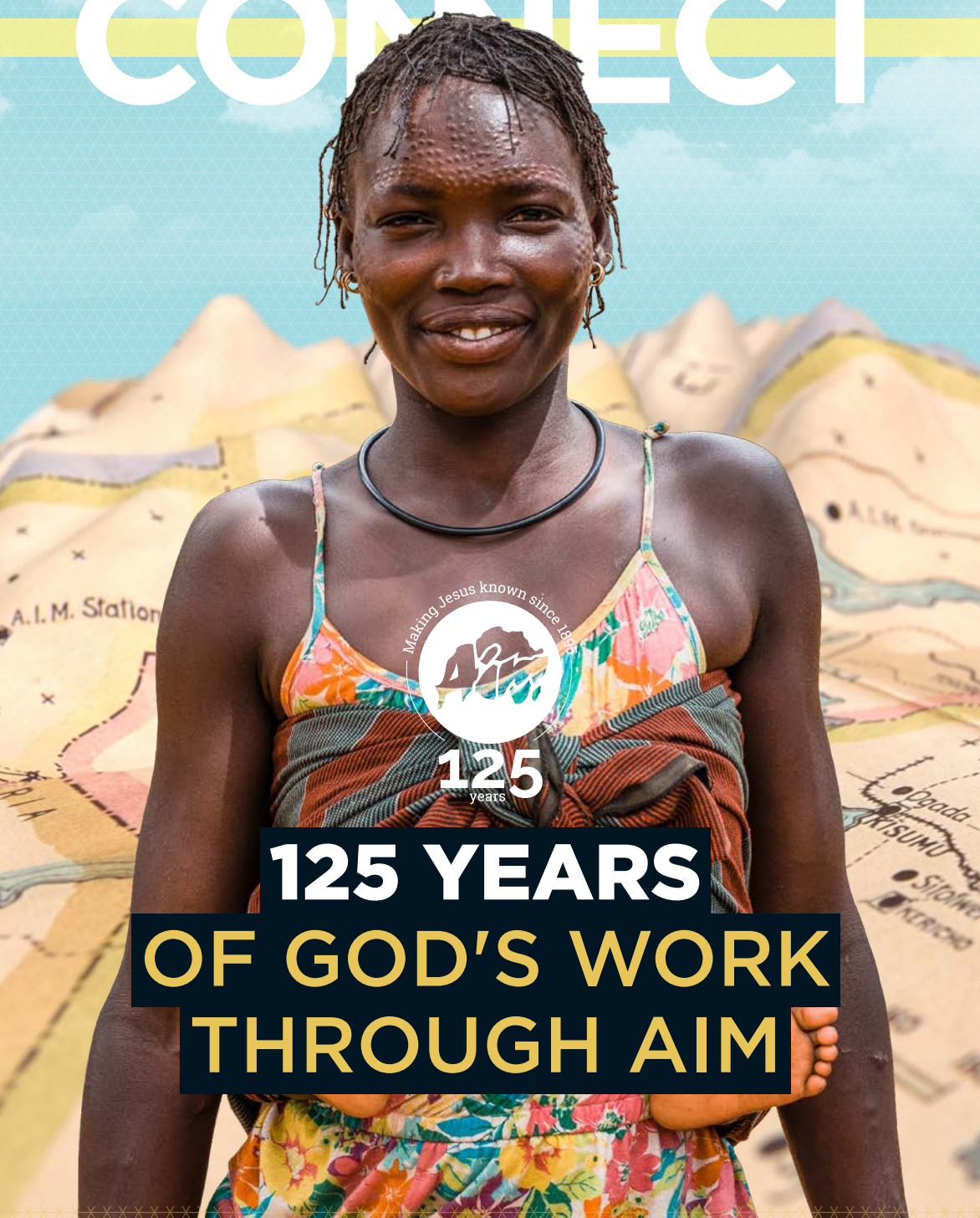




**AFRICA
INLAND MISSION**

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2020 • PART 1 OF 2
MAGAZINE & PRAYER DIARY | EU.AIMINT.ORG

CONNECT



125
years

**125 YEARS
OF GOD'S WORK
THROUGH AIM**





OVER THE YEARS

As this edition of Connect looks back at all God has done in Africa over AIM's 125 year history, I find myself looking back too. First setting foot in Africa in 1985 as an AIM volunteer teacher in Kaptagat, western Kenya, I soon got to know the local Africa Inland Church (AIC) pastor and his wife, Ally and Ruth Chepkwony, and their four young children.

Next summer I returned to help with the local AIC youth camps. The following year, I introduced my then boyfriend (now husband) to Kenya and of course, to the Chepkwony family. Ally and Ruth visited the UK for the first time when my church in Kent arranged for them to come to our wedding!

Neil and I have had the privilege of keeping in touch and visiting them whenever we can, following their missionary journey from training with AIM to leadership within Eldoret Missionary Training College and the AIC church.

In April 1999, we went to our first Kenyan wedding, that of their son, Robert, to Carol. Three years later, they had two wonderful boys, one named Neil after my husband and the other named Gerry after my father! Robert and Carol have continued to be friends of ours and have followed in their parents' footsteps. They now serve as AIM missionaries in South Sudan, leading a team among the Lopit people.

We have led the West Midlands Prayer Group since the early 90s and in 2006, I joined the AIM Board. Back in 1985 I would never have dreamt how God would bless these relationships or how he would lead us all in his service in these different ways. I wonder how he might be calling you?

Heather

Heather Potts,
AIM Board Member

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

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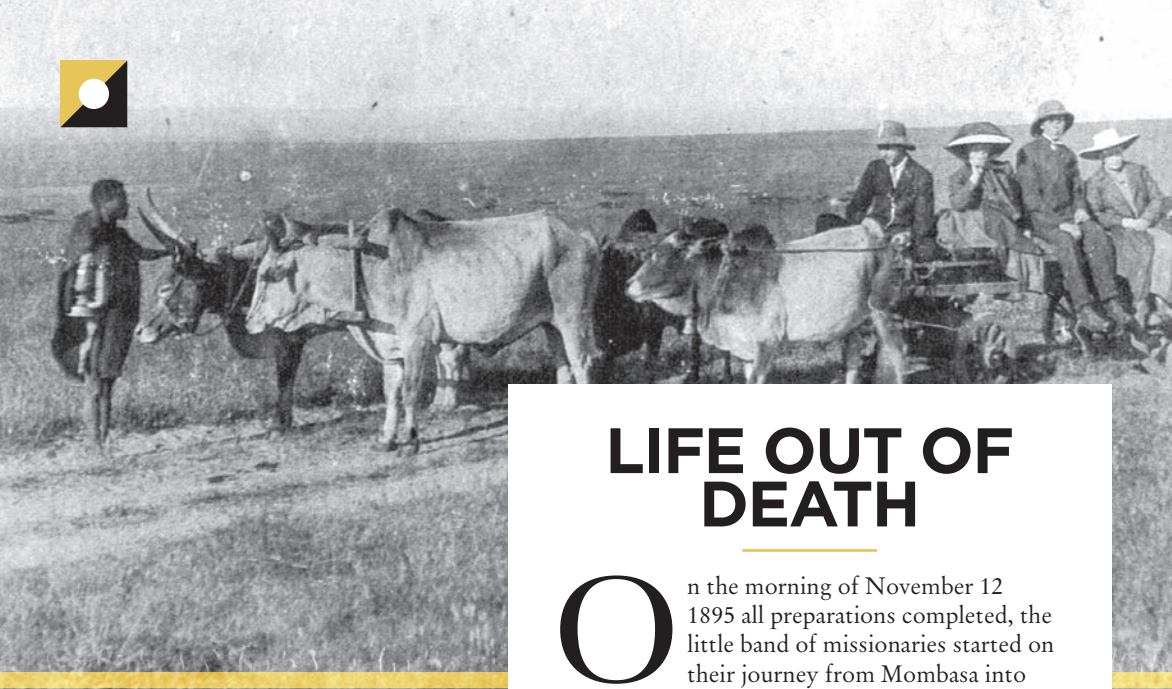
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CELEBRATING 125 YEARS: A TWO PART SPECIAL!

As we put this magazine together, we soon realised that we couldn't contain the amount of stories about all that God is doing across Africa into just one edition. Combining current stories and older memories we pray that Part One is an encouragement and a challenge!



LIFE OUT OF DEATH

On the morning of November 12 1895 all preparations completed, the little band of missionaries started on their journey from Mombasa into the interior of Africa. The caravan consisted of forty-two camels and about 300 men including a military escort. The latter was thought necessary, as a famous Arab Chief, Mbaruk, was in rebellion against the local government. When they arrived at Rabai, a Church Missionary Society (CMS) Station, they heard Mbaruk had been there only a short time before, and that, in a conflict, thirty of his men had been killed.

MABEL S GRIMES

Writing in 1917, Mabel set out to give a fuller picture to the British public of how God was at work in Africa, and the ways in which AIM were serving his purposes.

THE WORK OF GOD THROUGH AFRICA INLAND MISSION

September Four bases are now established – Nzawi, Sakai, Kilungu and Kangundo (all in Kenya).

4 December Peter Cameron Scott dies at Nzawi.



AIM ventures into Tanzania with a base established at Nasa.

Rift Valley Academy is established as a school for local, expat and missionaries' children.

Expansion into Neru and Chamagasa, Tanzania.

1895

17 August Peter Cameron Scott, with six other missionaries, sets sail from New York for Africa.

12 November They start out from Mombasa into the interior of Africa.

12 December They reach Nzawi, Kenya, and establish the first AIM base.

1896

1897 • 1901

New AIM missionaries arrive.

1903

Ministry begins in Kijabe, Kenya, which becomes the new African headquarters.

1909 • 1910

Famine closes all bases apart from Kangundo. One AIM missionary remains.



“...He supplied the means, when from the human standpoint it seemed impossible.”

Many were the difficulties and dangers of the way, but their faces were set like a flint towards their goal, the Nzawi hills, some 250 miles into the interior. They came in contact with lions, rhinoceroses attacked the party once or twice, porters deserted them, and fever laid them low, until, at one time, all but one of the party were in bed. The Masaai people caused them great alarm, as they moved over a large section of the country, murdering and plundering wherever they went.

A man from the interior brought them the news that Mr. Dick, a transport agent, and his large party of porters, had been killed by the Masaai, not far ahead of them. They reached Nzawi on December 12th, 1895, just a month after their start from Mombasa. The Lord had led and guided safely all the way. A site was soon found, and after a long discussion with the local people, they began cutting poles and grass to erect the first house. Mr. Scott went to Machakos, a government station nearby, to meet the Sub-Commissioner, who treated the missionaries very kindly and sanctioned their settling in the district. In a short time, the house was finished, and the Africa Inland Mission was established in Kenya.



This first station was called Nzawi. Men, beasts, fever, the very prince of darkness himself, all sought to shut our friends out of the Nzawi valley. But God, who always proves himself faithful to those who press forward in his name, did not fail them. He supplied the means, when from the human standpoint it seemed impossible.

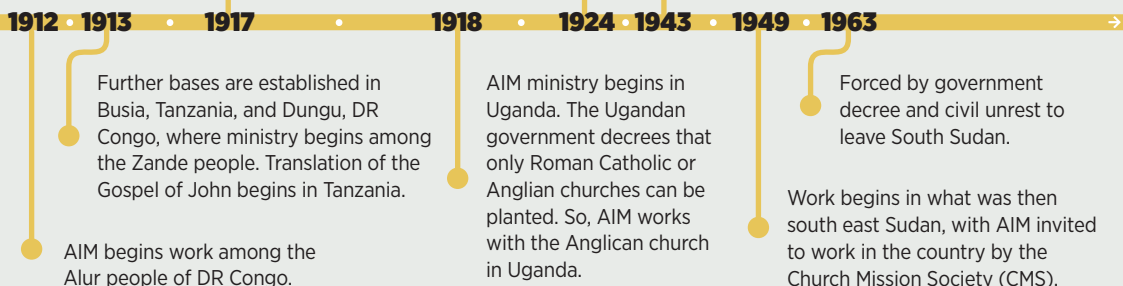
He delivered them from the lawless bands of Mbaruk and the Masaai raiders. He rebuked fevers and saved them from ravenous beasts. He gave them favour with local people and government officials. He directed their steps to a peaceable people (the Akamba), and to a comparatively healthy location. Here, miles from Mombasa, and near the equator, yet 5,000 feet above the sea level, with a temperature that falls to 50 or 60 degrees [fahrenheit] at night, a large company of people living in darkness had been awaiting heralds of the gospel. ➔



AIM is now working among 13 different people groups in 10 different languages – Akamba, Kikuyu, Masaai, Il Uashin Gishu, Kamasia, Nandi, Il Geyo and Luo in Kenya, Wanyamwezi in Tanzania, and Alur, Azandi, Lugbwara and Logo in DR Congo. At this point AIM has 164 missionaries in 30 locations.

John Buyse becomes the first AIM missionary in the Central African Republic (CAR).

The Africa Inland Church is formally established, although the relationship between the church and AIM remains undefined.





AIM is allowed to return to South Sudan and establish work in Torit.

Attempts to begin ministry in Mozambique are stopped by the Marxist government.

Work begins on the Indian Ocean Islands.

Ministry begins in Madagascar.

Once again forced to leave South Sudan.

AIM reaches Chad. Ben and Winsome Webster start ministry at Ba Illi near the river Chari.

A team starts ministry in the highlands of Lesotho.

Ministry starts in North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

→ 1970 • 1971 • 1972 • 1975 • 1979 • 1980 • 1985 • 1986 • 1987 • 1994 • 2001 •

National leadership takes over the Africa Inland Church of Kenya with AIM missionaries serving the church.

AIM Air is established when Arnold Newman, an AIM missionary, receives the gift of a plane and offers to fly his colleagues at running costs only.

AIM eventually enters Mozambique to find that through the war and communist years the gospel had been quietly spread by Mozambican evangelists.

AIM begins work in Namibia in partnership with Africa Evangelical Fellowship (AEF).



← Eight workers being considered too many for one location, Mr. Scott began to look about for sites for new stations. He encountered great opposition. At one place the local people came out in large numbers and threatened to fight the intruders, but despite this, new stations were opened at Sakai, Kilungu and Kangundo. Mr. Scott wrote at this time; "In humble dependence upon God, we have moved steadily forward, no doubt in our blindness making many mistakes, but we ascribe all praise to him for anything that has been done which can bring glory to his name and honour to his cause. Four stations have been established and manned in less than ten months after our arrival in Nzawi. During this period, we have made brick for, and erected six buildings, besides six good grass dwelling houses; also houses for local workers, chickens and goats." He added, "Since first leaving Mombasa, I have walked 2,600 miles, and have seen many strange and sorrowful sights. We have had times of trial, also times of blessing; times of sorrow and times of joy. Patience has been put to the test, but God has answered prayer. Our need in every particular has been great, but his promise has not failed!"

After spending over a year in British East Africa, he planned to start on his homeward journey in January 1897, but God's plan for his life was swiftly nearing its completion. He was stricken down with the dreaded blackwater fever,

[which we now know as kidney failure as a result of complications from malaria]. All that could be done for him was done lovingly and tenderly, but God's time had come for his young servant.

"In humble dependence upon God, we have moved steadily forward, no doubt in our blindness making many mistakes, but we ascribe all praise to him for anything that has been done which can bring glory to his name..."

The mission now seemed doomed. Two other faithful souls laid down their lives; several others left the Mission; and famine closed the first three stations. So great were the inroads made by the enemy into the ranks of the little company of workers that at last only one out of fifteen was left. There was, no doubt, earnest prayer going up in many places for the work at that time. But who can say to what extent the burning petitions offered in great weakness and utter loneliness in the midst of overwhelming need, by the only survivor on the field, have brought about the marvellous success which has since come to the Africa Inland Mission?



AIM's International Director launches Vision 2020. Running to the end of 2020 this vision crystallizes AIM's desire to reach unreached people groups with the gospel, and to be a part of catalysing African churches into mission.

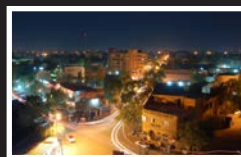
AIM opens a Diaspora Region. Recognising the movement of Africans around the world, AIM becomes intentional in placing teams among them in North America, South America and Europe, reaching unreached people groups as they migrate to other nations across the globe.

2004 • 2007 • 2016 •

Work begins in Rwanda.

AIM returns to South Sudan.

AIM develops the Mobilisation Hub, which seeks to work in partnership with African churches and other organisations to provide services that will help mobilise more African missionaries.

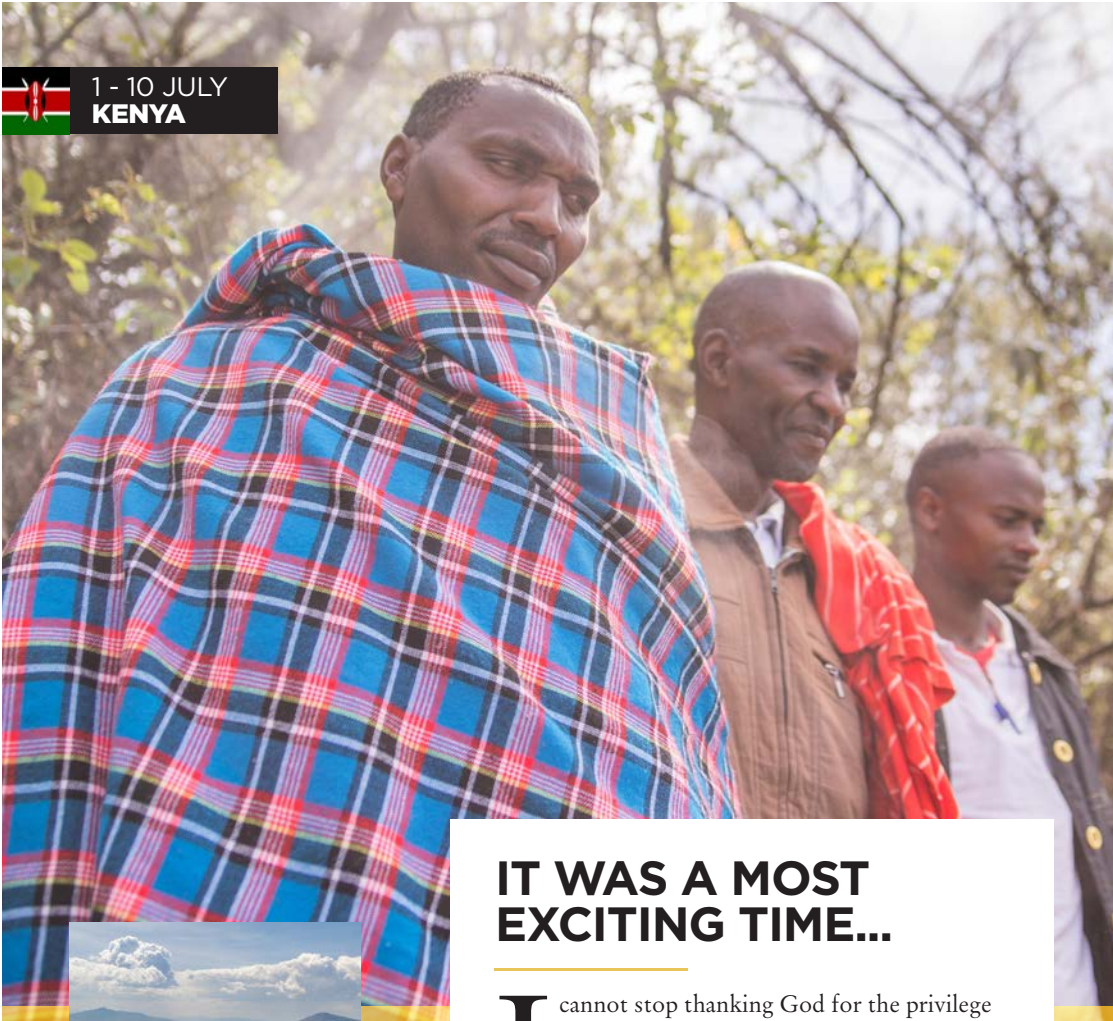


FUTURE

Currently Francophone West Africa has few Christians, small numbers of churches and large numbers of mainly Muslim people groups. There is also less mission work going on compared to other areas on the continent, a different picture to 1895 when missionary activity was centred here. Now huge numbers of people in those countries will live and die without ever hearing the good news of Jesus Christ.



1 - 10 JULY
KENYA



KENYA IN 1971

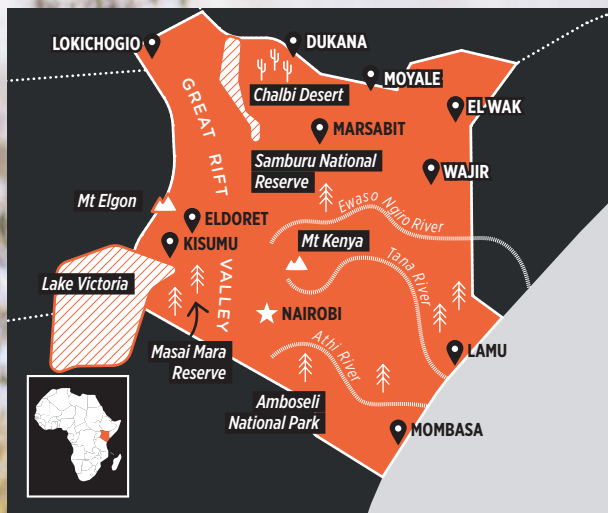
In 1971 Katie MacKinnon went to Kenya. Later the same year, national church leaders took over the running of the Africa Inland Church from the Africa Inland Mission. This marked a transition for AIM and acknowledged the growth of the African church.

IT WAS A MOST EXCITING TIME...

I cannot stop thanking God for the privilege of working with the kindest and most wonderful church leaders I have ever met. They took me with them on many adventures, all the while teaching me about their culture which I found absolutely fascinating.

The pastors and Christian leaders spent every day talking about Jesus and the new life that is on offer to everyone who puts their whole trust in him. Many people came to know the Lord on a regular basis. As more became Christians, the church grew and had an enormous effect for good on society.

Circumcision was widely practiced at that time, but as the church grew stronger these ceremonies decreased. Fewer female circumcisions were practiced and male circumcision frequently took place in hospital. The teaching that was part of the male circumcision ceremonies was now frequently done by church leaders.



Teaching on Christian marriage was also increasing and Christian marriage ceremonies were becoming more regular. Never will I forget the day that an old man with no front teeth came to inform me that he wanted to marry me! I sent him straight round to the church office and let Pastor Philip deal with him. Not that I was tempted at all, but I had no idea how to turn down proposals of this nature in a manner that was culturally acceptable. Pastor Philip turned him down flat.

LEADING LIKE JESUS

The African church leaders were now also leading missionaries. As a hot headed Scottish Highlander I was in trouble from time to time, but those men never gave up on me. I loved them and hated disappointing them. Their forgiveness and kindness was a picture of Jesus to me.

New churches, medical facilities, and many other social improvements were started and kept under the authority of the church. My God given assignment was in looking after children who needed help. Pastors would come with me to assess needs in the home. Poor homes where the mother died after giving birth, especially during times of famine, were a priority. Usually the newborn, plus very young or sick infants, were cared for by me, until the church established centres for their care. 🌍

1 JUL • WEDNESDAY

We look back with wonder at all that God has done in Kenya in growing and strengthening his church there. We give thanks that God has allowed AIM to be a part of his salvation plans.

2 JUL • THURSDAY

At many points in AIM's history there have been fears that the mission may not be able to continue. Uncertainty continues as we look ahead to overcoming the challenges of Covid-19, and we give thanks for the African church and for Kenyan missionaries reaching out in their own country and across the continent.

3 JUL • FRIDAY

Give thanks for lives impacted by the gospel through the witness of Katie MacKinnon and many other AIM missionaries over the generations. Pray for Kenyan Christians who are in leadership and missionary roles, as they continue to work to share the gospel and hold out the words of life to the younger generations.



KENYA IN 2018

On a visit to Kenya in 2018 things were different. Hospitals, schools and children's homes are now under government management. The church, now more like her Western counterpart, still has input into all these institutions but is now no longer the enormous influence in society that she once was. Pray for a renewed interest in the gospel and for an outpouring of God's blessing on Kenya.



GRACIOUSLY LED

“You shall remember all the way the Lord your God has led you.” Deuteronomy 8:2. Rosemary Molyneux shares her memories.

Kenya February 2020: Traffic jams, new bypass roads, shopping malls, everyone on their smart phones. Attending a Nairobi church where the second morning congregation was a group of 4,000 people. These were some impressions as I visited Kenya again to bring closure to a project led by my late husband, and to visit friends. So different from the day I first arrived in Kenya.

Kenya April 1973: I arrived at Kijabe, very much a ‘newbie’, to begin work at Kijabe Medical Centre, as it was then called. There were only 60 beds (but often more patients), no Kenyan nurses with recognised qualifications, and only one or two ex-patriot doctors.

THEN AND NOW...

Now I can hardly take in the scale of the services offered, the number of medical and nursing training programmes, the extent of the outreach, particularly to Muslim dominated areas; with many from neighbouring countries looking upon Kijabe as ‘their’ hospital. A place where they see and hear about the love of the Lord Jesus.

But let me remember the nurses. In 1980 the first students arrived from all over Kenya to begin Enrolled Community Nurse training (later upgraded to Registered level). The vision was to offer training in general nursing, midwifery and community health. At the same time, we would teach and disciple them so that they would be able to return to their areas, staffing the rural health clinics and reaching out with the gospel to the communities they served. Probably close to 2,000 students have been trained at Kijabe School of Nursing (now called the College of Health Sciences), and are serving all over the world (I even received a WhatsApp from one in Cuba!).

As I met up with some of them, we chatted, reminisced, laughed and were full of praise to God for what he had done in the lives of so many. They hold positions of responsibility; many have gone on to further training and many are serving the Lord wholeheartedly in their different spheres. However, one of them, now the deputy principal, asked me to speak to the current students. “I want them to hear from you why the school was started – somehow we seem to have lost that vision,” he said. Would you pray for the current students and their tutors that they would “be filled with all spiritual wisdom and understanding, bear fruit in every good work and grow in the knowledge of Him” (Colossians 1:9-10)? 🇰🇪



THE SEED OF THE WORD

Colin and Becca McDougall share the story of the Rendille.

In 1964 the newly independent government of Kenya allowed Earl and Esther Andersen to move to Marsabit to open ministry among the Rendille. Earl's son Herbert (known affectionately as Dilly), helped create an opening through a water development project in Loglogo, 30km south of Marsabit. In 1968 Earl baptised the first Rendille believers, and in 1969 Louise Cameron came to Loglogo to launch the Loglogo dispensary, extending the mobile medical service. Dilly came back to Loglogo in 1973 with his wife Ruth, a nurse from Bath. Ruth staffed the dispensary and mobile clinic, and Dr Dick Anderson would come from Lokori across Lake Turkana every few months to help with the more serious cases. In those days, before mobile phones, our dispensaries stayed in contact with Dr Anderson by two-way radio, and when the 'doctor safari' arrived by plane they would get airmail with news from home.

READING THE WORD

Our entrance and platform among the Rendille was medical ministry, but the seed was the Word and the germination of the church was education and literacy for all. SIL linguists Nick and Lynne Swanepoel moved to Korr, the centre of the Rendille homeland, in 1981 and began a decades-long ministry of Bible translation and literacy. In no other AIM ministry has there been such a flourishing of literacy among mature women, and it has been literate laymen and women who have stirred the indigenous church movement at every stage. Finally, in 2018, the Rendille New Testament was dedicated, and by 2019, 55 years after Earl Andersen's arrival in Marsabit, there were seven indigenous congregations surrounding Korr, a reproducing church in Ngurunit, and enough born again believers to reach the rest of the people group. Today AIM missionaries Craig and Abby Schultz and Jon and Kathryn Geerlings are helping the Rendille not only to disciple their own people, but to become a light to other unreached peoples on Kenya's northern border. 🌟

WEEKENDFOCUS

4-5 JULY

Five years ago AIM leadership instigated Vision 2020, with a range of aspirations. One of those was to see 20 people groups as yet unreached by the gospel have reproducing churches among them. Give thanks that the Samburu, Dorobo, Borana and Rendille of Kenya are now considered 'reached'.

6 JUL • MONDAY

The story of the Rendille shows the importance of literacy in the development of reproducing indigenous churches. Pray for literacy projects throughout Kenya that empower individuals to connect directly with God's Word.

7 JUL • TUESDAY

Give thanks for the work of Kijabe hospital over the course of its history. Pray for medical staff caring for patients during the current Covid-19 pandemic, that they would contribute to Kijabe being a beacon of hope in a time of fear and uncertainty.

8 JUL • WEDNESDAY

Kenya is currently facing a number of challenges. As well as Covid-19, the country has been badly affected by swarms of locusts, as well as flooding in some areas. To give to the relief effort, please contact Steve at donations.eu@aimint.org and quote project 10-130.

9 JUL • THURSDAY

Give thanks for faithful leaders of the Africa Inland Church (AIC) of Kenya. Pray for current leaders, for their eyes to be fixed on Jesus – the author and perfecter of our faith.

10 JUL • FRIDAY

Pray for the AIC as they offer spiritual input into institutions like hospitals and schools, which are now run primarily by the Kenyan government. Pray for clarity around the role the church can play and for opportunities to share Christ's love.



11 - 24 JULY
NAMIBIA



TEA AND TALKS

Janny van der Klis served with AIM in Kenya and Chad as well as in Namibia in the 1980s. Janny is the author of *Failure is not Final*, where she shares her story of finding acceptance in Christ. She looks back at the challenges and joys of ministry in Namibia:

Those early days in Namibia were not easy. Although God had begun to work among younger people in Windhoek, the capital, the older folk in rural areas were enraged that their sons and daughters were choosing to leave their ancient ways of worship. Messages came over the radio warning people against this new 'born again' religion. It did not make my work any easier as I lived in rural Herero land

where there was considerable opposition to the gospel. I believe that had I not been a 'harmless female' I would not have been tolerated.

FINDING A WAY IN

For weeks I walked through the village greeting people in the few words of the Herero language I had learned. People appeared to turn away deliberately, not wanting to engage with me. Only later did I understand that it was most unusual for a person like me to walk around like I did. I remember the day when, just as I was beginning to wonder if I would ever find a way into this community, a woman grabbed me by the arm, took me to her fire and made me a cup of tea. That was the beginning of a relationship which expanded rapidly. I learned the language and we began to talk. Other people came for a daily 'cup of tea'. Meetings were held in homesteads, away from the village.



“But what does the Bible say? Some plant, others water, but it is God who gives the increase...”

People became interested. ‘Who are you?’ they asked. ‘People like you don’t sit with us like you do.’ ‘God has sent me to share good news with you’ I answered. Soon they called me Wahindwa, which means ‘sent from God’.

The young church in the capital continued to prosper and opportunities opened up in other parts of the country. The gospel spread rapidly among younger people, many of whom were teachers who grasped the truth and became believers. A theological college was established in Windhoek to train eager minds and hearts. With more Christian

workers entering the country, work began and was strengthened on the borders with Angola, which in those days were dangerous areas of guerrilla warfare. New and until then unreachable regions were entered. The gospel of hope found root in those areas of fear. God was beginning to work.

SOME PLANT, OTHERS WATER...

I continued to sow the seed of the gospel. There were times when I wondered if God was answering my prayers for the Herero people. But what does the Bible say? Some plant, others water, but it is God who gives the increase. Today there are churches even in rural Namibia. I still keep in touch with Hiskia, a young Herero teacher in my day, now a grey haired pastor of a thriving church. I thank God for the privilege of being a small part of his plan for that part of Africa. 🌍



 **WEEKENDFOCUS • 11-12 JULY**

WHEN GOD MAKES THE PLANS...

Give thanks with Steve and Karrie Graham for how they have seen God at work in Namibia.

Back in late 2010, we moved to Otjiwarongo. As Steve advocated for the admission of some orphans and vulnerable children into the schools, relationships with the management and staff grew. He developed relationships

that led to the founding of a Scripture Union group at Otjiwarongo Secondary School and was asked to lead weekly devotional assemblies there. As a youth pastor, he jumped on those opportunities. Fast forward to the present time, Steve now has unusual freedom of access at the high school to preach the gospel and disciple the youth. He is responsible for the Religious and Moral Education at the school, which requires him to train eight teachers who teach the subject. He could not have planned this evolution of responsibility over the last decade, but certainly, God had. 🙏

13 JUL • MONDAY

Please pray for the doors to remain open at Otjiwarongo Secondary School, and that many more of the 800 students at the school would follow Christ. Pray too for the teachers that Steve trains, that they would come to know Jesus personally.

14 JUL • TUESDAY

Pray for Karrie's ministry, which includes working with dozens of children from the most impoverished and desperate parts of the community. Pray that she would know God sustaining her, and that the children she works with would know his love.

15 JUL • WEDNESDAY

Pray for Steve and Karrie and their family of 12 children, including adopted and fostered children plus their 3 month old grandson. Pray that they will manage ministry and family responsibilities well, and balance activities to best demonstrate faith to family as well as to their community.

16 JUL • THURSDAY

Pray for Jeremy and Claudia Hazel, who, with their daughter Anastasia (2), are working in Tsumkwe among the San people. They share, "People want to follow Jesus and change their ways but are lacking Bible resources in the mother tongue."

17 JUL • FRIDAY

The culture of rural Namibia, and particularly the San, is oral and has very little translated Scripture. Few can read or write. Pray for Jeremy as he disciples two local believers and works on translation for a set of 15 Bible stories that can be shared orally.

WEEKENDFOCUS

18-19 JULY

Pray that the Hazels and others would be able to translate the Bible story set into the San mother tongue in a clear and understandable way. As translation happens, the stories will be used for Bible teaching, so pray as these seeds of the gospel are planted in people's hearts.

20 JUL • MONDAY

Give thanks that more San people are following Christ. Pray that the Hazels would have wisdom to know who to pour their time and resources into for discipleship and leadership training.

21 JUL • TUESDAY

Kevin and Cami Zwart (and their sons, Toby at college in USA and Ben, age 14) serve as Unit Leaders for Namibia. They provide member care and logistical support for AIM people on the ground. Pray that they would lead well and be a good support to the team there.

22 JUL • WEDNESDAY

As well as other Unit Leader responsibilities, Kevin also spends a lot of time liaising with government officials and pursuing the ever-elusive work permits that are needed to continue ministering in Namibia. Pray that God would give special understanding to Government officials about AIM's role.

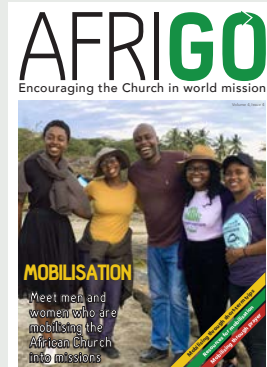
23 JUL • THURSDAY

Kairos (introduction to mission) programmes have started in Namibia. Join us in praying that the church in Namibia will catch the vision for mission and begin sending and supporting missionaries both in Namibia and overseas.

24 JUL • FRIDAY

Pray for AfriGO – a magazine designed to encourage Africans to consider mission. Pray for more staff, for wisdom in moving it forward, and that it would be used powerfully to encourage the African Church.

ENCOURAGING THE CHURCH



For the last century, Africans have served sacrificially, bringing the lost to Jesus Christ and planting churches. AfriGO is a quarterly magazine that celebrates this history, while also encouraging the church to further participate in God's global mission.

Cami Zwart is part of the staff of AfriGO, a joint project between SIM and AIM. This English-language magazine is available both digitally and in print, and features articles by African missionaries, pastors and church leaders. It also provides missions news and mobilisation tools to encourage the African church to send, support and pray for African missionaries. With a new Facebook page and website, there is plenty of work to keep the information flowing and help build the groundswell of African missionaries. Cami is also helping to get a KiSwahili version launched, to join a French version. There are also hopes that in the future a Portuguese version can be added.





25 JULY - 7 AUGUST
UGANDA



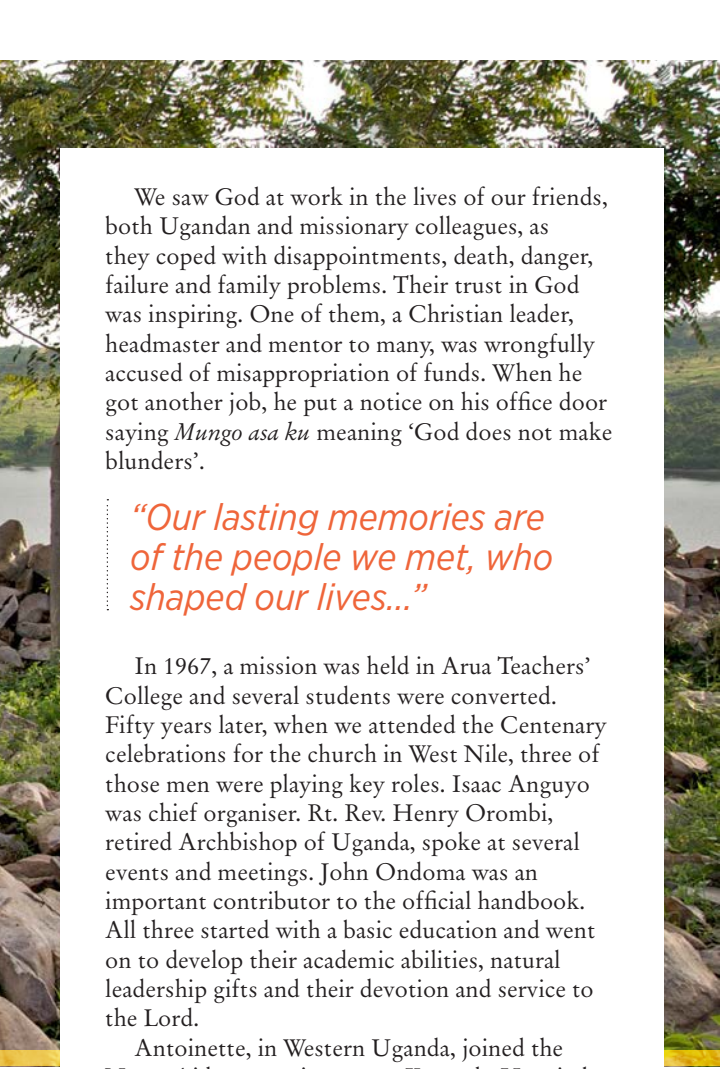
102 YEARS IN UGANDA

AIM's ministry in Uganda began in 1918, adhering to a decree by the Ugandan government that the only protestant church in Uganda could be the Anglican church. The Anglican church remains prominent today, although we now work with a range of denominations.

SHAPING LIVES

Gordon and Grace McCullough worked in Uganda between 1967 and 1997. Initially teaching for two years and then later serving as AIM missionaries for thirteen years.

When we settled in Uganda, we saw God at work in our family, enabling us to deal with separation from our girls when they went to school in Kenya. We were so thankful to witness their deep love for Uganda and their enjoyment of 'coming home' to Kuluva and Kampala. We were kept safe on many long and difficult journeys. God kept us calm when we faced armed robbers in our home in Kampala and in many (not all!) of the crises which came to us and our fellow workers.



We saw God at work in the lives of our friends, both Ugandan and missionary colleagues, as they coped with disappointments, death, danger, failure and family problems. Their trust in God was inspiring. One of them, a Christian leader, headmaster and mentor to many, was wrongfully accused of misappropriation of funds. When he got another job, he put a notice on his office door saying *Mungo asa ku* meaning ‘God does not make blunders’.

“Our lasting memories are of the people we met, who shaped our lives...”

In 1967, a mission was held in Arua Teachers’ College and several students were converted. Fifty years later, when we attended the Centenary celebrations for the church in West Nile, three of those men were playing key roles. Isaac Anguyo was chief organiser. Rt. Rev. Henry Orombi, retired Archbishop of Uganda, spoke at several events and meetings. John Ondoma was an important contributor to the official handbook. All three started with a basic education and went on to develop their academic abilities, natural leadership gifts and their devotion and service to the Lord.

Antoinette, in Western Uganda, joined the Nurse Aide course in 1989 at Kagando Hospital. She later became the Principal Tutor at Kagando School of Nursing and Midwifery, where there are now 800 students and a good Christian witness is maintained. Another encouraging development has been to see Ugandan Christian women setting up their own organisations to deal with specific needs. Rita Nkemba began working with street children after God opened her eyes to the need on the streets of Kampala. Vivien Kityo founded a centre for abandoned pregnant teenagers, having seen a backstreet abortion lead to death. Sally Anguyo supported her husband, Isaac, in founding ‘Here is Life’ to reach an unreached people group. These women combine outstanding leadership and Christian witness in their respective areas of service.

Our lasting memories are of the people we met, who shaped our lives and taught us far more about following Christ than we ever taught them. 🌍

WEEKENDFOCUS

25-26 JULY

Give thanks with Gordon and Grace McCullough for the relationships they built in Uganda that have given them a lasting treasury of fun and fellowship, and many outstanding examples of faith in action.

27 JUL • MONDAY

Pray that the church in Uganda would remain true to biblical standards and teaching. Pray that unity and cooperation among denominations would be a powerful tool in witnessing to the gospel of Christ.

28 JUL • TUESDAY

Pray for the leaders of locally-founded Christian charities as they manage and guide their teams and resources, that they would rely on God to provide for all their needs.

29 JUL • WEDNESDAY

Give thanks for Theological Education by Extension (TEE) programmes across Uganda (read more on the next page). We hope to be able to expand the programme to Karamoja, where AIM currently has two teams working, by the end of this year.

30 JUL • THURSDAY

Currently the TEE program in Adjumani District, northern Uganda, has six classes taught by 13 national teachers and 104 students. Pray for the Ugandans, Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees leading and attending as well as for the AIM missionary running the programme.

31 JUL • FRIDAY

Whilst TEE is cheaper to access than Bible school, many churches in Uganda still struggle to be able to afford to send people to attend. Give thanks for those who are willing to contribute to funding this project. If you would like to donate to this fund, please contact our office by emailing Steve at donations.eu@aimint.org and quote the project code **CR-119-R**.



BRANCHING OUT

Paul and Helen Shepherd, along with their three girls, serve in Kotido, a town in the Karamoja region of northern Uganda.

The nateripus tree is a small but hardy tree which survives the long dry seasons in Karamoja. Its white/blue bark marks it out across the brown landscape and it provides needed respite from the hot sun or shelter from the short rains. Here in the village of the same name there is a small church which has endured dry seasons but is now marked out as a beacon of hope in the arid church landscape of Karamoja. It is now thriving and the seeds of the gospel are being dispersed far and wide from it.

Our family spent a very hot and dusty Good Friday in 2017 under a very small nateripus tree in the village worshipping Jesus with a handful of old women. They had been Christians since an old evangelist pastor planted the church many years previously, and had continued on quietly. They kept asking for people to come and teach them God's Word, as they had Bibles but none could read. So, with Christians from the church in town - most from another people group who don't usually like the Karimojong - we went and taught them about their great God.

In early 2018 they were fed up of meeting under that very small nateripus tree they used as a shelter, so they asked for some help to build a shade. The young people from the church in town were delighted at this opportunity to practically love their fellow Christians, and many had building experience. For months these Christians from town would give up their Saturdays to mix concrete, lay bricks and erect timbers while those in Nateripus cooked for the workers and fetched water. The church in town also raised money to buy the building supplies. It was beautiful to see God's people come together to support this rural Karimojong church.

FORMING DEEP FOUNDATIONS

At the end of 2019 the simple church building was finished and the whole village turned out to worship in it. Since then the church body has continued to grow in strength. The Lord has brought hardened warriors to himself, raised up local leaders, converted witchdoctors and sent out evangelists to go to further villages to plant new churches.

This simple church building has deep, concrete foundations to resist the regular testing of both the wet and the dry seasons but the true church, meeting under the shade of this building, is even stronger - built on the rock of Christ and it will not be shaken. 🇰🇪



PRACTICAL EDUCATION

Adam Willard, AIM's Unit Leader for Uganda, has lived with his family in remote places in three different countries over several years. He shares that one similarity they have seen in each of these places is the struggle to educate church leaders in contextual and reproducible ways.

The most common method of educating church leaders is to send them to Bible schools located in larger cities. For people in rural settings this model creates challenges. The leader must leave their family, church, and community for months or even years at a time. We have seen leaders struggle with accountability and relationships when they return. The cost of these schools is high, and the education often does not answer the questions their churches are asking.

ACCESSIBLE BIBLE TRAINING

One way that we are trying to address the need for contextualised Bible education in Uganda is through Theological Education by Extension (TEE). We have partnered with a Ugandan university to have an accredited programme. It is taught in rural settings by local pastors who meet the teaching requirements, using a curriculum that was developed and written in East Africa. TEE keeps the costs down— costing about \$100 as compared to the average cost of \$1,500 at Bible schools in the capital. It also encourages discipleship, accountability and unity in the body of Christ as pastors teach members of their own congregation as well as from neighbouring churches. It is common for up to five people from the same church to take part together. This helps prevent the temptation to see one person as the 'Big Man' with all of the answers. It also allows people to work together to address issues in the church and community and promotes accountability. Each student reads at home, and meets weekly with other students to discuss their reading. Students learn something new, discuss it with other students, and then can immediately apply it to their lives and ministries. We have seen wonderful fruit from this model of Bible education. 🌱

WEEKENDFOCUS

1-2 AUGUST

Pray for the churches in Karamoja to proclaim the wonderful news of the gospel and look to go out with that gospel to the unreached rural areas. Pray that differences between people groups will be overcome by the reconciling message of the gospel.

3 AUG • MONDAY

Pray for Lokello who has been leading the church in Nateripus, that he would abide in Christ and lead others to do so too. Pray that he will reflect the qualities in Titus 1:8-9, being a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, disciplined, and holding firm to the trustworthy word.

4 AUG • TUESDAY

Pray for Apeyo, a young warrior, who came to faith last year and is a passionate evangelist. He takes his audio Bible to the kraals (cattle enclosures) in the bush to share the Bible stories with other warriors round the camp fire in the evenings.

5 AUG • WEDNESDAY

Pray for Adia, who has been a faithful member of the church for many years and is now learning to read because she wants to read God's Word for herself. Pray that as she reads the Bible it will bear much fruit in her life and among those around her.

6 AUG • THURSDAY

Pray for peace and an end to the violence that has been part of life in Karamoja for so long. Cattle raiding with guns, revenge killings and fighting between subgroups of the Karimojong sadly still continues. Pray the Prince of Peace will rule here.

7 AUG • FRIDAY

Pray with us that God would bless Karamoja with reproducing indigenous Christ-centred churches, and that he would raise up leaders from Karamoja who can lead the church faithfully and for God's glory.



8 - 21 AUGUST
MOZAMBIQUE



GOD OF THE BIG AND THE SMALL

The Psalmist wrote ‘Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him’ (Psalm 34:8). As Peter Root, AIM Europe’s Personnel Director, reflects how God was at work over his 13 year period in Mozambique (1993 – 2006), he shares, “I can only say, ‘the Lord is good’”.

Following a formal cessation of hostilities and the end of a bitter civil war in Mozambique, peace came, monitored by the blue berets of the United Nations Peacekeepers. Infrastructure was slowly rebuilt, and the country moved from being ‘the’ poorest country in the world, to ‘one of’ the poorest. Educational levels and the ability to go to school slowly increased.

The Sofala Bible Institute was able to move out of a couple of 20-foot former shipping containers and into a purpose-built building funded by God’s people from around the world. Men and women were called and trained to handle God’s Word; churches grew, not just numerically in terms of the size of their congregations, but also in their understanding of the Word. Many hundreds of Bibles were able to be imported into the country, along with other Christian books, something which previously was nigh on impossible under the Marxist/Leninist state.

REACHING OUT FURTHER

I saw the country open up and travel become possible, enabling missionaries to move from the city of Beira to more rural and distanced locations, and two Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) teams were established among unreached people groups. I saw the number of AIM missionaries grow from about 14 when I first arrived in early 1993 to approximately 40 when I left.

I was able to witness God physically preserving, in answer to prayer, the lives of colleagues and their families through frequent bouts of malaria and the like, not least that of my own daughter, then a baby. I recall vividly praying early one morning with two visitors from TIMO HQ as we set out on a survey trip that God would protect and preserve us. Later that day he did just that, as I rolled my brand new vehicle in a freak accident in the middle of nowhere. The three of us travelling in the car all escaped unscathed (the vehicle didn’t).

I recall the opportunity the missionary community had, working with the Sofala Bible Institute and a couple of local churches, in the distribution of bleach and giving health education in the midst of an outbreak of cholera in and around the city of Beira. Whilst there were deaths, it could have been far worse – God was at work.

God was at work in the big things, like changing the country; he was at work in building his church, and still is; he was at work in the lives of individuals. 🌍



PERSEVERENCE IN FAITH

Steve Entwistle shares news of ongoing fruit following an AIM Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) team in northern Mozambique.

Salimu was a typical Mwani boy. Growing up in the remote coastal village of Pangane, in northern Mozambique, he faithfully attended the Madrasa and tried his best to fast during Ramadan. Then a TIMO team arrived in his village, at the same time that he had a powerful dream about Jesus. God grabbed hold of Salimu’s heart and he became a baptised disciple of Jesus. Despite harsh family rejection, Salimu has remained a steady follower of Jesus, using his own initiative to reach out to the Makhuwa Muslims of a traditional village south of the provincial capital, Pemba, called Koba. He has managed to buy a small plot of land and erect a small, bamboo structure where he ministers several times each week to both youth and adults. Salimu feels disappointed that the Pemba churches have never come to visit him nor invest in his ministry, but he declares his motivation is to his Lord—not man. He continues to sacrificially give of his own time and resources to pour Jesus’ love into lives. Now there’s a budding church in Koba. The lost are coming to Jesus through a Mwani missionary! Praise God for the ministry of the TIMO team and the changed life of Salimu and the new believers of Koba.



NEW CONFIDENCE

Claudia Middendorf, currently Unit Leader in Mozambique shares about the impact of Covid-19 on the church there.

A few months ago I led a Discovery Bible Study (DBS) group with a few interested people. After studying through Paul's letter to the Ephesians, the one participating pastor said to me, "Along the years I have taken many courses and been to Bible school for three years. I have learned to interpret the Bible. Only now have I learned to let it speak to me personally."

Most Christians in Mozambique live their Christian lives in and around their church and its activities. Spiritual or biblical input comes at church from church leaders, mostly the pastor. Few people have a habit of personal devotions. A Bible study means the pastor or a visiting leader is teaching. Bible studies in small groups are mostly unheard of. Few believers are being discipled.

Enter Covid-19. In March the Government restricted group activities to a maximum of 50 people. While the churches were still working on how to organise themselves around this, the President declared a state of emergency to start in April, cancelled all public meetings and

reduced group activity to a maximum of 10 people. Christians were told to have services in their families. Some church leaders had difficulties accepting this. Many believers felt completely lost. It seemed that their spiritual life and biblical input was cancelled for months to come.

Several from our team started offering help for family services on Sundays via text message. A short programme, a Bible passage to be read and questions to be answered as a family. Families turned into storying groups, encouraged via text message. I prepared a pamphlet on how to do a DBS and church leaders passed this around via WhatsApp and on paper. My churches organised their believers in small groups of two families. The family heads took turns using the proposed passages to prepare a message for their little group. By early May people were encouraged to find that they could be fed from God's Word even outside church services. Other families heard about this and asked to receive the text messages too. Men without previous responsibilities in church were surprised that they were able to prepare Bible studies when encouraged and given a passage to study.

Many say that Covid-19 is here to stay. May Bible study in families and small groups also stay. May a new habit form and become part of family and church life and lead to much needed spiritual growth. 🙏

10 AUG • MONDAY

Pray that the new habit of studying God's Word at home, established in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, would continue to be valued. Pray this trend would spread further and further and become the 'new normal' for individuals, families and churches.

11 AUG • TUESDAY

Many churches in Mozambique are very hierarchical. To be the pastor is a powerful position. May the pastors have humble hearts and serve their congregations well, leading them to direct relationship with Jesus.

12 AUG • WEDNESDAY

A terrorist group in northern Mozambique, who claim affiliation to IS, have killed more than 300 people. Over 160,000 have fled to safer areas (number correct at the time of writing). Pray that efforts to stop this group would be successful.

13 AUG • THURSDAY

The largest political party in opposition has serious internal problems. One splinter group is using violence to force the government to review the peace agreement signed in 2019. Pray that internal issues can be resolved without risking the lives of innocent people.

14 AUG • FRIDAY

Cyclones Idai and Kenneth hit Mozambique over a year ago. The consequences of these are still part of everyday life for thousands of people.

Pray for those still living in refugee camps or temporary shelters instead of solid homes. There is a lot of work that is still needed to be done.

WEEKENDFOCUS

15-16 AUGUST

The last rainy season was reasonably good in northern and central Mozambique and many people were able to bring in a good harvest. As usual, some areas also had floods, destroying fields. Pray particularly for the Mossurize district, where we work, as after Idai many people lost their harvest the second year in a row. Famine is wide spread.

17 AUG • MONDAY

A consequence of global climate change means that northern and central Mozambique are expected to have abundant rains, including floods, while southern Mozambique will not have enough. The southern part of the country has had drought for three years now. Pray for the rainy season (starting in October) to also bring rains to the southern part of the country.

18 AUG • TUESDAY

The students of our two Bible schools, INTENA in Nampula and IBS in Beira, feel the additional financial strains that Covid-19 has brought. Many students

can't really afford to continue their studies. Pray that God would provide for all their needs, including their studies.

19 AUG • WEDNESDAY

The general financial recession and the drop in exchange rates means that many of our missionaries, particularly from Brazil and South Africa, do not have sufficient support anymore to continue their ministry. Pray for God's provision for them. If you would like to give to this fund, please contact Steve at donations.eu@aimint.org and quote the project reference **10-140**.

20 AUG • THURSDAY

AIM's legal status in Mozambique is reliant on the Unit there creating a new constitution and leadership structure. They are also reliant on the government recovering some documents they have lost. Please pray for wisdom and patience as they tackle the issues with different government entities.

21 AUG • FRIDAY

When AIM sent the first missionaries to Mozambique in the mid-1980s it was difficult, and few people thought the door would remain open for much longer than a few years. Praise God then that the door is still open for missionaries to serve in Mozambique. Pray that God would raise up more labourers for the harvest field.





22 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER
NORTH AFRICA



MAKING STRATEGIC CHANGES

God is building his church. At times, this has meant that AIM has had to change, but what has remained unchanged, and always will remain unchanged, is our desire to stay faithful, obedient and prayerful, so that God can continue to bring the increase.

Twenty years ago we realised that while the church in some areas of Africa was rapidly expanding there were still other parts of Africa with little or no church, in fact, with little or no focussed proclamation. There were entire countries across the north of Africa where people were being born, living and dying never having the opportunity to meet someone who loves Jesus. There were people who live their entire life without the chance to experience God's peace, grace and joy. It was obvious, some things needed to change...

Why were these northern areas of Africa so void of focused outreach? The answer was clear. These nations have Islamic governments that don't allow traditional missionaries. For 100 years AIM sent missionaries to model God's love through education, medicine, preaching and teaching. We were welcomed to Sub-Saharan nations with mission visas and were provided residency by the churches that were established there. As we celebrated a tradition of 100 years of mission that served much of Africa well, we recognised that to reach these northern areas, our methodology would need to change. The →



WORKING IN NORTH AFRICA

This area of Africa is known as 'creative access' because traditional missionary work is not possible. We don't share names of people or the places where they work to protect their safety, and the safety of those they minister among.

Over the last 20 years, AIM has placed hundreds of professionals across North Africa.



WEEKENDFOCUS

22-23 AUGUST

As well as many smaller people groups, there are four large unreached people groups who live right across the north of Africa. We have seen an openness across these groups, and heard reports of some choosing to follow Jesus. Pray that these people groups will turn to Jesus.

24 AUG • MONDAY

There are many assumptions in Muslim societies about what Christianity looks like. Pray for Christian entrepreneurs, living among them and sharing about Jesus, offering Muslims an opportunity to see and hear what the truth really is.

25 AUG • TUESDAY

There is a general assumption that younger people are best qualified to live among our Muslim friends, but there are many opportunities for retirees to live among and engage them with the love of Christ too. Pray for more people to serve in this way.

26 AUG • WEDNESDAY

Starting your own business is not the only way to live in North Africa. There are also some opportunities to join existing businesses or even to be sent by businesses to live and work there. Pray that God would call people to take up these roles.

27 AUG • THURSDAY

Post Covid-19, ministry could look different in a number of ways. Pray for workers who had to leave their locations due to health or timing, and those preparing to go, for wisdom to navigate these new changes.

28 AUG • FRIDAY

With the economies of both North Africa and our traditional mobilising regions devastated by the effects of Covid-19, new models may be needed to enable workers to serve in these areas. Pray that AIM would be able to adapt and change, as well as make the most of the increased opportunities this presents to serve and share truth with people who are in need.

✚ fact that we could not enter these spiritually needy countries on a mission or church visa did not exempt us from the Great Commission!

AIM leadership decided that to accomplish this new task more prayer and more awareness was needed. Around the globe dozens of new AIM prayer groups were established that prayed specifically for these peoples. Independent of AIM, there was a global prayer movement throughout the 90's praying for the people in the '10/40 Window'. There were millions of Christians praying specifically for these nations. God answered. This was evidenced within AIM, as several couples, independent of each other, approached the International Office in 2001 about going to work in a specific North African country. Another experienced family asked for permission to live and work in another region. AIM discovered that although these governments do not allow missionaries, Islamic communities welcome and appreciate people who emulate Jesus in their life and values. Jesus loving people are valued and granted residency through their professions in these countries. Our methodology needed to change but our message was the same: Jesus is our Saviour and Lord of our lives. 🙏

GRAPHIC & WEB DESIGN

Could you serve as a graphic or web designer in North Africa? Among other professional placements, we're looking for a designer to join a team in a creative access location. Professional skills will be used within the local community but we're looking for people who will also focus on creating connections where the gospel can be shared.

🖱 Visit: eu.aimint.org/designer-NA



SHARING RISK

A couple working in a creative access country share this story about local believers. Where they live, believing in Jesus is a tremendous risk.

THE WHISPERS OF THE SPIRIT

Fear is a horrible master. But wouldn't you be afraid if they took away your job, simply because they found a picture of a cross on your computer? And then told you that if you came back to work, they would send the militias to kill you? Or what if your family took you to the sheikh, who made small cuts in your skin, and then burned them to release the demons they were certain controlled you?

Yet the Spirit whispered to Sophia's soul that the words of Jesus are true. She tried to 'be Muslim' and adamantly denied following Jesus, yet she kept being drawn back to learn more of him. The online community of believers heard of her suffering, and would send her Scripture and pray for hours with her in the evenings when she experienced panic attacks and couldn't sleep.

Sophia just wanted to escape to be able to follow Jesus in peace, but it was in trying to leave that she met other local believers and learned she could follow Jesus here too. She began to read with them, hear the stories of others who suffered



too, pray aloud and be prayed for.

At home she was still afraid and would join her family in bowing down for their daily prayers five times a day, saying the Lord's prayer to herself over and over. She was certain she had no choice but to keep her faith secret.

Then one day, her younger sister was in tears and in despair, and Sophia said to herself, "Whatever happens, happens." Holding up the New Testament, she said to her, "This is the truth. This is life." The two of them met up again to talk about the gospel and the Spirit breathed her sister, Rhoda, to life.

THIS IS THE TRUTH

Rhoda felt the Holy Spirit come over her. She felt completely new and, in tears, she immediately began to pray to Jesus for the lives of her family. When she went home, she read voraciously, studied constantly, and would spend hours sharing with her sisters. One day when talking with her mum about the stories of Jesus, her mum said, "Your grandfather used to tell us these stories. Instead of arresting people for having the Bible, he just took the Bible from them and brought it home to read to us." Give thanks that families are slowly turning to Christ. 🌍

WEEKENDFOCUS

29-30 AUGUST

Covid-19 has reminded us, as followers of Jesus, of who is really in control. Whether it means stepping up and going or enabling others to go, pray that this pandemic will launch a new wave of Jesus lovers into the world, to finish the task of seeing, not only North Africans reached for Jesus, but the whole world.

31 AUG • MONDAY

There are many Sub-Saharan Africans working all across North Africa, many of whom are followers of Jesus. Pray that they would see this as an opportunity to both live for Jesus and tell their Muslim friends, neighbours and colleagues about Jesus.

1 SEPT • TUESDAY

While the number of North African Jesus followers may be limited, the Great Commission is a call for them too. From early in their walk with Jesus, pray that they too would be excited by the opportunity of being part of fulfilling this call from Jesus.

2 SEPT • WEDNESDAY

The administrative Leadership Team overseeing the work in North Africa is always fluid, but it is even more so at the moment. With a new executive leader taking over next year, as well as several other key positions being filled by new workers, please pray that these transitions will go smoothly.

3 SEPT • THURSDAY

Pray that fear would not rule among believers, and that God would give them the courage and boldness to tell their families about Jesus. Ask that God silence the lie that we can only follow Jesus in a safe place.

4 SEPT • FRIDAY

Pray that those who have been graciously given the gift of hearing the Word of God would believe it. And as people begin to believe it, pray that the seed of God's Word would take root downwards and bear fruit upwards in their lives.



5 - 18 SEPTEMBER
DR CONGO



108 YEARS IN DR CONGO

AIM ministry in DR Congo began in 1912, firstly among the Alur people group and then, by 1913, among two more peoples. It has not been without difficulty, but the church has grown because God has been faithful. He promises to build his church.

A GIANT FOR CHRIST

Ian Campbell shares one of his richest privileges of serving in DR Congo - to have known Pastor Matayo Odama.

He came through the fires of persecution of the Simba rebellion in the early 1960's. A slightly stooped, frail-looking man when I first met him in 1980, Pastor Matayo Odama was the main pastor for the churches in the area of DR Congo where we were then living. Initial impressions were that he was not an impressive man - balding with some white hair, slight, and no longer filling his clothes as once he did, he walked slowly and at times unsteadily as a man of advanced years.

Yet when he spoke in church council meetings, he did so with such wisdom and discernment! What was striking to me as a newly arrived missionary was the respect, appreciation and love that other leaders showed him. Issues that came up at these council meetings would often be resolved



through his insightful biblical grasp of the issues. His proposed solutions would often be proved to be wise in the later unfolding of the circumstances.

A PASSIONATE PRAYER

On occasion I had the privilege of sharing a room with him when overnighing at council meetings, I would be awakened – very early while it was still dark – by him praying in the next bed. Interceding passionately for the advance of the kingdom, his intimacy in prayer with the Lord gave testimony to his deep love for him and for his people.

He was unafraid to go against current opinion when convinced of biblical truth. At times in his earlier years, he was ostracised and rejected by many within the church for taking a stand against what he believed was wrong. He demonstrated rare courage and was prepared to enter into the sufferings of the Lord, choosing rejection when a strong value at the time was belonging to the group. Eventually the tide turned, and opponents acknowledged his lead.

He gave full expression of his ministry when preaching. He fed congregations with powerful proclamation of biblical truth, often with prophetic insights. Challenging Christians to follow hard after the Lord and inviting others to faith, he was truly God's gift to the church, thereby helping to prepare her for the challenges of the wars of 1990's and 2000's.

He was not without faults as he could be harsh, impatient and overly demanding. Yet though small in stature, he was nevertheless truly a giant. Unknown to the wider Christian world and with little schooling, this 'nobody' in the world's eyes was a true soldier of the Lord Jesus. 🙏

WEEKENDFOCUS

5-6 SEPTEMBER

In acknowledging 125 years of AIM ministry, give thanks to God for the gifts that he has given to the church in DR Congo through Christians such as Pastor Matayo, and the fruit of the Spirit's work – bringing the peoples of Africa to salvation.

7 SEPT • MONDAY

In large areas of DR Congo, Bibles are simply unavailable. Many pastors and congregation leaders, out of necessity, work without a Bible of their own. Pray in particular that Bangala Bibles would become available for distribution and purchase in the Bas-Uele and Haut-Uele provinces.

8 SEPT • TUESDAY

Pray for Congolese pastors, that they would gain a passion for discipling the younger generations. At present, young people are often neglected by their church and large numbers have abandoned fellowship.

9 SEPT • WEDNESDAY

Pray for Sunday School ministry. Most churches are not engaged in specific ministry to children and are unaware of how to even begin. Pray for those who are seeking to train large numbers of Sunday School teachers throughout the region.

10 SEPT • THURSDAY

There is a serious shortage of trained Congolese pastors. Pray that men would trust their Heavenly Father and answer his call to pastoral service. Pray that they would have a clear route to being involved in ministry.

11 SEPT • FRIDAY

Pray for peace and stability. Not a day goes by without there being news of another rebel attack somewhere in the north east corner of the DR Congo. Hundreds of thousands are displaced, many of whom are living under tarpaulin in refugee camps.



TRUE LEADERSHIP

Annemarie Boks shares how God is using faithful church leaders to build his church in DR Congo.

Reverend Lalima took over as church leader of CECA following the untimely death of Reverend Etsea. Soft spoken and caring, he took charge of a church in mourning. In 2004, during the General Assembly, a young pastor, Reverend Kokole, was chosen to follow him and Lalima became his guide and counsellor, just as Paul mentored Timothy. During the war in 1999, the Congolese town of Kisangani had been caught in the crossfire between Uganda and Rwanda. Kokole and his family were protected by God for future ministry, as bullets flew over the church and their house. Under Lalima's teaching, Reverend Kokole led and grew the church for 15 years. Since last year, Kokole has now become the counsellor of a new president, Agupio Amano and the baton of faithful, mature leadership continues.

All these leaders have their own stories to tell, but the one thing that characterises them is their servant leadership, and willingness to change. In all, they follow Jesus.

THE DEEPEST NEEDS

"My heart hurts to see how people are suffering without Jesus." Tom Desloges, AIM's Unit Leader in DR Congo shares his conversation with Congolese missionaries Justin and Clement, who had just returned from a stint in one of Congo's poorest and least developed regions.

Two months previous, they landed in Manonga, Bas-Uele to plant churches among the Barambu and Zande people, and disciple leaders in the few congregations found across that remote area. Now they've returned to the city of Bunia, Ituri, for a time of rest and reconnection with their families and sending churches. For Justin, having just completed some mission training led by his sending church, this was his first cross-cultural missions experience.

"It was just like in the book of Acts," he tells us. Called 'the Black Hole' by some, the region is known for its heavy spiritual oppression. People, even pastors, are nominally Christian but their lives are steeped in syncretism and ruled by witchcraft. But, he goes on to tell us about one village where, "They burned their fetishes. Mothers accepted Christ and cut the talisman off their children." →



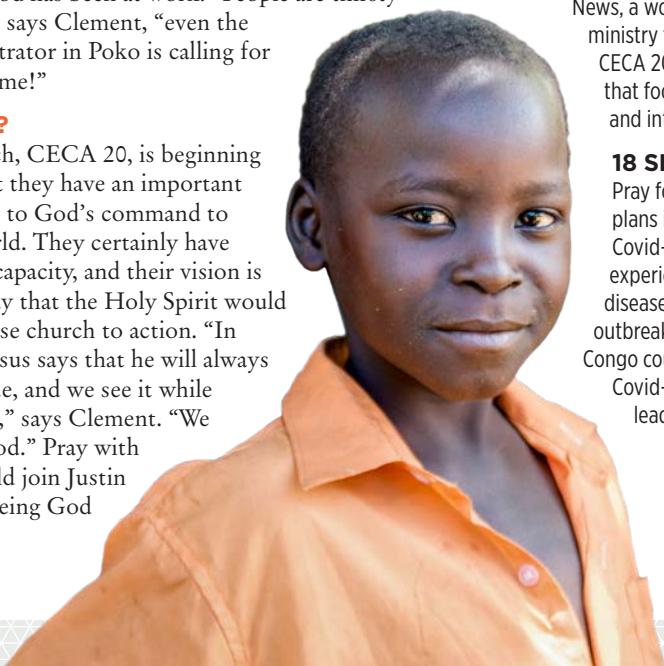
◀ “Whole families found peace and freedom,” adds Clement.

Over the course of eight weeks, almost 400 gave their lives to Christ. “We focused on preaching the assurance of salvation,” explains Justin. “People don’t know if they are saved. They believe they must work, or give offerings, or belong to the family of a pastor.” Our missionaries face a significant challenge: literacy rates are abysmal – people are unable to read the Bible, and there simply aren’t any trained church leaders. Who will take charge of these new believers? Justin and Clement told of one pastor who had walked 110 km with his family, young children included, carrying their household on their heads, so that he could attend Bible school. How can quality training be made more accessible?

For almost three hours I listen as the two Congolese missionaries share about the deep needs they saw, and the wondrous ways God has been at work. “People are thirsty to hear the word,” says Clement, “even the territorial administrator in Poko is calling for missionaries to come!”

WHO WILL GO?

Our partner church, CECA 20, is beginning to understand that they have an important role in responding to God’s command to go into all the world. They certainly have potential and the capacity, and their vision is expanding. We pray that the Holy Spirit would move his Congolese church to action. “In Matthew 28:20, Jesus says that he will always be with us. It’s true, and we see it while serving in mission,” says Clement. “We see the hand of God.” Pray with us that many would join Justin and Clement in seeing God at work. 🙏



WEEKENDFOCUS

12-13 SEPTEMBER

Pray for a new, Spirit-led mission movement within our partner church, CECA 20. Pray that we would see leadership enthusing local pastors with the call to go to all nations, and that we can walk alongside them on that journey.

14 SEPT • MONDAY

Pray that young people would catch the vision and gain a passion for missions. Pray that they would be able to access the necessary training and that many would obediently go wherever Christ might send them.

15 SEPT • TUESDAY

Pray that local church bodies would come to understand their responsibility to reach out to the lost and become actively engaged in cross-cultural evangelism.

16 SEPT • WEDNESDAY

Pray that there would be accessible theological training available throughout the region. Literacy levels are very low across the country. Pray for people willing to present materials in new ways, as well as to teach literacy skills.

17 SEPT • THURSDAY

Pray for the Women of the Good News, a women’s small group ministry that operates in each of CECA 20’s local churches, and that focuses on evangelism and intercessory prayer.

18 SEPT • FRIDAY

Pray for all of these plans in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst experienced in dealing with disease after quelling an Ebola outbreak, the resources in DR Congo could be overwhelmed by Covid-19. Pray for wisdom for leaders and God’s mercy.

19-30 SEPTEMBER
LESOTHO

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN OUR MIDST

John and Shan Barry moved to Lesotho as missionaries in 2004. Subsequently they were based in Johannesburg, overseeing the Southern Region office. Now, John is Africa Ministries Director for our International Office.

Before arriving to work in Lesotho, my family and I had been working in Mozambique. Mozambique was grappling with the impact of HIV and artists captured this struggle in murals in Nampula. The mural in the picture (see left) shows HIV/Aids as a dragon attacking the globe.

Lesotho actually had a much greater challenge and a much higher HIV prevalence at the time, and I expected a sense of fear, confusion and stigma. What I found, soon after my arrival to work with Scripture Union (SU), was SU Basotho colleagues wearing “HIV Positive” t-shirts. They were not declaring their HIV status, rather, they were declaring that it was possible to be proactive about HIV. The back of each t-shirt read: “In Christ there is no difference between positive and negative.” If I think back, this courage from Basotho believers was one sign that the kingdom of God was in our midst.

GOD AT WORK IN LESOTHO

We know what’s really important. What matters is not AIM, nor denominations, nor other institutions that will pass away. What matters is the Kingdom of God. We can’t pin it down – but we can see signs of its being in our midst. It’s my joy to share glimpses and to point to three small signs of the coming of the Kingdom of God among God’s people in Lesotho.



A second sign comes from Mokhotlong – a fairly large town in the mountains of Lesotho. Ntate Ntsimane is a remarkable pastor who has been an AIM partner for many years. He started a fruitful church in Mokhotlong in the 1990s when there was much opposition. After several years, others, seeing the growth of this church, bought plots of land on either side to start their own churches. It seemed that two pastors had plans to compete with the existing church. How might a pastor and congregation respond to that? Ntate Ntsimane shared the news, explained that what matters is not a denomination but the kingdom of God. He then led the church in raising funds to lay the foundations of the two competing church buildings. I think that is another sign of the coming of the kingdom of God in our midst.

In 2004 I welcomed a team of UK short term workers to Lesotho to help train and mentor school Bible study group leaders. Fairly new to Lesotho, I was surprised to have the national TV arrive unannounced for an interview for the evening news. I expected some gentle gratitude. Instead, the reporter's first question was: "The first missionaries arrived in Lesotho almost two hundred years ago. Why aren't Basotho missionaries going to other places that don't have the gospel?" I admitted it was an oddity.

However, this apparent 'oddity' is changing. Last year Basotho workers joined the Harvest Team to Mozambique (see photo above), run by the Growing Nations project in Lesotho. God is at work in the lives of the Basotho, another sign of God's kingdom coming that we rejoice in. 🙌

WEEKENDFOCUS

19-20 SEPTEMBER

Pray for the church leadership in Lesotho, that they will catch the vision for mission and start to look outwards and support those that are called to serve as missionaries.

21 SEPT • MONDAY

Over Easter, during the Covid-19 restrictions, there were really encouraging signs of churches working together across denominations in Lesotho. Praise God for this and pray that these relationships will continue to flourish to build God's kingdom.

22 SEPT • TUESDAY

In light of Covid-19, please pray for guidance and direction for the ministry to the shepherds who live in the mountains and for the Growing Nations (conservation agriculture) project in Lesotho.

23 SEPT • WEDNESDAY

Please pray for rest and spiritual refreshment for both Caleb and Tobias, missionaries working with the shepherd boys in the mountains of Lesotho, as they are both currently on Home Assignment.

24 SEPT • THURSDAY

Praise God for the shepherds that have come to know Christ over the past few years. Please pray for new members to be able to join Caleb, Tobias and Khothalo as they minister to the shepherds and start on a 'discipleship storyset' later in the year when they return from Home Assignment.

25 SEPT • FRIDAY

Pray that Growing Nations can continue to develop as a place to equip African missionaries through Farming Quest (an intensive course teaching Farming God's Way and Conservation Agriculture principles) and equip those going on short term teams.





A NEW AFRICAN MOVEMENT

Neo Moeti was brought up in a Christian household. After graduating from university, full time mission work was not on her mind. That was until one Sunday, when she was challenged by God, through a friend, to step out of her comfort zone. In September 2019 she joined a short term Harvest Team trip to a town on the northern Mozambique coast, a predominantly Islamic region.

I think that for me one of the biggest things that happened in terms of my faith and my relationship with God was how Scripture came alive, particularly where it talks about the harvest being plentiful but the labourers being few. It was moving and heart breaking, especially when we came to leave, because we saw such great need. It definitely stirred up the desire in my heart to keep praying for more labourers and to continue to intercede for more unreached people groups. I think it is easy to ignore these things, but there are so many people who need to experience the love of God. The only way that will happen is if we go to them.

We encountered challenges along the way, including language and cultural differences, but we also witnessed God working in amazing ways as we worked alongside the missionaries based there.



AIM IN LESOTHO

A big focus of AIM's work in Lesotho is exposing Christians to mission and helping them to follow God's calling on their lives.

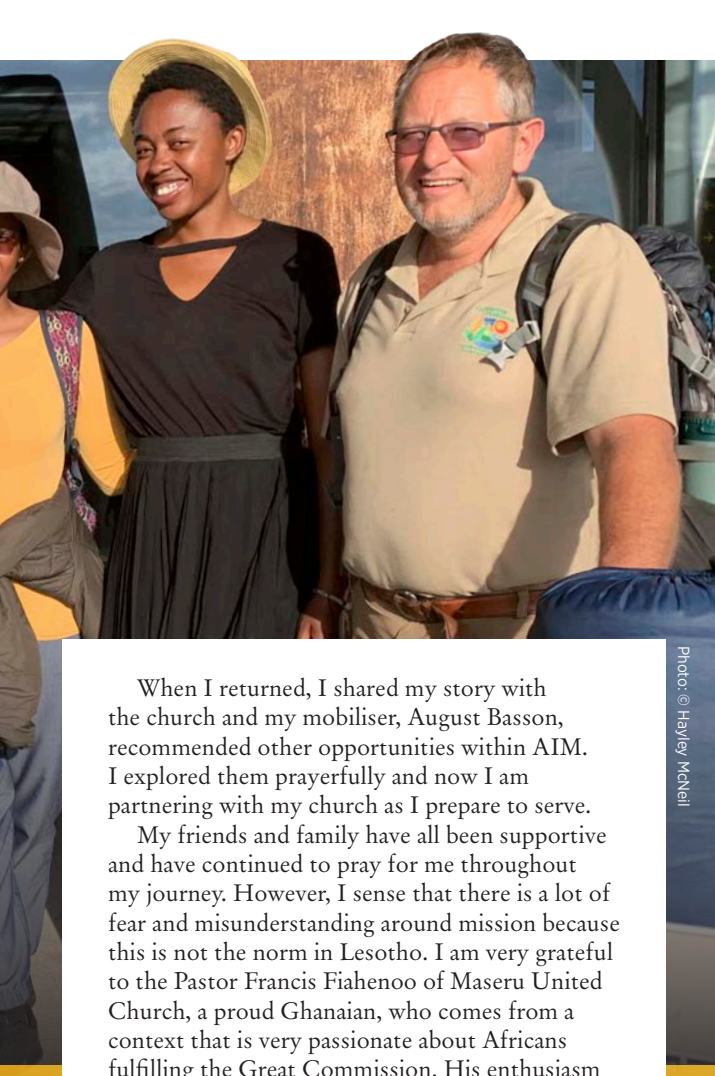


Photo: © Hayley McNeil

When I returned, I shared my story with the church and my mobiliser, August Basson, recommended other opportunities within AIM. I explored them prayerfully and now I am partnering with my church as I prepare to serve.

My friends and family have all been supportive and have continued to pray for me throughout my journey. However, I sense that there is a lot of fear and misunderstanding around mission because this is not the norm in Lesotho. I am very grateful to the Pastor Francis Fiaheno of Maseru United Church, a proud Ghanaian, who comes from a context that is very passionate about Africans fulfilling the Great Commission. His enthusiasm has encouraged the congregation to commit themselves financially to this mandate.

I have recently come across more Basotho and other African youth who have a strong call to mission upon their lives but are faced with the huge challenge of raising support. Many feel hopeless and alone. My prayer is for God's provision, patience, peace that surpasses all understanding, wisdom, joy in obedience and strength. Ultimately, we know that God provides for us according to his riches in glory and that nothing is impossible for him.

Following my experience on the Harvest Team, I've been granted a new opportunity to work as an Administrator in Kenya in the AIM Southern Region office. This is an exciting way for me to learn about what happens behind the scenes and also to share the skills that I've gathered over the years for the extension of God's kingdom. 🙌

WEEKENDFOCUS

26-27 SEPTEMBER

Praise God for a new generation of missionaries, like Neo, in Lesotho. Pray that God would give them courage and provide for them as they follow his calling upon their lives, and that God will raise up more people like them.

28 SEPT • MONDAY

Please pray for God to provide the resources for Growing Nations to be able to continue transforming lives in Lesotho and beyond. If you would like to give to Growing Nations, you can visit their website: www.growingnations.co.za/support-us.

29 SEPT • TUESDAY

Give thanks for the impact that short term Harvest Teams are having. Using farming skills, these teams seek to find connections with those they minister among by introducing people to conservation agriculture and discussing God's work in creation.

30 SEPT • WEDNESDAY

Pray for wisdom and clarity for Barry and Heather Mann as they continue to lead the team in Lesotho and work with Growing Nations remotely from the UK.

PRAY FOR NEO

Neo is currently doing a 'virtual support raising' training course coordinated by AIM's Cape Town office which is furthering her understanding of what it means to respond to God's call. We are praying that travel restrictions will be lifted to enable her to go to Kenya to take up her role in the Southern Region Office.

Pray for God to raise up a new generation of African missionaries in Lesotho, and that AIM will be able to support and encourage them as they follow God's calling on their lives.

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

Our celebrations will now take place online. Sign up to either stream this event or to receive a DVD through the post.



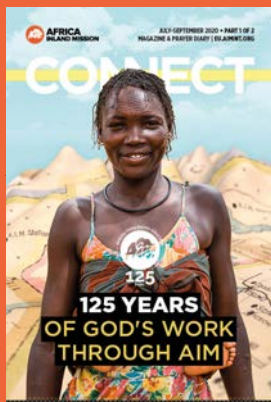
SIGN UP FOR FREE AT: [EU.AIMINT.ORG/125](https://eu.aimint.org/125)

COULD YOU GIVE?



Ministry and missionary endeavour in a locked down world has presented us with a new set of challenges, as well as new ways to reach unreached people groups with the gospel of Christ. Are you able to help us financially, to sustain our work and ministry?

COULD YOU GIVE?: [EU.AIMINT.ORG/GIVE](https://eu.aimint.org/GIVE)



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 125 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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