

Opportunities

TO SERVE IN HEALTHCARE



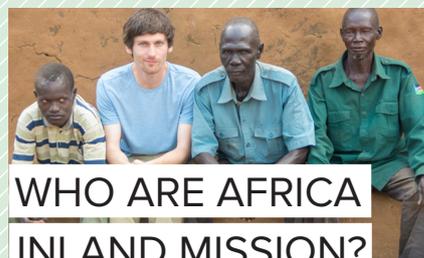
HEALTHCARE AND MISSION

We long to see Health Professionals practising, modelling and mentoring competent, compassionate medicine, but doing so in places where they will influence Unreached People Groups (UPG) for Christ.

For many years healthcare professionals wishing to be involved in cross-cultural mission in Africa have been encouraged to partner with church health care providers. However, the church/mission hospital paradigm is less applicable these days and alternative models are increasingly appropriate. This might involve partnerships with governments or other NGOs, basic community health work or a variety of creative alternatives. The need for this kind of health ministry is everywhere – we don't aspire, however, to trying to meet that need anywhere, but more strategically in UPG territory (directly or indirectly).

Often it's more appropriate to go to a place, live there and figure out, in conjunction with the local community, *how* to be involved *after* one arrives. The idea that you can take a pre-determined programme or plan and simply implement it may exist in the popular Western mindset (*all these needy people need the help that we can offer*), but we aspire to more than simply doing things for people and communities.

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WHO ARE AFRICA INLAND MISSION?

Africa Inland Mission are an evangelical, interdenominational organisation with the vision of, 'Christ-centred churches among all African peoples.' We exist to help churches in Europe send mission partners to Africa, to partner with the African Church in reaching Africa's unreached peoples with the Good News of Jesus Christ.



WHAT IS TIMO?

TIMO (Training in Ministry Outreach) is AIM's two-year training programme with a team approach to learning. It's main focus is to reach the unreached with the good news of Jesus Christ and plant churches that plant churches...



Christ-centred churches among all African peoples





WHAT CAN I DO?

LONG TERM

12 months to a life time... if God is calling you to use your medical skills among those who have not yet heard about Jesus, then we'd love to partner with you and your church for the long haul. As a trained medical professional, you could work in a local hospital, rural clinics, a children's home or give training to others.

We believe that people's greatest need is Jesus, and we expect that, however long you're in Africa, alongside meeting physical needs, you would use any given opportunity to share the hope of the gospel. If you are interested, please contact us at personneladmin.eu@aimint.org or **0115 983 8130**



SHORT TERM

If you're looking to spend between 3-12 months using your skills in Africa, then our Short Term Programme, can help. Taking a year out, a career break, early retirement, or just simply wanting to offer up time to serve God, you can apply either as an individual or as a team of two or more. If you are interested, please contact us at shorttermadmin.eu@aimint.org or **0115 983 8128**



MEDICAL ELECTIVES

We provide medical electives for those wanting to serve in African hospitals and health clinics, to help bring physical healing and to witness to their faith in Christ. If you are interested, please contact us at shorttermadmin.eu@aimint.org or **0115 983 8128**



HEALTHCARE IN A CLOSED COUNTRY

Graham & Fiona (Not their real names) talk about why they felt God calling them to health care in a Creative Access Nation (CAN)

THE STANDARD APPROACH

For many years Healthcare professionals wishing to be involved in cross-cultural mission in Africa have been encouraged to partner with church Healthcare providers. Personally, we have had the privilege of serving in the church sector for over 20 years and we continue to endorse its effectiveness. However, several years ago we began to question whether this is the only model to follow. If we limit ourselves to working through church health providers we limit ourselves essentially to those areas where the church is both relatively strong and established long enough to have a Healthcare work. Unsurprisingly, most of the unreached people groups are in areas of Africa where there is no church and no church Healthcare providers. These peoples are mainly in Islamic Creative Access Nations (CANs). Should we therefore leave the task of reaching the unreached to church planters? Does it mean that there is no place for Healthcare professionals in church planting? Should we consider giving up our health professions to pursue church planting activities? However, most of these areas are also the places with the greatest Healthcare needs in Africa.

JUST AN ENTRY TICKET?

So is being a Healthcare provider merely an entry ticket to allow us to proclaim the gospel? Most assuredly not. As Healthcare professionals, we are in a privileged position of sharing people's lives from a position of trust during their most critical life events: birth, illness and death. As we have accepted Christ as Lord of our lives, surely he is Lord of our personal and professional relationships too? Therefore, our job is firstly to ensure that all our relationships reflect Jesus and draw people to him. Furthermore, we have the ability to bless people and communities by serving them, for example by helping to reduce maternal mortality, as we work within the framework of the lordship of Christ - the kingdom perspective. Whether it is with patients, colleagues, neighbours or our own families, Christ-like relationships are the means of allowing the liberating power of the love of God to transform lives and communities. We can therefore proclaim with our actions, our lives and our words that Jesus is Lord.

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