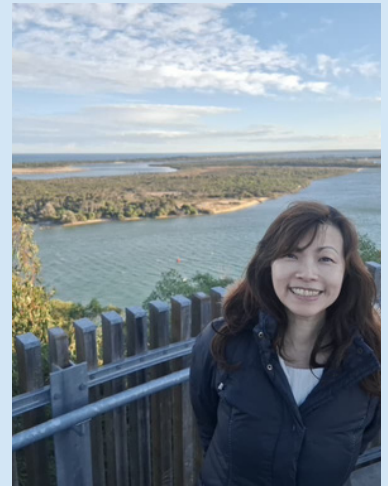
Rather than focusing on specific skills or positions, Sue describes their approach simply: "We feel like we have a ministry of turning up... just turn up and be present and connect with people."

Stories like theirs are exactly why the Prime Timers' Expo exists. It seeks to help Christians recognise how their gifts, experience and availability can be used in gospel ministry. For many believers, this season of life may be when years of preparation begin to bear fruit.



Tin has been serving with SIM Australia as a Project Coordinator since May.

Her role encompasses many areas, including helping projects remain compliant with SIM Australia's compliance requirements, supporting the allocation of funds and engaging with a variety of stakeholders to provide up-to-date project information.



Before serving in a long-term mission, Tin worked as a Research Scientist, specialising in the discovery and development of new medicines for childhood cancer and fibrosis.

In 2022, she and her husband, Joung, who is currently serving as a mobiliser, answered God's call to serve South Asia. By God's grace, she had the privilege of leading a multicultural team for 2.5 years. In February 2026, she returned to Australia to be closer to her elderly parents while continuing to serve with SIM Australia.

Tin's prayer is that, through her current role, she can support project managers in faithfully capturing and sharing stories of God's transforming work, while ensuring projects remain compliant. She hopes these testimonies will inspire many generations to see God's hand at work, and that everyone involved will serve together with integrity, bringing glory to God.

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

I enjoy gardening. Every time I'm preparing the ground, Jesus' parable about the soil will pop into my mind, reminding me of how true it is that the human heart needs constant preparation so that His teaching stays rooted in our souls.

What do you appreciate about working at SIM and your ministry?

I appreciate SIM's embrace of multiculturalism and prayers.

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

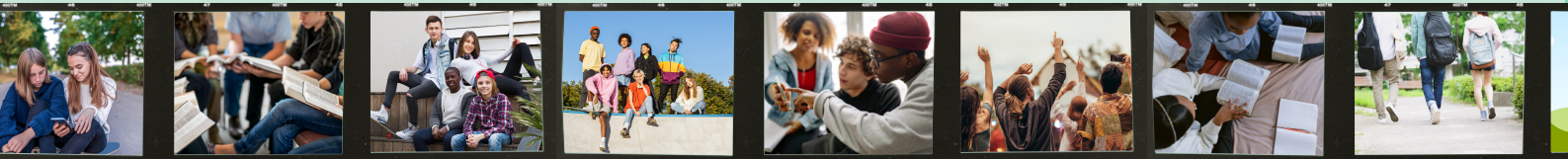
The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.
(1 Thessalonians 5:24)

An Open Generation

SIM International recently highlighted a growing openness to faith among young people in many parts of the world. While each context is different, workers are seeing increasing spiritual hunger among Generation Z, even in places where Christian witness has traditionally been limited.

Research referenced in the article found that belief in God is rising among young people in several countries, while Bible engagement has also increased across parts of the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia.

As many young people search for purpose, hope and community, there are fresh opportunities to share the gospel. Across a variety of ministries, SIM workers are seeing God open doors for conversations, discipleship and outreach among the next generation. While the trends vary from country to country, many workers are encouraged by a growing willingness among young people to explore questions of faith and engage with the message of Jesus.



This article is based on **"An Open Generation"**, published by **SIM International** and originally written for **Serving Him** magazine by **SIM UK**. To read the full article, visit sim.org/stories/an-open-generation.

Honouring Yesterday

WEST AFRICA: Gordon & Helen Stanley



Gordon and Helen Stanley served with SIM for decades, first in Nigeria, where Helen trained health workers and Gordon helped lead a growing Christian communications ministry that reached across the country. Later, they moved to Australia, where Gordon

became Director of SIM Australia and East Asia, before both went on to serve in senior international leadership roles within SIM.

Throughout their ministry, they invested in people, encouraged emerging mission leaders, and helped SIM grow into a truly international mission. Their lives reflect a generation whose faithfulness, perseverance and willingness to serve wherever God led created opportunities for others to follow.

Give thanks for Gordon and Helen's many years of faithful service and for the lasting impact they have had on SIM around the world.

Embracing Tomorrow

ASIA: Jack & Amanda Batchen



A holiday to Japan three years ago was never meant to change the direction of Jack and Amanda Batchen's lives. Yet time spent with SIM workers revealed both the spiritual need and the opportunity to support local churches in a country where few people know Christ.

Now preparing to serve in Japan, Jack and Amanda are part of a new generation responding to God's call. Together with their two daughters, they hope to partner with existing Japanese churches, learning language and culture while using their skills to support local believers as they share the good news of Christ with their communities.

Jack and Amanda are currently raising the financial support they need to begin their ministry in Japan.

Pray for Jack, Amanda and their children as they prepare for this transition. To learn more or support their ministry, visit sim.org.au/batchen.



WHAT'S ON

Go to sim.org.au/events for more details of events that are coming up!

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.

Please register at:

<https://sim.org.au/centenaryevent>

OTHER CENTENARY EVENTS

Tasmania (South)

3 October, 10am – 4pm

CYC Blue Lagoon Campsite, Dodges Ferry

\$40/person

\$20/seniors, dependents

Tasmania (North)

4 October, 10am – 4pm

Summerhill Baptist Church, Launceston

(This is a bring to share morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea)

West Melbourne Metro (Lunch)

7 November, 12pm – 3pm

Suburb Church, Hoppers Crossing

\$20/person, \$10/seniors, dependents

East Melbourne Metro (Dinner)

7 November, 6pm – 9pm

New Hope Baptist Church,

Blackburn North

\$50/per person, \$25/seniors, dependents

South Australia

19 September, 12:30pm – 3:30pm

African Village Centre Restaurant,
Torrensville

Coffee ☕ Dessert 🍰 Chat 💬

ReachOut Reflections

Tuesday, 15 September, 7pm

SIM Penshurst Office



Share your mission journey with like-minded people driven to consider calling and purpose in communities where He is least known.



Coming?
Scan the QR code



sim.org.au

Details for some events are still being confirmed, including a Centenary event for South Australia.

Please go to sim.org.au/events for more information.

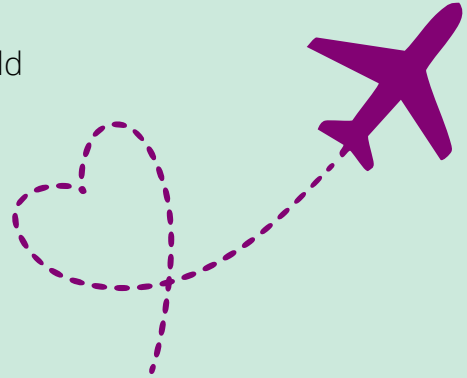
Comings & Goings

August:

- Kumar and Dileeni: 2 August - arrive in Australia for Home Assignment
- Ros Barnes: 6 August - return to Budapest after Home Assignment
- Peter Burke: 6 August - return from Nigeria, 31 August - End of Service
- Robin Watson: 31 August - End of Service
- Kira Bambrick: 31 August - return to Europe after Home Assignment

September:

- Thomas and Joannah Crowe: 8 September, depart field for Home Assignment via USA
- Michael and Kerry Fischer: 21 September - Return to South America



PRAY

- Pray for the new workers preparing for ministry in Japan.
- Pray for church planting, discipleship and leadership development ministries across Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia.
- Pray for mission workers preparing to go to the field, that they may be well equipped and supported.
- Pray for opportunities to build relationships, serve communities and share Christ where access to the Gospel is limited.

