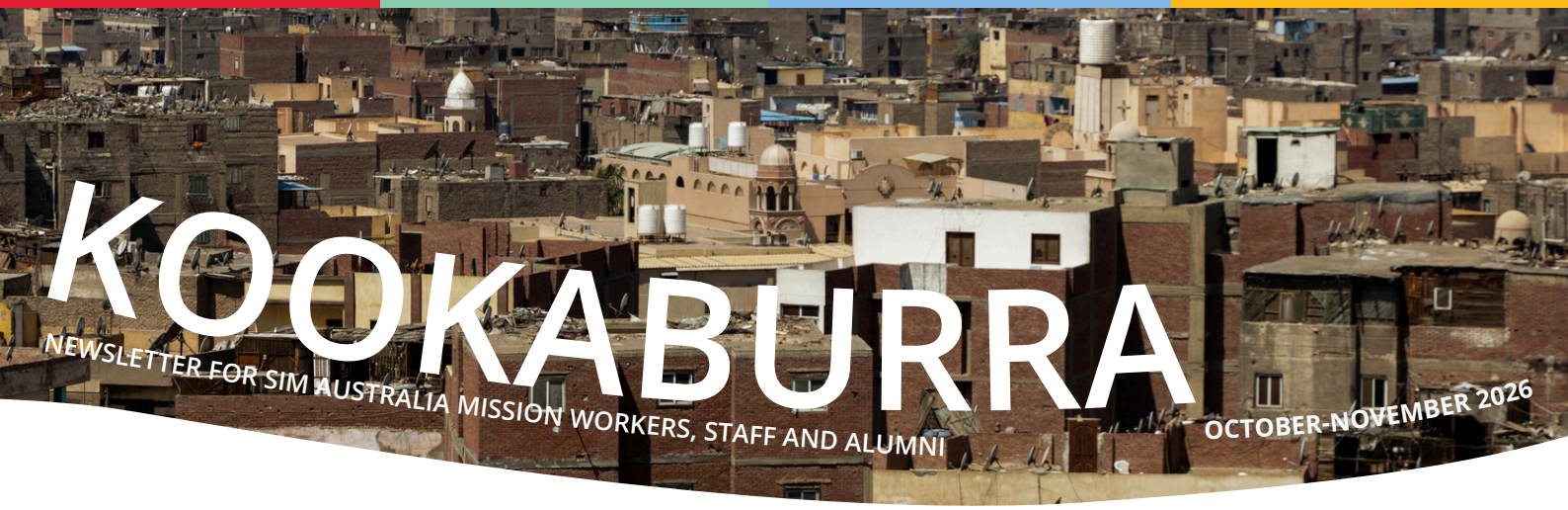


KOOKABURRA

NEWSLETTER FOR SIM AUSTRALIA MISSION WORKERS, STAFF AND ALUMNI

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2026

Loving God's Children

Dear Friends,

1 John 5:1–3 is wonderful passage that discusses the object and the result of our faith, which John wrote to encourage faithful, struggling believers to hold on to the truth while others were being taken in by false teaching.

> ***Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome.***
>
> ***(1 John 5:1–3 NLT)***

This passage talks here about a couple of fundamental truths we must all hold onto. At the very start, it says, "everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ." What does that mean, being the Christ? Well, that's the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy. It means that Jesus is the Son of God. He is the Saviour. He is the Messiah. He is exactly who He proclaims to be.

And He's not just a Messiah, he's our Messiah. He is the person who has died for us and given us access to God. It's not just that Jesus had a Christ spirit. Jesus is the Christ. When we know this, when we believe this, we become a child of God. We are born of God into His family. And as a child of God, we are to love God.

What does that mean? What's the result of loving God? There are two things here that I want to underline. The first is that we obey his commands, which are not burdensome.

Remember that obeying these commands is not to gain salvation. We are saved by grace through faith. The good works we do are not to earn salvation, but a response to God's love for us and the salvation we have received because Jesus is the Christ.

Now that doesn't mean we can say, "I believe in God," and then have no changed life. There has to be demonstration or evidence. Jesus says if we love Him, we will keep His commandments (John 14:15).

Christians sometimes think of God's love as only an emotional experience. But John's not allowing that in his epistle. He is speaking of practical love. How does your love for God come out in how you live? How do you love him with all your heart, whatever situation you're in?

The second thing that really comes out in this passage is we need to love his children or the body. So you can't say I'm going to be a Christian, but I'm going to avoid all God's other children and not love them. You can't say I'm going to be a Christian on my own. If we love God, we love his children. And that's why mission workers serve all around the world, because they want to bring people into God's body and love all God's children.

We are all brothers and sisters in Christ. And because we love God, we love each other. This doesn't mean it's always easy. But God's love, and our love for God, helps us.

Because we love God, we love others. And because loving others is sometimes difficult, God's love helps us in this task.

So let us hold firm in our belief that Jesus in the Christ, and show our love for God by obeying Him and loving others who are called into His family.

Together with Him,

Mal

Mal Watts
National Director



SIM AUSTRALIA

100 YEARS IN MISSION

SIM AUSTRALIA AND SIM NEW ZEALAND CELEBRATE 100 YEARS!

Extract from article originally published in ***Connect*.**

When Rowland Bingham visited Australia and New Zealand in 1926 and 1927, he could scarcely have imagined he was starting teams that would continue for 100 years and more, taking the Gospel to places where Christ is least known. As SIM New Zealand's director, Rob Reynolds, reflected,

"Who would've thought that the courage of one person would lead to an organisation that is now 100 years old and has sent people from all over New Zealand to serve cross-culturally on every continent (except Antarctica)!"

SIM had a vision to reach the more than 12 million people in East Africa who were almost completely unreached with the Gospel.

Australia and New Zealand had greater sea access than the US or Europe to Ethiopia, and Bingham, one of SIM's founding fathers, hoped to mobilise more people from these countries to serve in the region.

One of the first to heed the call was Glen Cain from Australia, who set out in 1927. In 1933, he married Winnifred Robertson from New Zealand. Together, they served in Homacho, in the south of Ethiopia, until they were forced to leave in 1937.

Even before SIM offices were set up officially in Melbourne, Sydney and Auckland, there were Australians and New Zealanders who were called to serve through SIM. To take just one example, Jack Nicholson was a New Zealander who applied to serve in Nigeria in 1924 but had to apply through SIM Canada because there was no SIM council in New Zealand.

Both New Zealand and Australia are commemorating their centenaries, seeing it as a chance not only to honour the past, but to embrace the future. SIM International Director Phil Bauman will visit both countries in November, attending special centenary events.

As Mal reflected on the stories of those who have served with SIM over the past 100 years, he said:

"There are stories of hardship and sacrifice that are often hard to explain or understand. But the one thing we do know is that the author of all of these stories is God Himself."

As New Zealand and Australia celebrate their centenaries, they are trusting God in looking ahead to the future. Much has been accomplished, but there is still much more to be done.



Malcolm Watts and Rob Reynolds

Home Ministry Update

This issue we welcome two new staff members into the Home Ministry Team: Jazz Cooper and Julie Geddes.

Jazz Cooper, Qld Missions Mobiliser

Jazz Cooper started as a Queensland Missions Mobiliser in September. She hopes to journey alongside people, helping them discern where God may have them serve cross-culturally. Previously, she worked as a primary teacher at Bingham Academy in Ethiopia.

What do you like about working at SIM? I love that we live out our 'by prayer' line. Prayer infiltrates every aspect of SIM which is such an encouragement to me.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not at work? Worship events, surfing, exploring new places, coffee with friends, mountains and waterfalls, sunrises, sunsets and live music (especially jazz music).

Any stories of God's faithfulness that you would like to share? I said yes to six months in Ethiopia which turned out to be the best 18 months of my life. In my first month home before starting the mobilisation role, God provided so many connections. I met two girls who were genuinely interested in seeing what cross-cultural work could look like for them. I also made connections with people from other missional groups who I had not heard of before. God has been so faithful to provide connections before I officially started and has continued during my first week on staff. Long story short, God made a way.

Do you have a bible verse that is particularly meaningful to you? Ephesians 3:16-19. As a teenager I had a very powerful moment surrounding this verse where God revealed his love in a very direct and profound way. Ever since, it's been my all-time favourite verse which I regularly pray over others too.

Julie Geddes, Personnel Support Coordinator



Julie Geddes started as Personnel Support Coordinator in August 2026. She hopes to use her gifts and skills to provide quality support, enabling mission workers to do what God has called them to do. Previously, she worked for a Christian organisation in a property management, administrative support and secretariat role.

W**hat do you like about working at SIM?** I love hearing how God is moving across the world through the individual stories of mission workers.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not at work? Love being with my hubby and girls, exercising, playing soccer and being in my local community.

Do you have any stories of God's faithfulness that you would like to share? When we moved to Sydney from Canberra I witnessed God's faithfulness to us many times. He kept finding ways to show us He can do anything!

Do you have a bible verse that is particularly meaningful to you? Eph 3:20-21. I love God's faithfulness and generosity to His children in this verse. He could just give us what we ask for and that would be amazing, but He loves us so much that He wants to do more!

I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong. And may you have the power to understand, as all God's people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. 19 *May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.*

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

(Ephesians 3:16-21 NLT)

SA Centenary Celebration

This year SIM Australia is celebrating 100 years of facilitating the work of mission workers sent by local churches to least reached communities around the world. On 19 September, a group of South Australian SIM community members gathered for lunch to remember God's work over the past 100 years and look forward to what He will do next.

Given SIM Australia's long-time connection to Ethiopia, it was only fitting to meet at the African Village Centre Restaurant. Pastor Edwin D represented the Across team and opened our program with prayer. Steve Early shared about the history of SIM Australia and how the failures in our past were opportunities for God. We also heard from Samantha and Elizabeth, two of our current SA workers, about what God has been teaching them in their current season of ministry.

Jay Knight then shared about God's calling for His people to join in Him in building His kingdom as we look to a new season of engaging the Australian church for cross cultural ministry. Ross Britton closed the event with prayer. It was wonderful to have a cross section of our community—alumni, current workers, home staff, supporters, family members and church leaders—join us in thanking God for His faithfulness to the people He created.

When are you able to let me know if we can publish his name? Have deleted the bit saying this, so I can see how it fits in the space. But noting it here, so we don't forget.











Other events

Registrations for the NSW Centenary Event close on 20 October!

If you are planning on attending the **NSW Centenary Event** with Phil Bauman, SIM International Director, on 13-15 November, **please register by 20 October.**

Please go to sim.org.au/events to register or to see other events around the country.

SIM AUSTRALIA CENTENARY MERCHANDISE

To celebrate SIM Aus centenary, we are offering **special edition merchandise** for purchase at a minimum donation indicated for each item.

Double wall vacuum insulated bottle; stainless steel; sturdy carry handle with silver rivets; BPA-free water bottle



Water Bottle
$35
min

CAPS
Black or beige
$15
min



UNTIL STOCK RUNS OUT

More than a commemorative item, it is a visible expression of belonging, gratitude and commitment to God's mission work that continues today. Every purchase will help support the project Across, with all profits directed towards advancing this vital ministry and impact in diaspora communities.

To order, please email Australia.personnel@sim.org

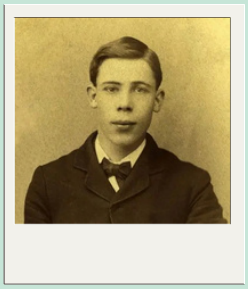
CENTENARY VIDEO

In July, Mal Watts, along with NZ Director, Rob Reynolds, went to visit Ethiopia. A special video is being produced of that trip, which will be unveiled during the centenary celebrations.

We also have a **special song** to celebrate our centenary, written by Steve Messer, with thanks to Tiffany Lim. The song is called **"We will plant this world that saves us"** and it is a reminder of why we do what we do. Dance along to it. Become familiar with it. A video for the song will be played at our centenary celebrations in November.

Honouring Yesterday

Rowland Bingham



Rowland Bingham (1872-1942) was the co-founder of the Sudan Interior Mission (SIM), driven by a vision to bring the Gospel to the largely unreached peoples of Africa. In 1926 and 1927, he visited Australia and New Zealand, encouraging Christians to consider missionary service in Ethiopia.

Bingham believed Australians and New Zealanders were particularly well placed to support ministry there because of their closer access to the region. His visits helped inspire a growing number of people to take part in cross-cultural mission, contributing to the development of SIM's work in Australia and its place within the wider global mission

Give thanks for Rowland Bingham and his visit to Australia and New Zealand a century ago. Thank God for the vision he carried for Ethiopia and for the many people who were mobilised through his ministry. Praise God for generations of faithful workers who have helped bring the Gospel to the ends of the earth, and pray that this same heart for mission will continue today.

Embracing Tomorrow

Unsung Saints



Here in Kookaburra, we often discuss some of the many faithful servants who are taking the Gospels to the least reached places of the world. Throughout the year, we have used this section to draw attention to those who have started on their mission journey or preparing to go.

But the truth is there are many unsung saints, whose names will never be mentioned in these pages, or on any of the other publications we produced, because they work in secure locations. As a result, their names and their identities must remain secret.

Yet their work deserves to be recognised. And so in this section of "Embracing Tomorrow," please think about all the mission workers in secure locations, who may not be mentioned in publications such as these, but whose work has an everlasting impact.

Give thanks for the many faithful servants who have taken the Gospel to places where their identity must be kept secret. Give thanks to those who continue to serve, despite not receiving recognition. Pray that mission workers continue to be mobilised to serve in these difficult regions.

Comings and Goings



October

Martin and Lid Barley: 16 Oct – Return to West Africa after Home Assignment

Andrew and Sandra: 22 Oct – Return to Australia for Home Assignment

November

Rowan and Bethany: 4 Nov – Return to Australia following Vision Trip

Position Open

Communications and Media Writer

Part-time in Penshurt office, hybrid/remote

Do you have a heart for the Gospel and a gift for communicating stories that inform, engage and inspire? Would you love to use your professional skills in a role that combines faith, purpose and global mission?

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. Applicants who understand cross-cultural mission are highly desirable for this role.

The Communications and Media Writer plays a key role in helping SIM Australia share stories of God's work around the world and inspire people to engage in mission with us. This is a unique opportunity to use your skills and talents to help make Christ known where He is least known.

For more information, please go to our ad on Christian Jobs Australia



From 7th - 19th October 2026, **The Twelve Days for CUP Challenge** will be running to raise financial support for **Children's Uplift Program (CUP)**. CUP aims to provide a brighter future for vulnerable mothers and children through a holistic training program. Volunteers are being asked to do a series of challenges, like eating a lemon or doing a Bengali dance. If you would like to be involved or find out more information, please visit Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/12Days4CUP, or GoFundraise to contribute to this campaign - Challenge | 12 Days for CUP.






NEW WEBPAGE
Care and Safety for Children

The care and safety of our children and families are very important to SIM Australia. We desire to see them thrive as they serve God on the mission field. We have set up a new webpage which shares our vision, strategies, and policies for protecting the children and families in our care today and is a resource for anyone who is interested in missions or who is interested in how we prioritise the care of our families.

It is also important to SIM Australia that those who were once children of missionaries, or who attended SIM-associated mission schools in the past, have a place where they can be heard and cared for; to that end, the webpage is also a confidential, secure way to reach out to SIM Australia with questions, thoughts, or stories via email to our Child Safety Officer.

Go to the page

MENA Mobilisation Campaign



During the month of October, **SIM International** is running a global campaign to mobiilise more people for the **Middle East and North Africa.**

The Middle East and North Africa is home to more than 650 million people, the majority of whom have never heard of Jesus. SIM International have put together a series of stories and videos that show God at work here.

International Communications Director, Tim Allen, says "They show the huge Gospel need and tell the stories of workers in the region, in the hopes that others might see how they too could join us."

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website through October to see some of the stories prepared for this campaign.



Pray for the global mobilisation campaign for Middle East and North Africa

Thank God for the diversity of people working together in this region from around the world. Ask God to bless their collaboration and partnerships, that they would draw many to Jesus.

Pray for new believers to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus (2 Pet 3:18). Ask God to give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation so that they may know him better (Eph. 1:17) .

SIM AUSTRALIA
100 YEARS IN MISSION
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