

CONNECT

AIM's journal for prayer, reflection and growth



*Giving thanks to God for his goodness
and blessing in Africa and beyond.*



AFRICA
INLAND MISSION



“Praise the Lord,
my soul, and forget
not all his benefits.”

Psalm 103:2

MISSION STATEMENT

AIM serves and equips churches and Christians as they share the gospel, make disciples, and plant new churches among African peoples with the least opportunity to hear the gospel.

We do this by:

- inspiring you and your church to prayerfully respond to the Great Commission
- equipping you and others to serve among African people
- partnering with local churches and ministries in Africa to multiply the impact of your acts of service, your gifts, and your prayers

If you would like to receive our weekly prayer email with seven daily prayer points, designed to provide you with up to date prayer and praise items, you can sign up at: eu.aimint.org/pray



We use Carbon Balanced Paper, which means the average emissions associated with its production are offset by The Woodland Trust.



All our paper is FSC® certified, which means the trees used for this journal are from sustainable forests and will either naturally regenerate or be replaced.

- 04**
Our new designer shares his story of blessings and our theme of giving thanks.
- 06**
Snapshots of where God has been growing his kingdom in Africa since AIM began.
- 08**
We give thanks for two Africans who represent so many more whom God has reached.
- 10**
Introductions to some of the missionaries God has been sending and the organisations we partner with.
- 12**
We look at God's faithfulness in Kenya over the generations and at three Africans called to serve.
- 14**
Spend some time in God's word, looking at the discipline of thankfulness.
- 18**
Tracing God's goodness among the Laarim people, a picture of AIM's approach.
- 20**
We look to the future and where AIM is headed, in an interview with the Northern Region Executive Officer.
- 22**
News about a new initiative from those kickstarting a different model of partnership.
- 24**
Missionaries from every region share things to be thankful for and their hopes for 2023.
- 35**
Read about the latest news and events coming up.

©AIM Europe | Jan 2022
| Lindsey Davies and Stephen Bazely
Africa Inland Mission International, a company limited by guarantee (04598557), a registered charity in England and Wales (1096364) and a charity registered in Scotland (SC037594)
Registered Office: Unit 3A Beeston Business Hub, Nottingham, NG9 2JG

GOD HAS BLESSED US SO MUCH



God is so good. The more I see and hear, the more blessed I know I am. My name is Stephen Bazely, and I am blessed to be the new Senior Designer for AIM Europe.

I am blessed to be married to Joanna, a loving wife and mother to our young girls, Grace and Rosie. I am blessed to have grown up in a Christian family, with parents who continue to demonstrate God's generosity and love. I am blessed to have always been part of a church family, with brothers and sisters all over the world. I am blessed to have a home, a car, food to eat and so many freedoms. And most of all, I am blessed to be a child of God because of Jesus! We are so blessed materially in the West, and yet even that pales in significance compared to the abundant blessings in Christ. With the wealth we have, it is so easy to take

these things for granted and to forget to give thanks.

STARTING A NEW YEAR

As we start a new year together, let us take time to give thanks to God for his goodness and to count his many blessings. As this is the first Connect that I've had the privilege of contributing to, I wanted to step back and look at the big picture of how God is at work, who God is sending and where he is moving. There is so much to give thanks to God for.

SUCH GOOD NEWS

When I decided to follow Jesus at the age of 13, I was overwhelmed by a supernatural joy, and I knew I needed to share Jesus with others. I've had the joy of sharing Jesus in local churches, universities, schools, and different communities around the country as a

church member and as a vicar. Now God has given me a new way to help people come to know Jesus, by serving local churches across Europe to fulfil the Great Commission as part of the AIM family.

Design and communication have an important role to play in making hidden things visible so we can partner with what God is doing, pray and give thanks. The Bible is so good at showing us God's hand at work through history and on pages 6-7 we have some snapshots in time of places God has reached and how AIM has played its part in that work. We also have an opportunity to spend some time in Psalm 103 and 1 Chronicles 16 as we reflect further on the discipline of giving thanks.

SO MUCH NEED

Africa is so diverse, the church is so big, yet there are so many who need to hear about Jesus. I keep discovering more and more about Africa, more about the church in Africa and more about AIM. It is humbling and overwhelming at the same time. The more I discover, the more I see how good God is, how blessed we are, and what a privilege it is to have an English Bible and to be able to worship God so freely.

REAL PEOPLE IN REAL PLACES

Facts and geography are one thing, but it's in the personal stories and testimonies where we feel God's grace at work, so on pages 8-9 we hear two stories of people reached by Jesus. We know God is raising up Africans to share the good news, so we introduce you to some of these faithful people who have followed the call of God, however costly it may be on pages 10-13.

NEW THINGS

As well as looking back, we also want to look ahead, to look to the future and to where AIM is headed, where the majority of unreached peoples live. We also know that many of you have been praying for or serving with AIM for a long time, so we have also collected praise points from missionaries you may know and others you may not have heard from. We asked them to look back over 2022 for points of praise and to look ahead to 2023.

THANK YOU

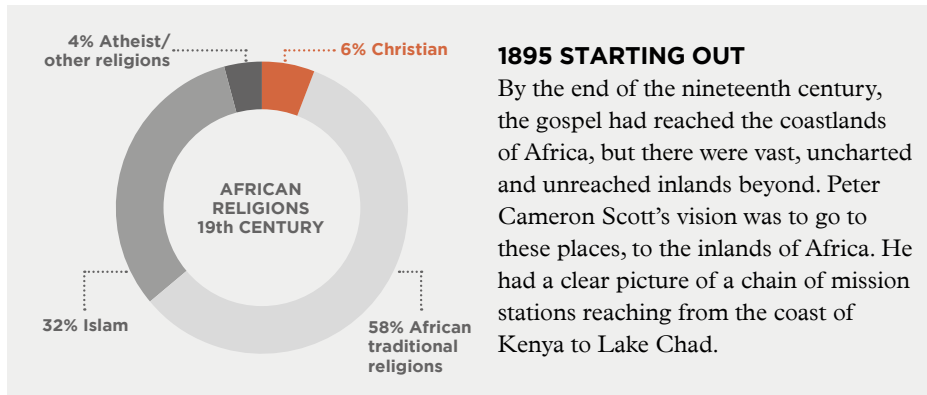
Finally, let me take the opportunity to thank you. Thank you for taking the time to read this magazine; thank you for sharing the work of AIM with others, for praying and for caring for those on their assignments. I look forward to meeting, speaking, and giving thanks with you this year, as we put ourselves and his mission in God's hands. Let's never forget, we are blessed people!



Why not share your stories of thankfulness with us on Facebook, you can find us at fb.com/aimeurope

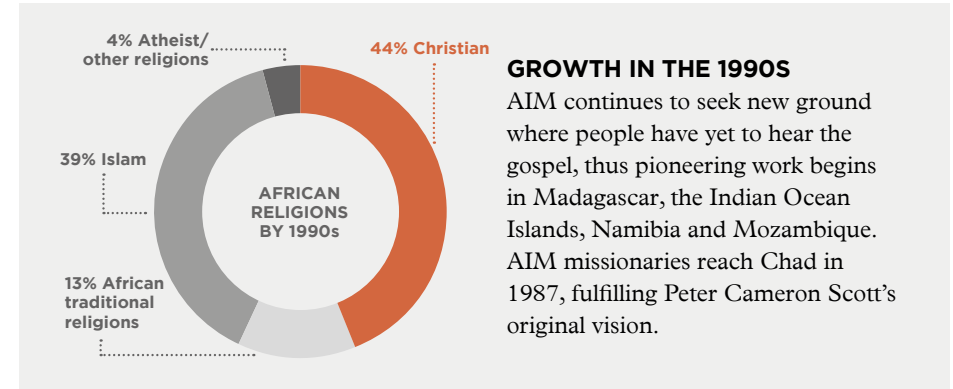
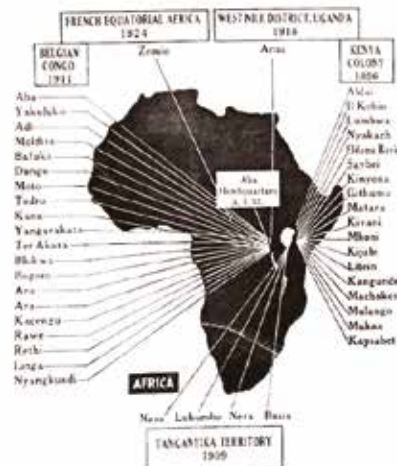
WHERE HAS GOD REACHED?

It can be hard to give thanks for things we struggle to see, but the Bible is brilliant at showing us how God works through history. Here are some snapshots to help us see how God has used AIM to play a part in building the church in Africa.



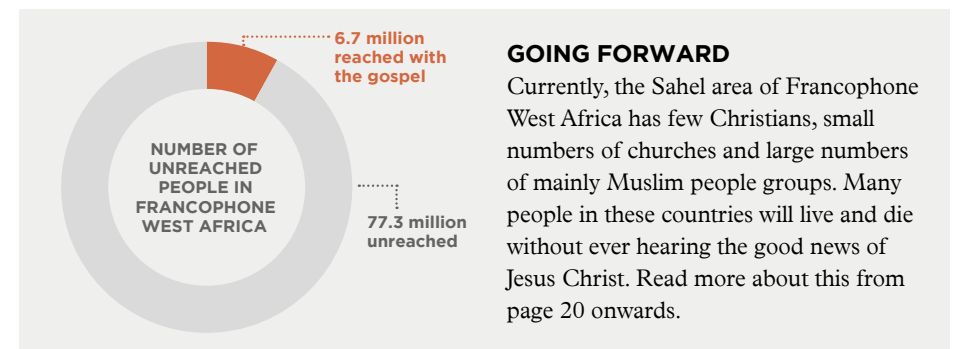
UP TO 1950

Despite initial setbacks, and the First and Second World Wars, by 1943 the Africa Inland Church is established across Kenya. 93% of these churches were planted by African church-planters assisting a missionary or autonomously by Africans. By the end of the 1940's, AIM has bases in Kenya, Tanzania, DR Congo, Uganda, Central African Republic and Southeast Sudan.



A NEW MILLENNIUM

The noughties led to AIM missionaries returning to Sudan following peace agreements, serving the church in Rwanda, and starting to minister in the North of the continent. The move to the North begins a new challenge of sharing the gospel in locations where missionaries are not welcomed by local government. With 65% of the remaining 1,000 people groups waiting to hear the good news of Jesus located in North Africa, this move is necessary to effectively respond to God's call on AIM.



*data from the World Christian Encyclopedia for 1900–2000 and the Joshua Project.

 **Why not watch a video showing how God has used AIM since we began? Visit eu.aimint.org/history**

WHO HAS GOD REACHED?

Personal stories take history and facts and reveal living testimonies of God's grace. Beyond the geography of Africa, we find its people. Here are two people reached by Jesus who took the gospel to others.



PRAYERFUL PASSION

Ezekiel Kiprof Birech was born in 1910 in Nandi County, Kenya to a Nandi chief. In 1926, many of the Nandi gave up their indigenous religions and followed Christ. But Birech first heard the gospel from a Luhya Christian, who worked on the same farm as him in Eldoret. He was converted and committed himself to reading the Bible so that he too could share the gospel with his people.

Birech translated the Scriptures, hymns, and the classic allegory Pilgrim's Progress to be used for evangelism and discipleship among the Nandi

community and other Kalenjin groups. During his teaching ministry at Kapsabet, he met Milcah Cheplrel Birech and they were married in 1943. One of his eight children described Birech as a quiet and reflective man, who was devoted to prayer. He would never miss a church prayer meeting, personal prayers, or family prayers in the evening. Whenever asked for counsel, his first response was always, "Have you prayed about it?"

TEACHING AND TRAINING

In 1985 he formed the Africa Inland Church Missionary College, in Eldoret, to train cross-cultural missionaries to evangelise and reach unreached people. Birech's intense passion for evangelism drove him to go to school and then into ministry. As a Bishop in the AIC, he added a missional and educational emphasis, as well as dealing with the challenges of church leaders who lacked personal integrity and a shortage of funds for ministry due to corruption and high administrative overheads.

Birech laboured for the Lord, praying for spiritual depth and evangelistic zeal in the church. He made an indelible mark on the AIC in Kenya and African Christian history. We give thanks to Jesus for the Nandi people, the gift of the Bible in their own language and passionate people like Ezekiel Kiprof Birech, who continue to give their lives to make it possible for people to know life in Christ.

A WITNESS TO ALL

Rebecca Gode was born in 1905 at Sima, Nyanguge, in the Magu District of the Mwanza Region of Tanzania. When she became a Christian she faced hatred and persecution from her husband, in-laws, and even her own parents. They all agreed to exclude her from family relations for her new-found faith. The leaders at her local church took care of Rebecca and helped her find a job. She became a cook at the Christian Training Centre, at the Katunguru Mission of AIM and the AIC Tanzania (AICT).

The Lord then called Rebecca to work as a Christian Education teacher in primary schools and Sunday schools. Teaching at Katunguru Primary School and its local church, she also went outside the local area to proclaim the good news and profess Jesus as redeemer. The church also appointed Rebecca to preach at Katunguru Dispensary every morning before daily dispensary services.

When Rebecca retired from working as a cook, she invested her time in visiting the sick people at home, where she comforted them with verses of scripture, testimonies and prayers. Through her ministry, she brought many people to faith in Jesus. Some of those she helped convert are now serving God with AICT and various church denominations in Tanzania.

A FAITH FAMILY

Even though Rebecca's husband and family disowned and neglected her, she never despaired. She continued working faithfully until her death early in the 1990s. The church and its missionaries worked hand in hand with her until she finished her race and although she had no children of her own, God blessed Rebecca richly with daughters and sons in the faith. So just as AIM and the AICT have recognised Rebecca's service, we give thanks and glory to God for her and her faithful loving witness to those around her.



WHO HAS GOD SENT?

One of the amazing things about God's kingdom is that he involves us in its growth. Here are four people God has called, each with their own story.

HOLLY*

I was first exposed to mission work at church and felt a call to the mission field at a relatively young age. During my medical training I did two placements in Africa, these confirmed a commitment to mission. After qualifying as a doctor, I finished my training in the UK and took up a consultant post. Three years later, I heard a very clear call from the Lord, a very definite prompt that I had to pursue. The Lord laid an unreached people group on my heart and using my medical experience, I went out to serve in a creative access context. I am hugely thankful to the Lord for his prompting, guidance, timing, and provision.

*name changed or surname removed for security.



HANNAH*

Whilst training to be a teacher, God was at work, moving me outside of my comfort zone, and opening my heart to serve in more diverse places. After qualifying, he caused me to consider opportunities outside the UK, which led me to teach in a large international school in Africa. At a conference in Rwanda, a comment by an AIM missionary changed my life: "We are serving here because of the educational options for our children." God told me that missionary teaching was for me because I could do it, and because it would allow many others to reach Africans with the gospel.



JOY KOCH

My call to serve as a missionary in Kenya, was sparked by a conversation with a Kenyan Christian in Wheaton Graduate School. "Does Kenya still need missionaries?" I enquired. "Yes" he replied, "missionaries who will view Africans as equals, stand beside us and partner with us for the advancement of the gospel." It got me thinking – does God want me to go to Kenya as a missionary? God confirmed this through many other means.



LYN COOKE

My journey started after my husband died. I was praying one morning and asked God, "why?". I asked him what he wanted me to do now, and I heard the word 'mission.' I shared this with my pastor and a Christian friend, who gave me an AIM magazine. In it there was an advert for a day to explore more about mission. I went, and God made it clear that eventually I would serve him in Africa. Even though I was reluctant to go on this journey with God, it was a special part of my life. I worked in Uganda for over ten years in Kampala and Arua.



Wycliffe
Bible
Translators

AIM partners with a plethora of mission agencies; some are long standing, collaborative partnerships and others are new. Western organisations include SIM, Wycliffe, Frontiers and Team Expansion. African organisations include CAPRO, Sheepfold Ministries and Gen12. AIM also partners with many churches across Europe and in Africa, including the Africa Inland Church in Kenya and Tanzania, the Kale Heywat Church and several other churches in Ethiopia, CECA 20 in DR Congo and many more.



 Hear the latest news from our missionaries through our prayer email. eu.aimint.org/pray

SERVING TOGETHER

Give thanks for the African church, and its missionaries, as they share the gospel among unreached people groups.



THE CHURCH IN KENYA

In 1897, two years after arriving in Africa, AIM had lost almost all its missionaries to disease and knew of only five converts. Even though converts to Christianity paid a significant price for following Jesus, the church started to grow.

SMALL BEGINNINGS

By 1906, AIM thanked God for 25 new Christians in Kenya. At that time, Christians made up less than 1% of the population. By 1973 that had grown to 66% of the population. One source notes that at that point the Africa Inland Church was one of the largest, with

300,000 baptised members in 1,700 congregations. By 1975, it was estimated to have grown to 500,000 members and a million by 1980. Today, estimates place the membership at 2.4 million.

A MUSTARD SEED TO A MOUNTAIN

God grew his church from a mustard seed to something so large it is hard to fathom. We thank God for the missionaries, African pastors and evangelists God used and is still using today.

Kenya is a wonderful example of our hopes for the rest of Africa, as we long for God to raise up missionaries to bless every nation. We thank God for the partnership AIM has with the church in Europe and Africa, partnering together to go to those who are yet to hear the good news.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Musa and Maryciana, are Sukuma, from Mwanza, a rural area in Tanzania. They lead a team among the Swahili people group in Likawage, southern Tanzania.

Musa: Before receiving Jesus Christ, I was a pagan, even though I had heard about Jesus through my mother. My life changed when I became a Christian and found the hope of eternal life, walking without fear of death because I had Jesus.

AIM helped me a lot to grow in my spiritual life, in leadership, in understanding different cultures and in reaching unreached people.

Maryciana: My life before Jesus was like most normal girls: at home, farming. I was born in a Christian family and received Jesus as a teenager when the pastor asked, 'Who wants to receive Jesus?'. I learnt



more about Jesus and got baptised. In 1992 I was called by God to go to Bible school; it was there that I met Musa.

We want to thank the Lord Jesus for the support of people who have been financially supporting us and praying for us. We thank God for you. Because you care for us, we wanted to share our story with you.



CALLED TO GO

Gideon Mashauri grew up in DR Congo. Here he shares his story.

On 24th September 1993, my pastor taught about authentic Christianity from Matthew 7:21–23, and my heart was burning. I was anxious: was I really a Christian? When he finished, I went home, knelt before my bed, confessed my sins to the Lord and invited Jesus Christ into my life.

From then on, I served in my local church for 14 years, before hearing the call to serve as a pastor. Circumstances took over and I was forced to live in a refugee camp in Nampula, Mozambique. For four years, I shared the gospel with the Makuwa people and there I met a missionary couple. They gave me an inspirational biography about Adoniram Judson, and from that moment I decided to serve the Lord as a missionary.

By God's grace, I joined Scott Christian University in 2007 where I was taught by AIM missionaries, in a school named after the founder of AIM. Whilst studying, a colleague – now AICT Bishop Peter Pharles – told me about an AIM Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) team. He asked if my family and I would like to be a part of the team. We prayed and had God's peace, so we joined the Rangi II Training in Ministry Outreach team in 2012.

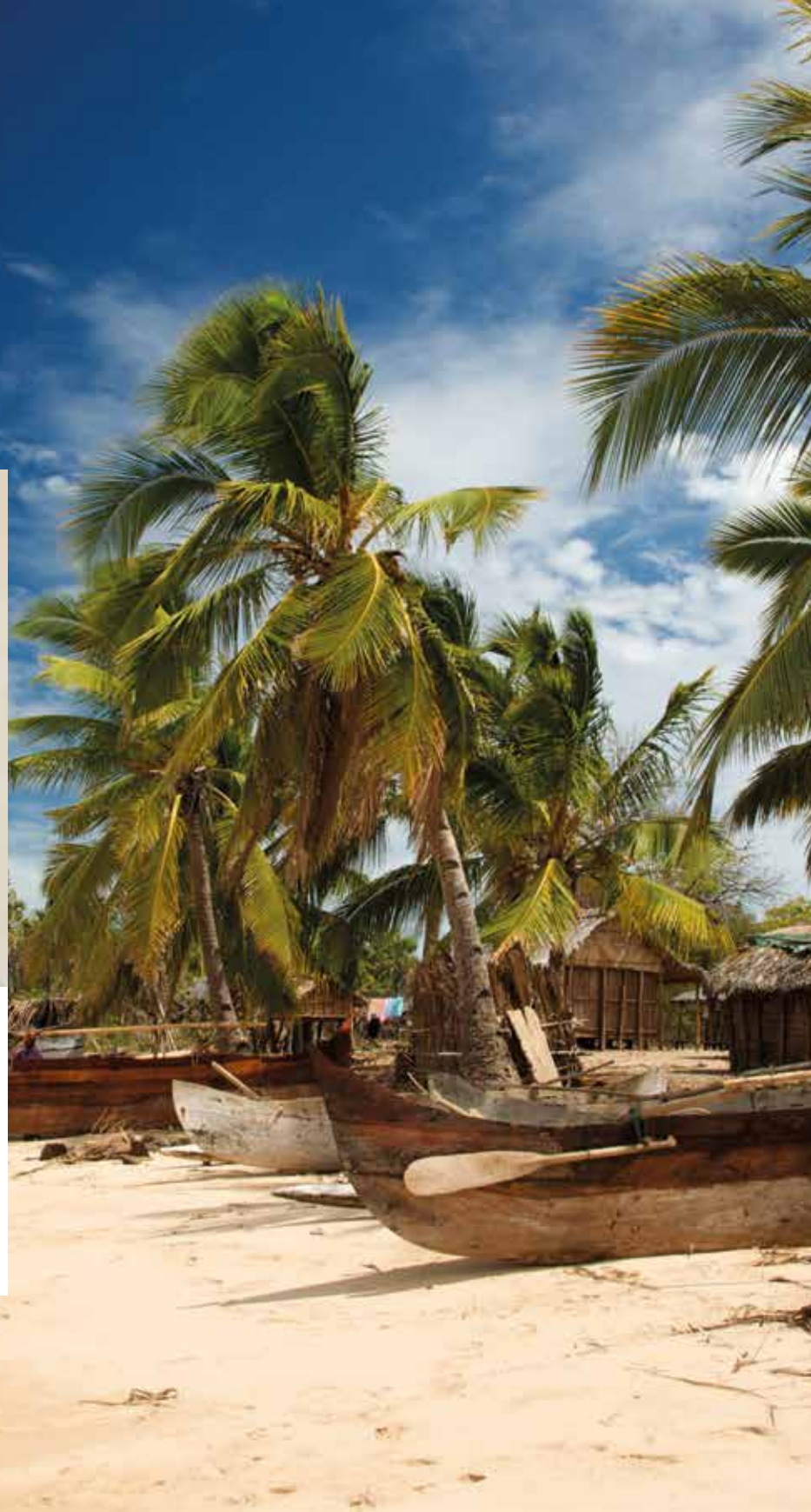
BIBLE STUDY – THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

The Christian life takes real commitment, and thanksgiving is a key discipline. Although a new year offers the chance to look ahead, it is also the perfect time to look back and give thanks.



GOD IS DOING GREAT THINGS IN MADAGASCAR.

Melias, a Malagasy missionary, is now based in the village of Befotaka. The village is full of spirit-possessed people, and they know it is a power that controls them. When the gospel was made known to a very small group of people, they were delivered from their oppression. They are now studying the Bible, two or three times a week. God has accompanied this ministry with miracles. Now, people knock on Melias' door at night, asking him to come and to pray for their sick, and they see more healings take place!



WHAT DO WE HAVE TO BE THANKFUL FOR?



- How good are you at giving thanks? Would you describe yourself more as a grumbler or grateful? Why?
- What does thanksgiving look like in your life? Is it a regular or rare practice?

Read Psalm 103.

- How do you feel reading v1-5? Does it describe your life, or do you find it hard to relate to?
- It can be easy to overlook God's goodness if we are not in the habit of giving thanks. Consider God's forgiveness and grace in your life, take time to reflect on v6-12.
- In many churches, the significance of sin and God's holiness is hardly mentioned; how might this take away from what God has done in forgiving us?
- Take a moment to give thanks to God for his forgiveness: "For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." Psalm 103:11-12
- How does the story from Befotaka help you to see who God is and what he is doing?
- As we read verses 13-22, we see a stark contrast between our seemingly momentary lives and the Lord who is everlasting. How does this contrast further highlight God's goodness?

SHARING WHAT GOD HAS DONE

Aidani, a young man of 22, has been living on the streets of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, for many years. He comes from a remote village in the Kigoma region and grew up in very poor conditions.

Kathleen Quellmalz, at Safina Street Network, got to know him in 2020 as he sought help for a severe foot infection. For almost five months he went daily to the centre for treatment, giving them plenty of time to share Jesus. Finally, he put his trust in Jesus, and was saved and baptised in the same year.

Aidani was unable to write or read. Staff at Safina met with him for discipleship, introducing him to a church who helped him enrol in a school for adult education for the illiterate. He attended faithfully, despite still being homeless and, in January 2021, he joined the Network's school in Morogoro. During that year, he developed tremendously, both spiritually and academically. He now loves reading his Bible and sharing God's word with others. He does it with commitment and a fire in his heart; his desire is to become an evangelist.

Over Christmas, Aidani went home to visit his mother and attended a Tanzania Assemblies of God Church nearby, sharing his testimony with the church. As a result, he was asked to preach God's word twice on Sunday mornings.

We pray he would continue to grow in his faith and love for Jesus and, if it is God's plan, that he does become an evangelist.



A FIRE IN HIS HEART

- Would you describe yourself as an evangelist? What makes it difficult to speak to others about Jesus?
- Read 1 Chronicles 16:8–21. What are some of the things this passage recalls? Why does Asaph want Israel to remember God's deeds in the past?
- Aidani wasn't a trained preacher or evangelist, he simply shared what God had done (v8). How could you share what God has done for you? Have you told your family, neighbours or friends what Jesus means to you?
- As you look back over the last year, you will no doubt also remember difficult moments. Can you recall trials you've walked through in the past that taught you more about who God is or where you experienced him in a deeper way? Are there ways that you can encourage others about God's love and faithfulness through sharing your stories?
- What are your hopes for 2023? Lift them to God and ask that he would help you grow in faith and be better equipped to share the good news with others.



Share this Bible study with someone else.

eu.aimint.org/givethanks

A PICTURE OF AIM'S WORK

What does it look like to be called, sent, and serve?

1 SENDING CHURCH

John Smuts is Pastor of Rayners Lane Baptist Church in Harrow, currently the most religiously and racially diverse borough in the UK. "Our church members are from across Europe, Asia, the Caribbean and Africa and we have a long history of supporting, sending, and praying for mission work.

When a member of our congregation, Andrew, shared his call, we prayerfully committed to send him to South Sudan. What stood out was the two-way relationship: Andrew was encouraged by our support, and our church benefited hugely from his stories and his faith. It was humbling to see God working in a young man's life, being willing to go to the middle of nowhere to share Christ."



2 INITIAL OUTREACH

"In 2012, I read about an outreach team in AIM's magazine and in 2015 I left for orientation in Kenya. I went to South Sudan for basic language learning in a neighbouring people group, then I moved to live among the Laarim with another AIM missionary. I stayed with a local family for a week in a house made of mud; it was a totally alien environment.

At first, all I could offer were smiles and friendliness but, after six months, I was able to craft Bible stories, speak about my faith, and pray in the local language. I also volunteered in the school, which gave me an opportunity to do a nativity play in the local language right across the valley. We wrote songs for the children to learn, so that they could sing about Jesus.

In my second year, more team members arrived, so we recorded the songs and invested in the new team members, helping them to continue the relationships we had built. The days felt long, but before I knew it, the time had passed."

Andrew Wallace



3 DEVELOPING DISCIPLESHIP

"In 2022, I joined as a short term on the team living among the Laarim. Jacob, our team leader, is focused on discipling young teenage boys, leading church on Sundays and holding Bible studies on various compounds. Love (a long term missionary) and I, started a Bible study in an ex-witch doctor's compound. To see how God has changed people's hearts and lives was unforgettable.

Most of the Laarim believe in God, but few know what it means to follow Jesus, especially when it clashes with their culture. There is a church and some small groups, about 30 committed believers in all. We are praying for the church to become self-sustainable, and it is beginning to look possible. After my experiences, I can't wait to return for the long term."

Lisa Flach



4 REACHED AND REACHING OUT

Susanna was a Laarim witch doctor, a position that draws on superstition and evil power to gain authority and wealth. Then she heard about the true life found in Jesus through the witness of a local believer named Maria. Maria came to know the Lord through Bible studies with an AIM missionary living in the community. Now Susanna knows the goodness of God, she has renounced witchcraft and opens her home for weekly Bible study, praise and prayer.

FOUNDATIONAL SUPPORT

Andrew: "I knew many of my supporters well, but there were many I hardly knew at all. One lady from the U.S., who had served in Sudan, gave me £50 a month and another lady wrote me a cheque at a conference. Some of the retired missionaries were my most generous and faithful supporters, giving so much time to pray. They are amazing people!"

Lisa: "My journey would not have been possible without my financial supporters and the prayer warriors here in Ireland. Visiting my supporting churches was so encouraging to see how covered I was in prayer."



Find out how God might use you to reach the unreached.
eu.aimint.org/findyourfit

WHERE NEXT?

Looking back, we have seen the growth of the church in Africa, but where is God calling AIM in the future? Here William, who heads up AIM's Northern Region, shares his thoughts and hopes for AIM's work.

WHAT IS AIM'S FOCUS IN THE NORTH?

The northern region of Africa is something we have approached in three phases. Before 2001 AIM had no one serving in the region. The first family into North Africa travelled out the week before 9/11! By 2003 there were 5 families on location. The second phase involved entering different North African countries and into the Horn of Africa.

AND THE THIRD PHASE?

That is going to be the Sahel: the inland band across Africa. We have some people in Chad and South Sudan already, but not in Sudan. 95% of Sudanese people are unreached; that's over 44 million people: it's a massive country.

WITH THE THEME OF GIVING THANKS, HOW SHOULD WE GIVE THANKS FOR WHAT GOD HAS DONE ALREADY?

From having zero workers anywhere in North Africa just over 20 years ago, AIM has seen a large increase in workers called to this region. This growth is timely because this is where the greatest need is. I give thanks for the growth, but I am still praying for more workers because the need is so vast.

IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU SEEN GOD AT WORK IN THE REGION?

God has put people in critical places, where countless North Africans have had dreams and visions and our people have been there to make sense of those dreams, filling in the gaps with the Word of God.

WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES?

The hardest thing to come by in North Africa are Christ-centred churches. There are so many factors working against that. So as a region, our focus is the transformation of individuals by the power of the Holy Spirit. To see transformed, Christlike people witnessing to the good news. For example, husbands who fear Christ, and are transformed, loving their wives instead of beating them. That is countercultural in so many parts of North Africa – it is powerful stuff.

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR NORTHERN REGION?

You may have seen stories on social media of believers imprisoned in the Horn of Africa. We also knew of a young family of local believers, a mother and child, who were imprisoned for nine months for being Christians. We are waiting to hear about another Christian in North Africa, who was arrested and given a death sentence, to find out if he was executed. These are real human beings being persecuted for their faith. Many cannot even

risk sharing their faith with their families; one young teenage girl was killed by her father for her faith. This is happening today. This is a persecuted church.

HOW CAN WE BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

I want to see a growth in the number of people called to work with us in North Africa. Over the last few years, we've done a good job of establishing our base and getting our people grounded. I'd love to see three new teams of people joining our one year training programme before going on assignment.

IT'S EXCITING!

Yes, we've got a very bright future. It's exciting to be part of something that's really core to what we do as an organisation.



Discuss how you can serve in North Africa with Debbie at stc.eu@aimint.org

PIONEERING A NEW PROJECT

A group of British church leaders, AIM missionaries and our European Director recently travelled to a West African country to explore the possibilities of sending a team of missionaries. Rachel Graham from Great Victoria Baptist church in Belfast wrote this report.

I have travelled extensively but this was unlike anywhere I have ever visited before. It even smells different. A sweet dusty smell, impossible to describe.

Imagine a child who decides to build a town out of Lego and gets distracted: that is what the capital is like – some buildings are complete, others abandoned, some under construction. The buildings have flat roofs, so it is like a sea of boxes with punched-out rectangles for windows. Between the buildings, whole families set up home on spare patches of land in open sided tents, cooking and living in full view of passers-by.

Traffic is like dodgems, with donkey carts moving among the cars and tuk-tuks, until a group of goats wander across the traffic, chased by their young minders. When cars stop, barefoot beggar boys approach the windows, and other beggars appear on the roadside; a woman and child, a man with no legs, a blind man guided by his companion.

The streets are alive with people doing business. Bright arrays of fruit are stacked vertically, whilst a lady selling green, leafy vegetables sprinkles them with water from a bottle to stop them wilting.

Many of the ladies wear brightly coloured cotton garments, covering them until only their faces and hands are visible. They carry their children strapped to their backs, with older children often walking barefoot. Men wear long robes that hang loosely from their shoulders, with a large pocket for their mobile phones - ubiquitous even in such an impoverished nation.

Life here is tough, so tough. Yet, we received remarkable hospitality from strangers, learning so much and yet barely scratching the surface of the country and its culture. What a privilege to have visited and to be able to pray for this land with some first-hand knowledge and to perhaps be able to inspire others to go.



WEST AFRICA

PAUL AND HELEN HAVE MOVED!

Praise the Lord: we are all settling into our city in West Africa and the girls have settled into school brilliantly (their fourth in two years!). Though the local church is small and struggling, we regularly hear stories of God changing hearts and lives. Stories of families and villages coming to know Jesus, of local missionaries preaching the gospel in areas closed to foreigners, and new churches planted.

Please pray as we now learn the most common local language and for the Lord to guide us as we connect with other churches and organisations. The harvest is plentiful; pray that God would reveal how AIM should fit into the picture.

UPDATE FROM ANGELE

I have been among the Fulani people for five and a half years. In 2017, the first people came to the Lord and now we have a young church with five women, two men and eight children. Every Tuesday we meet together, men and women separately for a time of prayer and to study the Bible and encourage each other. There are also two believers in other communities who I visit most weeks, brought to the Lord through family members.

Please pray for discernment, as we long to work more closely with the local church, and for God to provide Fulani people to join us in that work. Pray for these young believers and for wisdom to know when it is the time for us to leave.

UPDATES FROM MISSIONARIES

We asked some of our missionaries to join us in looking back and giving thanks and praise for what God has done over the last year, and to share prayer points for the future.

CREATIVE ACCESS

The majority of the remaining unreached people groups in Africa are where Islam has a stronghold. The geography of these places is vastly different: desert lands, modern cities, lush islands, and dangerous coastlines. Our missionaries in these places share a common need to keep their identities secure. We use pseudonyms and don't post pictures, to keep workers and local believers safe.

REX AND RUBY SERVE IN NORTH AFRICA

- ♥ We are thankful for the Father's goodness in bringing more people to serve in North Africa. (The team has grown from four adults to 12 this year.)
- ♥ Thank God for a local sister's boldness in sharing Jesus, that has resulted in many seeds being planted and the Father using her to draw people into the Kingdom.
- 🗣️ We are praying for continued team unity as we grow and spread out into new neighbourhoods.
- 🗣️ Please pray that the Holy Spirit would pour out across this nation and cause thousands to come to faith.

ELLE SERVES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

- ♥ Thank God that Kay and I were finally authorised to start work in the local hospital, giving us a platform for being here, a way to serve and an introduction to many more people.
- ♥ Thank God that I've been able to study the Word with a small group of women who work at the electricity office.
- 🗣️ For wisdom at the hospital, as I work without the tests and medications I'm used to using, and decide what changes to push for, and that ideas would be well-received.
- 🗣️ For wisdom with our Bible studies – there are several groups of women we could study with but we have limited time. Pray we would know who God is leading us to. Pray some groups will be run by our local sisters without us. Pray that these groups would be motivated and lead to fruit.

AMELIA SERVES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

- ♥ Give thanks for two women that I disciple: Ma Imani (who has been a believer for years) and Ma Aisha (who recently came to faith along with five of her daughters). Pray that God would establish them in their faith and use them to lead many others to him.
- ♥ For the Scripture translation work that slowly but steadily continues; pray particularly for us as we look at different means of getting Scripture into the hands of people. Pray as we use apps and printed materials for God's word to take root in people's hearts.
- 🗣️ This, my last term on the islands, will end in May; please pray that I will make the most of these last five months and that I would be able to finish my time here in a healthy and fruitful way.
- 🗣️ Pray for discernment for what comes next for me, as I look at other opportunities to serve in Africa with AIM.

KAY SERVES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

- ♥ Praise our Father in heaven that we have been welcomed into the community and for the friendships formed over the past year.
- ♥ Praise God for the opportunity to support local sisters and the church, and for new study opportunities with those seeking.
- 🗣️ Pray for our Bible study groups, that the Father would work in these individuals' lives and that they too would share and lead their own groups. We pray that evangelism would be a priority right from the start, even for those new to the faith. Pray that these groups would grow.
- 🗣️ Pray for more harvesters, for the growth of our team and growth in the local church, that we may be faithful to the task of reaching out. We look forward to welcoming a new family this year: pray for them as they prepare and adjust, learn the language, and find their feet. Pray for others to join this work in the islands, as there are opportunities on several island teams for new workers.

RUTH SERVES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

- ♥ Give thanks for feeling settled in this location and for good relationships within my team, with the local church and in the general community.
- ♥ Give thanks for God's provision during times of water and food shortages.
- 🗣️ Pray that God would help me to cope well with change and transitions – home assignment and new team members.
- 🗣️ Pray that I would continue to persevere with learning the language and that I would be able to make the most of opportunities to share with people.

UPDATES FROM MISSIONARIES

CENTRAL REGION

The heartlands of Africa, rainforests, national parks, incredible scenery, and persistent conflict. Our Central Region covers a huge and diverse area of Africa, from Uganda where Christianity is thriving and we can partner with Africans as they go to the unreached, to Chad where vast areas of the country are still waiting to hear of Jesus.

CAROLINE BELL SERVES AMONG THE KARIMOJONG PEOPLE IN UGANDA

- ♥ Praise God for the partnership that has grown between AIM and missionaries from two Ugandan mission organisations who are also based in Moroto. We are rejoicing in God's goodness as we enjoy fellowship together and combine our efforts to see communities throughout Karamoja transformed by the gospel.
- ♥ Praise God for local churches and their leaders, who have a desire to unite to reach rural communities with the gospel.
- 🗨 Please pray that as believers we may continue to unite in the gospel and work effectively together to mobilise, equip and encourage all believers to be active in evangelism and discipleship.



- 🗨 There are some challenges to reaching out to rural communities – insecurity, long distances, challenging road conditions (especially after rain). Please pray that God will give wisdom, and his answers to these challenges, and that we will have courage to follow as he leads us.



ANNEMARIE BOKS SERVES IN DR CONGO

- ♥ Thank and praise the Lord for his presence in sustaining me in his ministry.
- ♥ Thank God for the AIDS Awareness Programme of the CECA Church, and for my paper on the history and future of the programme.
- 🗨 Pray for funding and others to help with the awareness programme; pray that the church will own the programme and help find funds.
- 🗨 Pray personally for energy and for a stable internet connection.



MATTHIAS SCHILLING IS PART OF AN INBOUND TEAM IN TORIT, SOUTH SUDAN

- ♥ For God's provision! Initially, the thought of being dependent on supporters freaked me out, as I love to be in control. Months went by without support coming in. Eventually I surrendered to the Lord and experienced how his promises are true! I'm fully supported now, not only financially, but also with a good network of people who pray for me and encourage me. Praise God!
- ♥ For leading me on this crazy journey! I never wanted to become a missionary, but the longer I'm on the field now, the more I realize how this is exactly where he wanted me. It's challenging and maybe not as easy, but it is also so rewarding!
- 🗨 I struggle with setting good boundaries. I've always been a workaholic and every free minute could be used productively. But I realised in the last years that I do have limits and I need to rest. I've grown a lot already, but I want to develop a good habit of taking care of and listening to my body, so I can serve long term.
- 🗨 Pray for what's next for me. In July I will finish my one-year Inbound Team and move on to work with AIM Stories. Pray for wisdom to decide where I should be located and for a good start in this ministry.

SOUTHERN REGION

From Madagascar and coastal Mozambique, to the snowy highlands of Lesotho, missionaries in southern region learn some of the hardest African languages, reaching unreached people groups who have remained that way, simply because they are the hardest to get to.



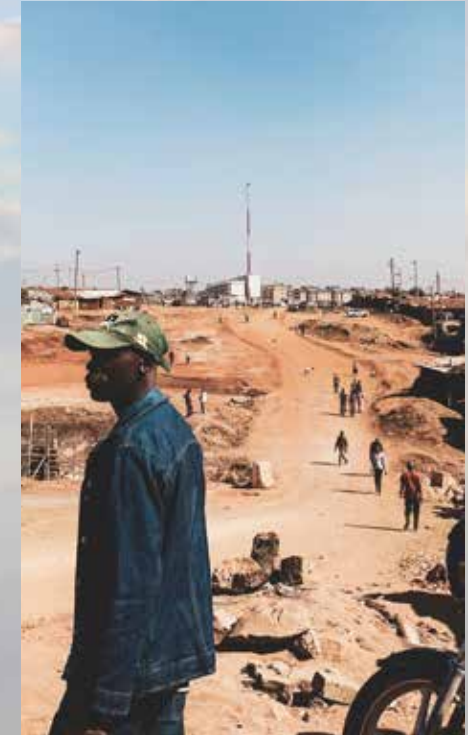
JURGEN AND KATJA HOFMANN SERVE IN ANTANANARIVO, MADAGASCAR

- ♥ We have started supporting Sambivelo, a local person, to continue the healthcare role we began in a Tanala village. He is currently being trained in a hospital in the capital city.
- ♥ The Gospel of Luke in the Antanala dialect is in demand! Not only in our village but in the whole region, people are eager to get a copy. Several Malagasy missionaries are looking into the possibility of using and distributing the booklets.
- 📍 The people of our district still suffer greatly from the two cyclones that happened in February 2022. There is no clean drinking water in many places, and food prices have gone up.
- 📍 Pray that more Malagasy missionaries would be trained and equipped to do the work God wants them to do.
- 📍 We want to finish translating the book of Acts into the Antanala language.
- 📍 We hope to send Malagasy trainees to the Tanala to practise what they have been learning.



INGE MICHEL SERVES IN NAMPULA, MOZAMBIQUE

- ♥ Praise the Lord with me and SEMTENA (SEMinário Teológico Evangélico de Nampula) for his faithfulness and help, throughout the years with various re-starts of the process, to eventually obtain official recognition by the government.
- ♥ SEMTENA is grateful for the Lord's help to get through the challenging time of restrictions, due to Covid-19, two bad cyclones at the beginning of this year and the recent impact of inflation. Through prayers, help and self-restrictions, we have been able to teach during all of that time.
- 📍 Pray for a good number of new students to be accepted in January's admin process.
- 📍 Pray for teachers to serve the Lord as they prepare their subjects and teach them to the students. May the Lord bless them, the students, their families and the church(es) to be transformed in his image and be a shining light in Mozambican society.
- 📍 Pray for people to find 'true peace' in times of need and fear.



ANNETTE SERVES IN SOUTHERN REGION'S OFFICE, BASED IN NAIROBI, KENYA

- ♥ Please give thanks for the opportunity God opened up for me to join the Southern Region Office Team.
- ♥ Please give thanks for the short termers we've had this year – that the Lord made a way for them to come and serve in the Southern Region.
- 📍 Please ask that the Lord will raise up and send more short termers to the Southern Region and that some will consider becoming long term workers.
- 📍 Please pray that as an office, we would serve the Lord and our members in a manner that brings glory to God and advances the gospel in the Southern Region of Africa and beyond.

EASTERN REGION

From cosmopolitan cities, bustling with travellers from all over the world, with tourist hotels claiming prize spots along white sand beaches, to poverty and rural isolation in their savannah lands. Kenya and Tanzania are countries of contrast, and missionaries' roles reflect that diversity.

TONY AND CATH SWANSON HAVE RECENTLY STARTED LEADING EASTERN REGION

♥ For a new emphasis on partnerships and collaboration. Our mantra is 'How do we work together and with whom?' to accomplish the work God has given us. Please pray that the increased intercultural identity of the mission, reflecting many nations, will become more and more effective in communicating the love of God in Christ.

🗨 The great desire is to have a functioning and effective African missionary mobilising office here within Eastern Region. The objective is to see many African missionaries joining our own AIM teams in the region and across Africa. Please pray for Joel Wildasin, the coordinator of the African Mobilisation Hub who is moving this effort forward.

🗨 One of my prayer goals for the year is the formation and implementation of effective strategies to reach the Somali and coastal unreached people groups. A big ask! There are at least five million Somali people in Kenya; there are many millions of coastal people groups who have had little access to the gospel. Please pray with us to see this



accomplished. We are exploring ways of using radio and internet to promote the gospel in hard to reach parts of Kenya and beyond.

🗨 It is well-publicised that around 85 out of every one hundred church leaders globally has had hardly any theological education. This is certainly a challenge in our African context. Please pray that we will be more effective in employing non-formal grass roots types of leadership development among that 85% of church pastors.



PETER AND KATY WILSON SERVE AS SUPERINTENDENT OF RIFT VALLEY ACADEMY (RVA) AND PRINCIPAL OF TITCHIE SWOT, AIM'S SCHOOLS FOR MISSIONARY CHILDREN IN KIJABE, KENYA

♥ That we can finally see our student's faces in the classrooms after over two years of masking and for his provision of staffing for RVA.

🗨 That we would educate and disciple our students to their full potential in Christ and that we'd receive clarity on our immigration status. We're looking at a change that could cost the school upwards of £200,000 annually.

PETER & LIBBY HALESTRAP SERVE IN KIJABE HOSPITAL, KENYA

♥ For the 400+ students and trainees who are part of training programmes in Kijabe Hospital, and particularly for the opportunities for gospel proclamation, discipleship and mobilisation that come from this.

🗨 To continue to see Godly and mission-minded trainees mobilised and sent out to share God's love in word and deed across East Africa.

♥ For the completion of many infrastructure projects, including a medical education building, a new neonatal intensive care unit and a new chapel.

🗨 For wisdom and discernment in our roles and particularly in how to serve best – there are so many opportunities and needs and we desire to know where to focus our time and energy.

🗨 To continue to find new partners who can support us financially and in prayer.



UPDATES FROM MISSIONARIES

BORDERLESS – DIASPORA MINISTRY

AIM's ministry among African diaspora is called 'Borderless', reaching Africans who have travelled to Europe for a variety of reasons, and seeking to introduce them to Jesus.

SIMON AND MIRIAM HAVE BEEN SERVING IN A CHURCH IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

- ♥ The birth of our first child, Sienna.
- ♥ The wonderful experience that we have had during our one year secondment in the East Midlands working for Borderless.
- 🗨 For our family's safe and smooth transition to life in Madagascar.
- 🗨 For patience and perseverance in our language learning.



SIMON HEADS UP THE UK'S DIASPORA ACTIVITIES

- ♥ For the opportunities which activities such as English Language teaching, sewing classes, befriending and refugee ministries have given UK Borderless Unit members to develop relationships and share the gospel among unreached peoples in 2022.
- ♥ The growing number of volunteers who are getting involved in work with unreached peoples in the local churches which Borderless are partnering with.
- 🗨 That promotional work and the recent rebranding of AIM's diaspora work as 'Borderless', will encourage more UK churches to partner with us in cross-cultural outreach.
- 🗨 That the Lord will draw people to Borderless to fill vacancies in teams in South London and the Midlands.

UK AND EUROPE

JESSICA GOLDSCHMIDT-HABYARIMANA SERVES IN THE AIM FRANCE OFFICE

- ♥ My husband Eric's graduation from Tyndale Theological Seminary.
- ♥ Our daughter who brings us so much joy!
- 🗨 The Lord's guidance as we seek what he would have our family do as a next step.
- 🗨 Bilingual workers who speak both French and English to go serve in African Francophone Countries.



RUTH MAHOOD

- ♥ Give thanks for God's sustaining hand that enabled me to complete a qualification in counselling.
- ♥ Give thanks for the healing that has taken place within me; this has enabled me to serve at Africa Based Orientation and explore serving long term again.
- 🗨 Pray as I complete training over the next year that will equip me with the skills to counsel children and young people and – in time – use this to support children and young people within AIM.
- 🗨 Pray as I explore exactly how God wants me to use counselling to support missionaries on the field.

BARRY AND HEATHER MANN SERVE THE GROWING NATIONS TEAM IN LESOTHO REMOTELY FROM THE UK

- ♥ Praise God for stronger ties between Growing Nations and the LECSA (Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa), the training of seminary students in Farming God's Way and a desire for it to be incorporated into their syllabus longer term.
- ♥ Praise God that we were able to spend two months in Lesotho during 2022 and that we have been on hand to help with parents' ongoing medical needs during our Home Assignment.
- 🗨 Please pray for funding for Growing Nations to enable continued training and equipping to happen, and for God to share his longer term vision and direction with the whole team.
- 🗨 Please pray that God will equip Barry as he starts his new role as AIM's Crisis Consultant and for us both as we continue to work remotely with the Growing Nations team in Lesotho.



VISION FOR THE NEXT YEAR

Our European Director, Dudley Pate, shares what's on his heart for the year to come. Please join us in praying for God's guidance and undertaking in these areas.

In 2023, God willing, I would like to see:

- AIM Europe partnering with churches to send at least 10 new workers to work among Africans.
- Churches partnering with us on a deeper level; praying, giving and identifying people they could send to West Africa.
- AIM Europe receive the funds it needs to operate.
- AIM France becoming more independent of AIM UK, eventually as a Mobilising Region in its own right from 2024.
- More partnerships with more African churches in Europe to send more African missionaries to work among Africa's unreached.
- AIM Europe and AIM Borderless discovering and growing more church partnerships together.
- Stability and unity for the staff team after years of change; firstly due to Covid-19, and now through moving premises and adjusting to a virtual office model.



Pray for our work through Daily Prayers
eu.aimint.org/pray

NEWS AND EVENTS

WE HAVE MOVED

Give thanks to God, because in October, AIM Europe's UK office moved to a new location in Nottingham. It is exciting that our archives are now housed at Cambridge University for people to catalogue and study. We pray this brings much glory to God as people see and share what he has done through the generations.



EVER WONDERED IF GOD MIGHT BE CALLING YOU TO MISSION?

Into Africa is the ideal opportunity to hear from our workers and explore your place in mission. Join us in Birmingham for this exciting event on Saturday 11th of March 2023. For more information and to sign up visit eu.aimint.org/intoafrica





STEP INLAND FOR LENT



Take part in our virtual journey from Kenya to Chad and support us as we reach those who have yet to hear of Jesus. Walk, run, swim or cycle this Lent.

 eu.aimint.org/stepinland

Africa Inland Mission serves and partners with churches to fulfil the Great Commission and advance the gospel among Africans who have the least opportunity to hear about Jesus.

*AIM International
Unit 3A Beeston Business Hub,
Nottingham, NG9 2JG
United Kingdom
0115 9838 120
mailings.eu@aimint.org*

 [@aimeurope](https://twitter.com/aimeurope)
 fb.com/aimeurope
 africainlandmission.europe

January 2023

eu.aimint.org

Partnering with churches • Reaching Africa's unreached