



FOLD LINE

CONNECT is Africa Inland Mission's *Magazine & Prayer Diary*. It includes a weekly focus on either an unreached people group, an African country or a ministry area. Each week, there's

also links to complementary stories and articles which we trust will encourage you to pray with more insight and praise God for what he is doing among African people.

TEACHING

For accompanying articles and stories, visit: eu.aimint.org/rvdec2018

WEEKENDFOCUS 1-2 DECEMBER

Rift Valley Academy (RVA) is a Christian boarding school established by AIM in central Kenya with over a hundred years of rich history. It serves about 500 missionary children representing 30 nationalities and 80 mission organisations and churches. Pray for its ministry supporting current mission work, while investing in the next generation of missionaries and gospel-bearers.

3 DEC • MONDAY

Typically RVA receives close to a hundred new students each year which in a school of 500 can change things dramatically. At the beginning of term there were also 10 new staff families. Pray that the new students and staff would feel settled after the first term, and established in their new homes.

4 DEC • TUESDAY

Homesickness and adjusting to new educational systems, new friends, new food, and living in a dorm makes for a lot of 'new'. Pray for staff as we help those making that transition and for those in the midst of all the change.

5 DEC • WEDNESDAY

Pray for the families who send their children off to school and wonder if they've made the right decision. Parents can struggle as much as children with the separation they face. Pray for God's comfort, and that they would enjoy a sweet time of reunion over the Christmas break.

6 DEC • THURSDAY

Not all of the children at RVA are believers and many

who do come from Christian homes also struggle. Pray that the staff would notice those who are struggling and that they would live lives that reflect what it means to follow Christ with their whole hearts, souls, mind and strength.

7 DEC • FRIDAY

Pray for strength and endurance. Life on staff at RVA has been described as like doing 12 summer camps in a row. It's tiring and that's when it's hardest to shine. Perhaps the hardest place when we're tired is in our own homes, so pray for marriages and families.

WEEKENDFOCUS 8-9 DECEMBER

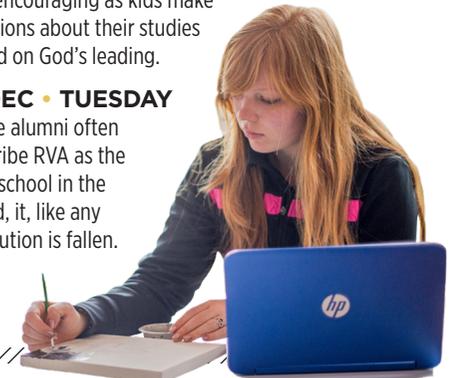
Each class has adopted an unreached people group. Pray that as the classes engage with and pray for these groups they'd see God at work as he brings the first few believers to himself, then sees his church planted and eventually churches that plant other churches.

10 DEC • MONDAY

As teachers seek to share information about unreached people groups with each class, they do so recognising that many children may be considering God's call on their own lives to serve cross-culturally. Pray that the school would be sensitive and encouraging as kids make decisions about their studies based on God's leading.

11 DEC • TUESDAY

While alumni often describe RVA as the best school in the world, it, like any institution is fallen. Last year



was a difficult year of hard lessons for many. Pray that the staff would be willing to learn, improve systems and develop policies where needed to best nurture the children under their care.

12 DEC • WEDNESDAY

This coming year will also come with its own challenges. Students struggle with identity issues, they can be unkind and exclude or bully, they struggle with pornography. Pray for wisdom for all staff as they walk alongside students who are working through these things.



13 DEC • THURSDAY

Pray for the Wilson family, working at RVA. They share: "Pray that our children would make good decisions, despite opposition at times, and that they'd grow to love the Lord wholeheartedly. Although school can be hard sometimes, and they'd rather play football, pray that they'd persevere and develop into the men God would have them be."

14 DEC • FRIDAY

Pray for the Rossington family who are based at RVA. This year Zoe is living in the UK for university. Pray for the them all as they adjust to this change, and learn to be a family across different countries. Pray too for Zoe, that she would make good friends at university and grow in faith.

SUPPORT & PASTORAL

For accompanying articles and stories, visit:
eu.aimint.org/childrendec2018

Cath Swanson is AIM's Child Safety Officer. Here she shares prayer points for the protection of children involved in mission.

WEEKEND FOCUS 15-16 DECEMBER

Lord, may our children retain the innocence of childhood. Give us wisdom to teach them how to recognise danger and flee from it without taking

away their simple trust in people. We pray that our preventative efforts to avert the abuse of all children will be fruitful so that our AIM children may thrive on the mission field.

17 DEC • MONDAY

Father, thank you for your heart of justice, and that the 'victim commits himself to you' (Psalm 10:14). May our AIM policies and procedures be an outworking of your divine justice, mercy and wisdom, as we address issues of child protection.

18 DEC • TUESDAY

Lord, watch over and protect the various schools that our children attend. May they be safe places of learning and growth. Grant parents the insight and courage to address problems which sometimes arise in cross-cultural school situations.

19 DEC • WEDNESDAY

Rift Valley Academy is shoring up its safeguarding strategies and has a new full time Child Protection Coordinator in place. We pray for Bobbie Grimes who has just taken this role, that she may be fortified through and through with the courage, strength and peace which comes from you alone.

20 DEC • THURSDAY

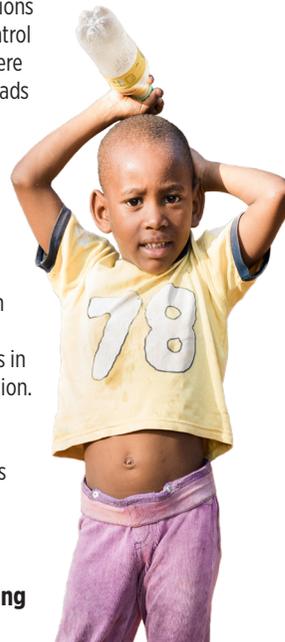
Many national children suffer in abusive and harmful situations that we have very little control over. Father, when and where we can, please give us inroads to use the influence we have to be advocates and effect change.

21 DEC • FRIDAY

Thank you Lord, for the powerful work of the Child Safety and Protection Network and that we are joined together with others in cooperation and collaboration. May we hold fast to the goodness and beauty of your original design for this world.

PRACTICAL

With any form of teaching experience, your skills



and knowledge can make an eternal difference in Africa. We're currently looking for, homeschool helpers, established teachers with at least 2-3 years of teaching experience and teachers who can teach multiple grades.

WEEKENDFOCUS 22-23 DECEMBER

Give thanks for the many teachers who have followed God's call to Africa. These teachers make an enormous difference in the lives of missionary children and facilitate parents reaching the unreached with the gospel. Pray for more teachers at all levels to serve in this way and recognise the difference that their gifts and skills can have eternally.

24 DEC • MONDAY

Pray for missionaries who are missing family over this Christmas period. For parents whose children live in different countries, and for grandparents in home countries missing children and grandchildren. Pray for good internet connections to allow effective communication, for good conversations and an overwhelming sense of God's presence and comfort.

25 DEC • TUESDAY

Happy Christmas! "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. Give thanks that our God came to dwell among us.

26 DEC • WEDNESDAY

Many missionary families are facing difficult decisions regarding the education of their children and large numbers leave the field due to a lack of educational provision. Pray for families currently weighing up these

options, for wisdom for them and for leaders within AIM seeking to support them.

27 DEC • THURSDAY

Pray for homeschool teachers settling into life in Africa. Pray for good relationships with the families they are working with, and for the quick establishment of routine and structure for the children. Pray that teachers would see and understand the role they play in reaching the unreached with the gospel.

28 DEC • FRIDAY

Pray for teachers at Rift Valley Academy, Wellspring, HOPAC and others, who are working over this Christmas break to prepare new lessons for the coming term. Pray that they would have inspiration and enthusiasm for the year to come, and that they'd be able to share the hope they have in Christ with their students.

WEEKENDFOCUS 29-30 DECEMBER

Pray for more teachers to hear and respond to God's call to serve him in Africa. Pray for the Lord to raise up people who have a heart for African peoples, are prepared to listen to and support parents, and who ultimately love children and have a passion for working with them.

31 DEC • MONDAY

Thank you for all your support and faithful prayers over 2018. Let's pray for 2019, that we'd share in seeing God do mighty works in and through his people both in Africa and in the UK, and have the joy of seeing many more come to know him and his saving grace.

