MISSION TOGETHER

ISSUE 172 | VOLUME TWO 2026

100 Years of Taking the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth

SIM AUSTRALIA

100 YEARS IN MISSION

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

During this centenary year, as SIM Australia celebrates 100 years of God's faithfulness, I've often found myself reflecting on just how much has changed since those early days.

When SIM Australia was founded in 1927, the focus was very much on sending Australians to Africa. Few could have imagined the global movement that SIM would one day become. Yet God could. Looking back across the past 100 years, we can see how He has taken what often seemed like small seeds and brought growth in ways that no one could have anticipated.

This edition of *Mission Together* highlights some of the ways Australians have served across South America, Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. As you read these stories, I hope you will be reminded that they are all part of a much bigger picture. Over the years, a number of mission organisations joined the SIM worldwide family, bringing new ministries, new regions and new opportunities to make Christ known where He is least known.

It is so encouraging to see how God has worked through these different chapters of SIM Australia's history. Each new partnership brought people, experience and ministries together, expanding our reach and creating new opportunities to serve around the world. Today, SIM Australia is part of a truly global movement, bringing people from more than 70 nations around a shared missional purpose.

Another thought that keeps coming back to me is the people behind the stories. We rightly celebrate the people who were sent and the sacrifices they have made. But behind every mission worker, ministry and story in this issue of *Mission Together* stand faithful supporters who have prayed.

By Prayer has been SIM's motto for many years. Across the past century, generations of faithful supporters have lifted SIM Australia, its workers and its ministries before God. When I stop and think about that, I'm struck by the sheer number of prayers that must have been prayed over all these years. Only God knows what He has accomplished through those prayers.

What encourages me most is that, while much has changed, the heart of the mission remains the same. God is still drawing people to Himself. He is still calling people to serve. He is still building His Church where Christ is least known.

As we look to the future as part of a global SIM community, we do so with gratitude for those who have gone before us and confidence in the God whose mission it is. The God who has sustained us over the past 100 years will continue His work in the years ahead.

Together with Him,

Malcolm Watts
National Director

Magazine Cover:
Thomas & Joannah Crowe (pictured) have lived and served among the Mestizo and Quechua peoples of Abancay in the Andes of Peru since 2021. Their vision is to see young people come to faith, be discipled and serve through Andean churches unified in love for Christ.

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH: FROM AUSTRALIA TO THE NATIONS

"I will make you a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6)

For many Australians, SIM's story begins in Africa. Yet over the past century, God has opened doors far beyond a single continent, enabling Australians to serve across Asia, South America, the Middle East and beyond.

That wasn't always the case.

While SIM's ministry began in Africa, God was also at work through other mission movements in different parts of the world. Though they served in different regions and cultures, they shared a common desire: to make Christ known among people who had little opportunity to hear the Gospel.

Over time, several of these ministries became part of the SIM family. As they did, the places where Australians could serve gradually expanded.

One significant step came through the Andes Evangelical Mission (AEM). Through this partnership, Australians became involved in ministry across South America, serving alongside those already sharing Christ throughout the Andes region.

Another came through the International Christian Fellowship (ICF). Among the organisations that formed ICF was the Poona and Indian Village Mission (PIVM), founded in 1893 by Australians Charles Reeve and E.W. McGavin. Their vision was to bring the Gospel to communities across South Asia where Jesus was little known. When ICF later joined SIM, Australians found new avenues for ministry across Asia and beyond.

The reach extended further through ministries that became part of Middle East Christian Outreach (MECO). Through these connections, Australians were able to serve among some of the least reached peoples in the Middle East which then also extended into North Africa.

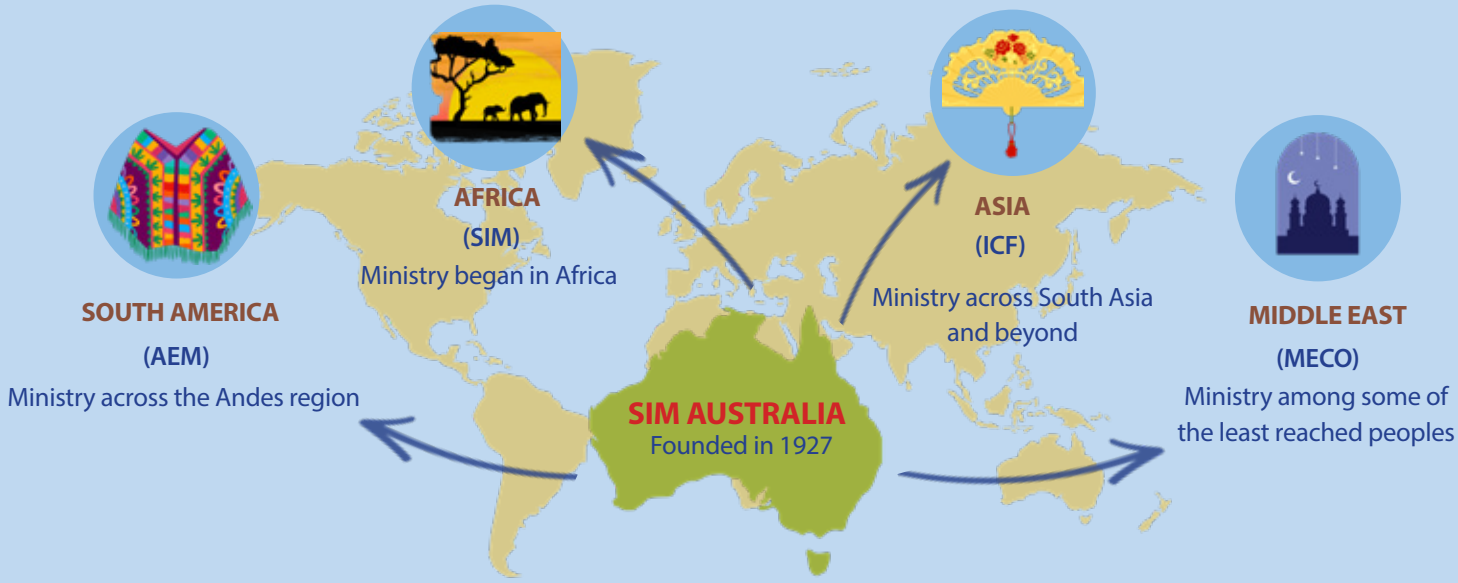
It is easy to look back and see a series of organisational changes. Yet the more significant story is what those developments made possible for God's mission. What began primarily in Africa gradually grew into a global ministry, with Australians serving among diverse peoples and cultures across the world.

As SIM Australia celebrates 100 years, we give thanks for the generations who have gone before us and for the ways God continues to open doors for Australians to share the Good News of Jesus among those who have yet to hear it.

GIVE: Will you prayerfully consider supporting the work of SIM Australia, to help us continue to take the Gospel to the nations? Go to **sim.org.au/give**

FROM AUSTRALIA TO THE NATIONS

For 100 years, God has opened doors for Australians to take the Good News of Jesus to the ends of the earth.



MISSION MOVEMENTS THAT MERGED WITH AND EXPANDED SIM AUSTRALIA'S REACH

SUDAN INTERIOR MISSION (SIM)
Ministry began in Africa, reaching communities across the continent
1893
FOUNDING MISSION

ANDES EVANGELICAL MISSION (AEM)
Ministry across South America, partnering with churches in the Andes region
1982

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (ICF)
Ministry across South Asia and beyond
1989

AFRICA EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP (AEF)
Ministry in southern Africa, strengthening churches and mission
1998

MIDDLE EAST CHRISTIAN OUTREACH (MECO)
Ministry among peoples in the Middle East
2017

Years indicate when each mission movement merged with SIM.

© Crowes

Mission worker Thomas Crowe at a youth gathering in Peru

WHY SOUTH AMERICA STILL NEEDS THE GOSPEL

When people think of least-reached communities, South America may not be the first place that comes to mind. Many assume the continent is already reached and "Christian." After all, countries such as Peru, Chile and Ecuador have been shaped by Christianity for centuries.

David Fauchon, SIM Australia's Regional Ministry Director for NSW and ACT, says people often asked him the same question when he served in Chile: "Why would you go to a country that's 90 per cent Catholic? Aren't they all Christians already?"

Yet for SIM workers who have served in South America, the reality is more complex. While Christianity remains deeply woven into the culture, many still have not personally encountered the Gospel. In some communities, Christian beliefs are also often intermingled with indigenous belief systems and spiritual practices, creating traditions that can look very different from what Australians might expect.

It is that tension between cultural Christianity and personal Gospel encounter that has drawn generations of SIM mission workers to South America for more than a century.

George and Mary Allan were New Zealanders who trained in Australia before heading to South America in 1899. Burdened by the spiritual needs they encountered among indigenous communities in Bolivia, they founded the Bolivian Indian Mission in 1907. Over time, the ministry expanded throughout the Andes, eventually becoming the Andes Evangelical Mission before joining SIM in the early 1980s.

One Australian who became closely associated with that ministry was Ray Morris.

"There's an absolute champion of SIM who left Australia as a young man and spent his life serving in South America," recalls David Fauchon. "Raymond Morris is his name."

Ray arrived in Bolivia in 1962 and spent decades serving across Bolivia, Peru, Chile and Ecuador, where he trained pastors, mentored Christian leaders and strengthened churches. Long after most people would have retired, he continued travelling and teaching, leaving a legacy in the generations that would follow.

South America's role in SIM Australia's story grew significantly in the 1980s when the Andes Evangelical Mission (AEM) joined SIM, opening doors for Australians to serve in a continent that had previously been beyond SIM's reach. In the years since, many mission workers have followed, continuing the work of bringing Gospel transformation to South America.

David and Christine Jeyachandran spent around a decade working with university students in Peru. For David, the greatest encouragement was never the size of a ministry, but "seeing the lives that have been transformed". Many of the students they invested in are now following Christ and sharing their faith with others.

Others carried that same commitment into different contexts across the continent. One of them was John Woldhuis, who served in Ecuador for 12 years, including a period leading SIM Ecuador as Field Director. He spent much of that time discipling believers and helping churches equip people to read, teach and apply God's Word. Looking back, John says one of the most important lessons he learned was the need for clarity about the Gospel and the centrality of God's grace.

Australians serving in South America are often surprised to discover that people who call themselves "Christians" may never have been encouraged to read Scripture for themselves. David Fauchon remembers inviting people to read the Bible and people responding with comments like, "Oh yeah, that's our Bible. We'll read the Bible with you. I've never done that." People might know Bible stories, Christian symbols and church traditions, yet still be discovering Jesus personally for the first time and what it means to follow Him.

Saraguro people in Ecuador

©Rinaldo Wurglitsch

Today, ministry opportunities in South America include university outreach, theological education, church planting and ministry among Indigenous communities. Thomas and Joannah Crowe serve among the Mestizo and Quechua peoples of Abancay in Peru, where they disciple young people, teach at camps and training events, and are helping establish the Abancay Interdenominational Ministry Centre to support evangelical churches in the region. Abby Penglase disciples indigenous Saraguro believers in Ecuador, helping them grow in their understanding of Scripture, and Mike and Kerry Fischer, help train church leaders in Peru's Andes. For those wondering whether God could use them, John Woldhuis has a simple answer: "If you're able to go, then go."

More than 100 years after George and Mary Allan first travelled to South America, the heart of the ministry remains remarkably similar.

The story keeps coming back to people opening God's Word, discovering Jesus and helping others do the same.

And perhaps that is why South America continues to matter. Not because it is untouched by Christianity, but because there are still countless people whose knowledge of Jesus is waiting to become something personal and deeper.

PRAY: Would you pray for people across South America to be transformed by the Gospel? Visit **sim.org.au/southamerica**

David and Michelle Fauchon with Abby Penglase

Serving in Peru, Mike and Kerry Fischer with their daughter

South Asia

© SIM USA

ASIA: MANY VOICES, ONE SONG

God has been opening doors across Asia for Australians to serve in some of the world's most diverse societies. From crowded cities to remote villages, SIM workers have encountered an extraordinary variety of peoples, cultures and traditions throughout the region. It is a story of many voices joining in God's mission — believers from many nations serving, encouraging and partnering together to share the Gospel.

That story stretches back to 1893, when Australians Charles Reeve and E. W. McGavin travelled to India with the Poona and Indian Village Mission (PIVM). Around the same time, the Ceylon and India General Mission (CIGM) was established in Sri Lanka and India. As their work spread across the region, the two organisations eventually merged to form International Christian Fellowship (ICF) in 1968. When ICF became part of SIM in 1989, this opened new pathways for Australians to serve across Asia, joining established ministries, local churches and mission workers who had already been faithfully sharing the Gospel for generations.

Prior to this time, Asia was seen primarily as a destination for mission workers. By the 1980s, mission in Asia was changing. Churches across the region that had once received mission workers were increasingly sending and supporting workers of their own.

SIM Australia played a major role in establishing a small council in Singapore that brought together Christians from across the region who shared a vision for global mission. Australian churches and supporters provided much of the funding that helped the new initiative grow. Representatives from Malaysia, Singapore, Korea, Japan, Indonesia, South Asia and elsewhere became involved as the council developed into SIM East Asia, initially a ministry of SIM Australia, before becoming an independent entity in 1992.

As Director of SIM Australia/East Asia, Gordon Stanley helped encourage this emerging movement, building on work already begun by Rob Brennan. He was also involved in the establishment of the Missionary Training Institute in Korea, which continues equipping mission workers today. Looking back, Gordon emphasises that SIM's role was not to create the vision, but to encourage what God was already doing. "The Lord was working in the hearts of many in Asia and our role was simply to hang back and encourage," he recalls. "And now they are serving in huge numbers in many different settings. They truly are main players in world missions."

While the ministry looks very different from the work begun by Reeve and McGavin more than a century ago, the heart of the mission remains the same. Today, the doors opened through ICF and SIM East Asia have expanded the reach of SIM Australia across the region and provided new opportunities for both Asian and Australian believers to serve cross-culturally. Many SIM workers now serve across the continent, sharing the Gospel and supporting local believers.

In a Muslim-majority nation in South Asia, Phoebe* has spent more than 20 years serving alongside local believers. When she first arrived, there were many new believers but few mature leaders. Today, she sees local believers discipling others, leading ministries and helping churches grow in maturity. Yet following Jesus can still come at great cost, with some believers facing rejection from families and communities because of their faith.

In a neighbouring context, Sue and David joined a team serving in South Asia. Their focus is supporting mission workers and their families through member care, alongside projects that address practical needs such as arsenic contamination in village water supplies. As Sue describes it, much of their ministry involves "turning up" and encouraging those already serving in difficult circumstances.

** Name changed for security reasons.*

© Canva

Among Japan's crowded streets are communities in need of the hope of Christ

Further east, the picture changes again. In Japan, SIM partners with A3 to support local churches and develop Christian leaders in a country where believers remain a small minority. When Jack and Amanda Batchen explored ministry options in Japan, they discovered that God can use a wide variety of gifts, interests and experiences in ministry. Jack and Amanda are now in the process of raising funds so they and their young family can serve overseas. Ministry across Asia continues to take many forms, with workers serving through a range of ministries including theological education, healthcare, community development and student outreach. Elsewhere, media ministries are sharing the Gospel and discipling believers through digital platforms, while educators, administrators and health workers use their professional skills to support local churches and communities.

The settings may differ dramatically, but a common pattern emerges. Across Asia, ministry is increasingly carried out in partnership with local believers and local churches. The story is no longer simply one of mission workers arriving from elsewhere. It is a story of Christians from many nations serving together.

Andrea, who serves in Thailand, caught a glimpse of that reality at a recent gathering where worship was sung in Thai, English and several other languages.

"It felt so heavenly, so beautiful," she recalls. "God was there and listening as we enjoyed that fellowship together."

It is an image that reflects the story of mission in Asia. Across more than a century of ministry, many different people have joined together to share the Gospel.

Many voices. One song.

Jack and Amanda Batchen with their daughters

Andrea and Walter

GO: Explore opportunities to serve in Asia with SIM. **sim.org.au/asia**

Len Salisbury at a prayer meeting during their early years of ministry in the Middle East

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: CHANGING METHODS, UNCHANGING MISSION

SIM Australia's involvement in the Middle East and North Africa has never followed a predictable path. Over the past century, Australians serving in the region have witnessed wars, civil unrest, migration, changing governments and increasing restrictions on Christian activity. The opportunities available to one generation have not always been available to the next. Yet through every change, the commitment has remained the same: to make Christ known among people with little opportunity to hear the Gospel.

That commitment can be seen in the lives of Australians who served in the region, often adapting to circumstances they could never have anticipated.

Among them were Len and Helen Salisbury, whose service in the Middle East spanned more than 40 years. Len first arrived in Lebanon in 1965 with the Lebanon Evangelical Mission, later known as Middle East Christian Outreach (MECO). During those early years he studied Arabic in both Lebanon and Jordan and spent time serving with Trans World Radio. After marrying in 1969, Len and Helen returned to Lebanon, where they spent seven years involved in shortwave radio broadcasting directed into the Arabic-speaking world. Radio opened doors into people's homes that were difficult to access by other means.

Their years in the region coincided with some of the most turbulent events in modern Middle Eastern history. Len experienced the Six-Day War while studying in Jordan in 1967. Later, he and Helen remained in Lebanon during the early years of the country's civil war, which erupted in 1975.

"We had to face real danger, even concern for our children," Len recalls. "No matter what we may face, God is always there for us and enables us to see His mighty hand at work."

In later years, MECO became part of SIM International, opening new pathways for Australians to serve alongside local churches and ministries in the Middle East and North Africa. Today, Australians continue to serve alongside colleagues from many nations, using a wide range of gifts, skills and professions to support local ministries.

While opportunities to serve have expanded, the environment in which ministry takes place has become increasingly complex. In many countries throughout the region, it is difficult for foreign workers to obtain visas and remain long term. Security concerns are greater, governments exercise closer oversight and ministry often takes place with a much lower public profile than in previous decades.

Len and Helen Salisbury

As a result, many SIM workers serve through professional roles, demonstrating Christ's love through everyday work. Professional and business-based ministries are increasingly providing ways to build relationships, contribute to local communities and create opportunities for Gospel witness.

At the same time, technology continues to create new opportunities. Just as radio carried Scripture and Christian

© SIM

Sharing the hope of Christ in a tent gathering

teaching across borders in earlier generations, digital platforms now allow ministries connected with the region to share Scripture, respond to questions and connect with people exploring faith. These tools help reach people who might otherwise have little opportunity to engage with the Gospel.

Further opportunities have arisen as people from the Middle East and North Africa have settled in Australia in growing numbers. People groups that were once difficult to reach overseas are now neighbours, classmates and colleagues here in Australia. Through *Across,* SIM Australia partners with churches to make disciples among migrants, refugees and international students from least-reached communities, demonstrating that mission to the region is no longer only something that happens overseas.

Many of these relationships extend far beyond Australia. Migrants often maintain strong connections with family and friends and regularly return to their home countries, which Australians may find difficult to access. As *Across* leader Alan Millhouse explains, "The opportunity to engage and reach some people from these nations in Australia is a doorway into their countries."

During SIM Australia's long involvement in the Middle East and North Africa, there has been a consistent pattern of adapting to changing circumstances while remaining committed to the same mission. Radio broadcasts gave way to digital platforms. Overseas ministry expanded into diaspora ministry. Professional skills and new ministry models opened fresh pathways into communities. Some doors closed while others opened. Yet through changing circumstances, Australians have continued to find new ways to encourage local believers, build relationships and point people to Christ.

The methods have changed. The calling has not.

© SIM

GO: Could God be calling you to serve in North Africa or the Middle East?
Visit **sim.org.au/middleeast**
Talk to a mobiliser today at
sim.org.au/talktous

© SIM

Technology is opening new doors for ministry. Through *Harvest of Hope*, online connections are helping to take the Gospel to least-reached communities from our own backyard.

HARVEST OF HOPE: REACHING MIDDLE EASTERN COMMUNITIES

For generations, mission workers have crossed to the other side of the world to reach Middle Eastern communities with the Gospel. Today, many of those communities have settled in Australian cities and suburbs, bringing with them languages, cultures and life experiences from across their home countries.

Through Harvest of Hope, SIM Australia is supporting ministry that helps Middle Eastern communities hear the Gospel in ways that are personal, culturally meaningful and accessible. The project is part of SIM's *Across Ministries,* which seeks to reach diaspora communities living in Australia, which might include migrants, refugees and university students. Navid* understands the journey many people in the communities he serves are experiencing because he has walked a similar path himself. After arriving in Australia from a Middle Eastern background, he began exploring the Christian faith and later experienced two visions of Jesus. Today, he is sharing that same Gospel with others from Persian-speaking communities and the wider Middle Eastern diaspora.

Through Harvest of Hope, Navid travels to Persian churches and communities around Australia, speaking at camps, events and other gatherings where people have opportunities to hear about Christ. Many have responded in faith.

For some, these conversations represent a rare opportunity. Many come from communities where there are very few Christians and limited opportunities to hear the Gospel. Hearing about Jesus from someone who understands their language, culture and experiences can make a profound difference.

Across Lead, Alan Millhouse, says one of the strengths of the ministry is that Navid understands the people he serves in ways others cannot.

"Many people have come to Christ because he understands what it's like to migrate to a new country, what it's like to come from that religious background and the challenges involved in coming from one faith background to another," he says. "He knows the Persian language, so he's able to communicate already to their heart."

Harvest of Hope is about more than ministry within Australia. Many Middle Eastern migrants maintain close ties with family and friends overseas, creating opportunities for the Gospel to travel to different countries through existing relationships. They also have little opportunity to meet Christians and often don't have access to the Bible in their language.

"By reaching people here from the Persian community, you reach the Persian community back into their country," says Alan. "When a family member comes to Christ, they're connected to family back home."

As Australia becomes increasingly diverse, Harvest of Hope demonstrates how God can use those who have crossed cultures themselves to reach people who may never otherwise have the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel. Thanks to technology and increased migration, taking the Gospel to least-reached communities can be done from our own backyard.

**Name changed to protect identity.*

GIVE: Will you prayerfully consider helping people like Navid share the Gospel among Persian diaspora communities in Australia and beyond? Make a donation to Harvest of Hope **sim.org.au/harvestofhope**

MY RESPONSE

SIM RESOURCES

☐ Subscribe me to Mission Together ☐ Print ☐ Email* *(below)*
☐ Subscribe me to fortnightly SIM eNews (email only)
☐ Please send me the Praying for Mission Workers brochure
☐ Please send information about leaving a bequest

INDIVIDUAL PARTNERSHIP

>> I WILL **PRAY**

☐ Please send bi-monthly *Praying Together* prayer notes and Home Ministry News via ○ print ○ email

>> I WILL **GO**

☐ I'm interested in exploring mission; please contact me

Comments _____

_____

_____

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP WITH SIM

☐ My church wants to find out how we can partner with SIM; contact me.

>> I WILL **GIVE** (Fill out the details below)

1. MY DETAILS

**compulsory fields* Code MT172

Supporter Number (if known) _____

Title Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Dr / Rev /Other_____

*First name _____

*Surname _____

*Address _____

_____

Suburb_____State & Postcode_____

*Phone _____

*Email _____

SIM Australia is collecting your personal information so that it may contact you in relation to your request for services or information. Any personal information you provide will be managed in accordance with SIM Australia's Privacy Policy which can be viewed at sim.org.au/our-policies

2. CONTACT DETAILS

PO Box 42, Penshurst NSW 2222
(W) sim.org.au
(P) 1300 746 580 or (02) 9580 1422
(E) partner.relations@sim.org.au

SIM Australia ABN 46 002 679 441
SIMAID Ltd ABN 92 610 559 101

3. SINGLE GIFT

PROJECTS & WORKERS	SIM #	AMOUNT
SIM Australia (Non tax-deductible)		
SIM Mission Global Fund	003000	$
Across Ministries - Local Mission in Australia	090301	$
Jack & Amanda Batchen - Preparing to Go to Japan	550777	$
Middle East Outreach & Discipleship project	098798	$
Harvest of Hope	090307	$
Other:		$
SIMaid^ - Aid & Development (Tax-deductible)		
Building Freedom Fund	09340	$
Community Transformation Fund	09320	$
SIMaid Where Most Needed	068011	$
Other:		$
TOTAL		$

4. REGULAR CREDIT CARD PLEDGE

Regular Pledge gift to SIM's project or mission worker:

Name of Mission Worker/Project _____

Country of Mission Worker/Project _____

Project or Mission Worker # (if known) _____

Frequency of pledge: ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ yearly

$ _____

For online giving including direct debit info visit sim.org.au/give

5. PAYMENT DETAILS

Please debit my:
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex
For this form online visit **sim.org.au/mt172**

Name on card _____

Card no.

___ ___ ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ ___ / ___ ___ ___ ___

Expiry ___ ___ / ___ ___

*Please make **all** cheques payable to **SIM Australia**.*

^SIMaid is the aid and development arm of SIM Australia. Donations over $2 to SIMaid projects and funds are tax-deductible. All donations will receive a receipt. SIM Australia will use gifts to meet the needs of the projects specified.

Mission Together is a publication of Serving in Mission (SIM), an interdenominational evangelical mission. SIM includes Africa Evangelical Fellowship, Andes Evangelical Mission, International Christian Fellowship and Sudan Interior Mission.

For security reasons, pseudonyms are used to protect some of the contributors and people mentioned in this newsletter. Copyright © 2026 SIM and its licensors. All rights reserved. Enquiries: media.support@sim.org.au

Please return the entire page 11 when submitting your response. Thank you.

For over 100 years, SIM mission workers have been taking the Gospel to the four corners of the earth

George Allan preaching in prison - Bolivian Indian Mission 1920s

Charles Reeve - South Asia

Poona & Indian Village Mission establishes first dispensary

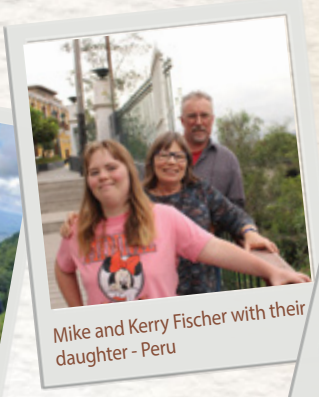
Gordon Stanley - Asia

Ray Morris - South America

Helen and Len Salisbury - Middle East

Jack and Amanda Batchen - Japan

Andrea Flipse and Walter Genuit - Thailand



Mike and Kerry Fischer with their daughter - Peru

Abby Penglase - Ecuador

Be part of the story at sim.org.au

It's not important who does the planting,
or who does the watering.
What's important is that God makes the seed grow.
1 Corinthians 3:7 (NLT)

About SIM Australia: Convinced that everyone needs to hear the Gospel, our heart is to make disciples of Jesus in communities where He is least known. We partner with local Australian churches in equipping and sending out cross-cultural gospel workers, with a variety of skills and talents, to serve in a diverse range of ministries. We also seek to demonstrate Jesus' love and compassion to the vulnerable by offering holistic care through our aid and development arm, SIMaid.

SIM AUSTRALIA

simaid
aid that gets there