



**AFRICA  
INLAND MISSION**

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2019  
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# CONNECT

04

**WHEN  
HELPING HURTS**  
BY STEVE CORBETT  
& BRIAN FIKKERT

16

**HOW CAN WE REACH  
AFRICANS IN EUROPE?**

28

**WHY GO WITH  
A MISSION AGENCY?**





## WHY SHORT TERM?

**S**hort term help, long term impact. That's my experience of 'short term mission'. It would be difficult to do an accurate count of the number of short term helpers our team hosted during our last few years working in a creative access location. The business we ran afforded our visiting English speaking friends abundant opportunities to engage meaningfully with local people, several of whom were hungry for truth. Contacts begun on a short visit (a few days, a few weeks, a few months) continued via social media for months, even years afterwards. Some of those contacts eventually embraced Christ despite the inevitable opposition and difficulty that brought into their lives. But not only were local people touched by our visitors, our visitors too inevitably went away richer for the cross-cultural exposure they had and richer in their understanding of the part they could play in God's plan for the nations.

As the new AIM Europe Director, it seems fitting that my first opportunity to write the editorial for *Connect* is on the subject of short term mission. Together with my wife Jan, I have served through AIM in different roles and in different parts of Africa for the past 29 years. During this time I have seen short term workers play a significant part alongside career missionaries in forming the church of Jesus Christ among the peoples of Africa.

Read on for more examples of short term help, long term impact and how you can get involved...

*Dudley Pate*

Dudley Pate,  
European Director

Dudley Pate was appointed as European Director in September 2019. Please pray for him and Jan as he takes up this role.

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

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# INSIDE

## 04 WHEN HELPING HURTS

Does mission sometimes do more harm than good? How can we avoid those issues?

## 08 DOES SHORT TERM MISSION HAVE AN IMPACT?

PJ Holmertz explains the purpose behind our short term programme.

## 10 CONFIRMING MY CALL

Amos Kennedy shares how a year among the Gabbra has changed him.

## 12 CHANGED FOR THE LONG TERM

How can God work through a short term experience?

## 14 MISSION IN EUROPE

Talking to two summer team members.

## 16 CLOSER TO HOME

How can we reach Africans in Europe?

## 18 FILLING THE GAPS

The Linley family share about how short termers supported them.

## 20 DOING CHURCH

How can short termers support creative access workers?

## 22 THE HARVEST FIELD

Jack Rust shares his short term experiences in northern Kenya.

## 24 BEHIND THE SCENES

Get to know our Nottingham office.

## 26 DOING MISSION WELL

Paul & Helen Shepherd discuss how short term can help long termers.

## 28 WHY GO WITH A MISSION AGENCY?

What benefits do agencies offer?

## 30 OPPORTUNITIES

Could you get involved in 2020?

## 32 SHARING THE VISION

Seb Allwright discusses how Africans are getting involved in short term mission.

## 34 CAN I DO THIS?

Ian shares what he learnt on a short term trip to North Africa.



## ABOUT THE BOOK

With the economic and social disparity between the ‘haves’ and the ‘have-nots’ on the rise, how do we respond to the biblical mandate to care for the poor? And how can we do this in ways that do not harm either the materially poor or the materially non-poor, and without exacerbating the very problems that we are trying to solve?

*When Helping Hurts* helps us to understand what poverty is, and how we can begin to address it, avoiding common pitfalls.

# WHEN HELPING HURTS

*By Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert*

One of the major premises of this book is that until we embrace our mutual brokenness, our work with low-income people is likely to do far more harm than good. Research from around the world has found that shame—a ‘poverty of being’—is a major part of the brokenness that low-income people experience in their relationship with themselves. Instead of seeing themselves as being created in the image of God, low-income people often feel they are inferior to others. This can paralyze the poor from taking initiative and from seizing opportunities to improve their situation, thereby locking them into material poverty.

## POVERTY OF BEING

At the same time, the economically rich—including most reading this—also suffer from a poverty of being. In particular, development practitioner Jayakumar Christian argues that the



*“...Instead of seeing themselves as being created in the image of God, low-income people often feel they are inferior to others.”*

economically rich often have ‘god-complexes’, a subtle and unconscious sense of superiority in which they believe that they have achieved their wealth through their own efforts and that they have been anointed to decide what is best for low-income people, whom they view as inferior to themselves.<sup>1</sup>

Few of us are conscious of having a god-complex, which is part of the problem. We are

often deceived by Satan and by our sinful natures. For example, consider this: why do you want to help the poor? Really think about it. What truly motivates you? Do you really love poor people and want to serve them? Or do you have other motives? I confess to you that part of what motivates me to help the poor is my felt need to accomplish something worthwhile with my life, to be a person of significance, to feel like I have pursued a noble cause . . . to be a bit like God. It makes me feel good to use my training in economics to ‘save’ poor people. And in the process, I sometimes unintentionally reduce poor people to objects that I use to fulfil my own need to accomplish something. It is a very ugly truth, and it pains me to admit it, but ‘when I want to do good, evil is right there with me’ (Rom. 7:21). →



## HURTING THE POOR, AND OURSELVES

And now we have come to a very central point: one of the biggest problems in many poverty-alleviation efforts is that their design and implementation exacerbates the poverty of being of the economically rich—their god-complexes—and the poverty of being of the economically poor—their feelings of inferiority and shame. The way that we act toward the economically poor often communicates—albeit unintentionally—that we are superior and they are inferior. In the process we hurt the poor and ourselves. And here is the clincher: this dynamic is likely to be particularly strong whenever middle-to-upper-class, Western Christians try to help the poor, given these Christians' tendency toward a Western, materialistic perspective of the nature of poverty.

This point can be illustrated with the story of Creekside Community Church<sup>2</sup>, a predominantly Caucasian congregation made up of young urban professionals in the downtown area of an American city. Being in the Christmas spirit, Creekside Community Church decided to reach out to the African-American residents of a nearby housing project, which was characterized by high

rates of unemployment, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and teenage pregnancy. A number of the members of Creekside expressed some disdain for the project residents, and all of the members were fearful of venturing inside. But Pastor Johnson insisted that Jesus cared for the residents of this housing project and that Christmas was the perfect time to show his compassion.

## WHAT IS POVERTY?

But what could they do to help? Believing that poverty is primarily a lack of material resources, the members of Creekside Community Church decided to address this poverty by buying Christmas presents for the children in the housing project. Church members went door to door, singing Christmas carols and delivering wrapped toys to the children in each apartment. Although it was awkward at first, the members of Creekside were moved by the big smiles on the children's faces and were encouraged by the warm reception of the mothers. In fact, the congregation felt so good about the joy they had brought that they decided to expand this ministry, delivering baskets of candy at Easter and turkeys at Thanksgiving.

Unfortunately, after several years, Pastor Johnson noticed that he was struggling to find enough volunteers to deliver the gifts to the housing project. At the congregational meeting, he asked the members why their enthusiasm was waning, but it was difficult to get a clear answer. Finally, one member spoke up: “Pastor, we are tired of trying to help these people out. We have been bringing them things for several years now, but their situation never improves. They just sit there in the same situation year in and year out. Have you ever noticed that there are no men in the apartments when we deliver the toys? The residents are all unwed mothers who just keep having babies in order to collect bigger and bigger welfare checks. They don’t deserve our help.”

### EXACERBATING POVERTY

In reality, there was a different reason that there were few men in the apartments when the toys were delivered. Oftentimes, when the fathers of the children heard the Christmas carols outside their front doors and saw the presents for their kids through the peepholes, they were embarrassed and ran out the back doors of their apartments. For a host of reasons, low-income African-American males sometimes struggle to find and keep jobs. This often contributes to a deep sense of shame and inadequacy, both of which make it even more difficult to apply for jobs. The last thing these fathers needed was a group of middle-to-upper-class Caucasians providing Christmas presents for their children, presents that they themselves could not afford to buy. In trying to alleviate material poverty through the giving of these presents, Creekside Community Church increased these fathers’ poverty of being. Ironically, this likely made the fathers even less able to apply for a job, thereby exacerbating the very material poverty that Creekside was trying to solve!

In addition to hurting the residents of the housing project, the members of Creekside Community Church hurt themselves. At first the members developed a subtle sense of pride that they were helping the project residents through their acts of kindness. Later, when they observed the residents’ failure to improve their situations, the members’ disdain for them increased. What is often called ‘compassion fatigue’ then set in as the members became less willing to help the low-income residents. As a result, the poverty of being increased for the church members. Furthermore, the poverty of community increased for everyone

involved, as the gulf between the church members and the housing project residents actually increased as a result of this project.

*“It requires Western Christians to understand our brokenness and to embrace the message of the cross in deep and profound ways...”*

Our efforts to help the poor can hurt both them and ourselves. In fact, as this story illustrates, very often the Western church finds itself locked into the following equation:

Material Definition of Poverty	+	God- complexes of Materially Non-Poor.	+	Feelings of Inferiority of Materially Poor.	=	Harm to Both Materially Poor and Non-Poor.
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### HOW CAN WE HELP?

What can be done to break out of this equation? Changing the first term in this equation requires a revised understanding of the nature of poverty. Western Christians need to overcome the materialism of Western culture and see poverty in more relational terms. Changing the second term in this equation requires ongoing repentance. It requires Western Christians to understand our brokenness and to embrace the message of the cross in deep and profound ways, saying to ourselves every day: “I am not okay; and you are not okay; but Jesus can fix us both.” And as we do this, God can use us to change the third term in this equation. By showing low-income people through our words, our actions, and most importantly our ears that they are people with unique gifts and abilities, we can be part of helping them to recover their sense of dignity, even as we recover from our sense of pride. 🙏

1. Jayakumar Christian, *Powerlessness of the Poor*.
2. This is not a real church, but is based on one or more true events.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

You can find additional resources to complement *When Helping Hurts* to help you to dig deeper into these complex issues at:

[www.whenhelpinghurts.org](http://www.whenhelpinghurts.org)



1-4 OCTOBER  
SHORT TERM



## MEET PJ

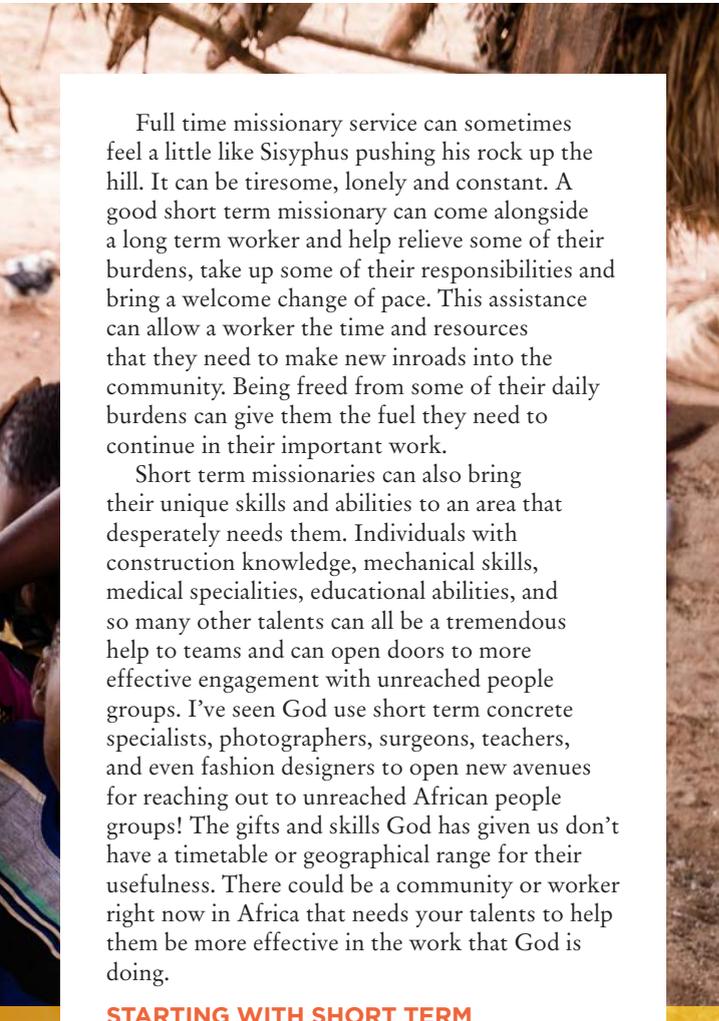
PJ Holmertz is AIM's International Short Term Programme Director, based in Nairobi, Kenya, with his wife Emily and their two children. PJ is responsible for AIM's strategic thinking and planning of short term mission. He is also involved in coordinating the practical arrangements to ensure that short termers are welcomed and orientated when they arrive in Africa.

## DOES SHORT TERM MISSION HAVE AN IMPACT?

One of the strongest determining factors in the effectiveness of mission is time. Relationships, language, and culture learning all take time. The longer a missionary is in one location the better they are able to share the gospel in a way that is meaningful and accurate. The longer a missionary is involved in a community the more effectively they can demonstrate the care of Christ to that community.

### SO HOW CAN SHORT TERM SERVICE BE HELPFUL?

I believe that there are two areas where short term missions are critical for the work of mission. First, short termers help by supporting the ongoing work. Second, short termers bring necessary and unique skills to fill needs on the field.



Full time missionary service can sometimes feel a little like Sisyphus pushing his rock up the hill. It can be tiresome, lonely and constant. A good short term missionary can come alongside a long term worker and help relieve some of their burdens, take up some of their responsibilities and bring a welcome change of pace. This assistance can allow a worker the time and resources that they need to make new inroads into the community. Being freed from some of their daily burdens can give them the fuel they need to continue in their important work.

Short term missionaries can also bring their unique skills and abilities to an area that desperately needs them. Individuals with construction knowledge, mechanical skills, medical specialties, educational abilities, and so many other talents can all be a tremendous help to teams and can open doors to more effective engagement with unreached people groups. I've seen God use short term concrete specialists, photographers, surgeons, teachers, and even fashion designers to open new avenues for reaching out to unreached African people groups! The gifts and skills God has given us don't have a timetable or geographical range for their usefulness. There could be a community or worker right now in Africa that needs your talents to help them be more effective in the work that God is doing.

### **STARTING WITH SHORT TERM**

Still wondering how God can use a short term worker on the mission field? For over 120 years Africa Inland Mission has boldly proclaimed the gospel of Jesus Christ across the continent of Africa. Millions of souls have heard the good news as a result of the faithful work of dedicated AIM missionaries working together. What if I told you the whole thing started with a short term missionary? Peter Cameron Scott, the founder of AIM, didn't plan to be a short term missionary, but his health only allowed him 18 months of service in Africa. God was able to take that humble offering and multiply its impact infinitely. Through the tireless and ongoing efforts of the thousands of workers that followed, God used Scott's life to begin a movement. We must never underestimate God, who can use our smallest gifts to build his kingdom. 🙏

### **1 OCT • TUESDAY**

We've recently started advertising opportunities for people to join our 2020 short term summer teams. Pray that over the next few months God would bring the right people to serve in the right places.

### **2 OCT • WEDNESDAY**

Pray for short termers who are currently serving in a range of locations across Africa. Pray that they would be a good support to the long termers they are serving with, and that they will be able to use their gifts and skills effectively.

### **3 OCT • THURSDAY**

The constantly changing immigration situation across Africa can make assigning short termers to opportunities more complex. Pray for staff in various offices across Africa and in sending locations who work through these issues. Give thanks that ultimately God is sovereign and will work out his purposes.

### **4 OCT • FRIDAY**

As AIM works more closely with the African church, pray for new opportunities to use our short term programme to train and mobilise Africans. Give thanks for those Africans who have served and reported back to their local churches about the impact that short term mission can have for the gospel.





**TESTIMONY**  
**AMOS' STORY**



# CONFIRMING MY CALL

Amos Kennedy grew up in Kenya as his parents were missionaries with the Presbyterian Church of Ireland for 18 years. They moved back to Ireland when he was 12. After finishing University in September 2018, Amos decided to go to Dukana in northern Kenya for a year, to serve the Gabbra.

## THE FRUIT OF MINISTRY

In the last year, I've been teaching Christian Religious Education (CRE), English and History at the local boys' primary and high school. It's been a busy ministry and a really good way to engage with young men and build relationships, sharing gospel and helping them to really understand it. Particularly in the CRE classes, I've been asking whether they're listening to the information to pass their exams, or whether they're considering it in their hearts and minds. At the start of the year I was kind of sceptical about whether the guys understood me, and whether I was engaging them. No one in the high school was an evangelical church attender at all. But yesterday we had 28 of my students in church, and we've consistently seen that for the last month or two. It's been a real gift to see fruit from that ministry. As I leave, I pray that these young men would keep coming to church and hearing God's word, hungering after it, and being disciplined alongside it.

## THINKING ABOUT MISSION

This year has continued to shape my idea of mission work. I came with two main ministries in mind, to teach at the local school and to participate in some outreach work in the surrounding villages with a local evangelist. But I've realised that you don't just do one thing, you have to get involved in the whole of life. I've been thrown in at the deep end, which has been good for me to learn. The other day I was welding frames for windows in a new house and I've just been bleeding a clutch on a vehicle. Things like that I wouldn't have realised were a part of mission work before. I've seen that mission is about getting alongside people and loving them where they are. Showing Christ to them and showing them the gospel, taking the opportunities that you get, understanding that it's a slow process. It's about sowing seeds and keeping talking.

## RESISTANCE BECOMING EAGERNESS

The first AIM missionaries in this area, Eddie and Rachel Andersen, initially lived in a location slightly south of here, still in Gabbra territory. Through their ministry there, and now in Dukana, it took 16 years for the first Gabbra believer to confess Christ. The turnaround they have seen recently has been amazing as people are open and want to hear about Jesus. This eagerness has meant that as well as teaching I've been involved in outreach into villages surrounding the missionary compound. Since Christmas we've been going out to the villages 3-4 times a week doing outreach with one of the local evangelists.

*A man in the congregation put his hand up straight away and said, "We know that God loves us because he sent his son to die on the cross for us."*

## HOW DO WE KNOW GOD LOVES US?

One of my favourite stories from the year was when we went to a village called Kubi Adi, which in Gabbra means White Hill. When I arrived in Dukana the evangelist had been visiting Kubi Adi for a couple of months already. When I went with him I asked one of the Elders whether he had heard the name of Jesus before the evangelist had visited them. He said no, but then he went on to tell me about Jesus, that he took nails in his hands, had a sword in his side and wore the crown of thorns for his sake. He believed that Jesus died on the cross for him.

Another week in church, a similar thing happened when one of the local men who works with Eddie on the compound was preaching. He asked the congregation, "How do we know that God loves us?" A man in the congregation put his hand up straight away and said in response, "We know that God loves us because he sent his son to die on the cross for us." 🙏

## AMOS

Pray for Amos as he returns to Ireland from Dukana and starts studying for a PGCE.





5-11 OCTOBER  
**CREATIVE ACCESS**



**7 OCT • MONDAY**

Many current long term members first joined AIM as short termers. Give thanks for the way that God worked in their lives and revealed to them his plan for the nations through what they saw and learnt on their short term mission trips.

**8 OCT • TUESDAY**

Pray for the short term coordinators in each of the regions of Africa that we work in, and those organising short term trips among Africans in Europe. Pray that the programmes they organise will be catalysts for short termers to engage more with mission and to be advocates in their home churches.

**9 OCT • WEDNESDAY**

There are many opportunities to serve in North Africa, especially for British short termers who have shorter journey times and lower costs. Pray that short termers with a heart for reaching Muslims would apply and support long termers who are often short of Christian fellowship.



## CHANGED FOR THE LONG TERM

Timothy currently serves in North Africa, building contacts and friendships in his community and sharing the gospel of Christ as often as possible.

“I went to Bible college, but not to study theology; I studied music and set up a Christian band. College didn’t last long though. I dropped out as the band became more successful. We were riding high, even getting gospel music awards. Then we played at a huge youth conference and the main speaker turned to everyone and said “What are you holding on to? What are you not giving up for God?” I knew. My heart whispered to my head ‘the band’.

I said to the other band members that I couldn’t carry on. Lots of ideas were rattling around my head, including thoughts about whether I was called to mission. Then I found AIM and their short term opportunities. “Great”, I thought “I can do that for a year, do my Christian deed, and tick that off my list”. So I signed up to work with a construction team, building houses for new Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) teams. It was on this short term team that I encountered Islam, and Christians who had grown up as Muslims. It opened my eyes. I was invited to attend an AIM conference and the information we were given compelled me to think more about what I was going to do with the rest of my life. So I went back to Bible school, finished my degree, and then signed up for a TIMO team. I knew that God was calling me to serve him, and to share the gospel long term.”

Pray that more church leaders in the UK would challenge young people to consider mission. 🙏

### 10 OCT • THURSDAY

Pray for teachers who would be willing to serve in North Africa, either to help missionaries with homeschooling or to teach locals English. Teaching opportunities can run for a few months all the way up to long term service. Pray for those whom God is calling to listen to his voice.

### 11 OCT • FRIDAY

To serve effectively in North Africa, many workers set up businesses to help them connect with the local community and explain their presence. Pray for short termers with professional and entrepreneurial skills to be willing to support missionaries in these endeavours, if only for a few months.

### PRAY FOR NORTH AFRICA

195 million people live in North Africa, yet less than 1% know Christ. To help you pray, you can download a prayer sheet from:



[eu.aimint.org/praynorthafrica](http://eu.aimint.org/praynorthafrica)



12-18 OCTOBER  
**OUTREACH & EVANGELISM**



## SUMMER TEAMS

What's it like to be part of a short term team? We asked two short termers about their experience of serving on a summer team seeking to share the gospel with Africans living in Malta.

*\*Joel & Heidi's names have been changed for security reasons.*

## MISSION IN EUROPE

### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO DO A SHORT TERM TRIP?

**Joel:** Coming to Europe to work among Africans has been a lot about testing God's call on my life. I also wanted to see what was happening with migrants, and how God is working his purposes out in this move of people that he is busy with. How can the church give back to these moving people in this Westernised context?

**Heidi:** I came on this short term trip to learn about sharing the gospel with Muslims, as at home I work with a lot of Muslims. Here I can learn from the team leaders who are used to sharing the gospel in this context. I have a lot to learn, but I know I have to go and apply that in my life.

### WHAT HAVE BEEN THE BEST BITS ABOUT BEING ON THIS TEAM?

**Joel:** Growing up, everyone suggests that a man should pursue a career that makes you financially

## WEEKEND FOCUS

12-13 OCTOBER

Give thanks that short termers get to learn the value of team life and see the body of Christ in action through their ministries. Pray they would be able to take all they learn back to their home churches so that more people would catch the vision of being involved in mission together.

independent and enables you support your family. But part of coming on a short term trip is support raising, admitting you can't do it on your own, and financially giving to mission. It is amazing to see people partnering in support and prayer, reinforcing that Jesus is who he says he is, he is the provider.

It's encouraging to meet different people too. To see people coming from different corners of the earth with different gifts and stories that converge into what Jesus has done, and then being poured out into different ministries. To meet people with experience in ministry and see their godliness, as well as families who have raised kids on the mission field, champions of the faith who admit to mistakes and who are vulnerable.

**Heidi:** Conversations here make me so excited about what God is doing. I was a bit afraid to start talking to people, but watching teammates doing it, and then talking to people myself, is so exciting; getting to share joy with people who haven't heard it before. We just had a very natural conversation with a guy who was open to the gospel. As soon as he realised that we weren't officials, and just there to talk, he wanted to know more about us, and ask questions. We planted seeds of the gospel and he actually listened to us. He was struggling with a lot of fear and uncertainty and didn't understand forgiveness. He's waiting to hear about and experience faith.

### WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT?

**Joel:** You have to intentionally look for opportunities in your life to share the gospel. This is not something that's just for a two week trip. You're not sometimes on mission and sometimes not.

**Heidi:** I work in a job where everything is about numbers and figures, but in life, everything is about relationships. 🙏

### 14 OCT • MONDAY

Pray that short termers would grow in humility and love as they serve in teams. Pray they would put aside Western expectations of success and results as they minister for God's glory, to see his kingdom grow.

### 15 OCT • TUESDAY

Pray that short termers would take home with them all they learn about evangelism. Pray their desire to share the gospel with people wouldn't be limited to Africa, but would permeate their whole lives.

### 16 OCT • WEDNESDAY

To serve overseas, short termers have to raise funds. Pray that this process of support raising will give them an understanding of the needs of longer term missionaries and encourage them to be involved in raising prayer and financial support for the missionaries they work alongside.

### 17 OCT • THURSDAY

Pray for people considering whether they could be part of a short term team in Europe or in Africa. There is no perfect time to go, and there are always things to learn. Pray that people will go in the knowledge that God will work through their willingness, not necessarily through their skills.

### 18 OCT • FRIDAY

Pray for Joel and Heidi as they consider what God is calling them to for the future. Pray that they would be brave and open to God's leading as they consider counter-cultural options. Pray that they would be able to explain their experiences clearly to non-Christian friends and family.



## CLOSER TO HOME

In July 2019, Luke & Jenny Herrin, AIM's International Director and his wife, went on an AIM summer team in Catania, Sicily.

**T**he migrants we met were all from West Africa. The Senegalese are street vendors, have residency papers, and have been there for years. The Gambians are mostly young men without papers and are very connected to Jamaican Reggae culture. There are a smattering of others from Mali, Guinea, Nigeria, and Ivory Coast. Some have horrific migration stories; some came on aeroplanes. Some live on the streets; some in apartments.

Some have found stable places in society; some sell drugs. But with the exception of the Nigerians, everyone we met was Muslim.

Because we speak French, we found natural connections. In general, we asked about their story, told some of our story, and asked if they wanted to hear God's story. For those who were interested, we followed up with Bible studies. Otherwise, we prayed for them and offered a brochure or gospel. At the end of our 10 days, we connected the interested ones with long term missionaries.

This kind of outreach is difficult. The days were hot and long, and many migrants were not open to the gospel. We planted many seeds, watered others, prayed a lot, and trust a harvest will come. 🙏

## 21 OCT • MONDAY

Short termers on summer teams shared the gospel with hundreds of African Muslim migrants in Italy, Malta, Spain, and Belgium this year. Pray God's Word would take root in the hearts of these dear people, and that many would come to faith in Jesus.

## 22 OCT • TUESDAY

During the summer teams, several migrants did make decisions to follow Jesus. Pray that they would stay connected with the Lord Jesus and with his people, and boldly share their new faith with others.

## 23 OCT • WEDNESDAY

Pray for AIM missionaries who are staying on in Malta, Spain, France and Belgium, that they would speak the gospel clearly and wisely. Pray for people to join a new Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) team among African diaspora in Belgium.

## 24 OCT • THURSDAY

Pray for our church partners in these same countries, especially Tharsis Betel in Jerez Spain and the Evangelical Baptist Church in Malta. Pray for their outreach to African migrants as well as to the local population there.

## 25 OCT • FRIDAY

Ask that the Lord would stir churches in France, Belgium, and Italy to love, serve, and welcome African migrants. There are political and economic issues and vast cultural differences between African Muslim migrants and European Christians. The gospel and the love of Christ can bridge them all.

## WEEKENDFOCUS

26-27 OCTOBER

For many migrants recently arrived in the UK, one of the first encounters that they have with a Christian could be at an English language course. Give thanks for the many believers who are helping to provide language teaching. Pray that these lessons will lead to opportunities for sharing the gospel.

## 28 OCT • MONDAY

Around a third of refugees and asylum seekers who arrive in the UK are from the African continent. For a significant number of them the relief of arriving in a safe country is tempered by the fact that they have left close family members behind. Pray for those who are hurting because they are separated from their family.

## 29 OCT • TUESDAY

Many UK churches have traditionally seen work among those unreached with the gospel as an activity which happens overseas. Pray that as well as supporting overseas work they will focus too on the many people from unreached people groups who have now made their home in the UK.

## 30 OCT • WEDNESDAY

A significant number of the African diaspora who are living in the UK are either from an unreached people group or they have come from countries where there is little or no gospel proclamation. Many are shocked at the secular aspects of UK culture. Pray that this will not distract them from discovering gospel truths.

## 31 OCT • THURSDAY

Around 40,000 students from African countries are currently studying in the UK. Pray that the Christians among them will find welcoming churches here. For those who are not believers, pray that God will bring Christians into their lives and that they will have the opportunity to hear the gospel.

## 1 NOV • FRIDAY

Short term summer teams are a powerful tool for reaching migrants but local Christians, reaching out in practical ways, making friends and sharing the love of Christ would be even more effective. Pray that Christians in the UK and Europe would be burdened with a desire to reach the lost on their doorstep.

## THE PREMIER LEAGUE

People from the African continent come to the UK for a number of reasons, including to play football. 229 players from 28 different African nations have played in the Premier League since it was founded in 1992.



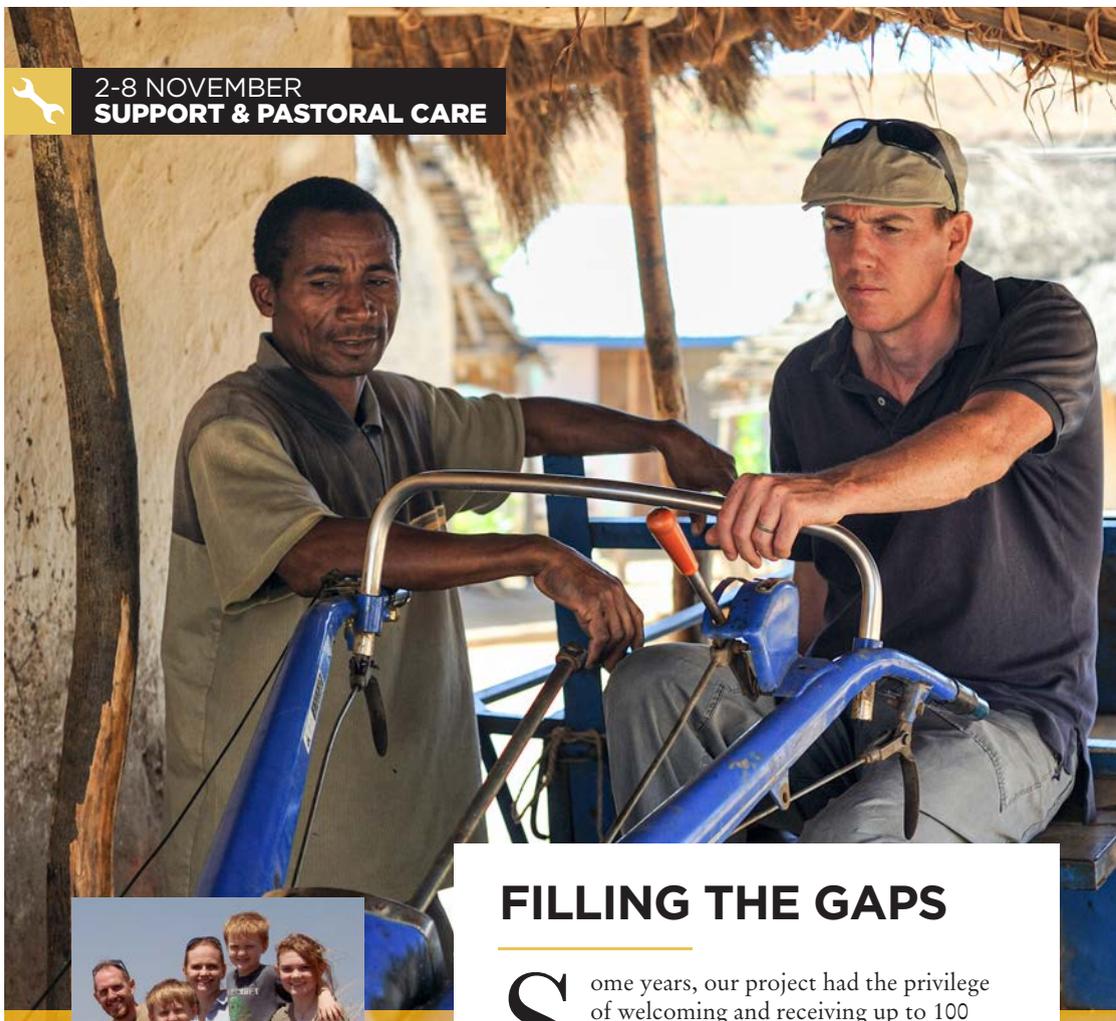
## HOW MANY LANGUAGES?

When you went to school, how often did you hear your friends speaking a language that was not English? For that at school now things may be a little different. There are now around 300 different languages spoken in the homes of London's pupils.

## THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

The worldwide African diaspora numbers over 100 million. In Europe, France is the country with the highest population of people of African origin, around 5,500,000, or 8% of the population.





## FILLING THE GAPS

Some years, our project had the privilege of welcoming and receiving up to 100 visitors and short termers; no easy feat considering our remote location, requiring either an internal flight with MAF or Helimission, or a bush-taxi journey of at least 22 hours. Despite the logistics of getting people to us, our experience of short termers was very positive! God brought many amazing and gifted people with all types of skills at the right time. We've welcomed short term accountants, telephone engineers, Bible teachers, builders, teachers, multi-media experts, electricians, musicians, as well as many medical professionals. Some have come to fulfil a particular role at a particular time whereas others, such as medical and nursing students, come for work experience and learning. However, roles on the mission field are rarely fixed and there is a great need for flexibility. The role someone came to fulfil might not be the main reason God brought them there at that time.

### THE LINLEYS

Over the last ten years Matt and Katy Linley and their children have been working in Mandritsara, northern Madagascar, on a project seeking to plant and strengthen churches among the unreached Tsimihety people group through a hospital, school, and radio station.

## PRACTICAL HELP

We have really appreciated short termers' practical help, whether to fulfil a particular need or to bring out Land Rover spares, parcels, or bacon from home! We have been astonished at God's timing and we've been reminded of his care for us in unexpected ways. When a young guy arrived as an 'extra' with a team from Belgium, he asked us if there was anything he could do to help. It turns out he was a Bobcat driver back home and so he made a sports pitch using a Bobcat which also 'happened' to be there at the time! Or the accountant who arrived just days after a financial crisis erupted, something we hadn't anticipated during his 9-month application process.

## BOOSTING MORALE

Sometimes we were tired at the thought of showing more people round and teaching them how to buy food and cook without getting ill, but the reality was usually energy-giving rather than energy-zapping. It was a great encouragement to us as a family to meet new people, to re-tell our story and be reminded of why we were there. Short termers often provided friendship and encouragement – we are still in touch with many now. Some support us or the project in prayer and/or financially as a result of their visit. We are reminded of short termers who cooked us a special meal to enjoy while they looked after our children. Many have been willing to teach our children sport early in the morning before work, or quietly read and chat with them. Many would get involved in family activities - what great mentors our children have had over the years.

## SPIRITUAL INPUT

We have been blessed by the ministry of many wise and loving short termers who have led Bible studies, prayed, spoken into a situation or have modelled keeping quiet in other circumstances. Chats throughout and towards the end of their stay would provide time for debrief and feedback. It was important to hear how God had spoken to them during their time, to hear what they'd learnt and to learn from them. These times remind us of God's calling on our lives, his faithfulness, and help to prevent cynicism. One of the greatest privileges has been discipling many short termers and helping some along the way to longer term service. 🙏

## WEEKENDFOCUS

### 2-3 NOVEMBER

Give thanks for the Good News Project in Mandritsara, northern Madagascar. Pray that it would continue to be a source of light and hope to the Tsimihety people and that the church would continue to grow and strengthen.

### 4 NOV • MONDAY

Praise God for the many short termers who have been called to Mandritsara over the years, for their positive impact on the project, and the long termers there, including the Linley family. Pray for more people to be raised up in short (and long) term service in Mandritsara, both from within Madagascar and from overseas.

### 5 NOV • TUESDAY

Pray for the vision of AIM Madagascar to encourage and mobilise Malagasy missionaries. Pray for lasting fruit from AIM short term programmes in Madagascar, for example, the recent FUEL team in Nosy Be, and the development of Nosy Be as a missionary training centre.

### 6 NOV • WEDNESDAY

Give thanks for Rosina Ferdinand in her leadership of the AIM Madagascar unit. Pray for her in her discussions with church leaders and other groups in working towards increasing understanding of mission in Madagascar. Pray for her to have the strength she needs each day.

### 7 NOV • THURSDAY

For those serving longer term as part of the AIM Madagascar unit, often in remote and isolated situations, please pray that they would know the comfort of the Lord's presence with them. Pray that God will provide others to serve alongside them.

### 8 NOV • FRIDAY

Pray that God would inspire those undertaking short term placements with a vision for long term service to the ends of the earth.



## **THE GILMORES**

As a family, and along with our church, we have been keen supporters of Ruby and Rex since they began their overseas work - work which has now taken them to North Africa. It was therefore a very easy decision for us to put our names forward to spend a week with them.

### **11 NOV • MONDAY**

In many areas of North Africa 'church' has to be different to what we're used to. Whilst many countries technically allow religious freedom, in reality this is limited to foreigners. Local believers are often prohibited from meeting together. Pray for people who are coming to faith in these contexts.

### **12 NOV • TUESDAY**

Pray that North African believers wouldn't feel isolated in the faith but that they would find culturally appropriate and logistically possible ways of meeting with other Christians in their area. Give thanks for the role that technology plays in allowing conversations and connections to happen.



## DOING CHURCH

Alan and Elizabeth Gilmore recently joined a team visiting Rex, Ruby\* and their children in North Africa.

“**O**ur team of six were seeking to learn more about North Africa generally as well as Rex & Ruby’s situation and its challenges. We were seeking to encourage them in their work and to help them, albeit in a very limited way due to language constraints, in the work that they are doing. It was good to meet together as a group for an orientation day before going to North Africa as this provided us with a greater understanding of the country and culture, how to avoid potential issues and also to pray together.

There we had the opportunity to spend time each day studying God’s Word and praying together. We went on prayer walks around the town, asking God to reveal himself to the people there and bring many into his kingdom. These walks really brought home to us the very isolated situation which Rex, Ruby and their children have to face as a family, how resilient they have been, and how God has helped and supported them throughout this time. We so often take for granted the blessings of fellowship together in a local church – a situation that they cannot currently enjoy, and we were reminded how important it is to pray for them and keep in regular contact and how worthwhile it was to make this trip to encourage them.

Having returned home after a very positive experience on the trip, we will now be able to share our experiences with our fellow church members. Please join us in praying diligently for Rex and Ruby and their children and for other workers in North Africa. 🙏

*\*Names changed for security reasons.*

### 13 NOV • WEDNESDAY

Pray for Rex, Ruby and their children as they navigate the difficulties of seeking to proclaim Christ to all they meet but not attracting too much attention from the local authorities (especially as that is likely to dissuade curious friends from asking questions). Pray for godly wisdom and discernment.

### 14 NOV • THURSDAY

Pray for Rex and Ruby’s children, growing up in an environment where language and cultural barriers make it difficult for them to form friendships with local children. Pray that visitors from home, visits to nearby missionary families and video calls would help them not to feel lonely or isolated.

### 15 NOV • FRIDAY

Give thanks that a short term team was able to go out and visit Rex and Ruby, and for the encouragement that was to both team members and missionaries alike. Pray that the seeds sown and prayers of the team would bear fruit and further encourage Rex and Ruby in their ministry.



16-22 NOVEMBER  
**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**



## **JACK RUST**

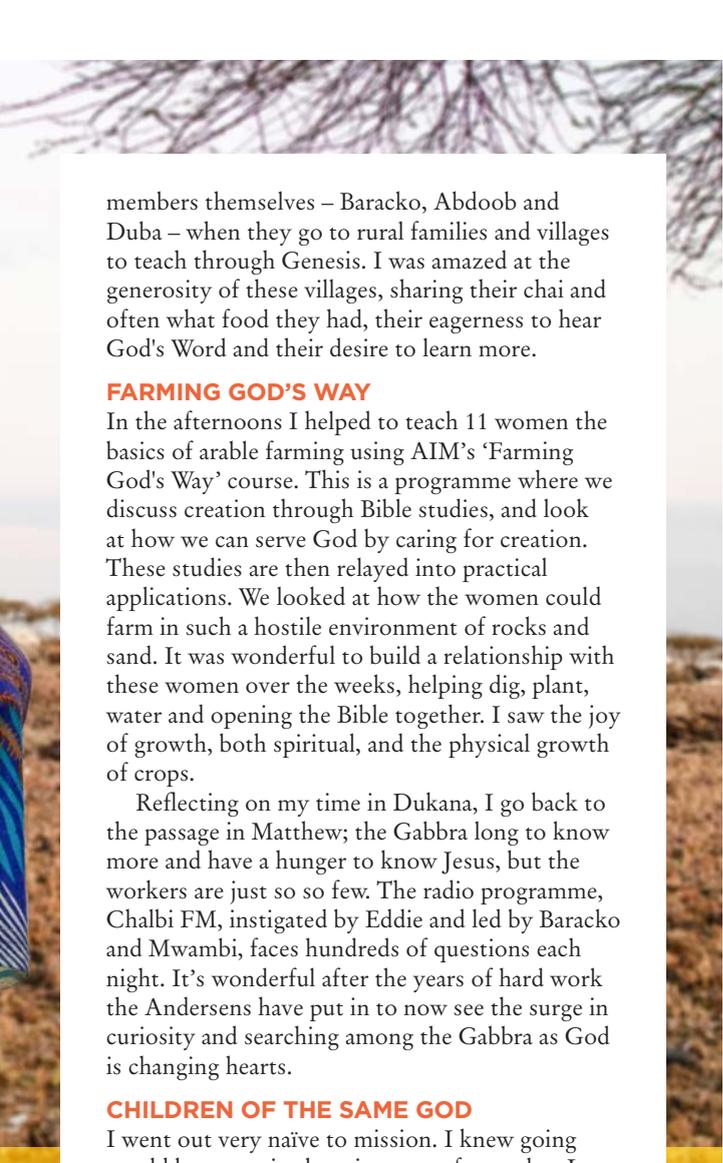
Jack is a third year veterinary student. He recently took part in a five week short term mission trip to northern Kenya, living with long term missionaries Eddie and Rachel Andersen and ministering among the Gabbra people.

## **THE HARVEST FIELD**

**W**hen he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field.” Matthew 9:36-38.

This passage from Matthew is something that really struck me during my time in Kenya. I was amazed at the receptivity of the Gabbra people to the good news of Jesus and their hunger to learn more of who he is.

Whilst in Dukana I had the opportunity to see, and help in, the various ministries that Eddie and Rachel have initiated. This included going on outreach with some of the Gabbra church



members themselves – Baracko, Abdoob and Duba – when they go to rural families and villages to teach through Genesis. I was amazed at the generosity of these villages, sharing their chai and often what food they had, their eagerness to hear God's Word and their desire to learn more.

### **FARMING GOD'S WAY**

In the afternoons I helped to teach 11 women the basics of arable farming using AIM's 'Farming God's Way' course. This is a programme where we discuss creation through Bible studies, and look at how we can serve God by caring for creation. These studies are then relayed into practical applications. We looked at how the women could farm in such a hostile environment of rocks and sand. It was wonderful to build a relationship with these women over the weeks, helping dig, plant, water and opening the Bible together. I saw the joy of growth, both spiritual, and the physical growth of crops.

Reflecting on my time in Dukana, I go back to the passage in Matthew; the Gabbra long to know more and have a hunger to know Jesus, but the workers are just so few. The radio programme, Chalbi FM, instigated by Eddie and led by Baracko and Mwambi, faces hundreds of questions each night. It's wonderful after the years of hard work the Andersens have put in to now see the surge in curiosity and searching among the Gabbra as God is changing hearts.

### **CHILDREN OF THE SAME GOD**

I went out very naïve to mission. I knew going would be a massive learning curve for me but I didn't fully appreciate how much I would learn and love. Yes, the culture is massively different to anything I've experienced before, yet I was still struck that we are all children of the same God, all in desperate need of Jesus. God is calling us all to himself. I learnt so much about mission, the power of God's Word and what it looks like to open it up with others. I have come away, as I return to my third year of veterinary medicine studies at Bristol, with a new heart for mission, and a burden for unreached people that need Jesus and do not yet know him. I pray with renewed energy and eagerness for missionaries in the field, including the Andersens, their work in Dukana, and the calling of new workers. 🙏

## **WEEKENDFOCUS**

### **16-17 NOVEMBER**

Give thanks that the Gabbra are eager to hear the gospel. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Pray that the Lord of the harvest would send more workers among the Gabbra. Pray too that Gabbra believers would be effective evangelists to their own people.

### **18 NOV • MONDAY**

Give thanks for Gabbra church members - Baracko, Abdoob, Duba and others - as they seek to reach out to rural families and villages with the gospel. Pray the stories from Genesis that they are sharing will resonate and cause villagers to ask more questions.

### **19 NOV • TUESDAY**

Pray for the women who have been going through the Farming God's Way programme. Pray that the practical application as well as the Bible studies will demonstrate to them God loves and cares for them.

### **20 NOV • WEDNESDAY**

Chalbi FM, the local Christian radio station, is inundated with questions from local people about Christianity. Pray that Baracko and Mwambi, who head up the radio station, would have the wisdom and discernment to know how best to answer and lead people to Jesus.

### **21 NOV • THURSDAY**

Give thanks for Eddie and Rachel Andersen and their willingness to work alongside short termers. Pray that the experience of hosting Jack and others, sharing fellowship with them and seeing their ministry through short termers' eyes would encourage and sustain them.

### **22 NOV • FRIDAY**

Pray for Jack Rust as he continues his studies at Bristol University. Pray that all he experienced in northern Kenya would continue to inspire his prayers and that he would be able to share with Christian friends all that he learnt about mission.



## MEET DEBBIE

31 years ago I was serving as a long term missionary in Pakistan, hosting many short termers. Since then, I have served overseas in both long term and short term capacities and worked as part of the home administration side of mission organisations. I joined the AIM Europe office two years ago as the Mobilisation Coordinator.

**O**ne of my roles within AIM Europe is to run the short term programme. Going through a mission agency like AIM enables short termers to have the best possible experience and care. That means that my role is really varied. To start with I get to know short termers, working with them to discover what they're looking for from their mission experience. Then I work with colleagues in Africa to best match a short termers' gifts and desires to the right opportunity. Throughout that process I'm seeking to ensure that the short termer follows their call, and through their ministry supports the long term ministries and vision of AIM. Once a placement is agreed on by everyone we give help and advice on the arrangements needed for the trip. This includes insurance, DBS, health screening and information on visa requirements. Before we send someone to Africa, together with the team here, I play a role in making sure that short termers are spiritually and emotionally prepared. When a short termer returns, I'm involved in making sure that they have someone to talk to about their experiences. We want short term mission to be a significant time for participants, and to impact them as they continue in their Christian lives, wherever God directs. 🌍

## WE NEED YOU!

Donations to our general fund provide the financial resources for Debbie's work and other vital functions. To sustain these going forward we need to see growth in our general fund. Please would you consider donating so that we can continue to recruit and support both short and long term missionaries on the field?

To donate visit [eu.aimint.org/give](https://eu.aimint.org/give), or contact our Nottingham office on **0115 9838120**.

For prayer information from the Nottingham office, download our recent prayer letter available at [eu.aimint.org/officeprayer](https://eu.aimint.org/officeprayer).



## EXPLORE AND LEARN

There are so many short term opportunities to be involved in. We aim to send out people who can support our long term ministries and fill needs on the field. We also look to give people placements where they can explore and learn about mission.

**T**he question in Romans 10:13-14, “How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?” forms a key value in all of our work and not least in our short term programme. Recognising the importance of enabling everyone to have the opportunity to hear the gospel, all of AIM’s ministries have the purpose of reaching the unreached. Whether you’re a student, looking to take a career break, retired, a pastor, or a church leader, you can be a part of achieving that goal through serving in short term mission.

If you’d prefer to serve in a team, why not consider gathering a group of interested people from your church? A church team can revitalise and enthuse your church about global mission. You can visit a missionary and see what the needs are in a cross cultural context. Then you can use what you learn back home and in future ministry.

Jim Elliot (1927 – 1956 missionary to Ecuador) once made the statement, ‘It’s hard to steer a parked car’. Keep your engine running, and your spiritual life in gear so that God can direct and use you where he wants you to be. Could you be used by him in short term mission? 🙏

To hear more, why not invite a mission advisor to speak at your church? To set that up or to discuss our available short term opportunities, you can email Debbie, our Mobilisation Coordinator, at [mobcoord.eu@aimint.org](mailto:mobcoord.eu@aimint.org), or you can call her on **0115 9838130**.

### WEEKENDFOCUS

**23-24 NOVEMBER**

Pray for Debbie as she administers the short term programme and liaises with our mission advisors, enquirers and applicants about placements. Pray that she would have a clear overview of all the opportunities available.

#### 25 NOV • MONDAY

Pray for the team in the office who have the responsibility of communicating the opportunities available in our short term programme, through written material and social media. Pray that God will raise up people who will respond and be willing to be used in short term mission.

#### 26 NOV • TUESDAY

Praise God for those who have been out on short term mission so far this year. Pray that the experience will have a lasting impact. Pray that God will use short term ministries to begin a long term interest in mission, through serving or sending.

#### 27 NOV • WEDNESDAY

Pray for short termers who are about to travel overseas, that they would settle in well and be a real encouragement and blessing to the teams they work among. Pray that they would interact well with locals and form friendships quickly.

#### 28 NOV • THURSDAY

Pray for church leaders and churches in Europe to be challenged with the needs that there are to reach the unreached. Pray that they would be willing to go and see for themselves to gain a greater awareness.

#### 29 NOV • FRIDAY

Many of our short termers have now returned after spending the summer serving in Africa. Pray for them as they settle back into university life or work, and ask that they would be open to the Lord’s leading for the future.



## DOING MISSION WELL

Paul and Helen Shepherd are missionaries living with their children in Kotido, northern Uganda, but they previously served as short termers too. We thought they'd be the perfect people to ask whether short term mission actually helps long term missionaries?

**Y**es! – when it is done well. Having been short termers ourselves, then having had several short termers come to serve with us in Kotido, we have found it to be an incredibly helpful tool for everyone involved. Generally, short term mission works well if it's done in the context of long term mission. For example, if it's to specifically support the long termers spiritually

or emotionally, or if it's to bring in skills that are not available from the local community, such as a trainer in particular skills or a homeschool teacher. Short term missionaries can look at the situation that you're serving in with fresh eyes, and bring new ideas or ways of doing things to the table.

### BRINGING EXTRA SKILLS

We have been the happy recipients of a short term family of six to Kotido for one year, and it was incredibly encouraging. To have other gospel workers with our team was both challenging (in a good way!) and uplifting. The extra emotional and spiritual support to our team was appreciated, and the short termers brought skills to our situation that we had not previously had - like the ability to make friends with almost every single market trader and know them by name! We also had another AIM missionary visit us for 10 days and run an



*“To have other gospel workers with our team was both challenging (in a good way!) and uplifting.”*

ethnomusicology workshop with some of us and interested locals. This inspired us and the Karimojong so much that songs are still being created by the rural congregations using the methods taught in the sessions. We are now excitedly awaiting the arrival of another short term missionary to join our team in Kotido as a homeschool teacher!

Done badly, it can become about the short termers and their wants, or it can become too much work for the long termers. But done well, the long-termers are left refreshed and encouraged, the short termers inspired to consider future long term mission and the local

ministry strengthened. Our original Kotido team of five adults and three children was made up entirely of people who had previously done short term trips of between one year and a couple of weeks. As long term missionaries, it is an honour and a pleasure to be a part of inspiring people to consider joining those already on the field in reaching the unreached for Christ. 🙏

## JOIN THE SHEPHERDS IN KOTIDO

We currently have openings for those wanting to do a medical elective in a rural setting. There are lots of opportunities for improving your medical skills and learning new ones, but you would also take part in some language learning and get involved in the other work going on in the team.

👉 Find out more: [eu.aimint.org/medicalelectives](https://eu.aimint.org/medicalelectives)



30 NOVEMBER-6 DECEMBER  
**SHORT TERM**



## **AGENCY OR ALTERNATIVE?**

PJ Holmertz, AIM's International Short Term Programme Director, discusses the benefits of using a mission agency to organise a short term mission trip for individuals or teams.

If you would like to find out more about our short term opportunities, visit:



[eu.aimint.org/shortterm](http://eu.aimint.org/shortterm)

## **WHY GO WITH A MISSION AGENCY?**

Along with the advent of the internet has come a new wave of do-it-yourself (DIY) projects. Now with a quick Google search or a few YouTube videos, you too can make a wedding cake, spice rack, or whatever your heart desires! However, along with the new DIY movement has also come a flood of DIY fails. A failed DIY attempt at a fancy cake is disappointing; a failed attempt at a DIY mission trip could be disastrous! While it is possible to arrange your own short term mission trip, there are still many reasons why it is valuable to go through an agency.

Recently I conducted some training for new short term missionaries. One of the participants commented, "Before I came I thought, 'Why should I spend all of this time and money to learn about missions, just send me out!' Now that I've done the training I think everyone should do it." The old saying, 'You don't know what you don't know' applies to mission work as well. You may be a well-meaning and sincere believer who just wants to reflect the love of Jesus and proclaim biblical truth, but without an understanding of the context, the people and the culture, your efforts can do the exact opposite of what you



were hoping. A mission agency will give a proper orientation to those going out on the mission field even for a short time. Years of collective experience working in a particular context gives agencies the ability to coach interested short termers on the ins-and-outs of life and ministry in that location and prepare them to be effective as they serve.

### THE MAKE OR BREAK OF MINISTRY

Once a short termer gets to the field, no matter how much they think they have prepared or how much they have been orientated, they are bound to run into confusing or even potentially dangerous situations. This is where the support of an agency is critical, with personnel available to walk you through your time on the field, people to mentor, advise and encourage. It also means having access to resources that have been developed over years of ongoing ministry. Short termers serving with AIM have access to our flight services, financial services, counselling services, travel services, guesthouses and administrative workforce in all of our locations. These resources can make or break cross-cultural ministry trip.

The old African proverb states, 'If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together.' Most people want their time and service to mean something, to have a lasting impact. Going with an agency allows you to go together with like minded individuals, working towards a shared goal. The best way to make an impact is to participate in something that will continue after your service is finished. Working with an agency ensures that there will be people who will continue the work you invested your time and energy into. Your service will amplify the effects of the ongoing work in a location rather than being a one time hit and run. 🙏

## WEEKENDFOCUS

30 NOVEMBER -  
1 DECEMBER

Pray we would offer effective and appropriate support to short termers before they leave for the field, during their time overseas, and when they return to their home countries. Pray that we would be able to impart knowledge in accessible ways.

### 2 DEC • MONDAY

Give thanks that short term mission trips can have a long term positive impact. Pray that short termers would be encouraged as they see their ministry is part of something bigger, and that they will continue praying for the work after they leave the field.

### 3 DEC • TUESDAY

Pray that our former short termers would encourage others to participate in mission, as they can share their experiences and offer advice in more detail. Pray they wouldn't see their trip as a stand alone experience but be willing to share with others.

### 4 DEC • WEDNESDAY

Pray for our long term missionaries as they consider how short termers can help them be more effective in their location. Pray they would be able to carve out time to create projects that help long term ministry but also give short termers a clear role to perform.

### 5 DEC • THURSDAY

Pray for good partnerships between long and short term missionaries that see both mutually encouraged in their faith. Pray for the unity that only the Holy Spirit can bring and a real sense of working together for God's glory.

### 6 DEC • FRIDAY

Give thanks for all the administrative services that allow short and long term missionaries to thrive on the field. From very practical services such as organising flights, to more complex counselling support, it's a whole network that promotes ministry. Give thanks for all those who are willing to serve in very different ways.



## HOMESCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED!

Currently we have 572 children from around the world serving with their families in Africa. For that to happen, and for those children to flourish, we need missionary teachers. Homeschooling doesn't have to be carried out by parents. A missionary teacher, teaching the children of their teammates can mean the difference between a whole team struggling or thriving.

Could you take time out and help in this way? Do you have experience of working with children of different ages? This is a vital ministry that enables a family to function well and also gives you the opportunity to see and experience mission and a range of different ministries first hand.

## WORK WITH CHILDREN

### AFRICA BASED ORIENTATION

**A**IM's new long term missionaries begin their time in Africa with a three week Africa Based Orientation (ABO) in Kenya. ABO exists to introduce new missionaries to the core values of being an AIM missionary. Our short term support teams provide a children's programme, media support and help with the worship.

While parents attend the adult orientation, their children also enjoy a structured children's programme designed to immerse them into life and ministry in Africa at an age-appropriate level. The children's volunteers help in delivering the orientation, whilst being there to support the children. This ministry makes a great difference to the children as they prepare for their new lives in Africa.

**Dates: January 14th – February 4th 2020, also running in summer and autumn 2020 with dates to be confirmed.**

### RWANDAN YOUTH CAMPS

An opportunity to be involved in a team encouraging and discipling Rwandan youth as they attend church camps. Have the opportunity to talk to young people about the big issues that they're facing, and guide them into deeper relationships with Jesus. Following on from the church camps, you can extend your stay and continue to work with the church youth teams.

**Dates: 11th - 22nd July 2020. 📍**



## ON THE GROUND EXPOSURE

If your Bible college course requires you to complete a placement, serving with AIM is a great opportunity to combine your course requirements with on-the-ground exposure to life as a missionary.

Once we know the requirements of your course we can match you with a ministry where you will be mentored individually or where you will be part of a team. Our short term placements work among unreached people groups and there will be opportunities to share the gospel as you learn skills related to your field of study.

“Walking through the life of Jesus with these Muslim men is a huge challenge, but it’s without a doubt the most exciting thing I’ve ever done...” (Paul – Bible College placement, Chad).

Typical individual placements include; outreach and discipleship in northern Kenya, youth discipleship in Rwanda and outreach among rural villages in northern Uganda. Typical team placements include training programmes which include living out mission.

In addition, we run teams among African diaspora throughout the summer which give you hands on experience of sharing the gospel with immigrants and refugees who have come into Europe from Africa. 🌍

Interested in a short term opportunity and want to find out more?

Contact Debbie: [mobcoord.eu@aimint.org](mailto:mobcoord.eu@aimint.org)

## WEEKENDFOCUS

7-8 DECEMBER

There is a real need for homeschool teachers for missionary families. Pray for people to be willing to serve in this way and help keep families on the field. Pray that missionaries won't be discouraged as they wait for people to apply to support them.

### 9 DEC • MONDAY

Pray for helpers willing to work with children at AIM's Africa Based Orientation in Kenya. This is a vital ministry as new missionaries are just starting out in Africa and the care provided for their children enables them to fully participate in orientation.

### 10 DEC • TUESDAY

Pray for those in the process of applying to serve short term with us. Pray that they would be willing to serve wherever God calls them, be ready to be flexible with their plans and open to using their gifts in new situations and unusual contexts.

### 11 DEC • WEDNESDAY

Pray for Gilles Bonvallat, our mobiliser in France, and his wife Myriam as they encourage and support people who are seeking to serve God. Pray for wisdom as they counsel enquirers and as they look for placements.

### 12 DEC • THURSDAY

Pray for individuals to come forward and join the short term teams that are planned for next year. Pray that many would sign up for the diaspora teams, that are reaching Africans in Europe with the gospel. Pray for churches to consider sending teams.

### 13 DEC • FRIDAY

Our Tumaini Counselling Centres in both Nairobi and Uganda are in need of more long term clinical staff, but also have openings for mental health professionals in some short term roles. Pray for applicants to come forward who will be able to boost the staff in these centres and support long term missionaries.



## SHARING THE VISION FOR MISSION

Seb Allwright, Central Region's Mobilisation Coordinator, shares about how we're seeking to involve Africans in short term mission.

**H**ow do we mobilise a church in Central Africa? The churches AIM partners with throughout Central Region are large and vibrant. While many of these churches have continued to grow in numbers and have had a great influence on the countries they serve, their missional heart is still very young and developing. So, how do we help them mature in this area?

Personally, I caught the vision for mission during several short term trips to Uganda with my church, and many AIM members across the continent tell similar stories. We're privileged to have the opportunity to try short term trips, but many of our national brothers and sisters don't have the same opportunities. Opening up AIM's short term programme to nationals is helping to create such access.

The FUEL programme is one example of this type of short term experience. It lasts for eight weeks and involves Africans and AIM short termers living and breathing mission together. The programme takes them through teaching,



### SUPPORTING CHURCHES

Seb Allwright lives in Uganda and works with church leaders and members to help them create a vision for mission. Seb also spends time with individuals opening Scripture to see God's heart for the world and the part they can play.



basic living, exposure visits to villages and towns, and regular interaction with and mentoring from other missionaries. We will continue to develop and run FUEL with the intention of running more programmes like it in different countries and at different times of the year. Programmes like these are an important part of our strategy to help people discover and develop in mission.

### **LIVING OUT LEARNING**

Through FUEL, several nationals have caught a vision for mission already. Robert is one example. He is now actively involved in mobilisation in south west Uganda, helping with prayer groups for the unreached and studying at university with the intention of using his profession to make disciples across cultures. Joseph is another, he is from a people group that is based close to the Karimojong. Through FUEL he began to see the role and the unique position that he is in to be able to make disciples among the Karimojong. He has moved and is now living in Karimoja as a missionary.

One of the unique things about programmes like this is the opportunity to learn how to communicate and relate across cultures. It's not always as easy as it sounds; even cooking together can cause disagreements. How we pray and how we read the Bible all varies. But to be equipped and empowered for cross cultural mission – these are important lessons for both AIM short termers and nationals to learn.

Short term programmes are tasters. They are designed to train and equip AIM short termers and nationals in cross cultural mission and empower people to go. 🙌

## **WEEKENDFOCUS**

### **14-15 DECEMBER**

Give thanks for the fruit that has come from short term programmes that expose, equip and empower nationals for mission. Pray for clear vision and wisdom for how to roll out similar programmes beyond Uganda; we'd like to see something similar for French speakers in DR Congo or Chad in the future.

### **16 DEC • MONDAY**

In October we are planning an exposure trip for Ugandan church leaders to visit the Karimojong and Ik, with the purpose of helping them to catch a vision for the role they have to play in making disciples. Pray for the logistics and planning, and for the trip itself to bear much fruit.

### **17 DEC • TUESDAY**

Pray for nationals who have gone through short term programmes like FUEL. They go back to churches that are not as aware of the need for mission and it's easy for enthusiasm to die down. Pray for us as we support them and for the fire not to burn out, but to spread through the church.

### **18 DEC • WEDNESDAY**

One of the purposes of the short term programme is to train people to reach the unreached. Pray for wisdom and vision as we work with churches across central Africa to see more equipped to serve in this way.

### **19 DEC • THURSDAY**

Pray for us in the regional office in Uganda as we seek to create good quality and strategic short term opportunities for people around the world, not just Africa, to be equipped and support AIM's long term work.

### **20 DEC • FRIDAY**

Pray for FUEL+, a one year version of FUEL designed to be a springboard into AIM for nationals and AIM short termers. Pray for members to join this unique team living, training, and serving the church in Kampala as preparation for missions in other areas.



## CAN I DO THIS?

Ian shares about his experience of being on a short term team in North Africa.

“I’ve been involved in cross-cultural evangelism in Nottingham for several years, and I’ve had a growing sense that God might be calling me overseas to work in a missionary context. I joined the team as a first step towards exploring that calling. The country we were visiting officially outlaws any kind of Christian evangelism, and it was illuminating to see how gospel outreach ‘works’ in that kind of context. We had to be circumspect as to our reasons for visiting, both for our own sakes and to protect the missionaries we visited. That meant opportunities to speak about Jesus were limited. The missionaries’

outreach consisted of their day-to-day building relationships with their neighbours and friends and English students, and patiently praying for opportunities to speak about the gospel with them. Experiencing those restrictions heightened my sense of the need for more workers in that country; our team more than doubled the number of believers living in the city we visited. I was also greatly encouraged by the work the missionaries were doing: it’s easy to imagine that missionaries are somehow ‘super-Christians’ doing outstanding things that the rest of us could only dream of doing, but setting aside the very real demands of living and working in a foreign culture, their evangelism looked no different to what I’m already trying to do in Nottingham. And if I can do that in Nottingham, there’s no reason to suppose I can’t do it overseas...” 🌍

## WEEKENDFOCUS

### 21-22 DECEMBER

This Christmas, pray for missionaries living in areas where there is no church. Pray that they would be able to celebrate Jesus's birth in meaningful ways regardless of their context and that through their festivities they would be able to witness to their local communities.

### 23 DEC • MONDAY

Give thanks that missionaries can engage online with Christian resources and even listen to sermons from their home churches in this way. Pray that those in isolating contexts would know the support of church families and the Lord's comfort and sustaining power.

### 24 DEC • TUESDAY

Give thanks that short term trips offer those who are considering God's call to long term mission an effective way to experience the realities of missionary life. Pray for Ian as he continues to look to the future, that he would be receptive to God's leading voice.

### 25 DEC • WEDNESDAY

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14. Give thanks with those who are celebrating his birth for the first time.

### 26 DEC • THURSDAY

For many short termers, spending Christmas away from their family and friends can be really tough. Pray that they would know true fellowship on the field, and know God's comfort and love.

### 27 DEC • FRIDAY

Families of missionaries can also struggle with the separation over the

Christmas period. Pray especially for parents and grandparents as they miss being present to share time and gifts. Pray that they would know sweet comfort from Jesus.



## WEEKENDFOCUS

### 28-29 DECEMBER

Many African migrants to the UK are from Islamic countries where the opportunities to hear the good news of Jesus are limited. Pray that in the UK they would be shown the love of Jesus and come to know him in a real and personal way.

### 30 DEC • MONDAY

The percentage of the UK population from a Black African background doubled from 0.9% in 2001 to 1.8% in 2011, and is expected to have doubled again by the next census in 2021.\* Pray for opportunities to reach Africans in the UK with the gospel.

### 31 DEC • TUESDAY

For 2020, would you consider committing to praying daily with us the Luke 10:2 prayer? 'He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."'

\*gov.co.uk

## REACHING OUT

**In July 2019, Luke and Jenny Herrin were part of a summer team in Malta.**

Walking along the seafront, we saw a young African man sitting on a bench. We greeted him, and he asked us to sit down (always a good sign). He told us he was named "Jimmy," that he was from The Gambia, that he had residency papers and a job, and that he was a Muslim. He also told us that he believed in and loved Jesus, but not in the same way that Christians did. We could see that Jimmy was very interested in the gospel. We talked with him for a long time, shared Scripture with him, gave him some Christian literature, and downloaded the Jesus film onto his phone. We exchanged details, prayed with him, and moved on.

A few days later, Jimmy sent this message to me: "Thank you, the movie is much more educational than I expected, I am watching it again and again! It will be my pleasure to meet someone who can explain more details to me." We exchanged more messages, and passed his details on to a local missionary.

In Acts 18:10, the Lord told Paul that he should keep speaking clearly because he had many people in Corinth. The Lord has many people in Malta too. And in your city. We just need to find them. And the best way to do that is just to talk to them. We found Jimmy on a seafront bench. Where is your Jimmy?



# GO & SERVE

SHORT TERM HELP.  
LONG TERM IMPACT.  
COULD YOU...?



## SHORT TERM OPPORTUNITIES MEDICAL ELECTIVES



If you have the opportunity to take a medical elective, why not explore how mission and healthcare can go hand in hand? Combine your medical experience with reaching the unreached.

Find out more online: [eu.aimint.org/medicalelectives](http://eu.aimint.org/medicalelectives)



## SHORT TERM OPPORTUNITIES AFRICA BASED ORIENTATION



Could you serve new missionaries' children by helping to run a programme for them as their parents go through orientation, investing in them as they prepare and adjust to life in Africa.

Find out more online: [eu.aimint.org/shortterm-abo](http://eu.aimint.org/shortterm-abo)



## 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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