



**AFRICA  
INLAND MISSION**

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# CONNECT

04

**WHY DO  
WE SUFFER?**

BY PAUL MALLARD

08

**FINDING GOD IN  
THE FIGHT**

18

**HEALING MORE  
THAN OUR BODIES**







## HEALTHCARE AND HOPE

All of us will have had conversations with individuals about suffering, and for many it is the unconquerable stumbling block to trusting in Jesus; an axe to grind against God and clear evidence that he doesn't exist. The question, "If there is a God why do we suffer?" is one that every individual, at some point, has wrestled with. One that I've personally had to confront as I deal with a long term injury.

We rightly desire a world put back together, a world without sin, where suffering does not exist; a world that because of Jesus' finished work on the cross is coming. Revelation 21:4 says, 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away'.

That truth is being held out to those suffering across Africa who have little or no knowledge of just how much Jesus suffered for them. On page 10, one individual writes how sharing the compassion of Christ in an Islamic context offers hope and exposes the lie that 'even acknowledging pain and sorrow would be an instant fail'.

We as Christians aren't immune to suffering; on page 22 Andrew Beckham shares a tribute to his wife, Anna, who went to be with Jesus last year. The difference is that in our suffering, we know Jesus cares, sympathises, and walks with us. We remember that, 'suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope' (Romans 5:3-4).

Please pray with us that the hope of the gospel would be calling many to Christ.

Ben

Ben Edwards, Operations Manager

## INSIDE

### 04 WHY DO WE SUFFER?

Paul Mallard looks at the big issue of suffering as a Christian.

### 08 A BRUISED REED

Ruth Mahood shares how God has drawn her closer to him and spoken to her through her suffering.

### 10 SHARING COMPASSION

One of our creative access workers shares what it's like to offer healthcare in an Islamic society.

### 14 LEARNING TO SERVE

Alexandra Geiser shares about her short term medical mission in Madagascar.

### 16 BEST. JOB. EVER.

Luke Herrin discusses how healthcare offers inroads into communities.

### 18 WHOLE HEALING

Pete Halestrap talks about healing the whole of us, not just our bodies.

### 22 REMEMBERING ANNA

Andrew Beckham shares a tribute to his wife.

### 24 FINISH THE WORK

Opportunities to serve and build the church among the Laarim.

### 26 SMILING THROUGH THE PAIN

Pray for those seeking to share God's love in creative access areas.

### 28 THE THEOLOGY OF SUFFERING

Mark Phippen talks about how we can grow through our experiences.

### 32 TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE

Ann Fursdon discusses mental health care and sharing the gospel in Chad.

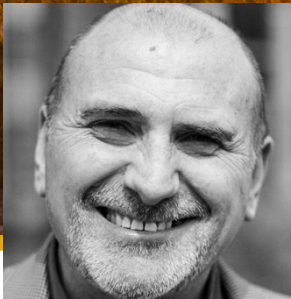
### 34 MANAGING RISK

Jurgen & Katja Hofmann share about dealing with illness whilst serving in a remote location.

For feedback and comments: [communications.eu@aimint.org](mailto:communications.eu@aimint.org)

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## ABOUT PAUL MALLARD

*Paul Mallard is Pastor of Widcombe Baptist Church in Bath, UK. He speaks at numerous Christian events and has trained a generation of church workers. He is the author of three books, *Staying Fresh*, *Invest Your Suffering* and *Invest Your Disappointments*.*

# WHY DO WE SUFFER?

*By Paul Mallard*

**F**irstly, we have to come to recognize the sheer magnitude and awful intensity of pain that exists in the world. We are surrounded by pain, and the only condition for suffering it is to live long enough to experience it. Suffering is one of the most consistent themes of the Bible. We live in a fallen, broken, bleeding world.

The Bible is an honest book. It knows all about frustration and bereavement, about childlessness and depression. It tells us that we suffer because we are human, and because we are Christians. Sometimes, we suffer because we are stupid and do sinful things. Sometimes, it's because we are faithful and do righteous things. Sometimes, there seems to be no cause at all, suffering appears out of a cloudless sky.




*“The Bible is an honest book. It knows all about frustration and bereavement, about childlessness and depression.”*

Any cheap and tawdry theology that teaches us that it is possible to escape pain in this world has to contend with the overwhelming testimony of the Bible. We live in the middle of the book.

Pastoral ministry for over thirty years has confirmed this first conviction. As I look out at

the congregation on a Sunday morning, I know I am preaching to people who have suffered, who are suffering or who are about to suffer. For some, it is a struggle even to be at church in the first place.

For many people, it's the daily struggle with the effects of chronic physical pain that colours their whole existence. However, there are other forms of pain just as devastating in their effects. I think of the young couple who have been told that they can never have kids of their own. They leave the Mother's Day service with tears in their eyes. Or I consider the bereaved wife who has been so brave for so long, helping her husband battle terminal 



cancer. Now that the battle is over, she cannot see any reason to get out of bed in the morning. Then there is the guy who has suffered depression for forty years and for whom the brightest day is grey and frightening.

### **WHERE DO WE GO WITH OUR PAIN?**

The concept of being crushed beyond measure is a common theme in the Bible. When we are in pain, where do we turn? To those who have been right where we are. Job passed through the most excruciating agony imaginable. Did he think that, thousands of years later, people would be turning for comfort to the book that describes his experiences? Probably not. The same is true of the laments in the Psalms or the grief-gripped cries of Jeremiah or the sober musings of Ecclesiastes.

In the New Testament, we find comfort and help from the words of the apostle Paul, words wrung from a bruised and battered heart. We sometimes think of Paul as the supreme theologian of the early church, its great missionary strategist and its evangelist par excellence. Perhaps we picture him as a man who had everything worked

out, the ultimate ‘cool communicator’. Then we read words like these:

‘We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.’ (2 Corinthians 1:8-9).

There’s nothing ‘cool’ about that. Paul’s words show the intensity of his suffering. He is ‘under great pressure’, crushed under a great weight. He feels as if all his resources of courage and strength are spent. Like a prisoner on death row, he even ‘[feels] the sentence of death’.

He experienced much distress and hardship because of his faithfulness to Christ. And he ministered to others out of these experiences. Indeed, he was convinced that the purpose of suffering was to fit him for ministry. His ministry flowed out of his hardships. He seems to suggest that a personal familiarity with pain is an essential prerequisite for sensitive pastoral care.

## IT GOES WITH THE TERRITORY

The words ‘crushed beyond measure’ (also translated as ‘utterly burdened beyond our strength’) are taken from the first chapter of Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians.

The Corinthians were troubled by a new breed of teachers who had invaded the church. Paul calls them ‘super apostles’. He is being sarcastic – frankly, they are not really apostles at all. The essence of their message is that real servants of God would be more remarkable than Paul, who is not particularly impressive at all. What is more, real apostles would not suffer as Paul has suffered. To put it bluntly, Paul is a bit of an embarrassment.

Paul doesn’t duck the issue. Indeed, he ripostes by cataloguing the sufferings he has endured for the sake of the gospel. He has been imprisoned and endangered, flogged and beaten, stoned and shipwrecked. He was in constant danger and felt crushed under the daily pressure of caring for the churches (2 Corinthians 11:21-29).

He goes even further. Suffering is the mark of a true apostle. Ordeals and distresses and troubles and hardships go with the territory. This is the cost and inevitable result of all true ministry. Paul’s sufferings are the result of being a servant of a crucified Saviour. They are not a mark of shame, but a badge of honour.

## OVERFLOWING LIFE

So what is the purpose of such suffering? In 2 Corinthians 1:5-6 Paul describes a clear sequence.

**Step one:** The sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives. We share abundantly. Christ suffered because he had come to obey his Father’s will. If we are servants of Christ, we should expect to share his suffering. We follow a crucified Saviour and therefore should expect to live crucified lives. Notice that Paul does not envisage a little trickle of suffering – he is thinking of a flood swelling up and flowing over from Christ to us.

**Step two:** In the midst of these trials, God’s comfort also flows over into our lives through Christ. God comforted his Son in the ordeal that he passed through, and this comfort now overflows to us. We are united to Christ and therefore experience all the comforts and blessings that he experienced. Notice again we are not thinking of a trickle but a flood.

**Step three:** This is the climax of the sequence. Our lives are like a goblet. First suffering flows in and then comfort flows in. Then, out from our lives flow the comforts that just flowed in. So our lives become a source of blessing and help to those

around us. When we first experience the suffering that faithfulness to Christ brings, we may well be troubled and perplexed. But look at the outcome, says Paul. Personally, you will experience the wonderful comfort of God in your own life. But, more than that, you will find yourself equipped and enabled to be a blessing to others. Through you, they find grace to endure.

*“Personally, you will experience the wonderful comfort of God in your own life. But, more than that, you will find yourself equipped and enabled to be a blessing to others.”*

Suffering forges us, making our hearts tender and sympathetic. My first pastor was a man called Les Coley. He was a great preacher and a wise friend. When I told him of my call into the ministry, he said, “Anyone engaged in pastoral ministry should have a thick skin but a tender heart”. What gives you a tender heart? Suffering that softens and makes it a vehicle through which God can minister his mercy.

That is why Christ is the perfect comforter of his people: ‘Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those being tempted’ (Hebrews 2:18).

Do you see the principle? God sends suffering in order to fit us for service. 🙏

## INVEST YOUR SUFFERING

This article is taken from *Invest Your Suffering* by Paul Mallard, published by Inter-Varsity Press 2013, used by permission. For more information, or to purchase a copy of the book, visit:



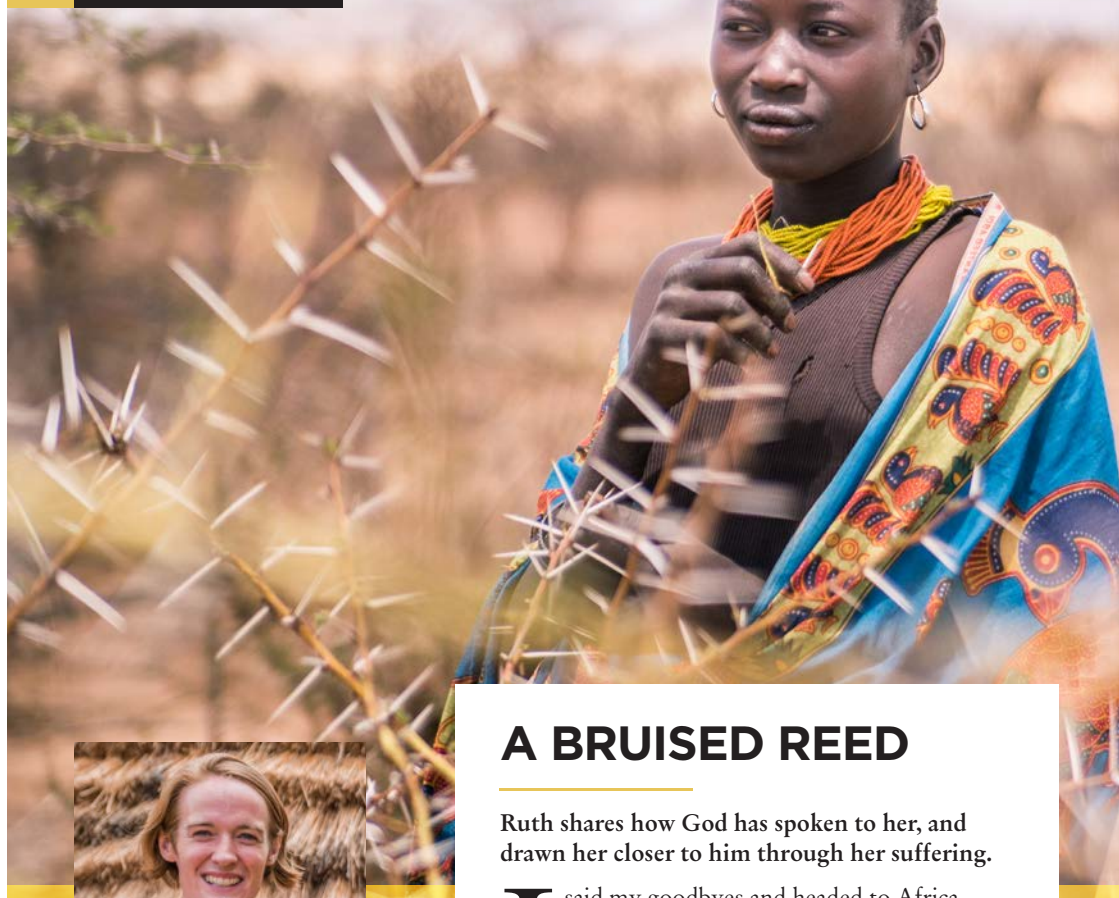
<https://ivpbooks.com/invest-your-suffering>







1-5 APRIL  
TESTIMONY



## RUTH MAHOOD

*Ruth served on a team among the Karimojong in Kotido, Uganda, spending time building relationships, learning language and culture. She was planning to use her physiotherapy skills as well as to work with the local church, when she had to return to the UK for health reasons.*

## A BRUISED REED

Ruth shares how God has spoken to her, and drawn her closer to him through her suffering.

**I** said my goodbyes and headed to Africa expecting, for two years, to live among an unreached people group. I spent nights sitting on my porch dreaming of all God would do in Kotido. However, God had different plans, bigger dreams, and instead he walked me along a path that involved trauma, loss and ill health requiring treatment and surgery in the UK.

### TEARS AND PAIN

There were days and nights of tears and times when the pain made me wonder if I was going to be able to keep going. I felt broken, bruised and weak. I was 'out of fight'. During these times I learnt to lean into that 'out of fight' feeling, and in doing so I discovered that God was fully in the fight. I felt a nail-scarred hand clutching mine. He loves me with an unconditional love, and he knows what I need. 'He led me beside quiet waters, he refreshed my soul' (Psalm 23:2-3).



I knew God, but through this suffering my head knowledge became deeper, more beautiful heart knowledge. I learnt that he is kind and that he cares in all circumstances. I grasped the assurance that, if you are his child, he will 'equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ' (Hebrews 13:21). I knew from the Bible that God keeps all his promises; but now know this through testing. I held on to some promises tightly: 'a bruised reed he will not break' (Isaiah 42:3), and 'when you pass through the waters, I will be with you' (Isaiah 43:2). God works all things for good, his grace is sufficient, and his strength is made perfect in my weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). I am now thankful for my weaknesses.

### LEARNING A NEW IDENTITY

God taught me that I had placed my identity in what I did, where it could be lost. He taught me that my true identity is in him, I am a 'daughter of the King' and that is enough. This identity can never be lost, or changed: it is certain.

For there to be life there must first be death. Jesus showed this on the cross. Through his suffering and death he brought forgiveness and new life. So parts of my old sinful nature have been put to death, but from this there is wonderful new life. My sufferings are purposeful, they are growing and refining my faith, and ultimately making me more like Jesus. Life is a glorious process of restoration and renewal.

This time has taught me that God is faithful. His faithfulness can be seen through the generations and I know he is working all of my story out for good. He has given me everything; he did not hold back his own son to redeem me. If he did not hold back his son, how could I think during these struggles that he would hold back good from me?

I cannot say that this time has been easy or that I faced it all with a smile. The pain was heavy and I am ready for this season to finish, yet I am thankful for it. I will continue to travel this unknown road with my hand in the nail-scarred hand of my Saviour. 🙏

### 1 APR • MONDAY

Pray for the Karimojong, that they would turn to Jesus as their Saviour. Remember those who are faithfully serving in this part of Africa, that they would have strength for the day set before them. Let them rejoice in their weaknesses, as God's strength shines through them.

### 2 APR • TUESDAY

Pray that I'll remember God has a plan for this time, that he is redeeming this season for himself. Pray for wisdom in how I spend my time, that as I take time beside quiet waters my strength would be renewed and I would rise in his time and strength.

### 3 APR • WEDNESDAY

Give thanks for the journey God has taken me on. Give thanks that I know he is sovereign and that he loves me - no matter if I say those words with joy or through tears - he loves me.

### 4 APR • THURSDAY

Give thanks that I can see God's care in all circumstances, that although my dreams have been shattered, God's dreams for me are not. Pray that as I start to dream again I would be able to dream big dreams.

### 5 APR • FRIDAY

Pray for me, and each of us, when we suffer to show glimpses of Jesus' perfect response to suffering through the strength he gives us. May we each turn to our Father in the face of suffering and say, "Your will be done".





## SHARING COMPASSION

We asked one of our missionaries serving in healthcare in a creative access location to share about their experiences.

**L**iving where I do can break my heart as I witness the reality of significant suffering in many ways; the desperation of those escaping war and its associated trauma, a vulnerable wife at the mercy of a husband divorcing her on a whim, or the ever-present risk of accidental injury where the first place to stop is the police station so the family can determine a level of compensation before the patient is taken to hospital.

### **“IF ALLAH WILLS”**

In all cases of suffering, the response taught by the religious leaders would be that this is a

test to be endured and that even acknowledging pain and sorrow would be an instant fail. People will often quote, “If Allah wills” but the reality is this comes from a place of desperate fatalism, rather than with any expectation of grace and compassion being shown to them. Life circumstances mean that there is little expectation that anyone is going to help in these situations, and there is very little trust between people.

### **CHRIST OF COMFORT**

Personally I have found much comfort in times of suffering, or in walking with those suffering, by thinking of how Jesus himself walked with people in times of sorrow. He demonstrated great compassion alongside his power, and the comfort that he is indeed able to sympathise with us. Whilst I absolutely desire to share in speech the truth of who Jesus is with those I live among, challenges arise even as I try to speak of help and hope to people who have little experience of either. It is difficult for





*“In all cases of suffering the response taught by the religious leaders would be that this is a test to be endured...”*

people to ask for help when they see their situation as a test that ultimately affects how Allah might choose to accept them. It is almost impossible for them to demonstrate grief and offer comfort to another, though they clearly do sorrow.

So in my professional role in the hospital, one of the biggest ways I can demonstrate Jesus' care for them is to be reflecting him more in how I respond with compassion to them in their sickness. I can also show his care in using my medical knowledge to treat people, and that can be especially true when we as a surgical team can offer specific operations that few others are either able,

or care enough, to do. The team of local doctors and nurses I work with know full well I do this, even though imperfectly, in Jesus' name. Occasionally we can have discussions about what motivates such work. Most recently we talked about caring for vulnerable people whilst looking at a newborn baby, but referencing texts speaking of the care of widows and orphans.

#### **OUR ULTIMATE HOPE**

One of the sweet developments I have seen in the practice of those I work with has been to see them show compassion; this plays out in explaining why we should operate, the possibility of hope, and, when we cannot help, to truly encourage the families to grieve over their losses. These are huge steps in this culture, and whilst they can only begin to point to the absolute hope found in Jesus, they do reflect a shift in some cultural practices which we pray will lead to a greater seeking of help, found ultimately in Jesus. 🌱



**WEEKENDFOCUS • 6-7 APRIL**

## COULD YOU CALM STORMS?

**I**magine you're out in a small boat on a huge lake when a storm hits. The waves are crashing and rolling, the boat is filling with water. You think you're going to die, so you cry out to God. For many living in creative access areas, the response they'd expect to hear is, "Work harder at emptying the water from the boat. Do more." If you can't, you die, but they would have to fatalistically accept that as being what God had willed for them.

Mark 4:35-41 illustrates that we serve a God who calms the storm. For people to attend a hospital in these locations, the storms in their lives have reached breaking point. They have struggled, but they can't go on. Could you serve as a healthcare professional in a hospital where people are desperate, not only for medical help, but to meet a God who cares enough to save them? We're currently looking for nurses, physicians in all disciplines, and surgeons.

Please pray that God would call people to serve him in this way. 🙏



To find out more about serving: [eu.aimint.org/serve-creative-access](https://eu.aimint.org/serve-creative-access)



## 8 APR • MONDAY

Pray that these people may know significant relief from the many things that cause suffering. For health and food, thankful that God cares for all these things, but more so for peace and hope and life that comes through knowing Jesus.

## 9 APR • TUESDAY

Give thanks that God is adding to the number of local believers and sustaining them, even as they know little fellowship with one another. Please pray they will grow in their love for each other, and know what it is to be united in the body of Christ.

## 10 APR • WEDNESDAY

People are coming to faith, with a significant few finding Jesus through radio or internet ministry. Praise the Lord that he uses many means, and ask that these ministries may continue to be fruitful.

## 11 APR • THURSDAY

Many local believers use social media effectively to connect with others from their people group, spread around the world. Pray for those mature believers who seek to disciple and encourage from a distance.

## 12 APR • FRIDAY

There are a couple of mature local believers who are very intentional about discipling and encouraging others, even if this is limited to small groups. They face many challenges including trust within the community. Please ask for wisdom, grace and humility for them to serve well.

## WEEKENDFOCUS

### 13-14 APRIL

A couple of very specific discipleship tools used within Muslim background believer groups are in the process of being translated into our language. Please pray this work may soon be completed and used with great effectiveness in establishing and growing the church among these people.

## 15 APR • MONDAY

As workers in this country we want to be meeting with local believers in a discipling relationship. Mostly this means meeting with one or two at a time. Please ask for wisdom in this, to be sensitive to their very real security concerns, whilst encouraging boldness and not fear.

## 16 APR • TUESDAY

Most of us on our team have a few significant relationships with local believers. It is a rich privilege to be sharing the Word with them, praying they will hold this especially close in their hearts. Pray they would seek fellowship with other local believers.

## 17 APR • WEDNESDAY

Pray for more workers, especially in our country. There are currently many opportunities for people to join us, or even to go to new locations, to places where we do not know of any witness to Christ already.

## 18 APR • THURSDAY

Pray for workers applying for visas. It is less straightforward to get them at the moment. This seems to be mostly bureaucratic, with visas eventually being offered or renewed though with some delay and associated concern.

## 19 APR • FRIDAY

As a team we are committed to learning the local language, but with no formal language schools it can be challenging. Whilst most of us function well, we also have some way to go to be fluent. We value prayers for renewed commitment and encouragement through language helpers who can help us with this.

## CHRISTMAS

Christmas is not celebrated in this culture. Few people recognise the date, let alone what it signifies. Those who have worked with us for years acknowledge that we celebrate, though they rarely join in and won't accept gifts out of fear they will be seen to be agreeing with our beliefs.



## CURFEWS

New Year celebrations are frowned upon, because it is not an official Islamic holiday. This last year, a few hotels hosted celebrations, but since there is a new law stating that no gathering can go on past a curfew, they were all closed down by the military police before midnight.

## CONSENT

A woman is absolutely unable to give her own consent for an operation. Either her father or husband must do so. Unless she needs a Caesarean section, in which case she needs both husband and father to sign.

Without signatures there can be no surgery, even if mother and baby might die.





20-26 APRIL  
**SHORT TERM**



## ALEXANDRA

*Alexandra Geiser* is French and Swiss and has just completed her medical studies in Geneva, Switzerland. Becoming a Christian aged 21, Alexandra is excited to serve God using her profession. She works in a hospital in Vevey, Switzerland, and is considering further mission work in the future.

### 22 APR • MONDAY

Pray for Alexandra Geiser as she processes all she experienced in Madagascar. Pray that as she thinks through all that she has learnt and her ideas for the future that her church would be able to give good advice and support. Pray she would continue to grow in her knowledge and love of her Lord.

### 23 APR • TUESDAY

Give thanks for Dr Hasso Dapprich and Dr Elisabeth Bezel who have recently been accepted as short term members. Both doctors are going to be making regular short trips to AIM's counselling centre, Tumaini, to provide clinical support. Pray for them as they prepare for their first trips.





## LEARNING TO SERVE

Alexandra went to Madagascar for a three month mission trip after finishing medical school.

**I**'ve always wanted to do humanitarian work, but since becoming a Christian, I've also wanted to use my job to work for Christ's kingdom.

When I came home people asked me, "What did you teach them?" but really the question should have been, "What did you learn?" The people I met had a real impact on me. If someone was sick, no matter how long it took to get to the hospital, all the family would go, leaving their rice fields behind (which are their only way to earn money). They know how to take time for important things, how to listen, how to help and how to rejoice.

My time away also helped me experience the faithfulness of God. Being in a different country and a different culture was hard. Sometimes, I struggled to know how to deal with certain situations. I had to adapt to their ways. But, as 2 Corinthians 12:10 says, 'When I am weak, then I am strong'. God taught me humility during these three months, which was valuable, but sometimes hard.

In Europe perhaps it's easier to ignore God's voice. We don't make time to listen, or maybe we are afraid of what we might hear if we did. But while I was away God opened my eyes to show me how he could work through me if only I would let him. Pray that I would let God work in and through me, and that others too would feel God's call to servant hearted ministry. 🌍

Image: @fandresena

### 24 APR • WEDNESDAY

Give thanks for the work of Hopitaly Vaovao Mahafaly (HVM) also known as the Good News Hospital in Mandritsara, Madagascar, which has developed and grown since it opened as a clinic in 1995. As it serves an area half the size of Wales, pray for patients making long journeys and for staff overwhelmed by the need.

### 25 APR • THURSDAY

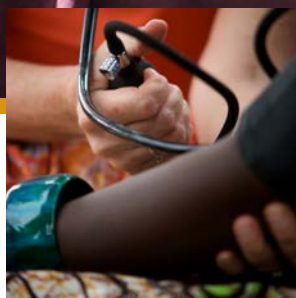
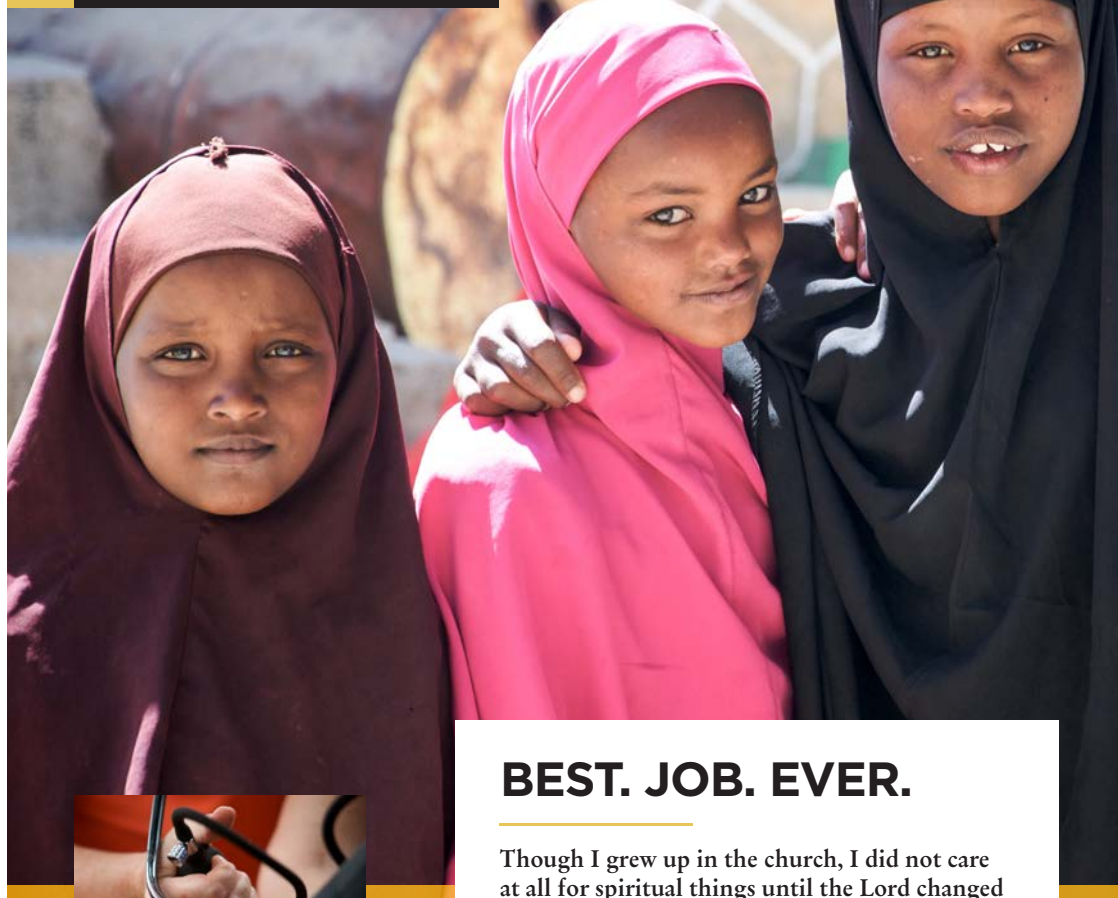
Pray for those who are currently enquiring about short term opportunities. Pray particularly for those looking to undertake their medical elective placements in Africa, that we would be able to match them to the right locations. Pray for the hospitals receiving students, that they would give them a good insight into both medicine and mission.

### 26 APR • FRIDAY

Pray for short term, Enoch Chan, who will be spending his medical elective placement at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya during June and July. Pray that his current studies as well as preparations for the elective will go smoothly. Pray too that he would be prepared to learn and grow during his time in Kenya.



27 APRIL - 3 MAY  
**OUTREACH & EVANGELISM**



## MEET LUKE

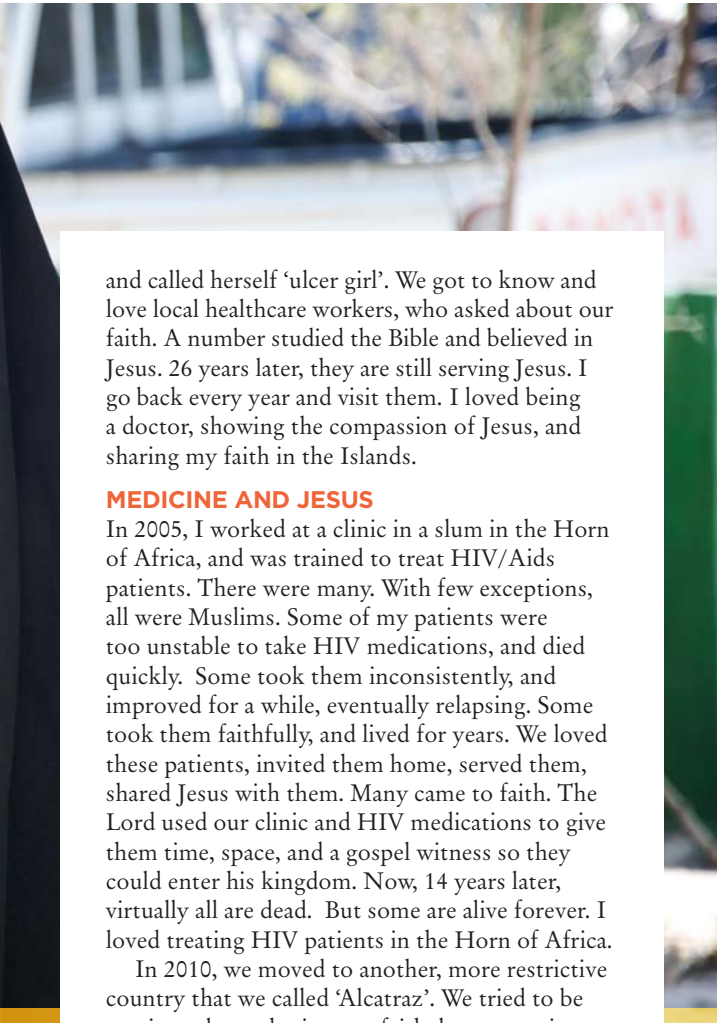
*Luke Herrin, AIM's International Director, served with his family in several locations in East Africa for 20 years, among Muslim people groups. He shares, "The Lord has always led and been faithful to us, and we trust this will continue as we lead AIM."*

## BEST. JOB. EVER.

Though I grew up in the church, I did not care at all for spiritual things until the Lord changed my heart when I was 19, and I began to follow Jesus. I love being a doctor, and using medicine to demonstrate the love and compassion of our Saviour, especially in places where he is not known. The Lord gave us (me, my wife Jennifer, and our two daughters) a desire to reach Muslims with the saving love of Jesus.

### WELCOMED IN

**I**n 1993, my family and I moved to an island nation in the Indian Ocean. The whole population was Muslim, but we were welcomed as doctor and nurse. We were overwhelmed by the needs. We battled pneumonia, high blood pressure, strokes, and that great killer, malaria, with minimal resources. The Island people loved us, so much so that they would come to our home at all hours asking for treatment! My 8-year-old daughter bandaged leg sores in our garden,



and called herself 'ulcer girl'. We got to know and love local healthcare workers, who asked about our faith. A number studied the Bible and believed in Jesus. 26 years later, they are still serving Jesus. I go back every year and visit them. I loved being a doctor, showing the compassion of Jesus, and sharing my faith in the Islands.

### MEDICINE AND JESUS

In 2005, I worked at a clinic in a slum in the Horn of Africa, and was trained to treat HIV/Aids patients. There were many. With few exceptions, all were Muslims. Some of my patients were too unstable to take HIV medications, and died quickly. Some took them inconsistently, and improved for a while, eventually relapsing. Some took them faithfully, and lived for years. We loved these patients, invited them home, served them, shared Jesus with them. Many came to faith. The Lord used our clinic and HIV medications to give them time, space, and a gospel witness so they could enter his kingdom. Now, 14 years later, virtually all are dead. But some are alive forever. I loved treating HIV patients in the Horn of Africa.

In 2010, we moved to another, more restrictive country that we called 'Alcatraz'. We tried to be cautious about sharing our faith, but my patients were dying without Jesus. So we gave them free medicines and told them it was a gift from Jesus. We invited them to our house and taught them the Bible. We gave them food and milk and love. Several came to faith. But after three years, the government kicked us out.

I loved being a doctor and witness to the Muslims in Alcatraz and teaching the Word of God in their own language. We were sorry to go. We cannot return, but the kingdom keeps growing.

All of this was possible because we are medical people. Entering restricted countries, immediate access into people's lives and easy opportunities to share the love and compassion of Jesus, a respected and understandable place in society... all this flowed out of our medical professions.

Best. Job. Ever. 🙏

## WEEKENDFOCUS

**27-28 APRIL**

Pray for our healthcare missionaries. All want to share the gospel, but can find themselves so overwhelmed with physical and medical needs that they miss opportunities to present Jesus to their patients, co-workers, and neighbours. Pray for a good balance (Colossians 4: 3-6).

### 29 APR • MONDAY

Pray for more healthcare workers to go to difficult and restricted locations and share the gospel with Muslim people. Pray for those who can teach medical students and nurses too, as doors are open for this. Traditional missionaries, pastors and evangelists often cannot go to these places, but doctors, nurses, physios and others can (Matthew 9:38).

### 30 APR • TUESDAY

Pray that our medical workers will be courageous and bold in presenting the gospel. We have many natural opportunities and our patients and co-workers are often curious, but we need boldness to speak up (Ephesians 5:16).

### 1 MAY • WEDNESDAY

Pray for the Lord to bring open-hearted people to our healthcare missionaries, whether that be patients, co-workers or others. Pray for discernment among our workers, that they would be able to tell who is a true seeker of Jesus (Philippians 1:9-11).

### 2 MAY • THURSDAY

Pray for our health workers to walk closely with Jesus. We are bombarded with needs and requests, and can get exhausted or burned out trying to meet those needs. Pray we would be constantly refreshed by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-20).

### 3 MAY • FRIDAY

Pray for AIM leaders, that we would understand the value of healthcare ministries and find places for doctors, nurses, and others to minister. There are needs all over Africa, but matching these with the right kind of missionary is not easy. We need wisdom (James 1:5).





## WHOLE HEALING

*The Halestraps* have been living and serving in Kenya since 2012. They are based at Kijabe Hospital, a large mission hospital in the Rift Valley. Pete works as a doctor in the Outpatient and Emergency departments as well as running a higher diploma programme in Emergency Medicine and Critical Care for Clinical Officers, and a postgraduate General Practice training programme for doctors.

I have the privilege of being involved in the training of Family Medicine consultants (GPs) in conjunction with Kabarak University. As part of that role I run the course on ‘Christian Faith and Healing’. During this programme we ask questions such as:

- Does a patient’s spiritual/religious view affect their health?
- Can and should we engage with people’s spiritual views as healthcare professionals?

- What is the role of healthcare providers when speaking into religious/cultural practices, e.g. female circumcision or lip cutting?

### SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL

In the UK, doctors often like to create a clear distinction between spiritual issues and physical ones, with any interplay being left to the periphery. A classic example would be what to do when a Jehovah’s Witness refuses a blood transfusion because of their beliefs. In reality the issues surrounding health and religious or spiritual beliefs are much more pervasive than this. When I work as a GP in the UK I see people who come for a consultation because they feel lost and that life has no purpose. As a Christian I also see people who are called to question if God is real or good because they or family members are sick or suffering. While we may like to try to separate out physical sickness from its surrounding context, actually things are not so simple. Our living and working environments, our background and beliefs, and our mental health and physical health are all intertwined.



*“We have been created as holistic beings; our physical, mental, spiritual, social and psychological health are all inextricably linked...”*

In Kenya, and indeed most of Africa, the general view is much more holistic, with most people believing that spiritual and physical health are inextricably linked. While this may be preferable to the false dichotomy often seen in the UK, it does bring its own challenges for healthcare providers. If you believe you are sick because you have been cursed what will you do? Who will you go and see - a doctor who can only treat a physical problem, or the witchdoctor who you believe can lift the curse? If you hold a fatalistic religious view that suggests that whatever happens to you is just God's will, then why even go and seek healthcare at all?

People's spiritual views affect when they present for healthcare, which treatments they

have had before they reach you, and which treatments they are now willing to accept. Their views also affect many cultural practices, several of which (e.g. female circumcision) can have significant health implications.

### SEEING THE WHOLE PICTURE

Wherever we live or work we need to recognise that we have been created as holistic beings; our physical, mental, spiritual, social and psychological health are all inextricably linked. Therefore, if we are to be good healthcare providers and/or believers, we must be willing to engage in all aspects of people's lives. As healthcare providers we may need to think carefully about how and when to address our patients' spiritual needs, and yet the call is clear. In the gospel of Mark (2:1-12) a paralytic man is laid before Jesus. He would have had a huge number of physical, social and psychological needs and therefore it is striking that Jesus' first words to him are "Your sins are forgiven". At the end of this encounter with Jesus the man walks away fully healed; physically, socially and of course spiritually. It is a great lesson to us all from the great physician. 🙏





## KIJABE HOSPITAL

The hospital was established in 1915 as a small outpatient clinic within the grounds of AIM's boarding school, Rift Valley Academy. It was originally named Theodora Hospital, but later renamed AIC Kijabe Hospital.

AIC Kijabe Hospital is a faith-based hospital sponsored by the Africa Inland Church (AIC) Kenya. It is situated about an hour's drive from Nairobi towards Nakuru. The hospital has experienced tremendous growth and change over the years. It is the largest of the five hospitals sponsored by the Africa Inland Church.

Kijabe Hospital's mission is to 'Glorify God through compassionate healthcare provision, training and spiritual ministry in Christ Jesus'. It has nine operating theatres, modern intensive care units (ICU), and dental and laboratory/pathology units. The Aids relief unit provides free outpatient HIV/Aids care and runs two satellite clinics.

## A MEDICAL BILL AWAY FROM BANKRUPTCY

A medical colleague who has recently returned from completing a training programme in the UK commented on how it was the first country she has worked in where the above title was not true. It is a reminder of how challenging it can be to receive appropriate medical care in so many parts of the world.

**W**ario is a good example of this. Shortly before Christmas a friend working in northern Kenya contacted us about this young man. He'd had a wound on his leg for over a year, but due to poor access to healthcare in his region and low funds, he had been unable to get any good treatment.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO HOPE

It was decided that we would fly him to Kijabe hospital for definitive treatment, but unfortunately he was unable to pay for his care. His family did what they could, but with droughts wiping out most of their livestock during the last year there was no way they could settle his bill. We are thankful that generous people from both the UK and the US stepped in to support this man and that he was able to be successfully treated and go home healed. Many others visiting Kijabe Hospital are not so fortunate. On a daily basis we see people who have suffered because of their inability to pay for medical care, and despite Kijabe Hospital's policy of never sending a patient away with a life-threatening condition, we equally do not have unlimited resources. As healthcare providers we continue to serve and share Christ's love whilst always longing for the day when there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. 🌍



## WEEKENDFOCUS

### 4-5 MAY

Pray for the health of AIM missionaries, including those in Kijabe Hospital. Pray that they would be wise in maintaining their own health in a holistic fashion and that they would keep their eyes fixed on Jesus.

### 6 MAY • MONDAY

Pray for those attending the hospital facing severe sickness or death. Ask that they may leave Kijabe with the hope of eternal life.

### 7 MAY • TUESDAY

Pray for trainees attending the Kairos course (an introduction to mission), that they will be given a passion for working cross-culturally and a heart to share the gospel wherever they go.

### 8 MAY • WEDNESDAY

Pray for all staff in the hospital, that they would be encouraged and strengthened in the midst of the immense need and suffering they see around them.

### 9 MAY • THURSDAY

Pray for all those undergoing medical training at Kijabe Hospital. Ask that they would be equipped to minister to people in a holistic way, including sharing their faith with those for whom they care.

### 10 MAY • FRIDAY

Pray for Pete and Libby Halestrap, that amid the busyness of life they would prioritise their relationship with Jesus and demonstrate his love and grace to their children, Finlay, Gabriel and Florence.



## CHALLENGE AND CHANGE

*Faith Lelei* is a senior resident of family medicine (GP) at Kabarak University, Nairobi. She shares about the challenges facing the Kenyan health system.

**W**e have a significant shortage of healthcare providers, as 51% of doctors born and trained in Kenya work abroad. 40 of the 47 counties have less than 1 doctor to 10,000 compared to the recommended ratio of 1:1000. The few healthcare providers we have are unevenly spread around the country.

A few years ago, healthcare services were devolved from the national government to be run by our 47 counties. Very few counties have seen improvement. I know of hospitals where, when a mother needs an emergency caesarean section, she is given a list of things to purchase. That can include an IV cannula, sterile gloves, IV fluids and her IV antibiotics. If she is unaccompanied, she has to walk a few metres to purchase them. I shudder to think of what happens when she doesn't have money.

### A VICIOUS CYCLE

We live in a country with glaring wealth disparities, where some people can afford to travel to South Africa and the UK for routine check ups or treatment. But this is the minority. One in three Kenyans live on less than a dollar a day. Only 40% of Kenyans live on 1.5 dollars or more per day and even those are just one disease away from poverty. This is exacerbated by the fact that about 80% of Kenyans do not have access to any form of health insurance. Typically people come to hospital with very advanced disease, when it's also more expensive to treat than if they had come earlier, worsening the poverty cycle.

But change is on the horizon. Healthcare workers want to form a health service commission to oversee issues affecting providers and re-look at their distribution around the country. Our government is also in the process of introducing universal healthcare. While I have reservations about their approach, I am glad that we are beginning to have these crucial conversations. 🙏





TESTIMONY  
**REMEMBERING ANNA**



# ANNA BECKHAM

## 1983 - 2018

After an intense fight with stomach cancer, on the 18th November 2018 Anna Beckham was called home to find long-awaited rest. Andrew, her husband, shares this tribute:

During our last two years in South Sudan it became routine to take a family day together every Saturday. We would close the doors and relax our culturally frazzled hearts and minds. Invariably a lazy afternoon was spent working our way through whichever nature documentary we had been sent by some generous friend or family member. Over the course of our time we ploughed our way through a number of BBC classics: Human Planet, Africa, Blue Planet 2. These once mundane family moments are now cherished memories. It was of course with huge delight we returned to the UK to find Mr Attenborough was advertising his latest release: Dynasties.

One of the most incredible privileges during Anna's illness has been to receive the hundreds of messages of love and support from those who knew her. It has been a great joy and huge encouragement to hear and read what Anna meant to each one who got in touch, and to understand the impact she had upon others' lives.

This got me thinking... If Anna was on Dynasties, what character would she be? Receiving messages from many of Anna's relationships, spanning the full 35 years of her life, it seems to each of us she gave something a little different.

### ANNA THE LEADER

One of the most commonly used words in everything I have read was 'inspiration'. Having given her life to Jesus at the age of six, she felt a growing call through her childhood to be a missionary nurse in Africa, and faithfully followed this course in every major life decision she made. She spent the last two years of her life living in the remote and dusty bush of the Boya Hills, ready day or night to blaze a way, clambering in battered Birkenstocks to hilltop mud huts to provide both spiritual and physical care. Anna always shied away from the limelight, few things were worse for her than being the centre of attention, and yet by her stubborn determination in whatever she set her mind to, she has led by example. It is a blessing to know so many were able to step

forward themselves because of the inspiration and empowerment she gave.

### ANNA THE REBEL

Second to an inspirational leader, the next most commonly used phrase in friends' descriptions of Anna was 'a wicked sense of humour'. Throughout her life, Anna maintained a mischievous disregard for any unnecessary pomp she perceived within the church or workplace. Anna possessed a healthy mix of British sarcasm, northern dry wit and a playful spirit.

*"One of my greatest joys is to know there are many around the world, who follow Jesus today because of her faithful witness in their lives..."*

### ANNA THE PROTECTOR

Whether running youth clubs in the Meadows in Nottingham, working on the infectious diseases ward at City Hospital, or serving at the Pao da Vida project for street boys in Brazil, Anna was always a faithful protector of the outsider, the oppressed and the ostracised. Anna fought passionately for women's health, most recently in the area of maternity as she added midwifery to her nursing skills. A wholehearted advocate for those far away, she was also fiercely loyal to those close to her. To many, this protective streak was most powerfully manifested as a woman of God. One of my greatest joys is to know there are many around the world who follow Jesus today because of her faithful witness in their lives, her steadfast encouragement in times of distress, and her humble desire to invite others into the protective fold of God.

These are just some of the stories that paint a picture of the person; there are many more beside. No tribute will ever entirely do her justice. Whichever character we have had the pleasure of knowing, whether the leader, the rebel, or the protector, she will be sorely missed. Her death is a terrible loss in the lives of those that loved, admired and respected her. And yet, despite our tears of sorrow, it is with great joy we witnessed her same resilience, and humour, and faithfulness as she followed her Lord Jesus to the end. Our Anna, has always been, and wonderfully will forever be, his Anna. Praise God for letting us enjoy her for a while. 🙏





11-17 MAY  
**CHURCH PLANTING**



## MEET THE LAARIM

The Laarim live in the Boya Hills of South Sudan, a rugged and hilly terrain with rich savanna, high grasslands and scrub bushes. They live in small settlements, with social and cultural life centred around cattle, livestock being their only known natural resource. Raiding and stealing cattle is a question of honour, causing long standing feuds with neighbours.

They practice African traditional religion and are highly aware of spiritual forces, believing in a supreme being who controls all of life, including the health of their cattle. They believe spirits of their departed ones roam the Earth and they can communicate with them through prayers and offerings which they perform collectively in designated ritual places.

Jacob Borgelt has been living and working among the Laarim since 2013, Andrew Wallace joined him between 2015-2017, with a Focus team, led by Phil and Linda Byler, running from 2016 to 2018.

## TRANSLATING HOPE

*Angelo became a Christian when he was attending school outside of the Laarim area. After finishing school he returned home, wanting to share the gospel with his own people. Angelo can speak Laarim and English so he has been a great asset to the recent team serving among the Laarim. He has started to help with the translation of Bible stories and advised with cultural differences.*

**T**hrough the translation work Angelo has grown a lot in his faith. Recently, he has started his own Bible study groups. We have had the joy of seeing people come to faith because Angelo has shared the good news with them. But that often means that Angelo is under attack. He has had to cope with false accusations being made against him and the constant temptation to return to participating in aspects of Laarim culture that are contrary to the gospel.

### STANDING ON THE ROCK

Angelo has learnt to stand on the rock of Christ and when he's struggling, he's learnt to look for support from believers and seek prayer. Despite the difficulties he's encountered, God is blessing the work of Angelo's hand.

Many Laarim people ask Angelo to come to their house to study the Bible with them. But Angelo can't visit everybody. The harvest is big but we need more workers. Angelo is looking forward to receiving training so that he can then train other Laarim believers to start their own Bible study groups. Could you be a part of supporting young men like Angelo, and other young leaders until the Laarim are ready to start a church on their own? 🙏





## FINISH THE WORK

There are now a number of believers among the Laarim. Ten Bible study groups meet on a weekly basis. But we still have the vision of seeing Christ-centred churches transforming every Laarim village.

**B**eginning in September 2019 we are intending to launch a follow up team led by Ard & Carin De Leeuw, continuing the ministry of the Focus team and concentrating on church planting. We long to see Laarim believers becoming strong in their faith and capable of spreading the gospel among their communities. For this to happen we need people to come and live alongside the Laarim and to disciple them.

People with a background in veterinary work, health education, literacy development, education or farming would be able to quickly use their professional skills in the community. However, these roles would always be secondary to the primary focus of church planting.

The Boya Hills are not an easy place to live. There is a strong gun culture with shots fired for celebration, for mourning, for cattle raiding, and for showmanship. There are no local markets. Team food supplies are flown in monthly by AIM Air or brought on returning vehicle trips from Kenya or Uganda. Evacuation by air for health emergencies is limited to daylight hours.

Yet despite all these difficulties, God has been moving among the Laarim and through those who have served him there. Could God be calling you to be a part of finishing the work? 🙏

### COULD YOU JOIN THE TEAM?

Are you a vet, health educator, teacher or agriculturist? Could you be a part of church planting among the Laarim?



To find out more about serving: [eu.aimint.org/serve-laarim](http://eu.aimint.org/serve-laarim)

## WEEKENDFOCUS

### 11-12 MAY

Pray for Angelo, that he will stand firm on the rock; that he will remain close to Christ and continually acknowledge him as his Saviour. Pray that every day he will be a light for Christ among the Laarim.

### 13 MAY • MONDAY

Pray for open hearts among the Laarim. In the main, the young people have been open to the gospel. The older people believe they don't need Christ. Pray for those who think Christ is not for them and that they don't need him.

### 14 MAY • TUESDAY

Pray for the present Laarim believers, between 50-100 people. Pray that they will grow in Christ and that they will be strong, beautiful, loving believers who will spread the gospel among their people.

### 15 MAY • WEDNESDAY

Pray for the De Leeuw family when they go back to the Laarim to lead a new Ministry Team. Pray that God will prepare them for leadership and that he will bring new team members with a passion for spreading the gospel, who are willing to serve the Laarim.

### 16 MAY • THURSDAY

Pray for the De Leeuw's as they seek to build stronger relationships with the present Chiefs among the Laarim. Pray that there will be loving and trusting relationships established, so that they are able to minister to the Chiefs and bring the love of Jesus Christ to them.

### 17 MAY • FRIDAY

Pray for Angelo and other Laarim believers as they begin training to start their own Bible study groups and then as they train their own people to start even more groups. Pray that there would be discipleship that leads to growth in belief in Jesus.



18-31 MAY  
**CREATIVE ACCESS**



**WEEKENDFOCUS • 18-19 MAY**

## SMILING THROUGH PAIN

*Kirsty serves as a nurse on an Indian Ocean Island. There, the local religion plays a key part in dictating how suffering is viewed.*

**P**eople here are taught that everything that happens is Allah's will and pleasure, and that our lot in life, whether good or bad, shouldn't be questioned. But then pain comes - someone gets sick or dies, there's no money for food, their partner is unfaithful or abandons them altogether, or their shame is exposed - where can they turn? If they voice their true feelings, they risk further shame. Their worldview

doesn't allow them an avenue to effectively express their grief, pain, anxiety or struggles and to receive the care and support they crave and need to help them through these tough times. Instead, they often try to cover it up, put on a brave face and muddle along, but ignoring it is costly. At the clinic we see many people in pain, sometimes physical, sometimes emotional, or both, as physical symptoms present from the turmoil inside. Pray that we would know how to help, how to teach our Island brothers and sisters that while God allows suffering, he doesn't delight in it or remain at a distance, leaving us to smile through it. Pray that they would know that he longs to walk with us, to bear and carry us, and he desires we do the same for each other. 🙏

## 20 MAY • MONDAY

Because Islanders fear the shame of rejection, they struggle to trust one another and be vulnerable, especially outside of their family circle. As a result, we have struggled to see those who have come to Jesus find and create a safe community. Pray that fear would not hold them back. Pray that they would learn to trust and truly carry one another's burdens.

## 21 MAY • TUESDAY

Pray that whole families would come to believe together and that these would be safe places for those who are struggling.

## 22 MAY • WEDNESDAY

Pray that eyes and hearts in these Islands would be opened to see God not as an uncaring dictator, but as a loving father who longs for them to cry out to him.

## 23 MAY • THURSDAY

Our Island sister, Sophie, recently lost her 15-year-old cousin. As we grieved with the extended family (all unbelievers at this point) we were told over and over, "It's okay, this may be hard for us today, but it's not hard for God - he's happy. We must be happy too!" Pray that they may see that the Father not only permits their grief but grieves with them.

## 24 MAY • FRIDAY

Pray that in the struggles of life, our brothers and sisters would cry out to God, and that they would see him at work and experience his joy in the midst of their trials.

## WEEKENDFOCUS

### 25-26 MAY

Pray for those on our teams who are currently suffering sickness, bereavement, spiritual attack or just the general struggles of daily life - language learning, balancing demands, coping with the heat and humidity, the challenges of lack of conveniences and regular shortages that living on a small island brings.

## 27 MAY • MONDAY

Pray that believers would not become silent or turn back on their decision if they are rejected, ridiculed or shamed for their faith. Pray that they would persevere with boldness and that God would give them strength.

## 28 MAY • TUESDAY

Pray for a godly view of suffering for both workers and Islanders. The Father never promises it will be easy; in fact, he tells us to expect suffering. May we 'set our hearts on things above' and walk through suffering in his grace.

## 29 MAY • WEDNESDAY

May we be committed to praying and caring for one another in the midst of suffering. Praise the Father for a meeting that brought Island brothers and sisters together to discuss suffering and share personal testimonies. May lasting relationships and brotherhood grow from this.

## 30 MAY • THURSDAY

Pray that as well as helping to meet practical needs and providing a safe listening ear, we may take hold of every opportunity to pray for those who are in need, pointing them heavenward to the one who can truly bring comfort.

## 31 MAY • FRIDAY

Pray that we would see miracles in the midst of suffering, and that they would be opportunities for the Father's power to be displayed. May we pray with boldness - for healing, reconciliation, and even for dead men to walk!



## TURTLE TOWN

I work on a small island of around 40,000 people and live in a village of about 500. Our clinic serves 2 villages (in total around 1,500 people). Turtle town has a strong community feel - it's made up of a few key families with most related or connected to one another in some way.



## HARD HEARTS

Islam is deeply embedded in every part of daily life and most hearts remain hard and bound from hearing and accepting truth. However, in the last couple of years, two women have become believers.



## SHARING LIFE

Working in healthcare in a small village has given us a unique position of trust, both at work and in our visiting. We have been privileged to walk alongside people in all aspects of life; being there at births, right through to grieving with them at funerals, and all manner of hardships and joys in between.





1-14 JUNE  
**SUPPORT & PASTORAL CARE**



## THE PHIPPENS

*Mark* has been a counsellor for over 30 years and took early retirement from his position as Head of Counselling at Cambridge University to join the Tumaini Counselling Centre staff in Nairobi. In 2016 the Phippens moved back to the UK, and now Mark supports the work of Tumaini remotely as a counsellor and their Clinical Team Leader, *Barbara* supports his work.

## THE THEOLOGY OF SUFFERING

**'I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world' (John 16:33).**

**J**esus makes plain that in this world we will have trouble, face many difficulties, and persecutions too. As we take up our cross and follow Jesus, the world will hate us because we do not belong to this world. And yet Jesus also tells us that we can have peace, for Jesus has overcome the world!

I work as the Clinical Team Leader of the Tumaini Counselling Centres in Nairobi and Kampala. We are a part of AIM's network of support, walking alongside missionaries through tough times.

As a missionary I know something of the cost of following Jesus, leaving loved ones and living in a place that was not my home. Missionaries go where they are called, where the need for the gospel is greatest, but when trouble or persecution finds us, then what is our attitude and response?



Perhaps we imagine ourselves as ‘hardcore missionaries’, seeking out the most difficult or dangerous places? But actually, this is to be a thrill seeker or masochist – which meets our own personal needs rather than serving those we reach, or bringing glory to God. Moreover, we may be putting others in unnecessary danger by this path.

Perhaps, if we are honest, we complain or hold God accountable, knowing that the Bible makes clear that he is sovereign, and this present trial has surely not happened without his permission?

Or perhaps we are tempted to be a ‘stoical Brit’, maintaining a stiff upper lip and pretending that this trial has not affected me much really?

But instead, can we honestly cry out to our faithful and loving Father – which is different from complaining! – telling him what we are facing and how we feel? And can we ask for his grace to trust him even in the middle of this difficulty, and acknowledge that all is in his hands, even if we cannot yet see what his purpose might be? (Habakkuk and Psalms 35 & 42-43 contain great examples of such prayers.)

Then, maybe, we can get back to praying, “Lord, please do with me whatever you want today,” and so again find peace and joy, knowing that we are ultimately and completely secure in Jesus’ hands. This is faith in action, and a powerful witness to those around us that Jesus has indeed overcome the world! 🙏

## WEEKENDFOCUS

### 1-2 JUNE

Pray that the work of our spiritual enemy will only draw us all closer to our loving God, as God refines us by leading us through times of suffering, and that we will know even more deeply his faithfulness and his great love for us.

### 3 JUNE • MONDAY

Pray for the counsellors, psychologists and psychiatrists at the Tumaini Counselling Centres, that they would remain faithful when they, too, face hardship for the sake of the gospel.

### 4 JUNE • TUESDAY

Pray that the work of Tumaini would reflect Jesus’ heart to the 400+ missionaries working in the ‘front line’ who come to Tumaini each year, so that they can continue to serve where they have been called.

### 5 JUNE • WEDNESDAY

Pray for God to call experienced counsellors, psychologists and psychiatrists with a heart for mission to work at Tumaini. We are currently not able to see all who request our help (although we do always prioritise AIM members), and the staffing at our Kampala centre is not clear beyond August this year.

### 6 JUNE • THURSDAY

Pray for members of the Tumaini clinical team who will be retiring or returning to their home countries during 2019, that they would adjust after many years of faithful service in Africa, and that God would make clear his next steps for them.

### 7 JUNE • FRIDAY

Pray for me as I lead the Tumaini teams from the UK, with my wife, Barbara, as she supports me in this task. (We need to remain in the UK for family reasons, and are able to visit Tumaini just once or twice per year.) Pray for God to call a new Clinical Team Leader who can serve in Nairobi or Kampala, and that the timing and nature of such a transition would be clear and smooth.





## TUMAINI

Since 1991, AIM and Wycliffe Bible Translators International (WBTI), have worked cooperatively to provide counselling and support services for missionaries at Tumaini Counselling Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. Tumaini is a Swahili word meaning 'hope'. Tumaini Counselling Centres serve the members of AIM, WBTI, SIL and also missionaries from over 160 like-minded agencies throughout Africa. Their mission is to provide preventative and restorative mental health services and pastoral care, in order to enhance missionary resilience and fruitfulness. In 2002 they moved into a facility designed to facilitate their functioning, both in confidential counselling ministry as well as their more public preventative care ministry and as a conference centre. In 2016 they opened a new Tumaini Counselling Centre in Kampala, Uganda, to better serve missionaries working in central Africa.

## PSYCHOLOGISTS AND PSYCHIATRISTS, WE NEED YOU!

Have you got a minimum of three years professional experience that you could use on the mission field?

**T**he missionary life can be an adventure. People go with a calling and enthusiasm and a set of expectations. They dive into ministry and make an effort to balance this with the many facets of life — marriage, family, relationships, responsibilities, and their walk with God. But no matter how long people have been overseas, many aspects are still foreign.

Could you walk this path alongside those who need your support? We're looking for deeply committed professionals who can integrate their Christian faith with their counselling practice. The goal will be to strengthen missionaries on the path that God has called them.

### USING YOUR EXPERIENCE

We need people to provide psychiatric evaluation and treatment, psychological or psychotherapeutic evaluations and treatment, and people who can assist with and lead workshops and seminars on related issues.

It would be great if you have previous missions experience, including cross cultural living and ministry, and have worked in a team context. It would also be good if you have experience of working in a multi-disciplinary team, of working with children and youth, and of distance counselling. To find out more about serving at Tumaini, visit [eu.aimint.org/serve-tumaini](http://eu.aimint.org/serve-tumaini). 📍





## CARE IN KAMPALA

After 25 years of service in Nairobi, Tumaini Kampala opened its doors for counselling in March 2016. Tumaini Counselling Service in Kampala, Uganda, offers confidential clinical services which are available to any Christian missionary working in Africa. These range from clinical care to simply helping missionaries normalise the challenges and frustrations of missionary life.

**A**t the moment we're looking to develop the team of clinicians serving in Kampala. We're looking for people willing to commit at least two years of service. As well as psychiatrists and psychologists, we need marriage and family therapists. To increase the fruitfulness of ministry we are seeking to help missionaries develop resilience. Could you support them by:

- Providing counselling to individuals, couples and families
- Assisting or leading workshops on mental health issues
- Providing information and advice to teams and team leaders regarding family and marriage issues
- Being available to provide advice to AIM leadership?

To find out more about the specific professional requirements needed for this role visit [eu.aimint.org/serve-tumaini](http://eu.aimint.org/serve-tumaini). 📄

### SHORT TERM

We're also looking for short term support in both Nairobi, Kenya and in Kampala, Uganda. If you or someone you know is a trained counsellor, therapist, psychologist or psychiatrist, who would be willing to give up a shorter amount of time to serve in this way, then you can contact us to find out more.

📄 To find out more about serving short term, email: [stc.eu@aimint.org](mailto:stc.eu@aimint.org)

## WEEKENDFOCUS

### 8-9 JUNE

Pray for God's protection on the marriages of our missionaries. As we look for marriage therapists to offer their services, we also look to the great healer for his strength and guidance. As married missionaries step out of their comfort zones, pray that they would draw closer to each other and to God.

### 10 JUNE • MONDAY

Pray for our different teams as they serve across Africa, that they would be open about their mental health. Pray that teammates would be able to support each other and that team leaders would have wisdom to know when to seek extra help.

### 11 JUNE • TUESDAY

Pray for people who are willing to serve sacrificially. Giving up the salary and status that the equivalent jobs in the UK can bring is hard. Pray for people to be so convinced of God's call on their lives that they're willing to put material benefits to one side.

### 12 JUNE • WEDNESDAY

Pray for the children and young people who are using Tumaini's services. Pray that they would know Jesus as a friend and a brother in their times of distress and confusion. Pray that counsellors and therapists would be able to point to him as the source of hope.

### 13 JUNE • THURSDAY

Pray for those considering whether they can serve short term at Tumaini. Pray that they would be able to get the right amount of time away from their day jobs to serve effectively and be a support both to centre workers and the missionaries they encounter.

### 14 JUNE • FRIDAY

Serving cross-culturally and living, on many levels, as an alien and a foreigner can take its toll. Pray that missionaries would be wise about taking time out. Pray that they would have access to good advice and counsel.



15-21 JUNE  
**HEALTHCARE**



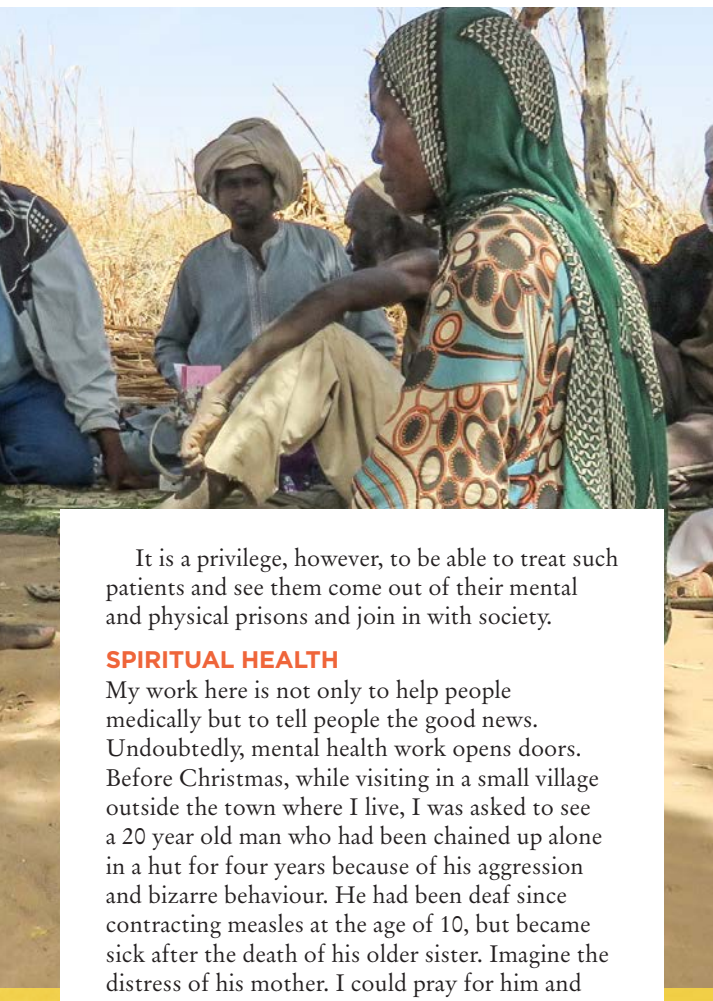
## SHARING LOVE

*Ann* works among an unreached people group in northern Chad, seeking to share the gospel with local people and disciple believers, to encourage women and teenagers at a small Arabic-speaking church, and to treat mentally ill and epileptic patients. *Ann's* medical work is part-time. She spends one day a week in a church health centre, and another at her church.

## TO SET THE CAPTIVES FREE

There is only one psychiatrist in Chad, so very few patients in the area where *Ann* lives and works have received help. With only five mission workers in a people group of over 300,000 too, very few have met a follower of Jesus.

Seeing the suffering of others can be hard, but especially so when you know that prevention of the suffering is available, if only they had taken advantage of it. Such is the case relatively frequently in my work with mentally ill patients. Only recently I saw a man chained to a tree who had previously done well for a whole year on treatment for psychosis. For reasons known only to the family, they stopped bringing him for treatment. Why did they not connect his being well to the treatment and the disordered thoughts and aggression now to the lack of treatment? I don't know.



It is a privilege, however, to be able to treat such patients and see them come out of their mental and physical prisons and join in with society.

### **SPIRITUAL HEALTH**

My work here is not only to help people medically but to tell people the good news. Undoubtedly, mental health work opens doors. Before Christmas, while visiting in a small village outside the town where I live, I was asked to see a 20 year old man who had been chained up alone in a hut for four years because of his aggression and bizarre behaviour. He had been deaf since contracting measles at the age of 10, but became sick after the death of his older sister. Imagine the distress of his mother. I could pray for him and give him medicine, and now he is up and about mixing normally with his relatives. Praise God.

I have been asked when I will return to his village as there are other sick people to see. How can I turn this into opportunities to speak of God? Should I leave people I am discipling in the big town to go out among the main unreached people group here?

I see mentally ill and epileptic patients only one day a week at an Arabic speaking church. Four days a week, I am learning the language spoken in most of the villages surrounding the town where I live. I have started visiting villages hoping to build up relationships, practice the language and see what opportunities might open for the future. Our hope in AIM Chad is that in the future there will be a team working among these people, who currently have no witness to Christ at all outside the two towns in the region which have churches of Christians from the south of Chad. 🙏

## **WEEKENDFOCUS**

### **15-16 JUNE**

Thank God for lives that have been turned around by medical work. Pray that the prayers we offer, the stories of healing from the gospels that we share, and our manner of treating people will lead them to seek more understanding of who Jesus is.

### **17 JUNE • MONDAY**

Pray for those who are treated, that God will heal them miraculously or that they will continue to take the necessary treatment for their mental illness or their epilepsy. Normally, these medicines need to be taken for years or even for life. Pray for relatives who suffer seeing their family members so troubled.

### **18 JUNE • TUESDAY**

Pray that God would enable me to speak the local language well enough to impart spiritual truth and continue conversations. It is easy to spend most of my time seeing patients. Pray for time to sit and talk with people too.

### **19 JUNE • WEDNESDAY**

Pray for more workers for the harvest (Matthew 9:38). Currently there are only five missionaries (from a range of organisations) working among this group of 300,000. Pray that the work I'm doing now might prepare for an AIM team in the future.

### **20 JUNE • THURSDAY**

Pray that God would guide me in choosing a few villages to visit where he has prepared hearts and minds to accept the gospel, perhaps through dreams and visions. Pray I would get the right balance of visiting villages and serving at the mental health clinic.

### **21 JUNE • FRIDAY**

I study the Bible with some new believers and some adolescent girls at the Arabic speaking church which I attend. Other relationships with people from outside the unreached people group that I work with are a draw. Pray I will know where to concentrate my time and ministry.





## MANAGING RISK

*Jurgen & Katja Hofmann serve in a remote village in Madagascar. Here they share some of the challenges about where they live.*

“**L**iving in a rural area is beautiful. Lovely nature and a calm life...”  
The reality can be quite different though, especially when there are no doctors nearby, no supermarkets, no clean drinking water, no electricity, poor telephone reception, and a road that is not always drivable.

We live in Maroamboka among the Tanala, sharing the gospel with them in their heart language. What a joy it is to see people respond positively! But, there are challenges to living here.

We had a visit from a fellow missionary. It had already rained for days. On the day of

her departure the road was flooded. Normally it takes more than an hour to drive the 19 kilometre road. Now, we doubted we could get out at all. Eventually, we did manage, and returning home we said to each other, “Hopefully nothing will go wrong now, there is no way we can get out with the car again.”

That night I couldn’t sleep. I was in terrible pain and vomiting faeces. Katja searched for a spot with a decent signal and rang some doctor friends. They could only guess at what was wrong and advised me to get to a hospital. Easier said than done. Katja decided to call Helimission. Due to the bad weather it took the helicopter six hours to arrive and another three to get to the hospital.

To our relief the problem was ‘only’ kidney stones and not something life threatening and I was home within two weeks - but how do you know whether to take a risk? 🙏

## WEEKENDFOCUS

### 22-23 JUNE

There are two doctors in our area. However, they are both away quite often, and when they leave there is no one who is able to cover for them. Pray that the authorities will become aware that this can literally cost lives. Pray for more doctors in the area, not just to solve this problem, but also because many people currently have to walk more than 15 kilometres to be seen.

### 24 JUNE • MONDAY

Pray that people would be able to save money in case of unforeseen health problems. Lack of money means that sometimes people wait until their sickness is unbearable, or they leave it until it is too late. Many would rather pay with animals to get 'medicine' prepared by the witchdoctor, not realising that the same animal could pay for a clinician.

### 25 JUNE • TUESDAY

Pray that the Tanala would come to understand the importance of clean drinking water. There are water pumps, but people don't want to pay a monthly fee to maintain them. This means that the pumps are often broken and people end up drinking water from the fields (scooping out the dead frogs and visible dirt).

### 26 JUNE • WEDNESDAY

Pray for the villages where people have been able to hear Bible stories in their heart language. Several kings (leaders of the villages) have already said that they want to be saved by Jesus. Pray for the ongoing translation work that is happening as we are now working on translating the Gospel of Luke.

### 27 JUNE • THURSDAY

Pray that the Lord will restrain the power of darkness. Witchdoctors, some of whom

claim that they believe in Jesus, have a lot of influence. Ancestor worship keeps people in fear and thus prevents them from listening to the gospel. Pray that those Tanala who believe in Jesus would be blessed with God's boldness and strength.

### 28 JUNE • FRIDAY

Pray for our family, that we would stay healthy both in spirit as well as body. Preaching the good news in places where the veil of darkness is so apparent can be exhausting. As well as this, the hot and damp climate also takes its toll. We get tired very quickly and can easily pick up skin infections.

## WEEKENDFOCUS

### 29-30 JUNE

Katja is currently teaching our five children (Vanya, Issa, Abbey, Dani and Simeon, aged from 3 to 14). She often looks for new ways to keep the children focussed. On top of this, she also keeps the household running like a well-oiled machine. Please pray that she would have energy, creativity, and joy in these tasks.

## WHO ARE THE TANALA?



The Tanala people, also called Antanala, live in the inland forests of south eastern Madagascar. Their name means 'people of the forest'. With a population of 1,200,000, the Tanala represent 6% of the population in Madagascar. They are skilled woodsmen, food gatherers, and hunters. Many of the Tanala live in small, hard to reach villages, enduring difficult living conditions. Often, they are suspicious and afraid of foreigners, as well as of other Malagasy people groups.



The Tanala hold deeply to their traditional religious practices, which are based on animism and ancestor worship. They believe there are spirits all around us and that people must try to please the spirits. Like most Animists they live with a certain amount of fear that a spirit will be unhappy with them. They are considered to be one of the least reached people groups in Madagascar.





# GO & SERVE

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**AFRICA  
INLAND MISSION**

### About AIM Europe

Africa Inland Mission is a Christian mission sending agency. We have our roots in a small band of faithful men and women who, in 1895, followed God's call to venture inland to reach Africans untouched by the gospel. Their vision set the course of AIM for 120 years, as a community called and sent to live and minister among Africa's least-reached peoples. A call that still remains.

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