



**AFRICA
INLAND MISSION**

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CONNECT

04

WHY BOTHER WITH THEOLOGY?

BY KRISH KANDIAH

10

"JESUS SPEAKS MY LANGUAGE!"

24

IS THE AFRICAN CHURCH GETTING INVOLVED IN MISSION?





TO TEACH AND EQUIP

When the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, “...the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be able to teach others” (2 Timothy 2:2), he wrote because the church was growing and needed leaders who were trained and equipped. As Tony Swanson describes on page 13, the church in Africa is growing today too; it also needs trained and equipped leadership. This is why AIM is committed to developing leaders through theological education programmes.

In the mid-1980s AIM was investigating the possibility of starting ministry in Mozambique. The country was at the height of its long civil war following independence when mission leaders met with a group of church leaders. The church leaders essentially said, “We have no food, we have no water, we have no shelter; send us Bible teachers”. So the Sofala Bible Institute in the city of Beira was established, which Tim and Beth Wood write about on page 18.

As part of our vision to train African leaders, it is exciting to read of the various theological education programmes that are proving their effectiveness in seeing the church in Africa expand and grow, and going to serve in places where his name is not yet known.

As you listen week by week to your pastors and are taught by them, give thanks to God for the training that they have received. Spare a moment too to pray for those in Africa who are receiving theological training, and for those who are giving it.

Peter Root, Personnel Director

For feedback and comments: communications.eu@aimint.org

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INSIDE

04 WHY BOTHER WITH THEOLOGY?

Krish Kandiah describes how theology is an important part of our worship.

08 SHARING FAITH

Amy explains some basic principles of sharing your faith in a different culture.

10 JESUS SPEAKS TURKANA

Why is it important for people to access the Bible in their own language?

12 IN PARTNERSHIP

How can we best work with Africans to develop a theology of mission?

14 FINDING JESUS

Find out more about the role the Bible plays in evangelising to Muslims.

16 INTO THE DESERT

New opportunities to serve in Namibia.

18 DO WE NEED TO GO?

Take a look at Bible and theology in Mozambique with Tim and Beth Wood.

22 NEW MODELS OF SENDING?

How can we create a missionary sending model that is culturally relevant in Africa?

26 HOW DOES THE BIBLE IMPACT LIVES?

See how the Bible has made a difference to peoples lives in Lesotho.

28 THE MOST EXCITING THING

Can short termers be involved in theological education?

30 GOD'S KINGDOM IN MADAGASCAR

Read Melias' testimony.

32 HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THE BIBLE?

How we can help people to engage with the Bible in their heart language.

34 WHY AND HOW DO WE DO MISSION?

How can we take it further?



ABOUT KRISH KANDIAH

Krish is the founding director of Home For Good, a charity seeking to find loving homes for children in the care system. He has written 13 books, including *Paradoxology* and *Faithism*, and holds faculty positions at Regent College, Vancouver, and Regent's Park College, Oxford University. He is a regular presenter of BBC Radio 4's Sunday programme and BBC Radio 2's Pause for Thought.

IS THEOLOGY REALLY RELEVANT?

By Krish Kandiah

What should the role of theology be in our lives? For so many people, theology seems dead, boring, irrelevant, maybe a little bit contrived or just too academic. I really want to rehabilitate the way that people think about theology, and I think that these four metaphors might help us.

THEOLOGY IS A WARDROBE

Firstly, how about thinking that theology is like a wardrobe to another dimension? I don't know about you, but as a kid I tried the whole C. S. Lewis thing, climbing through my clothes to the back to try and get to Narnia. Sadly, all I did was get to the back of the wardrobe and find some old moth balls. C. S. Lewis paints this wonderful picture that there are doorways to another transcendent reality. In the Narnia books,



“...theology gives you a high definition picture of God, almost a face to face encounter, because God is revealing himself to us.”

sometimes that is through art and beauty, other times it's through death, other times it's through difficult experiences, like the suffering the children are experiencing when they first go into Narnia in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. I love this idea that it's through physical things that are happening in this world, or aesthetic things, that we are transported to know something more about God. And I believe that.

The Bible talks about the idea that everyone has a knowledge of God through what has been made, through what they can see, feel and touch. But that picture we get of God is somehow skewed. It's not as pure and bright and beautiful as it could be. It's a bit like a little profile you might read about a child who needs adopting. It tells you how old they are, some of the challenges they've got in their lives, and what they like to play with. But that picture is so small and so inadequate compared to meeting the child and coming to love them as a person. And that's the difference between the kind of knowledge that we can have about God through what has been made, the physical creation, and what we can know about God through what he has revealed about himself in Scripture. Us thinking about Scripture and →



what it reveals about God is what we call theology. Theology is a combination word, made up of ‘theos’ meaning God, and ‘ology’ which means discourse. So it means to talk about, to think about, to reflect on God. And it’s what we’re supposed to do in our worship; we’re supposed to love him with our heart, soul and *mind*. That is how theology gives you a high definition picture of God, almost a face to face encounter, because God is revealing himself to us.

A HOMING BEACON

The second metaphor is that theology is an unrelenting homing beacon in your mind. I remember when I was in Burkina Faso, I was incredibly hot. I’d just met some incredibly lovely people, but it was 50 degrees, we were in the middle of nowhere in a field somewhere, and I was just desperate for water. That thirst for water demonstrated what my body needed. It was crying out for something. Until it got water it was never going to be happy. In Mere Christianity, C. S. Lewis put it this way, “Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists.

A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well, there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.” Lewis is using this concept to talk about a sense of longing. Some theologians call it ‘sensus divinitatis’, a longing to know God. Until we really know him we are not really fully satisfied. If that is true for us as beings, then that is also true for our minds. Our minds were built to reflect on, enjoy, savour, revel in what God is actually like. Our minds will never be fully at rest, or fully at home, until we have that opportunity. Our brains were created to do theology. We are supposed to love our God with all our heart, soul and mind, that’s what we were created to do. So theology is an answer to the homing beacon within us. Now of course we need to worship God with more than just our mind. Acting with compassion and justice is a way that our hearts and our bodies respond to God. But the way our minds respond is through doing theology.

A LOCKET PHOTOGRAPH

The third metaphor is that theology is a locket photograph to keep your passion strong. You might remember those war movies, where you've got the guys in the trenches in the First World War and bombs are going off all around them, mortar fire, gas canisters, machine guns. And yet what is it that keeps these men sane, what stops them from losing the will to live or to fight? Well, many of them take out a picture or carry around a photo in a locket of one of their loved ones. Maybe it's their wife, their sweetheart, their family members, their parents. That locket picture was the way that people kept themselves orientated, the way that they kept on going. There were people they loved who they needed to help and serve in this way during the war.

Life as a Christian is supposed to be difficult. Jesus said that we were going to be sent out as sheep among wolves. We will face persecution, opposition and hatred. Jesus told us we were to take up our cross and follow him and keep on going. But why? Because of our love for God. Just as a soldier in a trench might look over a little portrait, trying to remember as many details as they can about the person that they love, so theology is taking the time to slow down, meditate, enjoy all that God is, and letting our minds do that thoughtfully. That meditative, reflective act is theology, thinking about God, about the goodness of God, about the character of God. And as we do that, we will want to serve him. Theology is like a locket photograph to keep your passion strong.

A BATTERING RAM

Theology is the battering ram to destroy prejudice and misrepresentation. I was a very brown boy in a very white school. It was pretty difficult sometimes when people would attribute to me everything that they thought they knew about brown people. I was called 'Paki' even though I was from India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Ireland, and never had a connection with Pakistan. They assumed that I would smell different, that I wouldn't be able to float. I was told once that I wouldn't be able to swim because I am Asian. Everyone thought I lived in a corner shop. I had all these prejudices pushed on to me. And I could cope with that, but when they started talking about my Mum, that was hard. They would say terrible things about her, horrible things, without having ever met her, without knowing her. There was something in me that wanted to put the

record straight, not let people get away with that. I wanted to be an advocate for her, an apologist for her, I wanted to tell the truth so that people wouldn't have these terrible views.

"So theology is not just a personal discipline, it's a public discipline. It's the way that we speak out into the world the truth about God, that he might be fully known and loved for who he is."

I think that part of being a Christian is that you feel that way about God. There are so many ways that God is misrepresented in our world. The Bible calls it idolatry. People have these false pictures about who he is. It's doing them harm and it's not giving any honour to God. As a Christian you want to put the record straight and you hate it when people start to think rubbish things about God. You want people to think the right thing about him because he is what they are longing for in their lives. If they don't know who he is, they will never have that longing satisfied. The best thing that anyone can ever do is get to know God. So if people have a false view of God then we need to deconstruct that. Theology is the battering ram that we can use to destroy these false and prejudiced images about God, so that people might know the wonderful God that we do. We're so driven by passion for God and passion for people that we want to get it done. So theology is not just a personal discipline, it's a public discipline. It's the way that we speak out into the world the truth about God, that he might be fully known and loved for who he is. 🙏

KRISH KANDIAH

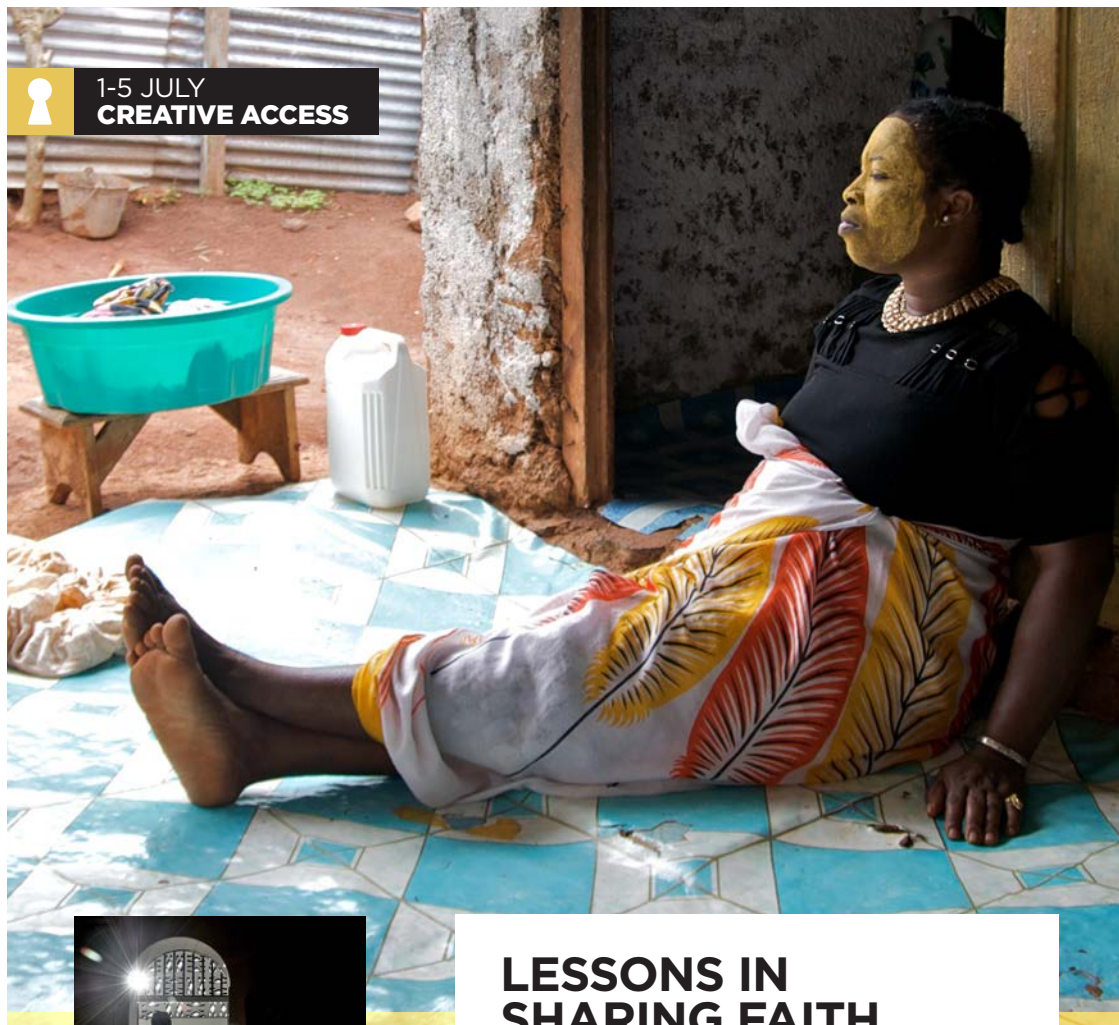
This article is taken from one of Krish's YouTube videos 'Why bother with theology?' You can find out more about Krish and what he does at:



www.krishk.com



1-5 JULY
CREATIVE ACCESS



MEET AMY

We asked Amy to share what she has learnt about sharing her faith over the 13 years she has lived on an island in the Indian Ocean, and how important it is to understand other people's faith before sharing your own.

LESSONS IN SHARING FAITH

I arrived on this little island unable to say a word in the local language and I was painfully aware of how much I didn't know. However, as my language progressed I became even more aware of how little I knew about these people, their beliefs, and their way of viewing the world. I didn't know how to share the gospel with them. I was using the word for sin, but they weren't understanding what I meant when I said it. I might think I was being perfectly intelligible saying that Jesus rose from the grave on the third day, but people wanted to know what I meant. How did he get out through the soil? And anyway, everyone rises on the third day because that's when you go and sprinkle water on the grave to 'wake up' the person. There was so much to learn!

THE BEAUTY OF THE GOSPEL

I soon realised that I needed to start where people were, not where I was - and that was going to take some figuring out. I read, I gleaned from the wisdom of those with more experience, and I watched, listened and asked lots of questions.

Not only does adopting such an approach help you to understand how to share the gospel, it also starts to build bridges and create trust. It shows your respect for them and the story of their lives. And it enriches and deepens your own faith as you begin to see things you've never realised before about God and the beauty of the gospel.

"Secondly, don't let the fear of cultural clangers hold you back, but do let it push you into a commitment to being a learner."

ALWAYS A LEARNER

Does that mean you can't share the gospel until you have all this figured out? By no means, but I did learn some basic principles that are helpful to follow. Firstly, start with the personal. Show them what following Jesus means to you. Starting with a discussion about the Trinity may raise all sorts of barriers, but explaining how God helps me to deal with real life issues doesn't. Share Bible stories; let God's word loose in their life! And pray with them - it may look really weird to them, but can they fail to be impacted by the love you show them by doing so?

Secondly, don't let the fear of cultural clangers hold you back, but do let it push you into a commitment to being a learner. And all the while, keep holding fast to a humble trust that the Spirit will take our feeble gospel offerings and turn them into something beautiful that can impact the heart of another.

Finally, do it all with love. If someone knows they are loved they will listen. They'll work to figure out what you are trying to say. After all, without love, my carefully thought-through, culturally appropriate gospel presentation is nothing more than a clanging cymbal - and quite frankly, who is going to want to listen to that? 🙏

1 JULY • MONDAY

Each island has its own distinctive people group, with their own language, culture and beliefs. Pray for Amy and the rest of the team on the Islands as they build relationships with Islanders and seek to know and understand them more.

2 JULY • TUESDAY

Pray that God would be giving the Islands team new insights into the local culture and belief system. Pray that as they understand more they might constantly know better how to share the gospel of Christ.

3 JULY • WEDNESDAY

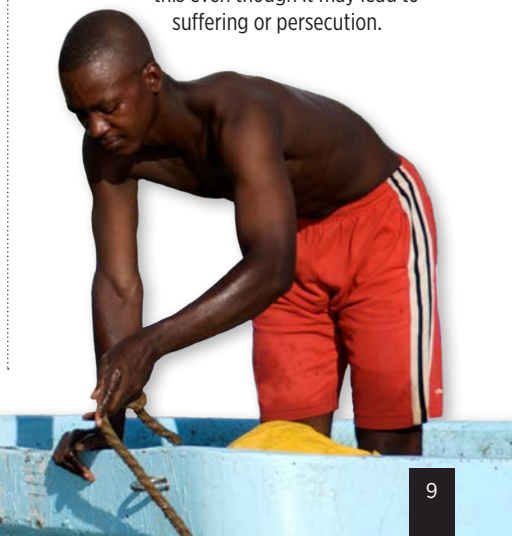
Pray for the team members on the Islands as they continue to develop their language skills. Pray they would be diligent language learners and that God would give them fluency and clarity as they communicate. Pray they would find clear ways to communicate who God is.

4 JULY • THURSDAY

Ask that God would help the team on the Islands to love their friends, their neighbours and the people around them they interact with, and that those people would recognise and know that they are loved and respected by the team.

5 JULY • FRIDAY

Pray that God would raise up men and women from the Islands to follow him and who truly know how to share the good news there. Pray he would give local believers the courage to do this even though it may lead to suffering or persecution.





6-19 JULY
LANGUAGE & LITERACY



WEEKENDFOCUS • 6-7 JULY

“JESUS SPEAKS TURKANA!”

Joy Koch explains the difference that language can make.

“Jesus speaks Turkana!” exclaimed a woman while watching the Jesus Film in a mostly Turkana area of Maralal, Kenya. The implications of her statement were, ‘Jesus speaks my language! Jesus understands me!’ The Jesus portrayed in the film speaking Turkana made a great impression on this woman and probably made her much more receptive to hear what Jesus taught.

To hear the Word of God in your heart language is a privilege and a joy. In our area, it is essential the Samburu hear God’s Word in Samburu. Most people here do not understand any other language. Some may understand a bit of Swahili or English, but Samburu is the language in which they think and speak. If the gospel is to penetrate this community, they need to hear it in their heart language.

We are thankful that the final draft of the Samburu New Testament is now being printed. Since many Samburu cannot read, an audio version of the New Testament is also being prepared. Matthew and some other New Testament books have already been recorded. Pray for the Samburu who are listening to those words using solar MP3 players called ‘Treasures’. 🌍

8 JULY • MONDAY

Pray that as the Samburu listen to God's Word in Samburu on the solar MP3 players, they will hear God speaking to their hearts. Pray that they would understand the words of life and be moved to respond.

9 JULY • TUESDAY

Give thanks that work on the Samburu New Testament has been completed and that it has been sent to the printers. Pray that it would be ready for distribution soon, and that as God's Word goes out and is heard, it would not return empty!

10 JULY • WEDNESDAY

Pray that many of the Samburu will be eager to learn to read the New Testament for themselves now that they will have printed copies readily available to them.

11 JULY • THURSDAY

Pray that Samburu pastors will use the Samburu New Testament as they preach and teach believers. Pray that having access to the Word of God in their heart language like this would help them as they teach and preach and explain the gospel to those who may have never heard it before.

12 JULY • FRIDAY

The translation of the Old Testament into Samburu has already begun. Pray for wisdom for the translators as they seek to express the meaning of the verses in Samburu. Pray that the translation would be accurate, culturally relevant and understandable.

WEEKENDFOCUS

13-14 JULY

Bruce Rossington is AIM's Scripture Engagement Consultant for Eastern Region. Pray for him and the other consultants as they check translated Scripture word by word, that they would engage in this detail-orientated task with joy, in reliance on the Holy Spirit, and with a commitment to graciously encouraging the African Bible translators who they are working alongside.

15 JULY • MONDAY

Pray for a spirit of unity among the different organisations that make up the Bible translation movement. May they 'do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit' (Phil 2:3) and work together in humility and harmony to complete the task of giving all people groups access to the Word of God.

"Jesus speaks my language! Jesus understands me!"

16 JULY • TUESDAY

How can the different identities and religious beliefs that are a feature of multilingual communities in Kenya and Tanzania be holistically addressed? Pray for Bruce as he and others discern how best to meet the Scripture needs of communities where people speak up to four languages on a daily basis.

17 JULY • WEDNESDAY

Pray that the Lord would provide AIM with more Scripture engagement workers who can serve alongside African churches to develop strategies for making God's Word more widely available to both African Christians and unreached people groups.

18 JULY • THURSDAY

There is a great need for Scripture engagement ministry among the African diaspora in Europe, many of whom have come from communities where Scripture is either not available or not allowed. Pray that AIM and European churches would partner effectively to place Scripture in the hands or on the phone of every African from an unreached situation.

19 JULY • FRIDAY

Pray that those involved in Bible translation and Scripture engagement would build their ministry upon a foundation of personal engagement with God's Word. As they read, listen to and meditate upon God's Word, may they do so with the attitude of Psalm 119:18: 'Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.'

LIVING LANGUAGES

There are estimated to be 7,361 living languages (languages that are currently being spoken) in the world. Of these, only 683 have a complete translation of the Bible. 4,011 have no Scripture at all.



PARATEXT

Most Bible translation is done using a specially-developed software programme called Paratext which allows the translator to cross-reference easily. Watch the introductory video at www.vimeo.com/channels/paratext to see how it works.

YOU VERSION

If you download the 'You Version' app, you will have free access to Bible translations in 1,306 different languages, including 60 different ones in English. There are many audio versions there too, such as the NIV UK version read by David Suchet. Enjoy!





MOBILISING
AFRICANS IN MISSION



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

How can we best work with Africans to develop a theological understanding of mission? We asked Tony Swanson, our African Mobilisation Consultant.

The church on the continent of Africa has grown exponentially over the last 100 years, from around 9 million in 1910 to approximately 350 million evangelical Christians by 2010. This has outstripped the growth of Christianity in every other continent. But why is it that a thriving missions movement has not naturally grown out of the burgeoning African church?

EQUIPPING OTHERS

Paul, writing to the Ephesians, tells them that Jesus chose some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers in order 'to prepare God's people for works of service'. Therefore the objective of all ministry activity, the focus of our calling, is that others will be equipped. For us to be involved in the missionary mobilisation of our partner churches in Africa, we must decrease, and they must increase. Our motivation, time, energy and resources need to be focussed on equipping, enabling and empowering them for these missionary works of service.

GOING TO THOSE OUTSIDE

Traditionally, AIM has been quite effective at equipping for certain ministries: pastors and evangelists for ministry in the local church, doctors, nurses, and teachers. It would seem, however, that when we consider the crucial work of cross-cultural mission by African missionaries, this has not been promoted by us or particularly adopted by our partner churches. John 3:16 points out that the focus of the love of God is the world. The recipients of the love of God in Christ include those outside of the church, who have not yet had the opportunity to respond to the gospel message. The church is the major means through which this love is communicated to them.

In Acts 13, the Holy Spirit's call to Barnabas and Saul occurred at the centre of the worshipping community in Antioch. For the church in Africa to effectively send to the unreached, the whole church needs to be engaged. Many historic missional endeavours have been initiated at the

periphery of the church, reinforcing the idea that cross-cultural mission is only for the super-spiritual, wealthy, odd bods or experts, rather than a central core expression of the faith of the local church.

DIRECTING TO THE LOST

The equipping of the African church for missionary work starts at a foundational level, at the communion table, where the message of God's love for the world directs the church to the lost. Christ's blood was shed and his body was broken not only inspire us to leave country, family and home, but also motivate our African brothers and sisters to do the same. Without this foundational motivation, the great ship of the African church will stay in dry dock, full of highly trained, faithful, well-resourced people, yet stationary because the navigational system of the gospel has not been fully engaged to direct it out to the lost.

"The equipping of the African church for missionary work starts at the communion table, where the message of God's love for the world directs the church to the lost."

It is important to change how we think, and how we engage with the local African church. This is especially relevant when we consider the role of the pastor or elder in igniting a vision of global mission within the church. The pastor or elder is often the gatekeeper to the church - we must first engage them. This observation impacts us on two levels. Firstly, in the formation of church leaders through our involvement in formal, informal and non-formal modes of theological education. This raises important questions, and challenges us as to how to include a 'missional dimension' in our theological education. Secondly, in enabling, mobilising and inspiring our local pastor/elder to have and encourage a global mission vision.

For any pastor to have a missional heart he must be 'walking in the truth' (3 John 4). He must be committed to it and captivated by it. The result of this can often be seen in the outward-focused investment of his church, including changed relationships with those outside, together with a strong desire to see the rest of the world won for Christ. 🙏



20-26 JULY
OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

FINDING JESUS THROUGH THE BIBLE

When I was in training for ministry in the UK, a well known evangelist came in to talk to us about his philosophy of ministry. He took us through the first few verses of 2 Corinthians 4, then he split us into two groups and made us chant out loudly back and forth across the lecture room: “We proclaim Christ!” “God opens blind eyes!” “WE PROCLAIM CHRIST!” “GOD OPENS BLIND EYES!”

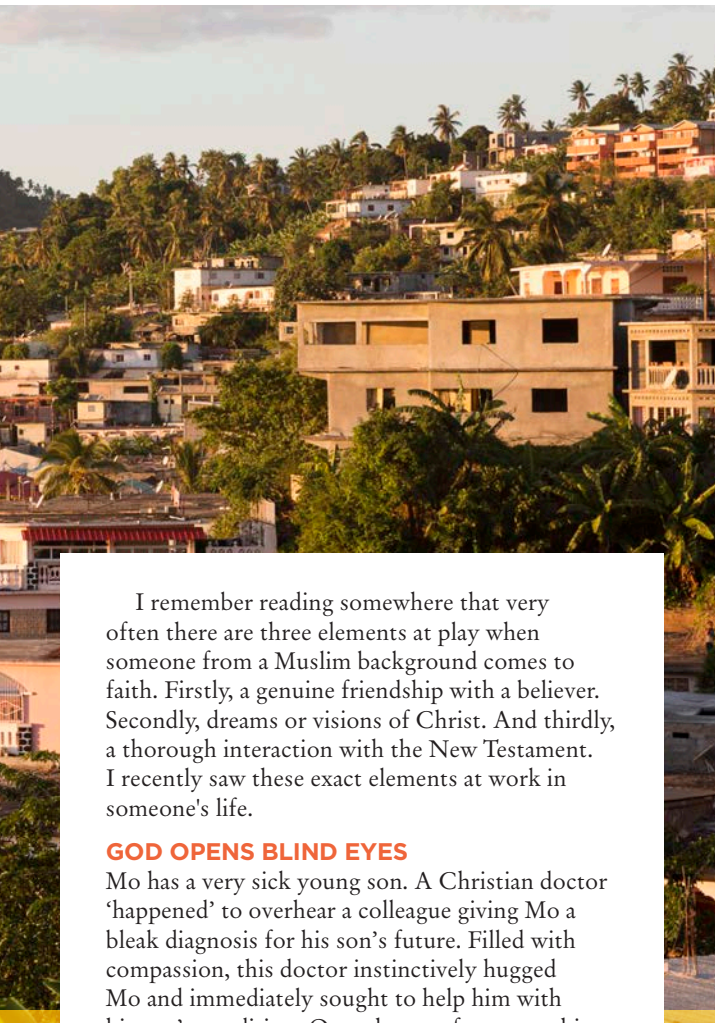
WE PROCLAIM CHRIST

In creation, when God spoke, light flooded into space that previously hadn’t existed. When God chooses to speak to someone today he opens their eyes and light floods in so they can see Christ. It is by God’s ‘creating-speech’ that blind eyes are opened and he gives us ‘the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ’ (2 Cor.4: 6). We proclaim Christ, not ourselves, and our Father opens blind eyes in a miraculous work of new creation.

THE BAKERS

John and Alma Baker, with their daughter, Anya, live on Mayotte where they are involved in church planting and working alongside the expatriate church. They strongly believe that God speaks to people by his Word, so they seek to spend their time opening the Bible, explaining it, proclaiming it, defending it and living in obedience to it among the people of Mayotte.





I remember reading somewhere that very often there are three elements at play when someone from a Muslim background comes to faith. Firstly, a genuine friendship with a believer. Secondly, dreams or visions of Christ. And thirdly, a thorough interaction with the New Testament. I recently saw these exact elements at work in someone's life.

GOD OPENS BLIND EYES

Mo has a very sick young son. A Christian doctor 'happened' to overhear a colleague giving Mo a bleak diagnosis for his son's future. Filled with compassion, this doctor instinctively hugged Mo and immediately sought to help him with his son's condition. Over the past few years this doctor formed a very strong friendship with Mo and helped him enormously. Recently Mo started having night time dreams and visions of Christ. These dreams pushed Mo to seek out answers to questions about how to follow Christ. This is where I came into the story. What was my role? I proclaimed Christ. I prayed to God to open blind eyes - and he did!

For many, it would be the visions part of this story that draws the most attention. But it is God speaking by his Word and through his Spirit as I proclaimed Christ from the Bible which amazes me the most. God opened blind eyes. He created life as I proclaimed Jesus to Mo - that is truly a miraculous and gracious thing. He chooses to use us! We who are merely 'jars of clay'. Why? To show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us (2 Cor. 4:7). 🙏

WEEKENDFOCUS

20-21 JULY

Give thanks for how God has opened Mo's eyes to who Christ is. Pray for Mo and his doctor friend as together they embark on a discipling relationship, that God would continue to speak to Mo through the Bible.

22 JULY • MONDAY

Pray for the few local believers on Mayotte. Pray that they would have confidence in the Word and boldness to proclaim Christ, and that as they proclaim, God would be opening people's eyes.

23 JULY • TUESDAY

Pray for opportunities for the AIM workers here, that God would increasingly put people in our path who are ready to hear about Christ.

24 JULY • WEDNESDAY

Pray for the recently created Campus for Christ group in Mayotte which is bringing together expatriate believers from several different churches in an effort to evangelise.

25 JULY • THURSDAY

Pray for a group of young professional French believers who are currently being led by an AIM couple in how to share their faith with Muslims (the doctor mentioned in this article attends this group). Pray they would see fruit as they share the gospel.

26 JULY • FRIDAY

Pray for good governance of Mayotte as the island continues to struggle with the massive influx of immigrants.





THE SAN PEOPLE

The San people were the first hunter-gatherers to inhabit southern Africa. San men have a formidable reputation as trackers and hunters. Their knowledge of both flora and fauna is vast and they have categorised thousands of plants and their uses.

Though they speak different dialects, their language is known for the 'clicks' that characterise it. These clicks are represented in writing by symbols, such as ! or /.

Different missionaries and foreigners have come and gone, each imposing a form of faith and doctrine on them. By nature a gentle, welcoming and non-confrontational people, they readily accept ideas presented to them, and often just as easily dismiss them when the foreigner leaves.

INTO THE DESERT

The isolated San communities that live on the edge of the Kalahari have long been a forgotten and easily overlooked people group.

Chief Bobo is a San chief of about 3,000 people living near Tsumkwe. He is now a believer, and was baptised last year. There are churches in Tsumkwe but none are growing or would be considered 'evangelistic'. On the whole, the San have not embraced the 'foreign religion' and remain largely without a strong Jesus believing community in their midst.

A TIMO (Training in Ministry Outreach) team was placed there in 2015, but unfortunately they had to finish before their full two years. Now AIM is seeking to send a new team to come alongside the local believers and train them in evangelism and discipleship. There are more than 35 villages in the area around Tsumkwe and most lack strong Christian witness or leadership. The vision is that the team will literally walk with local believers day to day, encouraging them to find their Saviour afresh for themselves, through Bible Study, worship and personal relationship with Christ. This team will contribute to our greater vision for the church in Namibia to become a strong sending church. We desire that the church among the San will be able to reach their own people and beyond. If you are interested in finding out more, you can visit: eu.aimint.org/serve-san. 📍



FROM THE FRONTLINE TO MENTORING

Namibia is a country of vast expanses. You can drive for hours and not see a single soul. It's a nation of breathtaking scenery and people of beauty; a nation with a long history of violence and injustice which has sunk deep into the hearts of most who live here.

Our desire in Namibia is to come alongside believers and churches to provide discipleship, encouragement and training to those who need a firm foundation and brotherly love. For decades, AIM has been involved in theological education in the capital, Windhoek, as well as in various other places in Namibia, and will continue to be. However, the church is established in these places, and there are those who want to serve and bring others to Christ. We, in AIM Namibia, are seeing our role shift from that of 'frontline', to coach and mentor.

For the most part though, the church in Namibia is present but ineffectual, as in the past it has been compromised by being overtly political or overly dogmatic. It is largely seen as an 'event' to attend on Sundays and irrelevant to daily lives. Thankfully though, the current generation is starting to question their religious heritage, asking for more; more hope and more connection with God.

We want to walk alongside the church here, sharing all we have to encourage and strengthen it to be more effective in growing and spreading the kingdom, to be a sending church that crosses cultural and political boundaries. 🙏

There is currently an opportunity at the Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary in Windhoek, to equip church leaders and mobilise disciple makers through teaching and personal discipleship both at the school and in the local church and community.



Find out more about serving in Windhoek: eu.aimint.org/serve-windhoek

WEEKENDFOCUS

27-28 JULY

Pray for those among the San who are believers already, that their faith would deepen and that they would break the yoke of denominationalism and unite for his kingdom. Pray that they would have a vision to reach out and share the gospel with the San people around them.

29 JULY • MONDAY

Give thanks for the Hazel family who are going to be part of the San team. They are ready to go and just waiting for their work permits now. Pray for more workers to be called to serve as part of the San team, as well as for the other teams and ministries in Namibia.

30 JULY • TUESDAY

The main hurdle currently preventing a team from starting among the San is the difficulty in obtaining work permits. Please pray for the Namibian Government to grant work permits to allow new AIM workers to come in.

31 JULY • WEDNESDAY

Pray that the community in Tsumkwe would not lose hope, especially the partners we have there who are waiting for a team to arrive. Pray for good, strong relationships with the local community.

1 AUG • THURSDAY

Pray for President Hage Geingob, a dedicated church goer. He and his wife, Monica, have made great strides against corruption and integrating morals and ethics into laws and society. Pray their faith may be deep and real and their example would be a light for others.

2 AUG • FRIDAY

Members of the AIM team currently in Namibia have suffered various health issues. Pray for protection and good health for them. Spiritual warfare is real and we are not surprised to encounter it more as God's Kingdom grows in Namibia.



DO WE STILL NEED TO GO?

Tim and Beth's passion to encourage healthy churches and strong families has led them to spend many years in Mozambique. Tim has been teaching the BA degree programme at the Sofala Bible Institute, and Beth has been working on translation projects in the Cindau language, producing Bible study and Sunday school materials.

The theologian Martin Kähler once said, "Mission is the mother of theology". By this he meant that the New Testament was composed in the crucible of missionary outreach. As the gospel advanced from Jerusalem to Rome and Gentiles began to follow the Messiah, theology had to be applied to new situations. Kähler isn't the only theologian to make that point. In turn, Howard Marshall found mission to be

the central theme of the New Testament, and for Chris Wright, the mission of God is the key to unlocking the grand narrative of the Bible. Thus a virtuous circle emerges: mission birthed theology and now theology promotes mission.

We go to Africa as participants in the mission of God and call upon Africans to join us in this mission. The last thesis I supervised at Sofala Bible Institute was a call, by a Mozambican, for Mozambican churches to make disciples of all nations.

THE NEED FOR THEOLOGY

I heard two men excitedly telling our pastor how a friend had been to another church and had been challenged by the pastor: if he put his cell phone on the altar, God would bless him before he reached home. Sure enough, he was given a smartphone on his way home! Pastor Jeito listened and then asked, "Does your friend's pastor preach from Job?" I was so thankful for his answer. His four years at Sofala Bible Institute had not been in vain. We teach theology to protect the sheep.



“We teach to equip our students to teach others. Our goal is to see Africans teaching theology in their mother tongue. Then, the Word addresses their culture and answers their questions.”

When our son was born, we took him to church almost immediately. Then we noticed that new mothers didn't return to church for a long time. It turned out to be an application of Leviticus 12. We teach theology to help believers step into the story of the Bible, a drama in different acts that proceeds from Creation to New Creation. As beneficiaries of the New Covenant inaugurated by Jesus Christ, our roles are different from parents presenting their new-born to the priest at the temple with a sacrifice.

As we evangelized, striving to plant a church in a rural area, Picardo, another Sofala Bible Institute graduate, blurted out, “There is not one without two [wives] and many have three!” A discussion on polygamy ensued. In the end, we agreed that we should be like Jesus and point couples to the beginning (Matthew 19: 4-6; Genesis 1:27; 2:24). Marriage God's way is the faithful union of one man and one woman. We teach so that marriages portray the love of Christ for the church, a love that is sacrificial and edifying.

TEACHING TO EQUIP OTHERS

We teach to equip our students to teach others (2 Timothy 2:2). Our goal is to see Africans teaching theology in their mother tongue. Then, the Word addresses their culture and answers their questions. We go to humbly learn from our African brothers and sisters. Africans are stunned by our secularism, materialism, and joylessness. Through the feedback we receive from them in return, we grow and together become more like our Lord and Saviour. 🙏



SOFALA BIBLE INSTITUTE

The Sofala Bible Institute was founded after a meeting in 1988 organised by AIM with 20 leaders from 14 evangelical churches. The pastors made the need for the theological institute clear, presenting a report that stated that among 186 local churches, there were only 33 pastors who had received some theological training.

Sofala is an interdenominational theological education institution based in Beira, Mozambique. Their main objective is to provide theological training to equip people to serve in Christian ministry, and so to contribute to the growth of the evangelical church in Mozambique. They also seek to develop Christian character, leading students to be committed to the Bible, to perfect their gifts and abilities, and, above all, to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

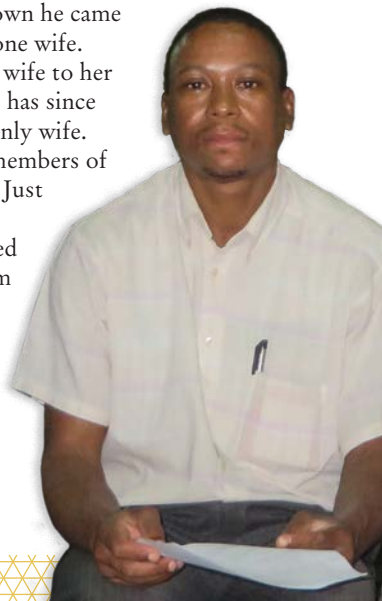
TRANSFORMED BY GOD'S WORD

When I first met João, he was in a church entrenched in ancestor veneration and polygamy. He was young, respectful and asked penetrating questions in the committee meetings we both attended. Pangano, a Sofala Bible Institute graduate, had also noticed him. He challenged João to take the one year course at the Sofala Bible Institute and paid his fees.

SAVED BY GRACE

That year, João became a Christian! Learning about new birth and working through the Bible, he grasped salvation by grace for the first time. Unbeknownst to us, João had a second wife. On his own he came to see that he should only have one wife. He decided to return his second wife to her family with their agreement. She has since remarried and is her husband's only wife.

João and his family are now members of the church with which we serve. Just before the marriage of his eldest daughter, he made an impassioned plea to the youth. He urged them to follow Jesus and warned them not to take the detours he had taken. Many were amazed to hear he once had a second wife. They really listened, more than they would have listened to us! 🇲🇵





COULD YOU TRAIN NEW LEADERS?

The Sofala Bible Institute offers five courses: Sunday school teacher training, Basic Bible studies, Certificates in Theology (Lower and Upper Secondary) and a Bachelor's in Theology. Many of the courses are taught by Mozambican professors trained by Sofala, but the Bachelor's course is still dependent on missionary professors.

Sofala's vision is to train and disciple Mozambican Christian workers for diverse ministries in the church, in order to build up Christ-centred churches committed to God's mission in the world. It seeks to encourage missionary vision, both in the institute and the churches which it serves, to see them sending and supporting national missionaries to their own people and others. The aim is for Sofala to be a Mozambican evangelical institution of theological education, led by Mozambicans, capable of generating and managing resources with a view to becoming self-supporting.

Sofala needs someone who can be involved in biblical and theological training at the Upper Secondary and Bachelor's levels, being available to help the other levels and courses should it be necessary. Could you work with Sofala to see transformation of lives as well as the transfer of abilities, training and equipping Mozambicans to take on roles themselves? 🙋

There are both long and short term opportunities at Sofala.



Find out more: eu.aimint.org/serve-sofala

WEEKENDFOCUS

3-4 AUGUST

Pray that people's lives would be changed as they open the Bible. Pray for missionaries reading the Bible with those who don't know Jesus, that readers would be curious to find out more and that as they read, God would give them understanding.

5 AUG • MONDAY

This year, Sofala Bible Institute celebrated its 30th anniversary. Give thanks for all the students, past and present, who have received biblical training, theological education and discipleship. Pray that these students would be able to go on to teach others.

6 AUG • TUESDAY

Pray for students at Sofala Bible Institute who will find it even harder to pay their fees after the recent cyclones in Mozambique. Pray they would be encouraged, and that God would provide for them in continuing their training. If you would like to give, please quote **'IBS student scholarship project'** which is being used to support students.

7 AUG • WEDNESDAY

Give thanks for João and how he came to faith through reading God's Word. Pray that he would continue to be influential for the gospel, and that many would be inspired and moved by his story to find out more about God.

8 AUG • THURSDAY

Pray for all those in Mozambique affected by the recent cyclones. People have lost a lot, and as they rebuild their houses and lives, pray that many would seek God in their suffering and find comfort. You can give to AIM's Mozambique relief fund by visiting: eu.aimint.org/pray/mozambique

9 AUG • FRIDAY

Pray for believers and churches in Mozambique, that they would know and trust God in whatever circumstances they face. Pray they would be a light in their communities, reaching out with love, comfort, support, and the gospel of Christ.



NEW MODELS OF SENDING?

Tony Swanson explains what some of the barriers are for Africans getting involved in cross-cultural mission.

In mobilising for mission, Christian demographics show that it is no longer ‘from the West to the rest’, but rather ‘everywhere to everywhere’. With this reality, it is important to recognise African churches as a mission force as well as a receiving mission field.

In January last year, Francis Manungu shared in Connect how he and his wife lead a small congregation in the Uluguru mountains of Morogoro, among the Waluguru people. His church of around 20 people is in a predominantly Muslim village and is the only Christian witness there.

A CHURCH WITH A VISION

This is a fascinating story of a church planted with no outside help. The pastor had a vision to take the gospel to a people group different from his own. He shared this vision with the elders of the town church. Collections were taken, and the church choir spent a week in the village. Each evening, after some energetic singing, the evangelist would preach and show the Jesus Film. At the end of the week around 30 or so people had professed faith in Christ. One of the elders of the town church, a professor at the local university, personally built a small church building in the village for the new converts to worship in.

What is preventing others like Francis and Catherine being sent across borders to plant churches among the unreached? The vision of the pastor is of paramount importance, but another significant reason perhaps is the lack of culturally appropriate African mission sending structures. The structures modelled by AIM



“...it is important to recognise African churches as a mission force as well as a receiving mission field.”

and other foreign agencies are more reflective of the values and cultures in which they were formed than the cultures in which they operate.

CULTURAL IDENTITY

By and large, (and this is a generalisation), individuals find their identity in either the ‘self’ or in their ‘community’. Many mission agencies grew within cultures which have a strong sense of ‘self’, and this is reflected in how we do ministry. The mission organisation is set up to facilitate the missionary with his or her vision and call to mission. Their church community is then invited to collaborate with them in fulfilling his or her vision.

Francis however, was born with the ‘community’ orientation that is so prevalent in East Africa. This cross-cultural church plant happened not because Francis had an individual vision of reaching the Waluguru people, but because his church had the vision. As a part of that community, Francis, already gifted in evangelism, approached the leadership who recognised that gifting and sent him.

DO WE NEED A ‘HERO’?

Is it possible that one of the reasons there has not been a thriving African mission movement is because the individual ‘hero missionary’ model that we and others have embodied does not resonate with the African churches we partner with? Whilst our emphasis on the individual may have been effective in our home cultures, there is a need for different models of sending that are more culturally appropriate and in tune with the environments that our African brothers and sisters are rooted in. 🌍



LEADING THE WAY

OFM, AIM's media team based in Nairobi, recently met up with Moses, the youth and missions pastor at AIC Langata, to interview him for their series about Africans on the front lines of this work.

12 AUG • MONDAY

Pray for Moses Munyoki in his role as missions pastor at AIC Langata in Nairobi. Give thanks for the vision he has of the whole church's role in reaching out to those who don't know the gospel, and in sending and supporting missionaries. Pray that God would continue to use him in the Great Commission.

13 AUG • TUESDAY

Moses says, "My number one prayer would be for the African Kenyan Church to take mission as a priority both in planning and budgeting. The need here is not money but focusing that money to mission work." Pray that the gospel would direct the Kenyan Church to be outward looking and focused on reaching the lost.



COURAGEOUS CALLING

Why does the church exist? What is it for? Moses Munyoki is the youth and missions pastor at AIC Langata, in Nairobi.

A pastor in a local church should be asking himself, “Why am I here? Why has the Lord allowed this congregation to exist in this particular place at this particular time?” That takes us back to Matthew 28, “Go ye into the whole world.” The growth of any local congregation should not be measured by its seating capacity, but by its sending capacity.

We know that the existence of any church all over the world, the existence of any local congregations, is to be able to reach out. *Go Ye*. That command of ‘go ye’ should be for the obedience of every pastor. If any pastor finds himself not getting involved in the command of going and reaching out to the whole world, he probably needs to ask himself, “Why am I here? Why do I exist?”

The church in Africa is beginning to think about doing mission work. We are coming from an age where mission work was for the white people, and we are entering into a new paradigm shift where Africans are now starting to think about doing mission work. We are beginning to think seriously, critically, and strategically about how a local congregation can actually participate in mission work, whether that is sending a missionary or supporting a missionary somewhere on the field.

It caught my attention that the Swahili Bible translates the word ‘go’ as ‘enendeni’ which in Kiswahili is actually plural. Enendeni means “Go, all of you”. If it was left as ‘go’, or ‘enda’, then probably it would be left to one person. But the Swahili version ‘enendeni’, means all of us, all of the church.

Pray that our churches would share in this vision of mission. 🌍

14 AUG • WEDNESDAY

Pray that a vision of mission would permeate every aspect of the theological formation in Bible training institutes, schools and colleges across Africa. Pray that the curricula for discipleship programmes would equip church leaders to have a global vision beyond the borders of their own church and people group.

15 AUG • THURSDAY

Pray for the development of new, indigenous models of mission sending that would be better owned and supported by the African church, and that reflect their own culture and values and resonate with the African church. Pray that this would enable more Africans to be sent and supported by their churches.

16 AUG • FRIDAY

Pray for the work of the AIM African Mobilisation Hub (www.aimint.org/amc) as it seeks to encourage a greater awareness of mission among our African church partners. Please pray especially for the effective use of the Kairos course and ‘The Distant Boat’ (a film that stirs the African church to mission).



17-23 AUGUST
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



HOW DOES THE BIBLE IMPACT LIVES?

Barry Mann, Communications and Media specialist at Growing Nations, explains how the Bible underpins their work.

Part of Growing Nations' ministry is discipling farmers and students. We share the gospel and teach how our core beliefs influence our values, which in turn influence our behaviour, and how our behaviour ultimately has consequences. So it is through putting God at the centre, understanding biblical values, and living those out on a daily basis that we ultimately see changed lives, with people giving glory to God and having improved relationships with others, themselves and creation.

Students are disciplined through daily devotions at the Growing Nations base in Maphutseng, where each morning we worship God, study his Word and pray together. The Extension Workers do the same with farmers in their communities.

That all sounds great in theory, but what impact does it have? Makalo Sefuthi joined the Resident Student Programme in August 2017 and it has been amazing to see his life change.



GROWING NATIONS

Growing Nations in Lesotho teaches people how to farm sustainably using conservation agriculture (CA) methods. These methods are not biblical in themselves, but everything they teach to farmers and students is underpinned by key biblical principles. Whilst conservation agriculture produces increased yields and meets physical needs, Growing Nations' vision is to see transformed spiritual lives too.



SEEING TRANSFORMATION

“Before I started at Growing Nations I didn’t have a love of farming or a passion to spend time with God. Those two things have now changed. Now, I have a love for my farm and a love of God. I want to thank you because I never thought that agriculture could change my life.”

Initially during the devotions Makalo was always questioning what he was hearing - deep and heavy questions challenging Christianity. Some of his friends are Muslim and he admitted that he leaned more towards that faith, hence the questions. However, it was through these Bible studies, the discipleship of the team and God’s grace that Makalo is now a Christian. His family have noticed the transformation too. His brother commented, “That man has changed. His behaviour has changed, he spends all his time working on his farm and the whole family now welcomes him back home.”

CALLED TO MISSION

God has also dramatically changed the direction of Ntsiuoa’s life since she first got involved in the Student Programme three years ago. Her faith matured whilst being discipled at Growing Nations. During one of the devotions August Basson, the founder of Growing Nations, was invited to share his heart for mission and his passion for Africans to reach the unreached in Madagascar. It was at that point God called her to ‘go’. AIM colleagues at Growing Nations, worked through a missions course with her, and she then completed three months discipleship training in South Africa. Subsequently, Ntsiuoa has been doing mission work with them in a remote community in South Africa and has also been part of a short term mission trip to Malawi. It hasn’t been an easy journey and she has faced many challenges along the way, particularly in raising finances, but she is faithfully following her calling.

There are many more stories to tell of transformed lives, but at the moment, future funding of Growing Nations’ work is uncertain beyond September 2019. We are therefore praying that God will release funds so that lives can continue to be changed in Lesotho and beyond. 🙏

If you would like to give to Growing Nations, you can visit their website: www.growingnations.co.za/support-us

WEEKENDFOCUS

17-18 AUGUST

Praise God for the students and farmers whose lives have been transformed by God’s grace through the work of Growing Nations. Pray God would continue to be at work in the lives of the current students and farmers.

19 AUG • MONDAY

Pray that Ntsiuoa will be able to raise the financial support she needs in order to continue on her journey into mission following God’s call on her life, and that she in turn will be able to inspire others to think about mission.

20 AUG • TUESDAY

Pray that God will use the Growing Nations team as they continue to disciple the students and farmers they work with. Pray that as they study the Bible with them and teach them, that they would see more lives transformed by the gospel.

21 AUG • WEDNESDAY

Please pray for the longer term funding of Growing Nations and for the future direction and strategy of their work. Pray particularly for God’s leading in any changes that are made to the Resident Student Programme.

22 AUG • THURSDAY

Pray for Heather and Barry Mann (Growing Nations CEO and Lesotho Unit Leaders) who are usually based at Growing Nations but have been back in the UK on medical leave since March 2018. Praise God for the healing that has taken place in Heather’s body and pray that she will soon regain her physical strength. They are planning a visit to Lesotho later in the year, but pray for them as they seek God’s leading for the future.

23 AUG • FRIDAY

Give thanks for how God has worked in Makalo’s life, and how the gospel has changed him. Pray that this transformation, which has been apparent to those around him, would prompt them to seek God too.



24 AUGUST - 6 SEPTEMBER
SHORT TERM



WEEKENDFOCUS • 24-25 AUGUST

THE MOST EXCITING THING

Pray for Paul and the opportunities he has to speak of the gospel.

For a few months now, I've had the immense privilege of working in Chad, using stories from the Bible as a means of teaching English. In a context where it might otherwise take years of building trust and relationships before cautiously approaching such conversations, the classes have facilitated the most amazing discussions with these young Muslim men within weeks.

Starting with the relatively common ground of the Old Testament, Abraham and Moses, we soon arrive at the Messianic prophecies, an exciting foresight of the amazing 'lamb' Saviour to come. For those who pass their Old Testament exams, we then reach the New Testament. Before he's even born, we're struck by the similarities between Jesus and this 'Promised One' the prophets spoke about. Walking through the life of Jesus with these Muslim men is a huge challenge, but it's also, without a doubt, the most exciting thing I've ever done... 🌍

26 AUG • MONDAY

Give thanks for one of my students, H. He has given me great joy, and his heart is open to the gospel. Pray he would find that the glory of following Jesus will outweigh the fear of losing all that the world has given him, even if it means losing his family.

27 AUG • TUESDAY

Pray for my students Y, A, R, O and B, all of whom I've built up great friendships with, which regularly lead to good discussions. Pray for these friendships to continue to deepen, and for the opportunities to discuss the gospel with them to continue.

28 AUG • WEDNESDAY

Pray that God would grant me wisdom as I teach these hugely significant lessons from the Bible, that I would take this responsibility seriously, and that, despite my weaknesses and failures, the Lord would guide these students to him.

29 AUG • THURSDAY

Pray that God would give me discernment as I seek to identify which students might be open to exploring the truth about Jesus more deeply. Pray that many will be interested to find out more.

30 AUG • FRIDAY

Give thanks for my host family. It has been a huge blessing to stay with them as it is just down the road from the college, allowing an almost constant stream of students to be able to visit me to have more private discussions.

WEEKENDFOCUS

31 AUGUST -
1 SEPTEMBER

Pray for me personally, as my mentor is temporarily out of the country. Pray that during this time I would have enough energy as I take on his work, and for spiritual encouragement while I'm without his guidance.

2 SEPT • MONDAY

As I make plans and look to working here in Chad long term, please pray for spiritual protection and that any obstacles there might be in this process would be overcome.

3 SEPT • TUESDAY

Give thanks that there is a Christian population in the south of Chad. Pray that, despite a turbulent history, they would be willing to engage more with the unreached people in the north of the country who have not heard of Christ. Pray that God would overcome any barriers there might be.

4 SEPT • WEDNESDAY

Pray for peace. There are at least three ongoing conflicts here in Chad, as well as turmoil in neighbouring Sudan, Libya, Nigeria and CAR. Pray that God would touch the hearts of those who are causing the conflicts, and that these areas would know peace and stability.

5 SEPT • THURSDAY

Give thanks that, despite Chad's unending economic crisis, many of our students have been able to find jobs once they have finished the classes, thanks in large part to their newly developed English skills.

6 SEPT • FRIDAY

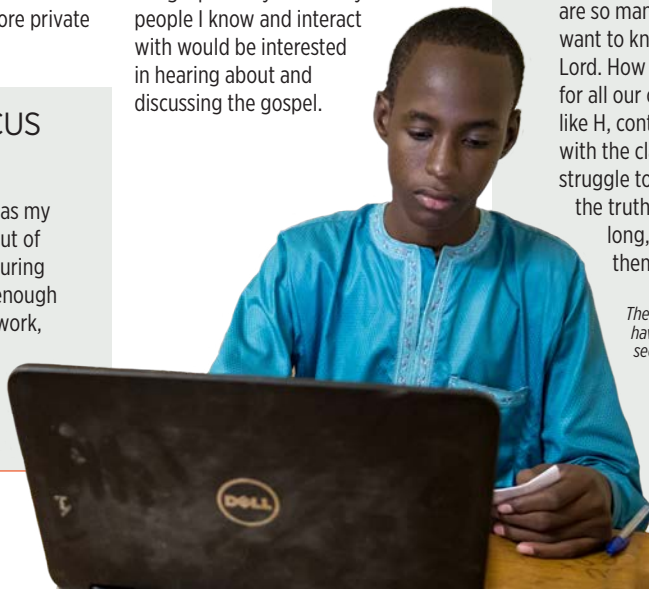
Give thanks for the good relationships that I have with my neighbours. Pray that opportunities would arise outside my English classes to discuss the gospel. Pray that many people I know and interact with would be interested in hearing about and discussing the gospel.

SEEING IT FOR OURSELVES

H's eyes open wide as he covers his mouth and gasps at the claims of Jesus. "I and the Father are one..." So he *does* claim to be God after all! While the class descends into chaos at this outrageous statement, H jumps to Jesus' defense, arguing that we can no longer deny this - we've seen it ourselves in these stories. After just six months of studying God's Word, from creation, through all the brokenness of the Old Testament, to Christ's wonderful life, death and resurrection, H has decided that Jesus *must* be the one the prophets spoke of - the one who finally opens the way for us to have a right relationship with God. And yet how can he possibly follow this Saviour? His family will kill him, he says.

As we continue to pray for H, I'm so very grateful for the opportunities that these classes provide. I'm grateful for the relative freedom I have to do such work here in Chad, even when working exclusively with unreached people groups. While there will always be some who simply want to learn English and leave, there are so many who desperately want to know more about the Lord. How exciting! So we pray for all our other students who, like H, continue to wrestle with the claims of Jesus and struggle to come to terms with the truth that has, for so long, been hidden from them by evil lies.

The names on these pages have been hidden for security reasons.





7-13 SEPTEMBER
TESTIMONY



MEET MELIAS

Melias is a Malagasy missionary who works with Karin Mende in Madagascar. He tells us his testimony of how he became a Christian and how God gave him vision for mission, to tell other Malagasy the gospel.

GOD'S KINGDOM IN MADAGASCAR

I became a Christian in 2013 when I was 21. The Holy Spirit convinced my heart that the Bible is true. I found new joy and excitement learning about Jesus through the Scriptures. Since then, God has been calling me by his great mercy and love, and he has given me a vision for mission. This has occupied a big place in my heart, and I sense that God has a purpose for me.

WHAT IS BEING DONE?

One day, our pastor taught us the story of the good news coming to Madagascar in 1818. I was shocked and surprised. It's been over 200 years since the good news was first preached here. I found myself asking the question, "Why have so many Malagasy people and places not heard the good news yet? What are the church and the Christian community doing about this?"



WEEKENDFOCUS

7-8 SEPTEMBER

Over the summer a Kairos course was run in Antsirabe, Madagascar, to encourage Malagasy churches to become more involved in mission. Pray for the churches who attended this course, that what they learnt would stick with them and that many Malagasy Christians become missionaries.

9 SEPT • MONDAY

Pray for Hary, a pioneer evangelist among the Bara people in Madagascar, who lost his wife and unborn child two years ago. Recently, God has called him to study theology in Morondava. With no real income and two young boys, this is a big step of faith. Pray for God's provision and blessing.

10 SEPT • TUESDAY

Give thanks for Melias' testimony of faith and his evangelistic heart. Pray that as he travels and shares the gospel with other Malagasy he would know God's protection and that many people would hear and believe the truth.

11 SEPT • WEDNESDAY

After 18 years of ministry, Karin Mende is in her final year in Madagascar. She says, "I see very clearly that only the truth of the Bible can help people turn from false gods to the true God." Give thanks for her years of work.

12 SEPT • THURSDAY

For nearly 10 years Karin has been involved in Transformational Development, teaching how holistic change can become reality in people's lives and communities. Pray for the arrangement of short retreats to meet with participants in five major regions of Madagascar. Pray for suitable dates and facilitators to help.

13 SEPT • FRIDAY

Pray for Karin as she ends this period of her ministry and life in Madagascar and returns to Germany. Pray that she would be able to end well, not leave any unfinished business, and that she would know God's leading and guidance in this next chapter.

Often, when I go to different villages, my heart is broken to see people with no knowledge of who God really is. For them, God is a distant creator, but not one with whom you can have a personal relationship with. Instead, they rely on ancestor worship and witchcraft. I have often shared my personal testimony, but in the beginning, I did not have enough understanding of the Bible to teach in depth. Despite this, I felt the Holy Spirit speaking to me through the Great Commission in Matthew 28 to bring the good news to the ends of the earth.

LEARNING ABOUT MISSION

In 2015 I heard about a 6 months mission training course in Antananarivo in collaboration with AIM. I immediately left my job as a construction engineer because I was determined to learn about mission. At first my family thought I was crazy. The training helped me to understand the Bible and missions more. In particular, the 'Discovery Bible Study' really opened my eyes to the fact that though the harvest is ripe, the labourers are few. Since then, I've had the opportunity to serve God by planting churches and discipling many new believers in Ikongo among the Tanala and in NosyBe among the Sakalava. This year I am also involved in missionary training of three new Malagasy missionaries in the Sakalava area. I feel blessed to be used by God to spread his kingdom here in Madagascar. 🙏



14-20 SEPTEMBER
CHURCH DEVELOPMENT



MEET CAROLINE

Caroline joined a team living among the Karimojong in Uganda in January 2018. Along with language learning, she is involved in Bible studies, prison ministry and teaching at the Primary Teachers College.

16 SEPT • MONDAY

A number of different Bible studies have started among the Karimojong using the 'Life to the Full' course. Pray that they would help to establish believers in their faith and the truth of God's Word, and that they would draw those who aren't yet believers to God.

17 SEPT • TUESDAY

Pray for the Discovery Bible Studies happening in an area called Nakapelimen. Some in the community there are opposing these Bible studies and are discouraging others from coming, saying that we are a satanic cult.



HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THE BIBLE

The Bible has been available in Ngakarimojong (the language of the Karimojong people) since 2010. There is also an audio recording of the New Testament available to them. We asked Caroline what happens once a people group have access to God's Word in their own language?

As a team, we have wrestled (and are still wrestling) with how we can help the Karimojong to engage with the Bible. We have found different tools useful, including Discovery Bible Studies and Bible storying. These methods ask questions such as, 'What does this passage teach us about God?' and, 'What does it teach about people?' or, 'What does it teach about obedience?' They also emphasise the importance of applying what the Bible teaches to our own lives.

Another resource we use is an African discipleship course called 'Life to the Full' which covers the foundations of faith. However, these are just tools and resources. Helping people to engage with the Bible takes time, relationship, lots of prayer and for us to open our lives (1 Thessalonians 2:8). Allowing others into our lives allows them to see, and learn from, how we read the Bible and how God's Word shapes our understanding and actions. Ultimately, we know we must trust the Holy Spirit to speak and teach. As Jesus promised, he is the one who will guide us into all truth (John 16:13).

God's Word is countercultural. Pray that the Word of God would be what shapes believers' lives, not cultural values and practices. 🌍

18 SEPT • WEDNESDAY

Each Thursday morning we visit the ladies in Moroto prison and are storying through Genesis with them. Pray for the Holy Spirit to be moving in the hearts of these ladies and giving them spiritual understanding and faith.

19 SEPT • THURSDAY

We have a limited number of audio bibles in Ngakarimojong available to distribute. Pray that we would have wisdom to ensure that these reach those who need them most, and pray that those who receive them will engage with what they hear.

20 SEPT • FRIDAY

Some local believers are experiencing opposition and persecution for allowing God's Word to shape the way they live. Pray for protection for them, and that they would have courage and boldness to continue to live their lives for Christ.



21-30 SEPTEMBER
WHAT CAN I DO?



WHY & HOW DO WE DO MISSION?

After over 10 years teaching theology in Kenya, Georgette Short now teaches at Tilsley College in Motherwell, which aims to equip people to be involved in mission.

The theology of mission is a reflection on God, but while it is theology, it is also practical. It explores how God is at work in his world through mission and how he uses his people to do this. Our mandate for involvement in mission and the basis of our theology of mission is woven through the

whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. It's very rewarding to study, something which all Christians would benefit from exploring more, particularly those interested in mission.

If you want to dig deeper into this, there are lots of good resources which you can get hold of to help you. If you are thinking that God may be calling you to serve cross-culturally, it is important to think through issues which may face you before you go. Biblical and theological study is a good foundation for future service. It helps you to know what you believe and how to communicate that in your new setting. It helps you to think through how to live incarnationally in another culture and to be prepared to live there. It is important for us to reflect on why and how we do mission. 🌍

WEEKENDFOCUS

21-22 SEPTEMBER

Pray for more churches across the UK to be enthused by, and committed to, being involved in cross-cultural mission. Pray that God would be giving them a vision for world mission.

23 SEPT • MONDAY

Pray that Christians in the UK would hear and be responsive to God's call on their lives to get involved in cross-cultural mission. Pray that God would be at work in people's lives, helping them to put their hope and trust fully in God, and that he would break down any barriers that might be holding people back.

24 SEPT • TUESDAY

Pray for former students who Georgette taught whilst she served at Scott Theological College in Kenya, many of whom are involved in mission. Pray that they would know God's encouragement and help when things are challenging.

25 SEPT • WEDNESDAY

Pray that Georgette would have opportunities to interest the students at Tilsley College where she teaches to be involved in cross-cultural mission. Pray that more students would apply to study at Tilsley next year, and for the opportunities that Georgette will have to encourage them to get involved in mission too.

26 SEPT • THURSDAY

Pray that the students from Tilsley College who are currently on placement would know God's strengthening and encouragement.

Pray that God would lead them throughout their placement, and that he would be calling these students to long term mission.

27 SEPT • FRIDAY

Pray that God would provide for the staff and students at Tilsley College, and that more finance would be available to support them in the work and study that they do.

WEEKENDFOCUS

28-29 SEPTEMBER

Pray for the students who are graduating from Tilsley College, that they would know God's leading for their future, and that they would be faithful to his calling on their lives.

30 SEPT • MONDAY

Pray for Georgette in the work that she is involved with at Tilsley College. Pray that she would teach her classes well and be an encouragement and help to her students. Pray also that she would have continued good health and strength.



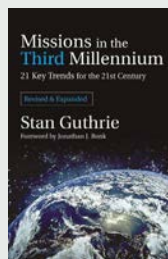
RESOURCES



Mission Matters

Tim Chester, IVP

Tim Chester introduces us to a cascade of love flowing from the Father to the Son through the Spirit. That love overflows and, through us, keeps on flowing to our Christian community and beyond.



Missions in the Third Millennium

Stan Guthrie, Paternoster Press

Charting 21 trends—both positive and negative—with continuing significance for the Great Commission community in the 21st century.



The Mission of God's People

Christopher Wright, Zondervan

Chris Wright offers a sweeping biblical survey of the holistic mission of the church, providing practical insight for today's church leaders.

GO & SERVE

COULD YOU EQUIP LEADERS BY TEACHING THEOLOGY?



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Could you equip church leaders and mobilise disciple makers through teaching and personal discipleship at Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary and in the local church and community in Windhoek?



Find out more online: eu.aimint.org/serve-windhoek



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.

If you'd like to speak to someone about mission, contact us at:

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