



**AFRICA
INLAND MISSION**

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2020 • PART 2 OF 2
MAGAZINE & PRAYER DIARY | EU.AIMINT.ORG

CONNECT



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



BOOK
YOUR WAY

John

AIM AIR



LOOKING AHEAD

One day, I found an old book, written by a missionary, Ruth Schaffer. It tells the story of Ruth, and her husband Roy, going to Kenya in the early 1900s, bound for the then-unreached Maasai people. Reading their story, I am struck by the commitment, courage, and sheer audacity of the Schaffer family. And I wonder, would anybody in AIM, myself included, even think of allowing such a risky journey today, much less bless it and send them off?

But this is 2020, not 1910. Africa is different. The world is different. The church is different. The Maasai are reached. Some things remain the same. The Great Commission is the same. Our call is the same. All we do is still focussed on Jesus Christ. Ultimately, it is not really about AIM or about missionaries or about you and me. It is about the Father, redeeming, loving, and calling the lost.

What has changed in 125 years? Transportation, communication, finance, healthcare. Churches, mission agencies, governments. Mission structures, models, and strategies. Huge, vibrant churches in every country of Sub-Saharan Africa. Decline of the church in many traditional AIM mobilising countries. It has all changed and will likely continue to change. Missionaries from the early 1900s would not recognise much about the AIM of 2020. And today's missionaries might not recognise the AIM of 2050. Or even 2030. But the essential things do not change. Because, ultimately, Jesus does not change.

There are still almost 1,000 African unreached people groups, mostly in the Sahel, North and West Africa. May Jesus find us faithful, even for the next 125 years. Or until he returns.

Luke

Luke Herrin, AIM's International Director

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CELEBRATING 125 YEARS: PART TWO

The content in this edition of Connect is the second part of a two part special, celebrating the stories of all that God is doing across Africa.

If you haven't had a copy of the first half (our July edition), you can request one from Lindsey at communications.eu@aimint.org.



CHAD

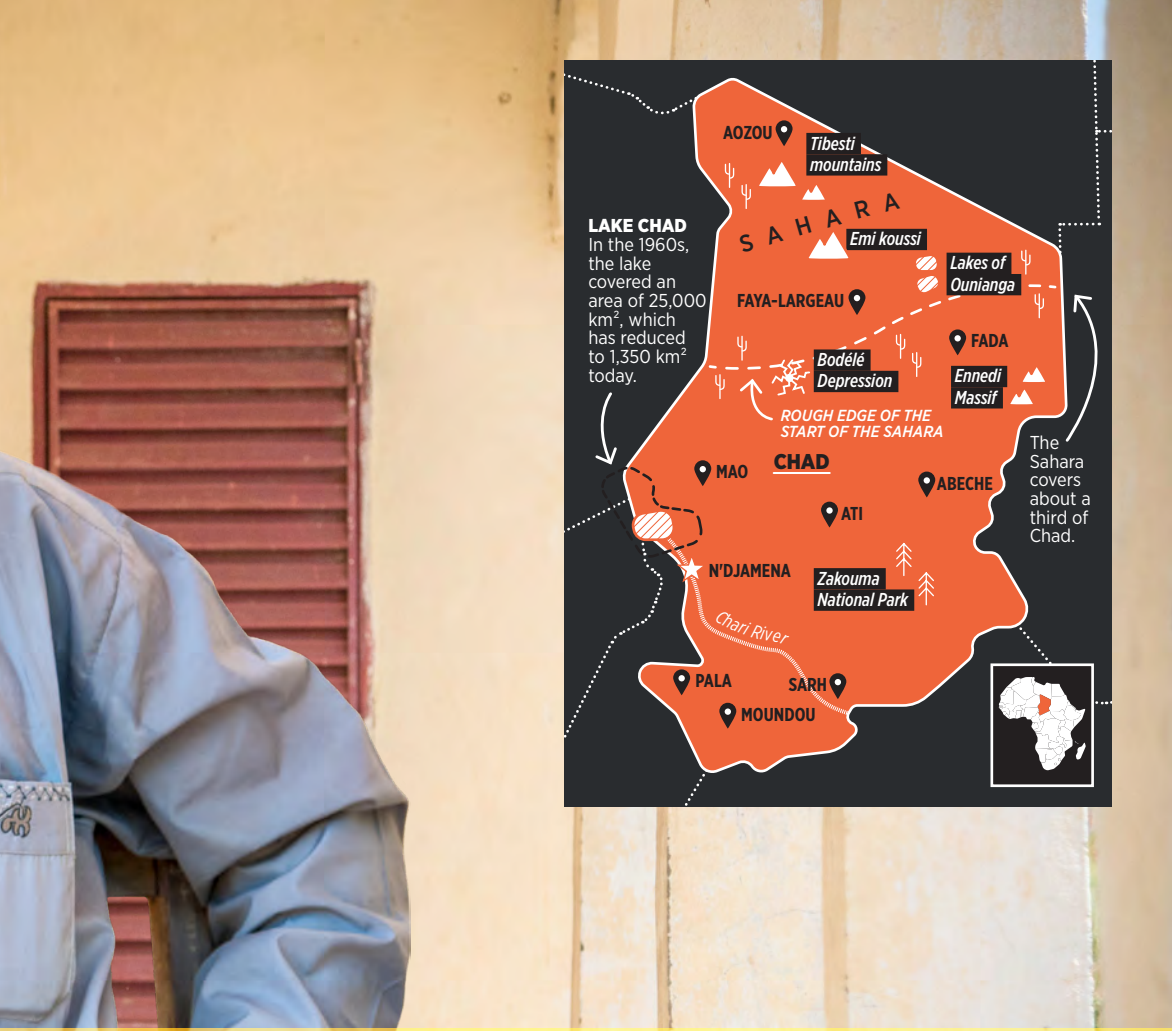
In 1987, AIM began work in Chad. From the beginning, the Missionary Training Centre Silo (CFMS) in the town of Ba-Illi was at the heart of AIM's ministry in Chad – the vision of training and mobilising Chad's growing church to reach their many unreached fellow countrymen.



FROM THE BEGINNING

Justin, AIM's Unit Leader, shares the story of AIM's ministry in Chad, as we look at the past, present and future, through the person of Moussa Batchaguine.

Moussa Batchaguine, though born into an animistic family in southern Chad, was given over to a Muslim teacher at a young age to study the Qur'an and follow the path of Muhammad. Along with a group of other boys his age, Moussa began to daily memorise the Qur'an under the tutelage of his teacher. One day, as his teacher was preparing to take Moussa and the other boys further north to continue their studies, war broke out and all the boys were sent back home to their families. By God's grace, Moussa eventually came to know Jesus as his Lord and Saviour. One night while reading his Bible he came across John 14:6, Jesus' declaration that he is 'the way, the truth, and the life'. It was at this point that Moussa



realised that his many Muslim friends were destined for hell and the Lord set him on a path of reaching the Muslim peoples of Chad for Christ. Moussa eventually was trained at the Missionary Training Centre Silo that was founded in collaboration between AIM Chad and the Eglise Evangélique du Tchad, AIM's national church partner.

REACHING THE LOST

Today, Moussa and his family have been faithfully labouring among the Muslim peoples of Chad for over twenty years – twenty challenging but fruit-filled years! In looking back, Moussa represents the fruit of the labours of many past AIM Chad missionaries. Looking at the present, Moussa is now an invaluable ministry partner to the AIM Chad Unit, serving as a wise counsellor, discipler,

and encourager as he works alongside one of our ministry teams. And looking at the future, we long to see more Moussas, more national missionaries who are passionate about reaching their lost countrymen with the gospel. Partly inspired by Moussa's life and example, in January 2020, AIM Chad launched AIM's first ever French-speaking Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) team which, apart from the team leaders, is comprised solely of Chadians who are passionately committed to reaching their lost countrymen.

We thank God for men like Moussa Batchaguine and we pray that God would raise up more men and women from the Chadian church who have the burden and vision of seeing Christ-centred churches among all the peoples of Chad! 🇸🇩



SHARING IN THE UPS AND DOWNS

Ann serves as a doctor in Chad, meeting people in their homes and also treating them and their children for mental illness and epilepsy.

Faith* wanted me to help her get an abortion. She was about four months pregnant and her husband was away in another country and had been for two years. He'd left her caring for her mother-in-law in the town where I worked. Obviously, I wasn't going to help her get an abortion even if I had known how. But we talked of the new life within her, forgiveness and the good news of Jesus Christ and I prayed for her. She said my prayer changed her and she decided to keep the baby. Her mother-in-law didn't make her life easy, passing lots of rumours about her. She was afraid she would be killed if her family found out. I continued speaking to her about the gospel. We even spent a fun afternoon looking at abdominal exercises hoping to hide the pregnancy longer. Finally, she went to stay with a stepsister 150 miles away and then with

a Chadian lady 200 miles away to deliver at a district hospital. Then what to do about the baby girl? Amazingly, a pastor and his wife decided to take on baby Ann as their own when they heard she had nowhere to go.

FINDING FAITH

That was three years ago. Faith became a Christian during the time when she was in such a challenging situation, as she contemplated her sin before God and wondered how her baby could be saved. Since then, she has become a different woman, more patient and forgiving and much calmer. After prayer, even her mother-in-law has changed. Her husband returned to Chad and accepted her, even after hearing she had a child out of wedlock. She praises God for her salvation. She is eager to read the Bible. Her challenges remain. Her husband has no job. Neither he or his mother have believed. But people notice that she has changed although she does not have the courage to declare clearly how that change has come about.

Meeting people like Faith, sharing life with them – both the ups and downs, is all part of working in Chad. 🙏

* Name changed for security reasons

1 OCT • THURSDAY

Praise God for the freedom there is for missionaries to go to Chad and serve without fear of government reprisal. Christians and Muslims live together, largely without problems, unlike surrounding countries. Pray that this will continue.

2 OCT • FRIDAY

Northern Chad is almost entirely Muslim. Pray that southern Christians who work in the north will be so full of the joy of the gospel that they cannot stop themselves sharing with those around them. Pray that those who are only nominal Christians will come to accept the truth for themselves.

WEEKENDFOCUS

3-4 OCTOBER

AIM has a TIMO team of Chadians (with Canadian leaders) working in the north. Pray that God will encourage them in their endeavours to learn culture and Arabic, especially in these times of restricted visiting, and that he will bless their work and make it fruitful.

5 OCT • MONDAY

Chad has many unreached people groups and AIM is seeking to begin work among two new groups. Pray that God would call team leaders and members to join these teams. Pray that as these new ministries begin that the Lord would give team members discernment as they seek those who are searching for truth.

6 OCT • TUESDAY

One of the groups we seek to reach in Chad is the Maba. They are mainly located in eastern Chad. We have a team leader and one couple who have applied to join the team. Please pray for many team members, including some from French speaking African countries to join this team.

7 OCT • WEDNESDAY

Maba people are very set in the traditions of folk Islam. Pray that they will have a great thirst to find a better way than their current belief system, which is a mixture of fear of spirits, fear of not doing enough to please God and the challenge of survival amidst (for many) substantial poverty.

8 OCT • THURSDAY

Pray for missionaries planning to serve in Chad. Covid-19 has prevented some who are already in language study from travelling to Chad. Others have had to leave because their children have specific, high-risk medical problems.

9 OCT • FRIDAY

Give thanks for the vision and strategy of the Missionary Training Centre Silo (CFMS) in Ba-Illi, Chad, which has equipped many to reach out in local evangelism and begin mission work to unreached people groups in Chad and beyond.

COULD YOU GO?

There are still 73 unreached people groups in Chad. That's around 6,898,000 people with no opportunity to hear the gospel. Could you go and share the gospel with them? Visit eu.aimint.org/chad for more information.





10-23 OCTOBER
CAR



AIM IN CAR

AIM has worked in the south east of the Central African Republic since the 1920s, including in Obo, Zemio and Rafai, where missionaries served among the Zande people. Historically followers of African traditional religions, many Zande people are now Christians and leading their Muslim neighbours to Christ.

STILL GATHERING, STILL PRAYING

Christine Oliver shares how she was able to witness God at work, bringing together his perfect plan, as she served as a trained nurse and midwife in the Central African Republic.

It took seven years of waiting and preparation before I finally arrived on CAR soil. The moment the small plane landed in one of the remotest parts of Africa, I knew that this was home. That feeling stayed with me for the ten years I lived in CAR. The Azande people became my family and my love for them has never stopped, even after all these years.

Learning the local language was my first challenge and, in some ways, a challenge for the duration of my time there. But precious friendships were made during those early days

WEEKENDFOCUS

10-11 OCTOBER

Give thanks that, despite huge difficulties, there is enthusiasm to know more about God's Word among believers in CAR. After a Bible school was destroyed in Zemio, work has begun to build a small school in Rafai. Pray this can be established quickly and will be a light in the community.

of sitting in the village, going for water with the women and helping to work in their small fields.

God had already made it possible for small dispensaries run by the church to serve the local communities. National Christians who were committed to God and sharing the gospel worked there and I learnt so much from these dear nurses who were either sent for training elsewhere or learnt on the job. One man in particular, Pastor Biesse Daniel, was trained by medical missionaries to perform minor surgeries. Many times, there were horrible emergencies like gunshot wounds or difficult births and so much more. Pastor Biesse was so aware of his inadequacy for such things, as were we all, so our total dependence was on God alone. Space does not allow me to tell you of the many miracles I saw God perform in answer to our desperate cries for help.

God used the medical work to reach many with the gospel. I can remember the Mbororo people moving into our area with hundreds of their cattle. At first the Azande did not like or trust these Muslim peoples and I found it really hard to see how they were treated, even at the dispensary. Yet through prayer, attitudes began to change. Friendships started to form and the nurses even began to learn their language. That thrilled my heart. Years later, the local church recognised the need for a Zande missionary to work among the Mbororo. God was at work, and still is.

In 1997 our small team needed to evacuate and for years CAR had no missionaries. Many lessons were learnt during that time of trial, but God's church remained. Missionaries have returned over the years but sadly have had to leave again because of insecurity and civil unrest.

Yet, God is at work. Despite the pain of his people in CAR, they still gather, they still pray. 🙏

12 OCT • MONDAY

Give thanks for the church in CAR as it shows faithful perseverance in times of adversity. Pray that church leaders would know rich blessings as they pastor their flocks through prolonged periods of uncertainty and trouble.

13 OCT • TUESDAY

Over one million of CAR's 4.6 million people have been displaced and live in camps that provide little sanitation, have limited access to clean water, and see high rates of disease. Pray for those living in these situations, that they would know the source of hope when all around them seems hopeless.

14 OCT • WEDNESDAY

CAR was once one of the world's most evangelised nations. Half of the population still professes Christianity, 15% are Muslim, and 35% adhere to animistic faiths. Pray that Christians would know God in all his fullness.

15 OCT • THURSDAY

The economy is dependent on subsistence agriculture, yet even with World Bank loans, economic recovery is prevented by a lack of secure infrastructure and the threat of resurgent rebel factions. Pray for good harvests, so that food scarcity wouldn't add to desperation and need.

16 OCT • FRIDAY

Pray for more oral Christian materials in order to share the good news with a largely illiterate population. Pray too for more educational opportunities for those whom God is calling to lead his people in CAR, both in literacy and in Bible studies.



COVID-19 IN CAR

The United Nations described the Central African Republic as one of the countries least able to deal with an outbreak of Covid-19. Doctors are already struggling to treat existing cases of malaria, measles and tuberculosis. There is no accurate data about numbers of Covid-19 related deaths and cases as testing is limited. Please pray for CAR during the pandemic.

THE CHURCH WILL STAND

Wendy Atkins shares how the church, planted in the southeast corner of French Equatorial Africa, now the country of Central African Republic (CAR), has grown despite rebellions, wars, and consistent country-wide insecurity.

Spanning a length of 1,362km, the Evangelical Community of Churches in CAR (Communauté d'Églises Évangélique en Centrafrique or CEEC) exists from Bambouti to Bangui. The most current upheavals perpetrated by rebel groups from 2008 to the present have turned hundreds of church members into refugees and internally displaced persons. Adding the current Covid-19 pandemic to the mix, one might wonder if the church in CAR continues its ministry of preaching the Word, evangelising the lost, and demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ through practical means. The answer is an emphatic yes.

In the refugee camp in the Democratic Republic of Congo where thousands of church members fled when Zemio and surrounding villages were attacked in 2017, government restrictions in light of the pandemic keep the church from gathering for Sunday services.



But faithful pastors proclaim the Word of God throughout the camp using a loudspeaker system powered by a 12V battery. Church leaders trained in trauma healing continue to minister using solar-powered handheld mp3 players embedded with challenging stories and Scripture.

Before the Covid-19 restrictions took hold, the church in Bangui reached out to encourage the displaced people in their midst. Their pastor shared God's Word, exhorting those present to place their confidence in God, then to look to him in prayer. Small but significant gifts were distributed to those present as tangible proofs that God continues to care for them.

One displaced person explained that after running the 1,050km from his home in Zemio to Bangui to save his life, he considered it a privilege to find refuge in the church in Bangui. An elderly widow suffering from diabetes shared that due to the rebellion she came close to losing her faith, but the Word of God preached faithfully at the CEEC Church in Bangui drew her back to God.

Jesus promised that he would build his church, a church strong enough to not be overpowered by evil (Matthew 16:18), a promise that remains true for God's church in CAR. Fortified by the Word and by our prayers, this church will stand as a strong testimony of God's power and love, no matter what happens in that war-torn, rebel-controlled country. 🙏

WEEKENDFOCUS

17-18 OCTOBER

Pray that God would open a way for the relief flights into CAR, sponsored by Voice of the Martyrs, to resume. Thank God for previous flights by AIM Air which have brought relief to the CAR Church, displaced people, and refugees.

19 OCT • MONDAY

With no AIM missionaries living in the country, pray that AIM leadership would know God's will for the mission's future involvement in CAR. Pray that AIM's efforts to reach the unreached, mobilise the church for mission, and train church leaders would continue despite the difficulties the country faces.

20 OCT • TUESDAY

Pray for the CEEC Church leadership as they are scattered and not able to gather for fellowship and strategising. Pray that they would have a deeper hunger for God's Word for their personal lives, as well as to help their congregations at this time.

21 OCT • WEDNESDAY

Please remember our brothers and sisters in CAR who live in a constant state of insecurity and fear. Pray for peace. Rebels continue to govern most of the country, taking advantage of the population and making life difficult for people in many ways.

22 OCT • THURSDAY

Pray that Covid-19 will be contained in CAR, where the health infrastructure lacks trained personnel, supplies, and equipment. Pray that if CAR does see cases rising, the international community would supply aid to the right places and support hospitals where help is needed.

23 OCT • FRIDAY

Give thanks that God is in control, and that in Jesus he shares in the sufferings of his church in CAR. Pray that more people there would meet the living God who walks alongside them and shares in their pain.



24-30 OCTOBER
SOUTH SUDAN



ENTRY THROUGH EDUCATION

Involvement in education opens up countless opportunities for missionaries to share their lives with people. That witness has led to many coming to Jesus and we praise God that numerous students and teachers have become leaders in the churches, communities and even in the government of South Sudan.

LITERACY LEADING TO SALVATION

Historically, Christian missionary efforts in Sudan, like in other African countries, saw education in a dual role - to present the gospel of salvation through Jesus Christ to those who have not heard and to facilitate personal and societal development. For Russ and Lyn Noble, this dual role gave them an open door into southern Sudanese society.

The people of southern Sudan in the 1970s were largely unreached with the message of Jesus. Along with healthcare and other channels, the emphasis on education was central to AIM's strategy for reaching out to the southern Sudanese in incarnational witness of Christ. God used AIM to focus on these essential ministries as they presented the gospel and planted churches together with the Sudanese.

With years of first-hand experience in the formal education sector in southern Sudan, the



Lord clearly led us into literacy work in mother tongue languages. During the period of civil war from the early 1980s until 2005, more and more Scriptures were developed in the 60 plus languages of southern Sudan. However, only very few people could read and write – in any language. The literacy rate was one of the lowest in the world. There were virtually no trained teachers who could adequately teach their people to read or write in their own languages. Despite Bibles in local languages being developed and printed, most people had no literacy skill to read them. Often stacks of full boxes loaded with vernacular Scriptures would be devoured by termites, or pages were torn out and rolled to make cigarettes by soldiers. God’s Word was sacrificially and lovingly developed in southern Sudanese languages and yet few people valued it or could read it. It was a treasure lost.

TRAINING TEACHERS

Our final seventeen years were devoted to working in conjunction with local churches in areas spread out around the country to train

indigenous language teachers who would teach children and adults – especially women – to read in their ‘heart’ language. As the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, ‘...you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus’ (2 Timothy 3:15). God’s intention of the written word is to point us to the living word – Jesus, the Saviour of the world. The skill of literacy is a key to knowing and following Jesus better because we can read God’s written word which makes us ‘wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus’.

Throughout the history of the Church (and even before) education has been significant to sharing the greatest story ever told – that God has created us, he loves us, he has provided our redemption through Christ, and that we have a living hope for a future with him forever. God has used AIM, right from its entry into southern Sudan in 1949 and up to the present, to continue using education as a vital channel to point South Sudanese to the Saviour and to disciple believers in their faith and their Christian walk. 🇸🇩



THE FATHER'S HAND

Gord Sawatzky tells us that the chapter of his cross-cultural ministry in South Sudan, as the AIM country leader (2000-2005), was his most difficult and challenging assignment.

In all levels of society, from families in villages, to churches, to communities, to governing entities, I felt an overarching spirit of dissension and mistrust. Over the 40 plus years I have been involved in cross-cultural ministry around the world I have regularly seen mistrust between people groups, but for me the situation in South Sudan was much harder to cope with. How could I develop significant relational trust with national church leadership when church leaders themselves had little desire to work with each other, let alone with me? How could I get alongside individual leaders without getting caught in the difficulties between people groups? On top of that, the government out of the northern part of Sudan exacerbated the local mistrust by supporting certain people groups as they sought to diminish others.

EMERGING CHAMPIONS

Yet, in the midst of these dynamics, the Father has his hand on South Sudan. He is raising up an amazing assortment of emerging champions who are seeking to glorify his name, build his kingdom and reconcile the broken world of South Sudan to himself. While I continue to have the privilege of walking life with a number of these champions through leadership mentoring and coaching, they are striving to lead national mission initiatives, develop leaders and birth disciple multiplying movements. We are reminded again and again, that in the hopelessness of South Sudan (from our very limited perspective) we cannot, but God can. Perhaps the rejection, suffering and pervasive dissension are some of God's tools to liberate us from human control, pride and the desire to please men. Power is dangerous in the hands of an unbroken vessel. When leadership comes out of brokenness, his strength is best demonstrated in our weakness.

Father, we are grasping your hand as we join you (1 Corinthians 3:9) in reaching the remaining unreached and developing your leaders in South Sudan. We long for your help, your deliverance and ultimately your return as we cry out with the psalmist, "O my God, do not delay" (Psalm 40:17). 🙏



JESUS, HELP!

Margaret Papov describes the spiritual battles at work among the Didinga of South Sudan.

I lay down on the ground, with only a thin plastic mat between my bones and the hard packed soil. It was my first night with my homestay Didinga family in Nagishot and I wondered how on earth I would cope sleeping like that in the cold with only a thin blanket for warmth. But that was to be the least of my problems.

During the night, as I was sleeping, I suddenly felt someone pushing me hard between the shoulder blades. In a dream-like state I saw myself upright against a mud wall, being pushed face forward by this crushing force in my back. The pressure was so great I couldn't move or breathe, as if someone had me in a vice and was trying to force the life out of me. I woke and realised that I was sleeping on my side. I was unable to breathe and it dawned on me that this was not a physical attack. I couldn't speak, so I simply mouthed the name of Jesus. The pressure lessened slightly, just enough for me to draw a small breath to whisper, "Jesus, help!" but I didn't even get to finish my cry. As soon as his name sounded out, the pressure immediately disappeared. I was not fearful. I felt perfectly safe and peaceful. I thanked Jesus for overcoming and asked for his continued protection for the night and for this family.

So there's at least one spirit living with that family, whether they know it or not and it was not happy about me being there. While I stayed with this family, I sensed a gentleness about them and a sensitivity in some of them to spiritual matters. Would you intercede with me for Mekerina (widowed mother) and her children, Lokulang, Martin, Mayo and Dominic? Ask the Father to draw them to Jesus who has already broken all the chains of bondage and eagerly desires to free them also. 🙏

WEEKENDFOCUS

24-25 OCTOBER

Give thanks for the countless numbers of South Sudanese people who have had the opportunity to learn in school and eventually serve in leadership positions in the church, the government and in their communities. Pray for literacy work and the ongoing translation of the Bible in many South Sudanese languages.

26 OCT • MONDAY

Covid-19 was potentially brought into South Sudan by Western aid workers, which has given rise to anti-foreigner feelings and fears across the country. Give thanks that despite this, AIM missionaries have been able to stay and minister in their locations.

27 OCT • TUESDAY

Every week small groups of Laarim believers are meeting to study the book of Luke. Pray for the leaders of these groups, that God will fill them with his Holy Spirit and that they would encourage believers to grow in their personal relationships with God.

28 OCT • WEDNESDAY

At the moment, Covid-19 restrictions mean that missionaries are not able to leave their locations. Pray they would persevere well and cope with the limited food to which they have access. Give thanks that plane drops are possible in some locations.

29 OCT • THURSDAY

Pray for the South Sudanese believers, that they will not only receive the gospel but will allow the Holy Spirit to transform them. Pray for their lives to draw others to Jesus.

30 OCT • FRIDAY

Pray for the growth of indigenous churches in South Sudan, and that leaders would have access to education, allowing them to grow in God's Word. Pray for leaders to encourage others to be disciple-making disciples.



31 OCTOBER - 13 NOVEMBER
INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS



THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

Beginning in 1975, AIM's work on the Indian Ocean Islands was initially interrupted by violence, following several of the Islands' declarations of independence from France. This led to a withdrawal of French aid and aid workers. In desperate need of health workers, AIM was welcomed by Island leaders into these majority Muslim areas, as it sent skilled staff to work in Island hospitals.

Open evangelism remains difficult, as Christianity on the Islands is often viewed with hostility and in some cases outlawed by the Islamic rulers. Local Christians face persecution and rejection for their faith. Evangelism work on the Islands today is carried out alongside other occupations, with opportunities to serve ranging from English teaching to nursing and community healthcare.

GOING TO THE HARD PLACES

As Miriam Butcher looks back, she's able to acknowledge God's faithfulness, goodness and grace as she has celebrated AIM's 75, 100 and now 125 anniversaries.

As a young Bible student at the time of the 75 celebration, I was impressed by what the Lord had done through AIM. There were many churches which the Lord had established through the work of the mission. Many people who had come to know Jesus through those churches, are now fulfilling the Great Commission to go and preach the gospel and make disciples. By the 75 anniversary, AIM was working in Kenya, Tanzania, Central African Republic (CAR), Uganda and DR Congo.

My desire was to go to an unreached people group, and in 1975 the mission was in the process of taking the gospel to areas which had not yet been reached. It is with great joy that I have seen this work expanding over the years, as the Lord has challenged AIM, along with other missions, to go further afield in Africa to reach those areas which need to hear the good news. I do praise God for those people from all over the world that he has set aside for this task.

The Lord took me to a little group of Indian Ocean Islands. Initially there were two of us working there and ministry was slow to start, partly due to





← political instability. But the Lord kept us there and the work expanded until at one time there were as many as 25 missionaries. Today these islands still need our prayers as our missionaries serving there continue to face particular trials. Tropical illnesses, as well as struggles to find adequate schooling for children, mean the Islands are not an easy place to serve. Despite the issues, we have seen the Lord working, particularly through local believers who, regardless of the risk of persecution for their faith, reach out to fellow Islanders.

MAKING THE WORD ACCESSIBLE

AIM missionaries on the Islands have worked faithfully on Bible translation and in literacy projects over the years. I will never forget one incident when we visited a lady to take her a copy of the newly printed New Testament in her language. The delight on her face as she realised that she was able to read this book was memorable. The Jesus film too has been translated and is used to reach many on the Islands.

Yet, despite the efforts of AIM and other missions, there remain more than 1,000 people groups in Africa who are still waiting to hear the good news of Jesus. Could you be part of the next generation of workers that God is calling to this task? 🌍

WEEKENDFOCUS

31 OCT - 1 NOV

We praise God for the significant number of long term workers we have on the Islands, however we also would like to start several new teams over the next year. Pray that God would raise up new workers to join these teams.

2 NOV • MONDAY

Praise God for the Bible translation projects underway in each island language. Through Scripture apps and social media, we are seeing widespread access to God's Word for the first time. Pray that the Truth would penetrate deeply, bringing conviction that cannot be ignored.

3 NOV • TUESDAY

The first two Scripture apps that were released by the team in the Islands had over 1,000 downloads! Give thanks that technology has allowed the gospel to be shared this way. Pray that those who hear the Word would find it as sweet as honey and long for more.

4 NOV • WEDNESDAY

Ask for God's continuing protection over and provision for the Bible translation projects. He has provided what has been needed at every step of the way, yet the teams have also seen multiple setbacks. Pray that they might learn to lean on the Lord and trust in moments of frustration.

5 NOV • THURSDAY

Pray that we would see God work in power as we pray for people in Jesus' name, that people would be healed and demons would flee. Pray that this would be the year of spiritual breakthrough and that God would draw many into his kingdom of light.

6 NOV • FRIDAY

Pray that God would be revealing himself to Islanders through dreams and visions. It is a widely-held belief here that no Islander would or could truly change their religion, and that people follow Jesus in order to get something – money, a job, a visa. Pray that this lie would be exposed.

ARE YOU A HEALTHCARE WORKER?

Healthcare provides an amazing way to serve the on Islands. We long to see healthy individuals and communities in the holistic sense of the word. As well as less preventable illness and healing for the sick, we want to see people in relationship with God. Could you help free people from bondage and release them into new life in Christ?

🖱 Visit: eu.aimint.org/healthcare-islands



SOPHIE'S STORY

Sophie* became a believer a few years ago, and one of our workers on the Islands has been privileged to witness and be part of her journey.

Sophie was brought up in a Muslim home, but was having serious doubts. Then one night she dreamed she was in a deep pit. It was dark, and she couldn't get herself out. Then she saw Jesus looking down into the pit. He called her name, reached down and pulled her out. She decided to find out more about her rescuer and has eagerly soaked up and stuck to truth even in the midst of persecution. Her faith is simple yet deep. She takes the Word as she reads it, and prays in faith. As a result, she has seen her Saviour answer in amazing ways - providing healing, food, money, and even fixing her broken solar system so she can have light.

A DESIRE TO SHARE

When she first accepted Christ, she only felt responsible for herself and her own decision. This broadened to a desire to share with her family, and later, her wider community, after seeing her neighbour in a dream, in the middle of the ocean clinging to a rope which she believed would bring her to paradise. Sophie could see that no one was holding the other end to pull her to safety - she was just floating helplessly clutching a useless rope.

Shortly after reading about Paul's persecution in Acts, Sophie received a call to say the police were coming to arrest her. She boldly asked the police officer if she was considered dangerous enough to be locked up without a trial. The officer agreed to a court hearing. She came to us and said, "If I go to prison, I go to prison, but I want a chance like Paul to speak. God will be with me and give me the words." In the end her accusers never showed up and her case was dismissed. Sophie is using her testimony to encourage others, and we are seeing her grow as a leader and encourager among the few believers here. Please pray that God continues to grow and develop her gifts and burden for others, inside and outside the church. May these seeds produce a hundred-fold harvest! 🌱

* Name changed for security reasons

WEEKENDFOCUS

7-8 NOVEMBER

It often seems that the only way Islanders will believe people are truly following Jesus is if they see multiple examples of Christians willingly suffering for their faith - picking up their cross and following Jesus. Pray that the Holy Spirit would give believers the strength to do this!

9 NOV • MONDAY

Most local Christians live in fear, afraid their faith will be discovered and exposed. This can make it hard for them to trust others. But we know that perfect love drives out fear! Ask God to reveal the length, width, height and depth of his love, so that believers no longer have to be slaves to fear.

10 NOV • TUESDAY

Pray that God would unite the local Christians - within and across the Islands. Ask God to raise up godly leaders for the local church; servant leaders with a heart for discipleship and a vision for God's kingdom.

11 NOV • WEDNESDAY

Very few Island women have chosen to follow Jesus. Ask God to open women's hearts, so that they would seek the source of a fulfilled and secure life. Pray that God would reveal to workers what is holding women back from coming to Jesus.

12 NOV • THURSDAY

Pray for the mobilisation of African workers - that God would be moving hearts to hear his call, and provide all that is needed as they step out in faith. There are hundreds of potential kingdom workers right here in the Islands, and lots of opportunities for others to come.

13 NOV • FRIDAY

Pray for wisdom for teams on the Islands to know where to invest their time and energy. Pray that God would convict workers when they are working out of their own strength, and teach them to act from a place of rest, in his wisdom and his strength.



14-27 NOVEMBER
DIASPORA



DIASPORA

Today, millions of Africans live outside Africa; in North America, Europe, and around the globe – the African diaspora. There are pockets of Sudanese in Nebraska, Moroccans in the Netherlands, and Senegalese in Spain. We call reaching out to these populations, and others like them, diaspora ministry.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

A missionary couple share the challenges and blessings of working among Africans in the UK.

GOD OPENS UNEXPECTED DOORS

We'd assumed we would spend decades in Africa. But the people God had laid on our hearts were inaccessible at that time due to war. So God opened an unexpected door to one of their diaspora communities in Britain. We moved into their neighbourhood - a needy inner-city area with a catalogue of social problems. We had worse culture shock than we'd ever had in Africa.

GOD CALLS CHRISTIANS TO WITNESS

In the community we live in, people have often been taught that Christianity is wrong, and they tend to assume Western culture is Christian. Our task was to challenge the negative preconceptions and show by how we lived that Christians are different from mainstream Western culture.

GOD CALLS, EQUIPS AND ENABLES

“What would we do if this was an African village? Which of those things can we try here? How can we become part of the community?” When we began ministry, AIM had not worked among a diaspora people in Britain before, so we sat down to write an action plan. We knew we could teach English, volunteer in a homework club for kids and help with replies to official letters. But God also gave us opportunities to visit people in hospital and at the police station; put plasters on childrens’ grazed knees in the street; listen to problems families kept secret from the community. He enabled us to help neighbours with DIY jobs - even when we didn’t know what we were doing!

GOD GIVES LOVE AND PATIENCE

This kind of ministry depends on trust built up long term through shared lives. But the people group we worked with are often suspicious and notoriously difficult to work among. Only God could have given us the love we still have for them, despite much discouragement and little fruit after many years.

GOD USES TEAMS

Our wonderful, international Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) team - the first outside Africa - witnessed to the reality of God’s global family. Together, we could do things just the two of us would never have tried and multiply our friendships. Discouragements and frustrations of ministry are halved when they are shared.

GOD ENTRUSTS THE CHURCH

In this context, half of the workers’ task is to mobilise the local church to take on the long term work. They must reach out with love; welcome inquirers and prepare to nurture and integrate new converts. For us, staying in the right area and church has meant we can continue beyond retirement.

GOD IS BUILDING HIS KINGDOM

This community is often very resistant to the gospel. Even in the diaspora, converts can face severe persecution and sometimes physical danger. But more are coming to faith in Jesus, largely through the internet. We’ve known one family through it all - their eldest son’s baptism certificate hangs in our study. 🙏

AFRICANS IN BRITAIN

Africans have been living in Britain since at least Roman times. We know of one African legionary who went down in history for making fun of the Emperor Septimius Severus outside Carlisle around the year 210 AD.



AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Ukawsaw Gronniosaw’s autobiography from 1772 is considered to be the first book by a Black author ever published in England. He tells of his childhood in Nigeria, where he was kidnapped and sold into slavery, his life as an enslaved man in New York and New Jersey, and later, his life as a free man living in poverty in Colchester and Kidderminster.

ELIZABETH I

In 1596 Queen Elizabeth I’s cabinet ministers wanted her to deport Africans, because of economic pressures ‘in these hard times of dearth’, and because, they said, ‘most of them are infidels, having no understanding of Christ or his gospel’.





WEEKENDFOCUS • 14-15 NOVEMBER

A DIVERSE TASK

If you were to walk along the streets of Cardiff, it wouldn't take long for you to notice the ethnic and religious diversity.

Why do internationals come here? Some are immigrants whose families have been here for generations. Others are more recent arrivals: asylum-seekers who have left their country in search of a better life; international students who have come to

study at one of Cardiff's universities.

Cardiff is home to a large community from the Horn of Africa. We also meet many from North, Central and West Africa. This is the setting where God has placed our family after years serving in Africa. The task is so great, though, that outreach cannot be the exclusive domain of the 'ministry professional'. Please pray for us as we serve alongside local churches in various activities such as an international women's sewing group, women's English classes, Globe Café for international university students and homework club. 🌍

16 NOV • MONDAY

Pray for believers from closed communities who are involved in internet ministry. Often by sharing the gospel in videos they face significant persecution. But by being open with their identities they can show people from their communities that it is possible to become a Christian.

17 NOV • TUESDAY

Pray for those who do come to faith through internet ministry, both among the African diaspora, and in countries where Christianity is not welcome. Pray that changing one's faith will become more acceptable and that people can be discipled in their faith.

18 NOV • WEDNESDAY

Give thanks that God determines 'the exact places where we should live... doing this so that men may seek him, and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us' Acts 16:26-27.

19 NOV • THURSDAY

Give thanks for the way that Africans, including those from unreached people groups, are now living in the UK. Pray the church in the UK will be intentional in reaching out and sharing the gospel with those who have yet to hear about Jesus.

20 NOV • FRIDAY

Pray that those arriving in the UK, confronted with many new things, would not be closed to the gospel, but would have soft hearts to listen to the words of truth. Pray they would begin to question what they've been taught and seek after answers to all of life's questions.

WEEKENDFOCUS

21-22 NOVEMBER

Pray for more British Christians to be willing to share their lives with Africans around them, and witness to them about the love and hope they have in Jesus. Pray that this positive witness would challenge any preconceived ideas about what Christianity is like and lead to deeper conversations.

23 NOV • MONDAY

Give thanks for the religious freedom that we, and African diaspora, enjoy in the UK. Pray that Africans unused to these freedoms would welcome the opportunity to explore Christianity and attend events run by local churches and outreach groups.

24 NOV • TUESDAY

Pray for the Holy Spirit to direct AIM's diaspora workers to churches in the UK that are looking to set up outreach to Africans in their communities. Pray that AIM can partner well with churches and equip them to fulfil the Great Commission, locally as well as in Africa.

25 NOV • WEDNESDAY

Give thanks for university students who want to be a witness among the nations. We are looking to launch a homework club in Cardiff with students as volunteers. Pray that this would open students' eyes to the needs in Africa, as well as the opportunities to reach out in their community.

26 NOV • THURSDAY

Pray for wisdom about when to reopen ministry activities following the pandemic and for discernment about how best to connect with African communities in a post-Covid world. Pray for creative ideas about how to meet people for deep conversations whilst keeping everybody safe.

27 NOV • FRIDAY

African communities have been among some of the hardest hit by Covid-19. Pray for those who are still recovering from the effects of the virus, as well as those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. Pray that they would receive clear information and compassionate care.



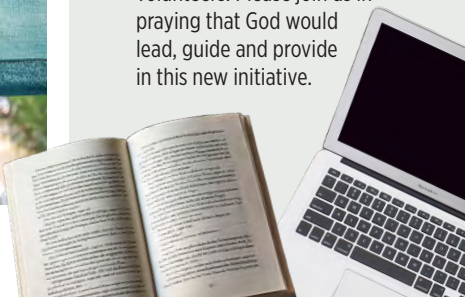
HOMEWORK CLUB

Providing help with homework is one viable way to help international families.

Homework club is a time for students (ages 11-18) to come and do their homework. Volunteers are on hand to answer questions. We find that homework in subjects such as religious education generates interesting discussion as they study different religions and consider moral and ethical topics like abortion, euthanasia, and the death penalty. We are often asked what we think and believe.

At the start of this school year, we distributed leaflets in the neighbourhood where we hold a weekly homework club for teenage girls. One man took our leaflet saying that this is exactly what was needed. He then asked why it wasn't for boys. Answer? We need more volunteers!

So, where do we find them? In speaking with Christian university students here in Cardiff, there are many who have a heart to be a witness among the nations. Just prior to the pandemic, one Christian university student and I were working on plans to launch a homework club with Christian university students as the volunteers. Please join us in praying that God would lead, guide and provide in this new initiative.





ORDINARY MEN

‘They saw that they were ordinary unschooled men...’ Acts 4:13. One of the constants for Tony and Cath Swanson over their twenty years in Tanzania as ministries, programmes and locations have changed, has been the rich personal relationships that they have established with a few people, and which continue to this day.

These friends epitomise for us the work of the Holy Spirit in the building of Christ-centred churches across Tanzania. It is through these quiet heroes of the faith that we perhaps get a glimpse of the true story of amazing church growth, warts and all!

To be honest, when the ‘music fades’ and

all the regular clacking of the missionaries’ computer keyboards falls silent, it is these brothers and sisters who are the ones who will receive a rich reward as everything is laid bare. AIM workers come and go: but day in and day out they remain at their post, pray with all their hearts, seek to see Christ glorified in and among the raw realities of Tanzanian life.

TRUE HEROES OF THE FAITH

One such friend is Joshua Kishiwa. You won’t find his name in the long list of missionary pioneers; he doesn’t have buildings or programmes named in his honour. He didn’t complete secondary school. He isn’t a pastor. Just an ‘ordinary unschooled man’.

Joshua was brought up in a traditional Sukuma animist family, where his father had multiple wives and many cows. Joshua moved to the city for a better life and became



Joshua Kishiwa and his family

“...it is these brothers and sisters who are the ones who will receive a rich reward as everything is laid bare.”

involved with the Africa Inland Church youth group. He came to faith and found a job as a guard at the AIM compound in Dar es Salaam where we first met him and his wife Felicia. We have had the privilege of seeing their three children born and grow up, the oldest one, Jane, having just completed an Engineering degree at University.

Cath and I moved on to other ministries, but Joshua has faithfully stayed on and kept serving. He eventually became an elder of the church and has seen at least six pastors come and go. Throughout the last 21 years he has

been a constant in the life of the church; not always appreciated by all, but always faithful and diligent in gospel matters. Today in God's good grace, Kongowe AICT is flourishing, it has planted two other daughter churches, and is looking to plant two more among the proximate coastal Muslim people groups. Joshua with his constant, diligent, faithful ministry, has nurtured the DNA of a Christ-centred church and encouraged it to grow. 🙌

THE WORK CONTINUES

AIM started work in Tanzania in 1909 and since then the church has grown exponentially, with over 2,500 Africa Inland Church of Tanzania congregations. Despite the growth of the church there still remain 31 people groups who have yet to hear of Jesus.



SCATTERING SEED

Miriam Pugh shares how their family and their team have seen God at work among the Alagwa.

The way God grows his kingdom, Jesus says, is like a man scattering seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. This perfectly describes the way God has graciously worked with our team for the last nine and a half years. We have scattered seed; a whole lot of seed! The seed is full of life and goodness. By resting or striving we can't make those seeds grow - we don't even understand the deep mystery of how that growth happens.

God has always faithfully loved the Alagwa and in these years, we have the privilege of seeing that love and grace working in our communities. As God shines his light into the lives of his lost image bearers, he reveals the pain and the brokenness and slowly brings healing.

We have seen seeds grow in these years. Villages who had none of God's Word in their mother tongue now have some stories

from the Bible, Genesis to Revelation, to show them who God is and his big story of love for them. They have the gospel of Luke as well now and we are working with them on the beginning of John. Many listen avidly on their phones or players whilst herding, whilst sitting round in the evening with their families, whilst hanging out with their friends. We have seen some follow Jesus. And among these new believers, some are discovering God's heart for the lost and praying. They are sharing the good news with their family and friends. We have seen groups and individuals come regularly to study God's Word together. We have seen people released and healed from demonic oppression and sickness. Others are brought by those who have experienced this healing so they too may be healed. We have seen a church planted and grow. Two faithful Alagwa believers who were already standing for Jesus are growing in their faith and part of the church leadership team.

You don't often see a seed growing - sometimes it takes a long time for a seed to even germinate, let alone start to show on top of the soil. Sometimes it seems that there is no growth at all. But we know that night and day, whether we sleep or go out to work, God is building his kingdom here. 🌱



LONGING TO WELCOME

When they moved to Pahi, Paul and Virginia Tanner (and their children) were not welcome, but they could still spread the seeds of the gospel.

Many were willing to tolerate our presence in the hopes that we would bring some sort of material gain to the community, but others were hostile. They spat at us when we went by and children threw pebbles. Behind our backs they plotted ways to get rid of us. They even presented a case to the government to have us kicked out of the country on several fabricated accusations. Untouched by all of this was Bibi. She lived in the small hut behind our house. When we arrived for the first time with our three small children, she rushed over, took our baby in her arms and declared that we were now part of her family. She introduced us to life in Pahi, brought us food when we arrived home from long trips, sold us eggs and milk, and had her granddaughter haul water for us.

We mourned with her when her daughter died of Aids, leaving behind two young children for Bibi to raise. We celebrated with her when her son brought a wife to live with them and then welcomed new grandchildren into the family. Over the years, we longed to welcome her to join our family – the family of Jesus Christ. We shared with her the truth of salvation many times. She said she believed, but we never saw any fruit and she never made any public commitment.

When we knew that God was calling us to a new location, we shared with our children that we were moving. Our youngest daughter, then 7, burst into tears, “Who will tell Bibi about Jesus if we leave?” We assured her that God was able to use other believers to keep watering the seeds in Bibi’s heart.

We have been back to Pahi several times over the years since then. Every visit I make a point to share with Bibi once again the truth of Jesus Christ. Bibi is getting old now and still we pray, look for fruit, and long to welcome her into Jesus’ family. 🌍

WEEKENDFOCUS

28-29 NOVEMBER

Thank the Lord for priceless local believers, including Joshua Kishiwa, and the thousands like him whom God is using to build his church. May God establish a new generation of young adults who will love and serve him both in the church and in their professional lives.

30 NOV • MONDAY

We praise God for the established church across Africa which is so full of mission potential. As AIM seeks to play its small part in mobilising the church both in Africa and in the UK, may we identify where God is already at work.

1 DEC • TUESDAY

Please pray for a new Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) team. AICT (Africa Inland Church Tanzania) pastors, Musa and Merciana Luzali, will be leading the team and have moved from their current ministry among the Alagwa to Likawage to prepare for the team. Pray for them, and for team members to join them.

2 DEC • WEDNESDAY

Please pray that Tanzanian immigration would grant the Africa Inland Church an exemption for work permits for missionaries. This would ease the immigration delays and rejections that workers wanting to work in Tanzania are experiencing.

3 DEC • THURSDAY

Please pray for more workers for the south coast of Tanzania, especially for leaders for teams in new areas. Many areas have requested workers, but we need leaders to help us take advantage of these open doors.

4 DEC • FRIDAY

Pray for Christian Tanzanians living along the south coast as government workers, that they would have a passion to reach out to their neighbours. Pray for wisdom in finding avenues to meet and interact with new people and to be bold in sharing the love of Jesus with each friend.



5-18 DECEMBER
RWANDA

GOD'S PROJECT OF HOPE

Rwanda is known for one of the worst genocides that took place in the 20th century. This tiny country of a thousand hills, a small land hidden in the centre of the Great Lake region, became a theatre for atrocities and violence. This scars the history and the lives of Rwandans and many ask, 'where is God?'

“Genocide is like an oil spill, either you die from it or you remain glued to it forever,” says Gael Faye, in Mon Petit Pays. Is there any hope for this country, any possible healing and reconciliation? Can light shine again through this intense darkness?

Gilles and Myriam Bonvallat did experience a sense of darkness living in Rwanda, hearing testimonies from so many Rwandan friends. But they also saw the light gently piercing through.

A LIGHT HAS DAWNED

“The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned” Matthew 4:16.

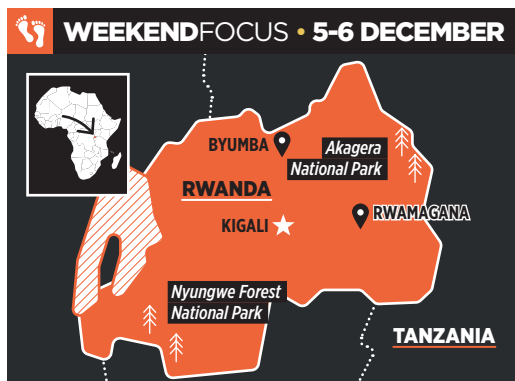
The majority of the population of Rwanda is under 25, so we offered the youth, through camps, the opportunity to discover biblical values through games and experiential teaching. We saw so many lives transformed. The younger generation has a real desire to discover God's goodness and to trust him, and even to forgive the past. They want to build a new country based on hope and grace. We saw young people realise that God was in Rwanda during the genocide, that even though human madness took over and ruled, God is not finished with Rwanda. He has a project of hope and peace for this beautiful country, and for each person born on this land.

THE GOD OF HEALING

The valley of tears is long (Psalm 84:6). But God is a God of healing and he can extend real reconciliation through people who have firstly experienced reconciliation with him. We have seen God using young people to bring healing and reconciliation in families, in villages, and in churches. Today, Rwandans are beginning to have a vision for mission, for other people groups in Africa, and further afield, who have suffered and are suffering without knowing about Jesus' light. They know that they have good news to share.

Noblesse, a young Rwandan, is currently part of an AIM team sharing Jesus among the Laarim in South Sudan. He was able to share his experiences with many young Rwandans who attended a Kairos (mission awareness) course. Now, three more Rwandans are currently studying theology with the goal to impact Rwanda and beyond, with the truth and the light of the Bible.

The Great Lakes region has been exposed and is still exposed to insecurity and ethnic tensions. Darkness has reigned and with it so many lives have been trampled, so many have lost dignity, humanity and hope. But darkness won't have the last word. We're excited to see a new emerging generation of godly men and women being Christ's light in the midst of their families, communities, churches, country and into Africa's unreached people groups. 🌍



LEARNING THE WORD

Praise God for all the camps have done in young people's lives and that the ministry, now called 3D Christian Camps, continues. Jessica Goldschmidt shares this testimony from a former camp attendee.

“I participated in the camp in 2017 and it was one of the most memorable experiences in my life. I had not expected so much but after completing the camp I was amazed at how wonderful the experience had been. This camp taught me that in my walk with God it is very important to have discipline in everything I do. It also taught me that there is always something I can do or contribute in the kingdom of God.

I also learnt that God always expects us to have a serving heart towards others. Afterwards, my friends and I saw the need for a Bible study at church and we immediately started one which has been going since then. I thank God because we have been able to learn the Word of God and start applying it in our daily lives.”



LEARNING TO LEAD

Bridget Howard shares that when reading the Bible, she accompanied Moses in his journey through the wilderness as he executed his God-given task of leadership. What struck her was the continual need to ask God to solve problems, meet needs and provide in many diverse situations.

I took on the leadership of the AIM Rwanda Unit in April 2014. I had previously held two positions of temporary leadership in Zaire (now DR Congo), but leadership was certainly not my forte; it was a burden and additional to my full time teaching assignment. It also involved being the Legal Representative of Inuma y’Amahoro, the NGO identity of AIM in Rwanda (a very different arrangement from working under the Church administration and authority in Zaire). I was faced with numerous matters that needed answers and solutions. I needed something visual to manage them. So at Christmas I constructed a 3D Prayer Pear Tree. I cut out paper pear shapes, wrote a prayer matter on each one and attached them to my

tree. When God had provided the solution, the pear was relegated to the lower branches. It was a very graphic way of keeping track of my responsibilities and seeing how God answered.

THE GOD WHO CARES

We had planned for the Inuma y’Amahoro AGM to be held on Friday morning. We were happy to be promised a quorum since this was an important meeting for the direction of our ministries. However, on Wednesday morning I received an email notifying us of a meeting for local and international NGOs at the District Office to meet with personnel from the Immigration Office to explain issues relating to the fulfilment of the action plans that we had to submit. This meeting was for that very Friday to start at 9am, and we were scheduled to begin our AGM at 10am! What were we going to do to resolve this conflict of interests – both very important meetings? Lord, you must help us. My prayer was answered in a most unexpected way on Thursday afternoon. I was meeting with a colleague when her mobile rang. It was the Director of the district informing her of the Friday meeting. Amazing! So she was able to inform him of a prior engagement planned for many weeks and give acceptable apologies for our absence. 🙏

7 DEC • MONDAY

Please pray for ongoing ministry as organisations work to meet stringent government requirements for legal recognition and accreditation. Pray the team there would know these words from 2 Corinthians 4:1,8 to be true, 'since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart... We are perplexed, but not in despair.'

8 DEC • TUESDAY

Pray for the camp ministry, that many would come to understand salvation and start the journey of a personal relationship with the Lord and that more youth would be equipped and encouraged to serve the children and youth in their churches and elsewhere.

9 DEC • WEDNESDAY

Pray that personal Bible reading and studying (alone or in small groups) would increase, "Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming" Ephesians 4.14.

10 DEC • THURSDAY

Pray that the Bible study groups would be able to resume again after the Covid-19 crisis, or that the groups would be able to find creative ways to continue encouraging each other to study God's Word and grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus.

11 DEC • FRIDAY

Pray against the negative impacts of the Covid-19 crisis on the lives of people, businesses and the church. Many in Rwanda live a hand to mouth existence and need to work each day. Give thanks for wise measures put in place by the government. Pray these would continue as the virus lingers.

WEEKENDFOCUS

12-13 DECEMBER

Pray for the Kairos (mission awareness) Course in Rwanda, that many more people, including church leaders, would catch God's heart for all nations and understand that they are called to be a part of blessing the nations with God's truth, whether through going, praying, giving or mobilising others.

14 DEC • MONDAY

Pray for Tubasange, a Rwandan mission organisation, that God would help with the legal registration process, provide financially and use this organisation to develop a growing vision for mission in Rwanda as well as training and supporting Rwandan missionaries.

15 DEC • TUESDAY

Pray for the Rwandan missionaries who are serving the Lord in different African countries, that God would provide for their needs and use them to be lights where he has sent them. Pray particularly for Noblesse serving on an AIM team among the Laarim in South Sudan.

16 DEC • WEDNESDAY

Pray for godly Rwandan leaders in the church. Pray that they would remain solid on Scripture and not be ensnared by false gospels (prosperity theology, legalism, and syncretism), and that they would encourage their congregations to hold firm to God's word too.

17 DEC • THURSDAY

Pray for the endurance of those who have chosen to forgive, and for comfort for those living in the bitterness of sorrow, still struggling to forgive. Pray too for those inflicted with scars from the genocide and who are still processing the emotional trauma.

18 DEC • FRIDAY

Give thanks for all that has been accomplished since 1994 — widespread reconciliation that can only be inspired by the Holy Spirit's power. Praise God for his purpose for the people of Rwanda, and that he will never leave them or forsake them.



19-31 DECEMBER
MADAGASCAR



RESCUING LIVES

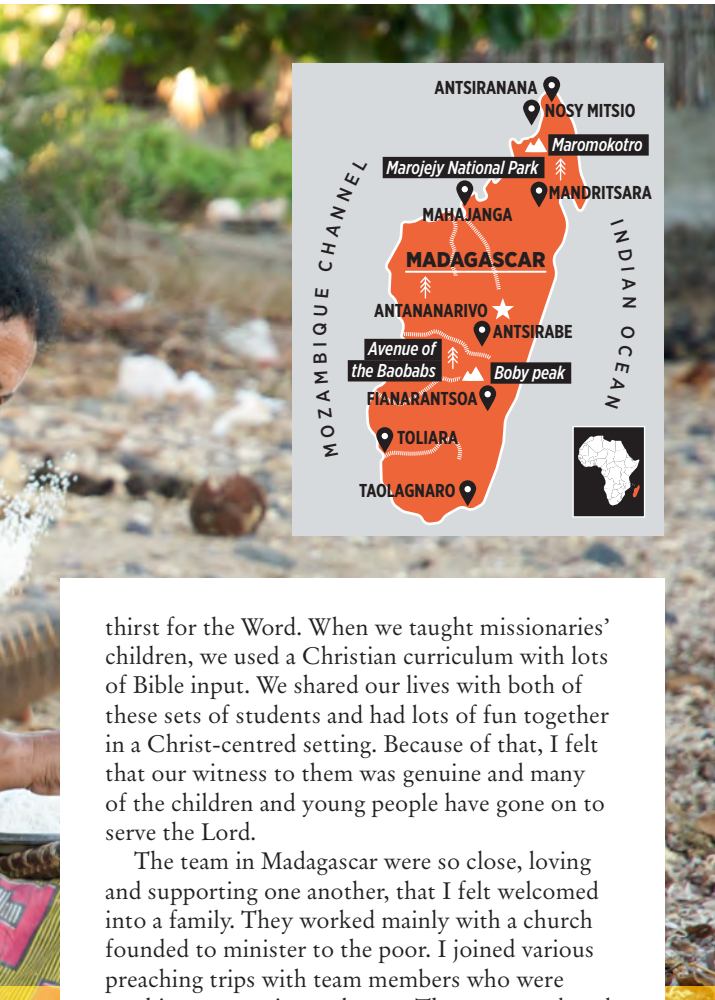
God is at work in Madagascar, leading people into lives of faith, hope and love. Led by a Malagasy, Rosina Ferdinand, our team in Madagascar is working to reach the remaining unreached people groups there with the gospel.

TO LEARN AND GROW TOGETHER

Elizabeth Macaulay was called to Madagascar after retiring from Further Education teaching in 1997. She looks back on sharing life with Malagasy friends, students and missionary colleagues.

I went to Madagascar to teach English to students in a church English club and also to help with home schooling missionaries' children. Later, I taught English at a Bible school for pastors, and became the teacher at a small school for missionaries' children.

God was at work through our English teaching. We introduced them to the Bible, reading and discussing it together, and the students had a real



thirst for the Word. When we taught missionaries' children, we used a Christian curriculum with lots of Bible input. We shared our lives with both of these sets of students and had lots of fun together in a Christ-centred setting. Because of that, I felt that our witness to them was genuine and many of the children and young people have gone on to serve the Lord.

The team in Madagascar were so close, loving and supporting one another, that I felt welcomed into a family. They worked mainly with a church founded to minister to the poor. I joined various preaching trips with team members who were teaching pastors in rural areas. The team produced Bible booklets for the local pastors, who lacked a good education. Several of us helped with the production, doing the collating and stapling with our somewhat basic office systems. During the long journeys into the countryside, we used to pray together. Our Malagasy colleagues, hearing our prayers, began to pray in a different way as they realised our Heavenly Father is interested in all of our lives.

God worked in our missionary community, drawing people of different nationalities and mission agencies closer together through our common goal of spreading the good news. The late Colin Molyneux started a Missionary Fellowship which met together every Sunday evening in different houses to worship, pray and hear the Word, whole families together. Sharing food and fellowship together was a great blessing as we encouraged one another in God's service. 🙏

WEEKENDFOCUS

19-20 DECEMBER

Give thanks for increasing numbers of Malagasy missionaries working with AIM. It is often easier for locals to meet the challenges of remote life and they are already familiar with Malagasy language and culture. Praise God they are willing to go to the furthest villages for the gospel.

21 DEC • MONDAY

National missionaries still face many challenges— raising financial support, healthcare, isolation, and transport difficulties, to name a few. Give thanks that Melias has been given a motorbike, making his ministry easier. Pray that other Malagasy churches would support their missionaries well and help meet their needs.

22 DEC • TUESDAY

Pray for Jean Baptiste, a Tanala man serving among his own people in Ikongo. The Lord has opened the door so wide that Jean Baptiste is asking for more workers to come. Give thanks for the many Tanala turning to Jesus.

23 DEC • WEDNESDAY

Jean Baptiste is working in four villages far apart. He travels on foot, leaving behind his family, to disciple and baptise new believers. It is too hilly and stony for a bicycle. Please pray the Lord would provide a motorbike for him.

24 DEC • THURSDAY

Could God be calling you to support Malagasy missionaries? If you'd like to send financial support, contact Steve at donations.eu@aimint.org and mention the Malagasy Missionary Partners Support project.

25 DEC • FRIDAY

Pray for those who are still waiting to hear of the miracle of Jesus' birth. For those in Madagascar, living in fear and only aware of a remote and unapproachable God, pray the light of his life would break through.



NEW WORKERS IN MADAGASCAR

Hervé and Nathalia Ramangalahy with their children, a family from Switzerland, are waiting for flights to join the Sakalava and Antakarana ministries. Jeremy and Felicity Aitken and their family, from Australia, are joining the team at Mandritsara Hospital serving among the Tsimihety. We hope to send Simon and Miriam Desborough from the UK next year to join a ministry to envision the church and equip it to send missionaries to less reached people in Madagascar and beyond. Give thanks for all those willing to serve cross-culturally. Pray for fundraising and preparations during the pandemic. In these uncertain times, pray they would know God's grace and peace.

GUIDED BY GOD

François and Florence Andriantsalama are Malagasy missionaries from the Vezo and Masikoro people groups. This is their testimony, told by Rosina Ferdinand, AIM's Unit Leader in Madagascar, of how God has guided them in his mission.

When François and Florence felt God was calling them into mission, their church recommended a Bible study course in Antananarivo, and encouraged them to think about joining an AIM led Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) team.

So, in 2003, together with their two children Francia and Franco, they joined the TIMO team led by Brian and Kathy de Smidt in Besakoa, a Bara village. After the TIMO team finished, they stayed on to continue the work. There were a small number of believers and a small church building was being built. But the couple felt lonely and isolated because their home church had forgotten about them—they received no visits and no support. They also felt the struggle of raising their children in Besakoa and supporting their studies at school—especially as they now had a third child, Francis. ➔



← Their Christian friends in a nearby town, Toliara, helped a lot by welcoming their children into their homes, caring for them and supporting their studies. It is a miracle to them to see their children succeeding in those studies: the eldest, Francia (21), now studying at the University in her second year, Franco (17), is about to finish high school. Meanwhile the youngest, Francis (11), is still with them at their own home.

In God's providence, after their seventh year in Besakoa, Florence got a teaching job in a school at a different village called Antsohamadiro. Now they have three homes to think of: Besakoa, Antsohamadiro, and Toliara, where their eldest two children are based.

Recently, in God's goodness, they have been provided with a one-hectare field where they can plant cassava. This will help their finances. Meanwhile, the ministry in Besakoa is growing—there have been a number of baptisms, and now there are two couples they can share the work with, taking turns with François to care for the church.

In Antsohamadiro, the door is open for the gospel too. A Bible study has started, a group of believers has been formed, and now they have been given a plot to build a church.

François says trials and preaching the gospel cannot be separated. He says his part is to remember why he is there and whose work he is doing. He says that in these last 17 years God continues to show them his faithfulness and goodness. 🌱

WEEKENDFOCUS

26-27 DECEMBER

It is so encouraging to see what is happening in Betroka among the Bara. Our members, the Bassos (Brazilians) are working well with local churches. Many Malagasy evangelists are trained and equipped to use the agriculture programme 'Farming God's way'. Give thanks for this practical demonstration of God's character and his love.

28 DEC • MONDAY

The children's ministry among the Bara is progressing well too, with 200 children attending every week. Now the leaders of more local churches are asking for help in training and teaching. We hope to soon describe the Bara as a 'reached people'.

29 DEC • TUESDAY

Give thanks for the good relationships that Petera and Francine are forming with the Muslim community in Nosy Mitsio. Recently one elder said, "You need to build a church in this village, so people would know something other than just Islam in the community. We will give you a plot for that".

30 DEC • WEDNESDAY

At the time of writing (September) the Covid-19 pandemic means that the Orners (USA), Matilda Ntukela (South Africa) and the Hofmanns (Netherlands) are detained in their respective countries unable to return to Madagascar. Please pray for peace and good health for them and for opportunities to share the gospel.

31 DEC • THURSDAY

Give thanks for Rosina Ferdinand as she leads AIM's team in Madagascar and seeks to mobilise more Malagasy for cross-cultural mission work. Manoa Ratovona works with Rosina in mobilisation. Pray for his work, and give thanks that the Malagasy team are able to send a new missionary to the Indian Ocean Islands.

GO TO THE BARA

National missionaries and the local church are looking for support as they seek to reach more of the Bara population with the gospel. Located in south central Madagascar, we're looking for people to join a team to work alongside the Bara in conservation agriculture projects as well as in discipleship programmes with the church.

🖱 Visit: eu.aimint.org/serve-bara

INTO AFRICA

AN ONLINE EVENT TO EXPLORE YOUR PLACE IN MISSION

**There will be three sessions:
5, 12 and 19 October
7:30- 9pm**



 **EU.AIMINT.ORG/INTOAFRICA**

CONTOURS OF THE BOYA
HILLS, SOUTH SUDAN






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.

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

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