

CONNECT

magazine

TWO
PERSPECTIVES
ON SUPPORT

p.12

MAKING
MISSION
POSSIBLE

*Your prayer & financial
support changes lives*

p.10

SEPTEMBER 2023



AFRICA
INLAND MISSION

THE SUPPORT ISSUE

Welcome to a refreshed and redesigned Connect

We are always looking for better ways to serve you, our readers, and this edition of Connect marks a change from a journal to a livelier magazine format. Our goal is to make it easier for new churches and supporters to learn about Africa Inland Mission and for our existing supporters to be encouraged as they see the breadth of what God is doing.

With inspiring stories from missionaries, AIM staff and church leaders, you will get a glimpse of the impact that both your prayer and financial support makes. We hope this magazine will encourage you and that together we can inspire a new generation to pray, give and go. Thank you for your ongoing support!

God bless,

Stephen

Connect Editor



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SUPPORT

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Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Matthew 9:38



TANZANIA

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And pray in the Spirit on all occasions...keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18

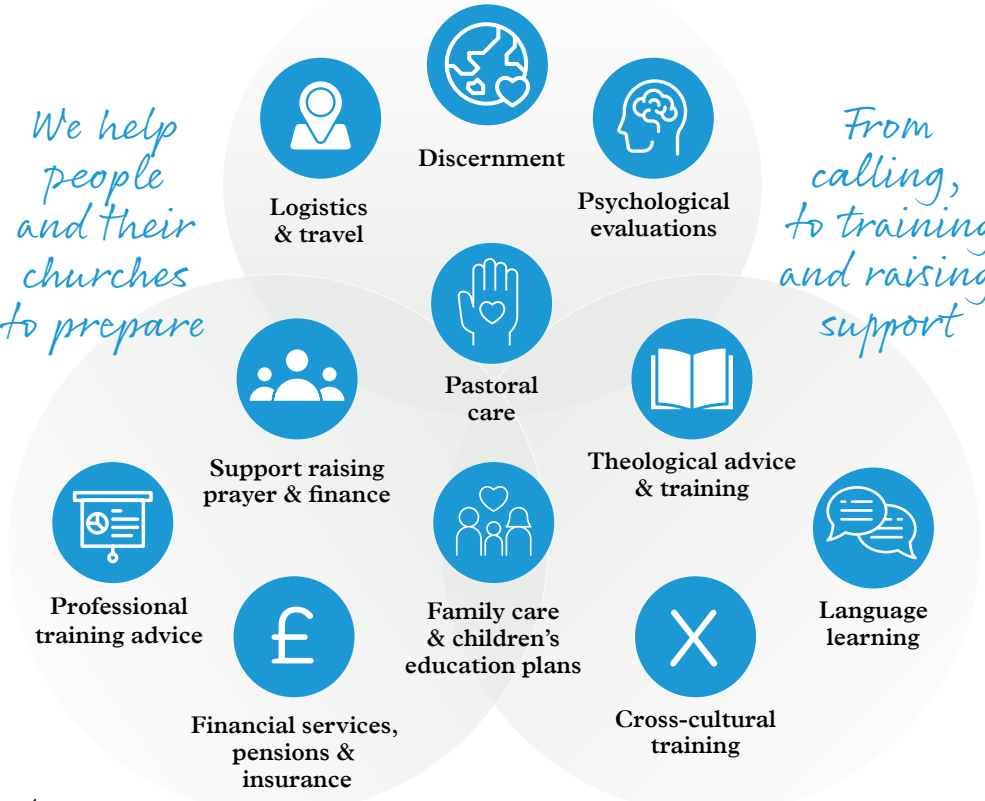
AIM Europe has Mobilising Offices in England, France and the Netherlands. Serving and equipping churches and Christians as they share the gospel, make disciples, and plant new churches among African peoples.

SUPPORT IN EUROPE

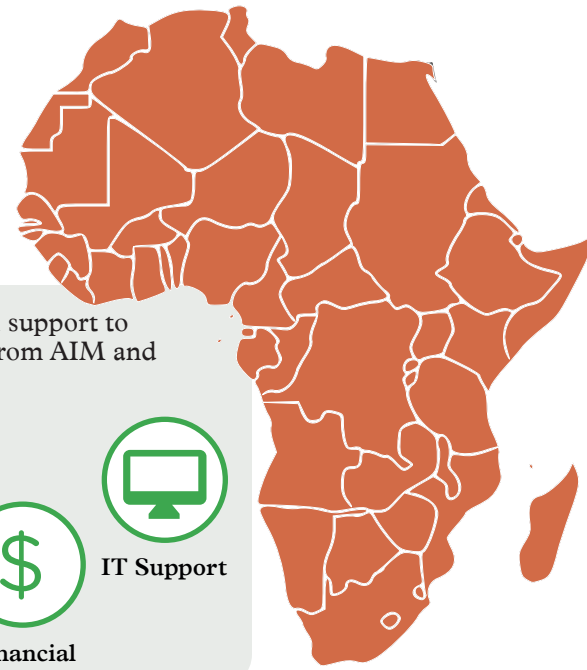


We help people and their churches to prepare

From calling, to training and raising support



AND IN AFRICA



Africa Based Support

ABS coordinates and provides essential support to enhance the ministries of missionaries from AIM and other like-minded organisations.



Orientation

Orientation is one of the final steps taking place both in the sending country and in Kenya.



Leadership & care

The Receiving Region Offices and teams provide oversight, accountability and pastoral care.

Education



Rift Valley Academy
A Christian boarding school in central Kenya with over a hundred years of rich history. Serving about 500 students of about 30 nationalities, from a range of churches and sending organisations.

Wellspring Academy
A day school located in Chad, providing quality English-medium education for the children of cross-cultural Christian workers. Let Hannah tell you more p.19.



Counselling & Crisis support



Tumaini Counselling Centres serve members of AIM and missionaries from over 160 like-minded agencies throughout Africa. Providing preventative and restorative mental health services and pastoral care to enhance missionary resilience and fruitfulness.

International Crisis Consultant Barry Mann has an international role, ensuring we are aware and prepared to manage risk, security and crises. As AIM works in places affected by war, political turmoil, terrorism and crime, continued awareness and practical preparation is essential.



GOD CALLS THE CHURCH SENDS

AIM serves and partners with churches to advance the gospel among Africans who have the least opportunity to hear about Jesus. If you feel called, here is what would your journey would look like.



1 You and your church
If you felt called to take the gospel to the least reached in Africa, a Mission Advisor would help you to picture how you could serve. God has called the local church to be his mission force, so your church leader would be involved too, as your church would be sending you.

2 Discerning God's will
Applying will also help you to discern God's will, as your friends, colleagues and church leaders share insights into your character and what God is leading you to. If successful, you would then become part of the AIM family.

3 Confidence in the message
We want you to be confident in sharing the gospel faithfully across cultures, so we would help you to find the best Bible training and preparation, as well as joining our own 'Equip' course.

4 Finding the right place
Together with the personnel team and AIM's leadership in Africa, you would look to find the best assignment. Then you would know where you were going, what form of ministry you would be undertaking and what finances you would need to raise.

5 Support and sending
Now you need to raise prayer and financial support, this is something we can coach you and your church to do. It may seem daunting, but God provides in such amazing ways! Once you have the support you need to go, your church will hold a commissioning service.

6 Orientation
Your final preparations will help you to gear your thinking for what lies ahead. This will include orientation, both in your sending country and three weeks in Kenya. This will help you to grow your confidence in cross-cultural living, ministry and life. These special times of learning and fellowship with other new workers are the place where many make life-long friends!

7 Care in the field
Our care continues as you join a team, providing encouragement and accountability. With a dedicated 'Member Care' team in Africa, providing professional and informal support and guidance.

THE MAKAU'S JOURNEY
What was it like for the Makau family to raise support? Go to p.8



The personal touch

Julie, AIM Europe's Personnel Manager, tells us how she helps people to prepare well.



In my role, I'm privileged to be involved in supporting our missionaries in various ways, at different stages of their journey. Our first meeting is often at their final interview for membership. Then, soon after their acceptance, we meet again for an in-depth psychological assessment, which is part of the process of matching them with a suitable overseas assignment and evaluating what support they will need to thrive there.

I'm in regular communication over the months of preparation, answering questions and sharing information on topics as diverse as building a partnership team, staying healthy overseas, contingency planning, and children's education.

I oversee Equip, an online programme of spiritual preparation for life and ministry in Africa, which new workers complete individually alongside a facilitator. I'm also responsible for EBO - the European Based Orientation course - a series of interactive sessions sharing information and equipping new workers practically and spiritually. EBO usually runs once a year, meeting together in-person or online as needed.

Before a new missionary leaves the UK, I will draft their contract of employment. Once in assignment, I read, pray and respond to their updates, authorise their monthly finance expenses, and sometimes communicate with their supporters.

We evaluate what support people need to thrive

When they return for Home Assignment, I'm one of the people they can choose to meet with for a debrief, to help them reflect on their experiences and process the impact on them. I'm also involved in supporting missionaries coming to the end of their time with AIM and planning for their next stage of life and service.

Julie Bailey

CHAI TIME
Hear about the warm welcome for all those visiting Nairobi. p.26



THE MAKAUS' JOURNEY RAISING SUPPORT

*Meet Paul, Elizabeth
Daniel & Grace Makau*

We interviewed Paul to find out what the family's first year had been like - the joys and the challenges as well as just how vital your support and prayers have been.

HOW DID IT ALL START?

We aim to live as witnesses to Christ, recognising that God put us in professional careers, to reach out to those we work with. AIM's vision of taking the gospel to unreached people groups is inspiring and when we discovered opportunities to serve with them as theological educators, we were ready to move wherever God would lead us.



What was raising support like?

Raising support presented significant challenges, it even delayed our departure and left us with limited time to prepare. To gather support, we arranged visits with individuals and church groups to share what we would be doing. Some chose to support us financially, whilst others pledged to pray and give. AIM supported us and would accompany us when we met with church groups.

Being missionaries of African origin was another challenge, both for black church groups and some white churches. As many imagine missionaries to be white



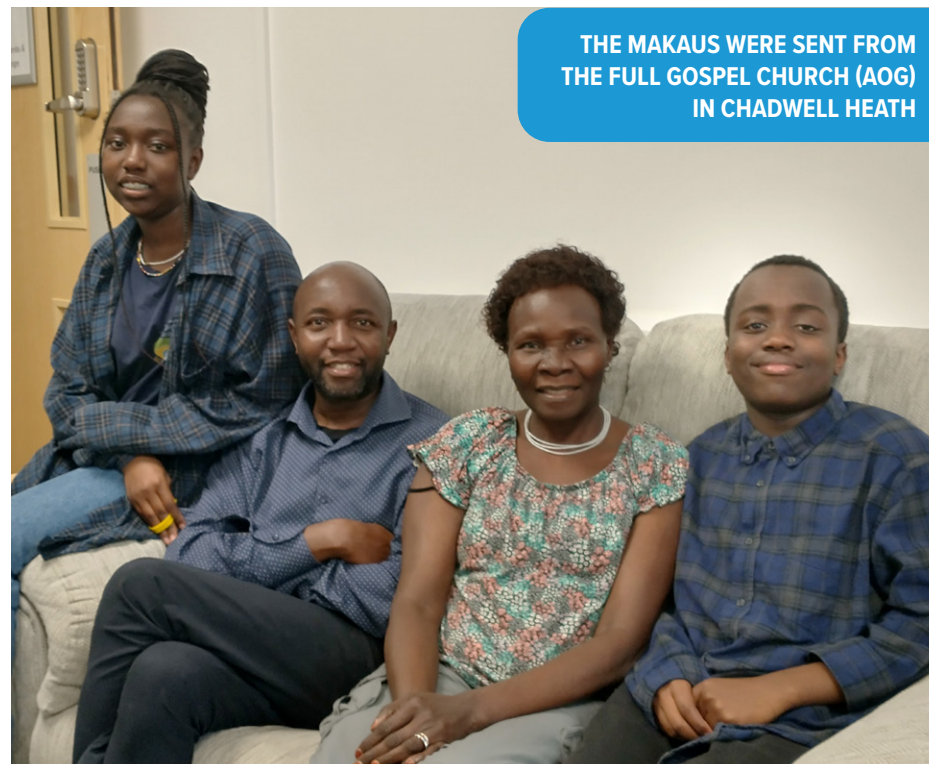
people taking the gospel to the developing world. AIM was able to assure people that we were genuinely raising support and eventually we raised enough to start.

*"Being missionaries
of African origin was
another challenge"*

Once you had raised some support at home what happened next?

We arrived at Africa International University (AIU) in Nairobi, Kenya with limited finances, only to discover that some of our supporters could no longer honour their financial pledges. This meant our budget was drastically reduced, and we have been praying for regular financial support ever since. God has faithfully and miraculously provided through different sources, and now we are completing our first year in Kenya - Praise God!

How does prayerful and financial support help you to serve others?



THE MAKAUS WERE SENT FROM
THE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH (AOG)
IN CHADWELL HEATH

Sometimes we can get so busy with ministry, and the challenges can be so overwhelming that we no longer feel able to pray. That is why the prayers of our supporters are so important. We really need others to stand with us, helping us to be accountable to God and share God's victories in winning souls.

*"The challenges can
be so overwhelming
that we no longer feel
able to pray."*

The generous gifts of our supporters have released us into this ministry of envisioning and equipping church leaders with a Biblical understanding of mission, so that they in turn can envision and equip the churches they lead.

It is assuring knowing that our supporters are holding our hands in prayer and finances, so we can be where they can't and do what they might not have the time to do.

*"Each of us plays
our part, taking
the gospel to the
unreached."*

Each of us plays our part, taking the gospel to the unreached, otherwise, how will they hear and how can we go unless someone is sent?



PRAY FOR THE MAKAUS
eu.aimint.org/themakaus

THEY MIGHT HAVE TO COME HOME

Stephen, our Designer, shares his reaction to hearing an update on the Makau's finances.

Shock and disbelief

It was a day I won't forget, it was totally unexpected! The time, energy, prayer and effort involved in raising support, preparing and making the move to Africa, is immense. So, to hear that the Makaus might have to come home was shocking!

They did everything right

Reaching the unreached is vital, and yet there are already so few willing to go. I couldn't square what was happening: they were being obedient to God's call, they had prayerfully raised support, started their new ministry and then had to consider the possibility of leaving before their work was done.

They are not alone

This was the first time I had ever been confronted with the reality that this could happen to our missionaries. Even more concerning was discovering that it wasn't just the Makaus struggling. Several of our missionaries are having to raise further support.

Changes felt everywhere

Higher living costs have not only hit us hard in Europe, but those serving in Africa have also had to deal with costs rising, and as a result, the amount they need to stay on the field has increased.

God is Good

Sometimes, our workers share their situation with their prayer and financial supporters, and an individual or church steps up to meet the shortfall. It is so encouraging to see how quickly and sacrificially you respond to the needs of our workers.

Sometimes though, even this is not enough, and we have to help from what is given to the ministry of the mission. We all rely on the generosity of God to provide for us so that in turn we can give to others. It is supporters like you that can help people like the Makaus when they really need it.

What difference does it make?

Naturally, missionaries focus on helping others and spreading the gospel, however, that means they sometimes find themselves without the resources they need to stay in the field and complete their assignment.

Help us to ensure that missionaries can stay in the field and complete what God has called them to do. Why not pray and consider whether God is calling you to give in this way?

Progress and prayer

The Makaus reported: "Our main assignment is at the Africa International University (AIU) in Kenya. We have already designed three courses – a diploma in mission in the Islamic world, a general diploma in mission and a certificate course in mission.

We are thrilled that these have been approved by the AIU senate. And we will begin to teach them to students in September this year. These courses will equip many called to take the gospel to unreached people groups across Africa."

"...to hear that the Makaus might have to come home was shocking!"

GIVE THANKS AND PRAY

- Give thanks for God's provision of the funds to complete their first year.
- For a second-hand car, enabling them to travel to remote areas to do training and discipleship.
- Please pray for God to continue to provide for the Makaus by raising new financial supporters. Pray for his peace over them as they look to their future in Kenya.



**WILL YOU STEP IN TO HELP MISSION WORKERS LIKE PAUL AND ELIZABETH BY GIVING TO AIM TODAY?
EU.AIMINT.ORG/GIVE**

MORE ON THE MAK AUS



HOW ARE THEY SERVING?

Paul and Elizabeth are involved in training and equipping church leaders from different parts of Africa at Africa International University (AIU). They are helping equip them to preach the gospel to unreached people groups in Africa. They do this by identifying new missional communities, training leaders and supporting them during their training and on their outreach activities.



WHAT IS AIU?

Africa International University (AIU) is a private Christian university that offers Christ-centred leadership training to church leaders so that they can transform their communities. **Visit aiu.ac.ke to learn more.**

Tanzania

Population: 67,353,000

Those unreached: 6,714,000

Largest religion: Christian 50.9%

Our mission is to proclaim the true gospel of Jesus Christ...to people from all walks of life.

Philipo Mafuja Magwano is a Bishop from the Pwani diocese of the Africa Inland Church Tanzania (AICT) who oversees 109 churches and various departments, all working towards a shared vision.

What is your vision for the Pwani diocese?

Our vision comes from Jesus' Great Commission, to have a church committed to Christ's mandate. Our mission is to proclaim the true gospel of Jesus Christ and provide both spiritual and physical services to people from all walks of life.

How does the AICT go about fulfilling that vision?

We disciple people and help them to discover and use their spiritual gifts. Some have gifts for evangelism, others for singing, teaching, or working with children. Through this discipleship process we find new leaders to help fulfil our vision.

And church planting is key. For example, in southern Tanzania, in a village called Likawage, one of over 100 villages without a church in the region, we have placed a mixed AICT/AIM church planting team under the leadership of an experienced



AICT missionary couple. And a church has been planted! So, I want to make people aware of the need for mission. I would like to see our big urban churches train their members to understand the importance of mission, to send church planting teams to places where there is no church.

What are the main challenges in this?

The first challenge is that of financial support. We have many in the AICT who feel called to go as missionaries but our churches struggle to support them consistently. We need to address this through faithful teaching of the Biblical mandate to our leaders who have a key role in envisioning their churches.

The second challenge is teaching and training. For our 129 churches we only have 41 ordained, trained pastors and 24

Bristol, UK

Population: 471,200

Those of no religion: 51.4%

Largest religion: Christian 32.2%

When I went to be pastor at Kensington...I really hadn't grasped the place of mission in the local church.

One of the things that has shaped us more than anything else was making regular visits to our missionaries. Every year for several years, my wife and I went to visit our workers in different places. We learned so much.

Apart from visits, what else should the church's responsibility be towards their workers?

Our responsibilities to each worker will differ according to the individual. We as a church need to get to know the individual well, what levels of accountability are appropriate in their situation, what levels of support they need. Some workers are very happy to work with minimal support. But we will still want to walk with them in their journey, whatever that looks like for them. Others will be more timid and they will want us to come more strongly alongside them in the journey. We want to be driven by the people that God has given us. We want to seek through prayer how the gifts of people in the local church can help each worker as they go on their particular journey to serve in a cross-cultural context. And the church should help each worker identify the agency that will be most suitable to their needs as we partner with them in caring for their needs.

Pastor Andy Paterson spent 24 years pastoring Kensington Baptist church in Bristol, he was the FIEC's Mission Director for several years and now serves as an associate pastor at Charlotte Chapel in Edinburgh.

How did mission become so central to your ministry?

When I went to be pastor at Kensington in 1988, I really hadn't grasped the place of mission in the local church. I was so blessed to be at a church that had already started down that process of thinking about what it means. I couldn't just say this is part of church life, like a women's meeting, the crèche or the children's work. I increasingly realised that the mission of the church is the mission of God, and it is absolutely integral to everything that we do as a church.



trained evangelists. 64 are lay leaders and have very little Bible training. We need more informal, modular training and seminars to empower our leaders as church planters and nurturers. I thank God for Sanga Sanga training centre where church leaders regularly come for refreshment and teaching, including the teaching about the church's privilege of taking the gospel to all nations.

What part can AIM still play?

AIM missionaries have helped plant many churches in Tanzania and also helped establish Sanga Sanga! And the partnership with them in equipping church leaders there continues. But the need is great...We really need churches (through their leaders) to understand the importance of mission so that we can send Tanzanian missionaries to other nations. I know we have people with a passion to go as the AICT has planted churches in Burundi, DR Congo and Mozambique.

Also, partnership with AIM and other agencies can help create pathways for AICT missionaries to be placed among Africa's unreached peoples in regions much further afield than our neighbouring countries, such as in North Africa where the needs are greatest.

Additionally, AIM can help in mission mobilisation through empowerment of church leaders and church members especially in local churches based in urban areas.

So, I can see the AICT working together with AIM in these ways, to send Tanzanian missionaries, even to the northern part of Africa.

REACHING OUT IN LIKAWAGE

A joint AIM and AICT team are seeking to share the gospel among the unreached villages of southern Tanzania. Hannah Jackson and Margot Knight were sent from the UK to join the team. One of the newly established churches has grown enough to build its own building. Pray for the church and the team as they seek to bring the community together to work on that project, so the villagers own it for themselves. Find Hannah and Margot on eu.aimint.org/people to learn more.

Take a moment to thank God for the opportunities we have to share Jesus in Tanzania and in the UK.



Philipo Mafuja Magwano

Do you advocate sending your workers through a mission agency?

In our experience frontline work is really hard. Spiritual attack is real and can take some terrifying forms. Some of the biggest heartbreaks we have ever had have been because of workers who have struggled and been broken on the field. So yes, that's why I would say it's really good to partner closely with a mission organisation - because there are things the local church can't do if workers are in a closed access nation, for example. We need people with a far wider knowledge than we have to help and support these workers.

Finally, how do you integrate mission into the life of the church so that support for missionaries becomes normal?

I think it has to be a whole church thing. So, a passion for the lost needs to come from the leaders and be disseminated through the whole church. In other words, you're not just doing mission because it's another of those boxes that we tick. You do mission because you've been gripped by the wonder of the gospel and by the lostness of the lost, and that without someone going and making Jesus known to men and women, they are eternally lost without him. The whole church must get that. Now that comes in a variety of ways. It comes through the faithful preaching of the Word. But I think there are other ways that that can be helpful. So, for example, every Sunday when we gather in our

Sunday morning services, we will pray for an unreached people group. We may have no contact with them, but we want the whole congregation to realise that our sphere of service is not just Edinburgh. It is the world. Leaders should be asking, 'How do I share this so that everyone understands?'

And it's helpful to any church serious about mission to craft a mission policy that enables them to be clear and intentional in their thinking about their involvement in mission. This keeps mission from being personality driven. It enables churches to be proactive in identifying and equipping workers and to support them in close partnership with their mission sending organisation.

"We want the whole congregation to realise that our sphere of service is not just Edinburgh. It is the world."



Andy Paterson
Photo: FIEC

FOCUS ON TANZANIA



CITY LIFE IN TANZANIA

Although approximately 65% of Tanzanians live in rural areas, the cities are growing.

Arusha

A large and lively city with a busy central market. Many people wanting to go on a safari will start their journey here. It is surrounded by coffee plantations and forest farms, as well as a National Park home to extinct volcanic calderas which is populated with large numbers of animals.

Dar es Salaam

Tanzania's most multi-cultural city, home to Arabic and South Asian communities as well as expats from Britain and Germany. This diversity is reflected in the city's cuisine, which ranges from traditional Tanzanian food, to burger bars and Thai and Chinese restaurants. It also has a vibrant music scene, which includes Bongo Flava – otherwise known as Tanzanian hip hop.

Dodoma

The legislative capital of Tanzania. In 1974, the Tanzanian government announced that the capital would be moved from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma for social and economic reasons and to centralise the capital within the country. It became the official capital in 1996. In May 2023 the new State House in Dodoma was unveiled in a historic event stamping the relocation of government duties to the city.

RURAL LIFE

Most people who live in the countryside are farmers. They will grow food for themselves and their family. They will also sell what they grow in local markets. That allows them to buy things that they don't have on their own farm. The most popular crops in Tanzania are maize, sorghum, millet, rice, wheat, beans, cassava, potatoes, and bananas.

Some rural communities in Tanzania are still waiting for someone to go and tell them the good news about Jesus. People groups who are still waiting to hear the gospel of Christ include the Rangi.



ANIMAL MIGRATION

Over 1.5 million wildebeest, zebra, and gazelle, make their way through Tanzanian grasslands in search of grazing land.

LAKE TANGANYIKA

Is the world's longest fresh water lake and contains 8% of the world's freshwater.

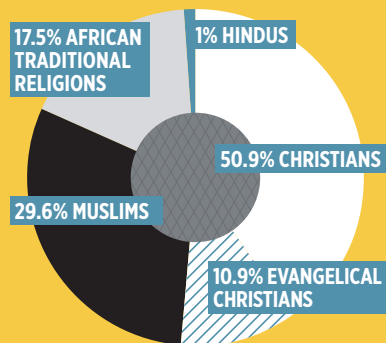


TREE CLIMBERS

Tarangire National Park in Tanzania is one of two places in the world where lions climb trees.



RELIGION IN TANZANIA



TAKE A LOOK AT TANZANIA

It is a beautiful country with beautiful people. Tanzanians are known as calm, friendly, and welcoming. In general, they pride themselves on being a peaceful country and tend to stress being a 'Tanzanian' over being from a certain people group. Take a closer look at some of the things that make it so special.



ARCHAEOLOGY

Fossilised remains of some of the world's oldest human skulls were found in Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania.



THE SHORTEST WAR

The Anglo-Zanzibar War took place in Tanzania in 1896 and lasted less than an hour.



Where do they live?

The Rangi live in the hilly region of north central Tanzania. They believe that their ancestors came from Ethiopia and Kenya, travelling in search of permanent water sources. They live in villages and have really strong communities. They are farmers, who grow crops like maize, sunflower seeds, millet and vegetables to sell at local markets. They are also known for the clay pots they make.



What do they believe?

The predominant religion among the Rangi is Islam, but their traditional beliefs have been incorporated too. There are many reports of witchcraft and sorcery among the Rangi which generate fear among people from the surrounding areas. A very small percentage have been influenced by Christianity, but many remain unreached with the good news of Jesus.



IS THE MISSION MOVEMENT IN AFRICA GROWING?

Kate Azumah, Managing Editor for AfriGO magazine, speaks about the challenges missionaries face in Africa.

In 2007, I elected to go to one of Ghana's least-reached regions for my mandatory National Service. My motivation was to use the opportunity to win many there for Christ.

A heart for mission

My interest in mission came from reading biographies of Western missionaries and from the teaching of my youth ministry. We learned about the least-reached countries and prayed for the nations. I knew of hardly any mission agencies in Ghana, and my only commissioning was a prayer by the youth ministry founder when I said I was departing.

How things have changed

Sixteen years later and many African mission agencies have emerged in Ghana and Africa. But despite being a Christian heartland, much of the African Church is yet to recognise its role in global mission.

Opposition from surprising places

An African mission mobiliser recently revealed that the biggest obstacle to young people's involvement in mission is their parents. A pastor even prevented his son from going to the field. Yet even for those who press on, the road ahead is far from easy.

Welcome support

African missionaries may be resilient, but most are in vulnerable situations. They need financial provision and education for their children, but they also need health insurance, member care, retirement and home ownership schemes. When these go unmet, some missionaries are compelled to pursue other options and abandon the call. Others, who have laboured for decades, finish with no home to call their own and an uncertain retirement.

PRAY FOR THE RANGI

- Give thanks for all the Rangi people, especially those who have become Christians!
- Lift up new believers to our heavenly Father, that he might give them a hunger to know more of Jesus and the Bible.
- That Jesus would call more people to love the Rangi people and share the gospel with them.
- For workers already serving, building relationships and investing time in individuals to be encouraged and strengthened in their work.
- For those who show no interest in Jesus to have their eyes opened to the power of the gospel.
- That those practicing witchcraft and sorcery would submit to Jesus and turn their backs on their old lives.

PRAY FOR TANZANIA

- Give thanks for Tanzania's cities and its large and vibrant churches. Pray that church leaders would faithfully teach the Bible and model a heart for the lost.
- Give thanks for the way cities help people from different people groups to meet. Pray for Christians meeting those from unreached people groups to be able to share Christ.
- Pray that city churches will raise up mission teams and send them to parts of Tanzania where there aren't any churches.
- Pray for Tanzanians who God is calling to be missionaries. Pray they would be able to find strong supporters and all they need for the work God is calling them to. Pray that God would guide their steps and relationships to enable them to go.



Lizzie* joined Tumaini in 2022 after decades of living in French overseas territories. Whilst in the UK she trained in Creative Therapies and worked with women with complex PTSD. In 2019 she qualified as a psychotherapist and counsellor, and has worked with addiction recovery and trafficking survivors. She offers counselling in English and French.

Tumaini's website holds a gem of a video, the message? Maintenance is essential for good mental health, like an MOT for a car, it is even more important if there has been an accident or mechanical failure.

Adversity, ongoing or sudden, from childhood to adulthood is part of being human. Christians are encouraged to approach God and each other and ask: 'Help'.

If in addition as missionaries we live across languages and cultures, the different religious, political, social and economic systems of our host country – and of our colleagues – wear unfamiliar faces that need adjusting to, and under stress old wounds can surface. Phone and internet access and improved team care may decrease isolation, but in the initial years, much is confusing and alien, while over time repetitive strain, wear and tear occurs.

For medical workers risk of injury to morale from insufficient resources, high workload and avoidable deaths is high. And what of illness, unexpected life-changing events for the missionary – their children?

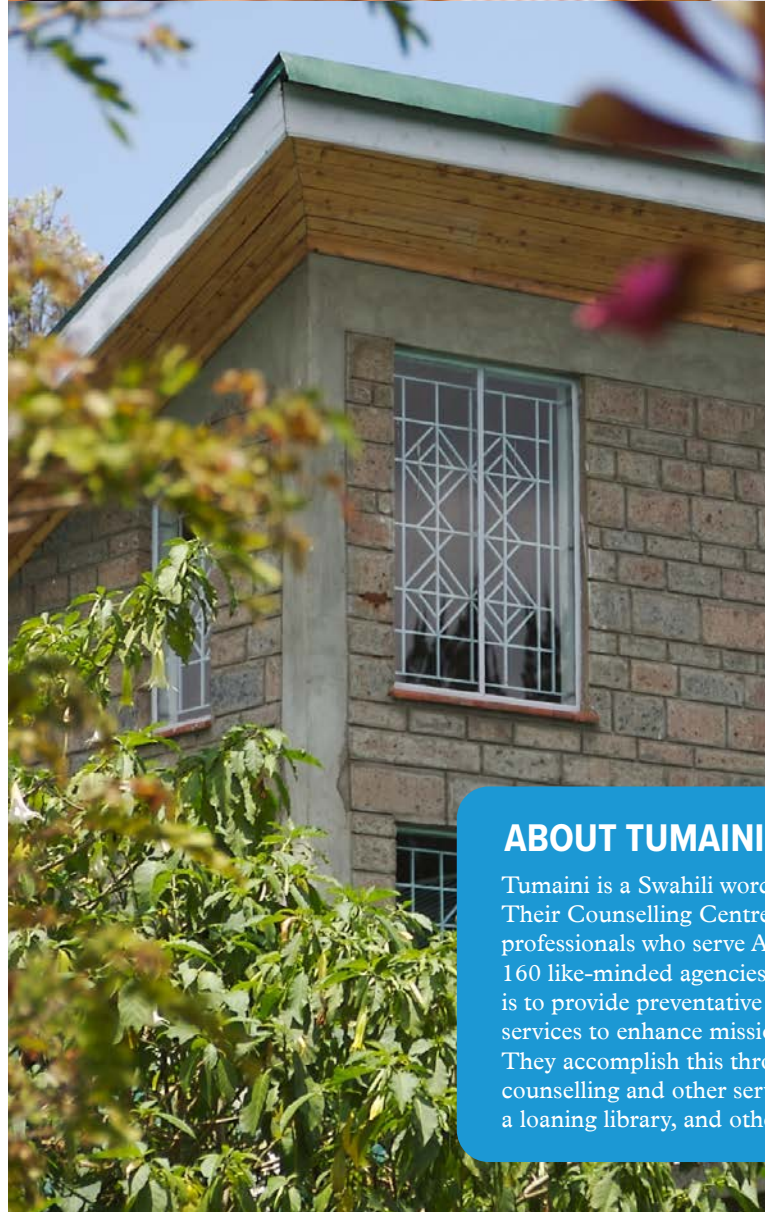
All good reasons to ask: 'Help'. Caring for others is in missionaries DNA, but do they know how to look after their own needs? It is important that they are resourced to stay healthy in normal and abnormal times on the field so they can keep serving.

Ephesians 2:10:

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Tumaini's resources include help with creating a personal health plan, and they are waiting for people to say: 'Help', to provide someone alongside, listening, supporting, to find a way through.

* name changed for security



*"What is the bravest thing you've ever said?" asked the boy.
'Help,' said the horse.
'Asking for help isn't giving up,' said the horse.
'It's refusing to give up.'*

Charlie Mackesey 'The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse.'

One of the joys with Tumaini this last year has been working with those who have never wavered in their sense of call, but in saying 'Help' are starting to discover new freedom, renewed hope and joy in being and doing.

During my family's first 11 years as lone AIM missionaries in our country, annual visits from AIM leaders, participation in occasional AIM conferences were our MOT's; our relationships with God and those with us – all daily fuel in our tanks.

Whispers of Tumaini came through a book I read: 'Honourably Wounded: Stress among Christian workers' by Marjorie Foyle. It fascinated and appalled me – things could get that bad? Then suddenly they were. I staggered to the next MOT/visit, but the oil top-up from the book helped me hold on till I could start to move through, God assuring me he was big enough for my emotions.

Tumaini helped with their interventions to keep us on the field and journeyed with us through the ensuing years. That journey is part of why I am now on the staff at Tumaini.



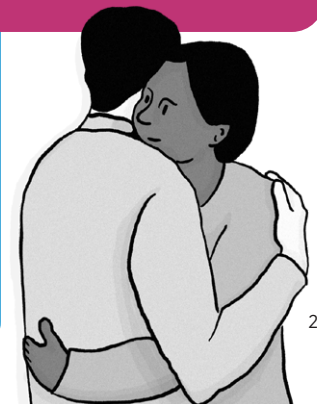
READ MORE ABOUT TUMAINI AND LIZZIE* OR CONSIDER JOINING THEM

➤ tumainicounselling.net

They are currently looking for male counsellors for children and adults.

ABOUT TUMAINI

Tumaini is a Swahili word meaning "hope". Their Counselling Centres are staffed by mental health professionals who serve AIM, and missionaries from over 160 like-minded agencies throughout Africa. Their mission is to provide preventative and restorative mental health services to enhance missionary resilience and fruitfulness. They accomplish this through on-site care, distance counselling and other services, occasional travel, seminars, a loaning library, and other resources.



EDUCATION THAT KEEPS MISSIONARIES SERVING



Hannah Coggins works at Wellspring Academy in Chad. Discover the school's primary purpose, it may surprise you.

20% of missionaries return home for the educational needs of their children

Why we do what we do

Education, teaching, learning, which of these words would you expect to appear in a sentence about a school?

Well, any of those would be very logical, and at Wellspring Academy those things are very important to us. But we actually describe our main goal like this:

'Attracting and Retaining Cross cultural Christian workers in Chad for the glory of God.'

Wellspring was started, and continues to help cross cultural workers come to Chad and stay here. God is in charge of all of our comings and goings, and we believe he uses our school to help people to stay.

Where do our families come from?

At Wellspring we teach in English. Our students come from English-speaking countries like the USA, UK and Canada, but they also come from other countries, like Germany, Brazil and Ethiopia.

There are lots of challenges for families coming from places like these because there are no schools here in their 'home' language and homeschooling materials can also be difficult (or impossible!) to find. So, an English-speaking school is a big part of helping their family to live and work in Chad.

A variety of gifts

What do they do? The children's parents are all involved in outreach, but they also serve in a range of roles including as pilots, English teachers, farmers, engineers and counsellors.



Lots of our families work on teams which focus on a particular group of people – there are 80 different unreached people groups in Chad, which means there are lots of languages to learn and people to meet. Some of the students, like Abe, come to Wellspring every weekday and so we call them 'day students'.

Help for home schoolers

We also love to welcome the home schoolers twice a year for home school week. The picture shows our recent 'Spy Academy' theme, and the large group of children who came to join us. Many of the unreached people live far away from our city. The families who work with them live in small towns and villages and home school their children. I have been to visit some of them – it's great to see different parts of Chad, encourage the families and learn from them too. Some families have a home school helper or teacher – this is another way to serve God in Chad through teaching.

Through teaching, we not only get to serve God, but our work allows families to serve in him in different ways too!

Meet Abe

Abe is from Ethiopia and has been at Wellspring for three years. His parents have been serving in Chad for seven years, learning a local language and sharing the truth about Jesus with people who have never heard.

They do this through their work in a hospital – it's their job to welcome people, help them know where to go and what to do during their stay, and offer to pray with them.

They have many opportunities to meet people from all over Chad through this work. While they are doing this, Abe and his brother come to school everyday as 'day students'. Their parents know they are happy, safe and making good progress with their education.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT TEACHING IN MISSION
eu.aimint.org/teachers





Retirees Theo and Jamila spend three or four days a week in ‘outreach’ work among Africans living in the UK. At AIM we call that diaspora work. It can be an amazing opportunity to reach people groups who would otherwise be hard to reach if they had stayed in Africa.

How did you get ‘into’ mission?

Years ago, our church adopted AIM pioneer missionaries who worked with an unreached people group; we began to pray. Over the years we saw a church established and the New Testament was translated.

First experience of Africa

Later, our son served with AIM short term - a gap year in Tanzania. Theo visited him, seeing Africa for the first time: Being able to use my professional skills to help missionaries ‘on the field’ and learning from them about mosquito nets, army ants and goat slaughter, never mind the incredible sense of community in a poverty-stricken region, was a joyful and profound experience. Learning more of God’s heart for the unreached tugged at my soul.

Why would you not want to be where God is working?

Passion and prayer

Years later, spending time with an AIM family in a creative access country cemented our desires and plans but also fired us up for more focussed intercession for missionaries we knew, and we began to ponder our own future.

Where was God leading us?

Retirement was looming. I took the ‘re-tyre-ment’ approach. Having always wanted to teach and having seen English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) in action through AIM in the UK and abroad, we began to plan to make regular support work visits post-retirement.



When redundancy hit during Covid, retraining and focusing on diaspora work in our local city in the UK seemed like a no-brainer. We could serve unreached peoples and immerse ourselves in their lives just 40 minutes from home!

It’s cross-cultural work without moving country

My wife caught up by attending a MOMENTUM YES course during Covid. Input from former AIM missionaries really helped seal her sense of calling, particularly the challenge, “Why would you not want to be where God is working?”

Our loose connection with AIM poses no cost to the mission; we have fellowship with others who do similar work. We’re grateful to a small group of friends who pray for us.

From teaching to friendships

Jamila explains: ESOL in some form or other was the backbone of our early days - this at the invitation of an ethnic community self-help group. Now, alongside some ESOL, days are filled so much more naturally with long-term relationships with individuals and families. We are valued as trusted friends and even ‘members’ of the community (although initially they were extremely suspicious of our outsider and Christian motives). Our grey hair and enthusiasm are particularly esteemed - no ageism among diaspora people! Chatting naturally about God is easy among people who have been refugees or had to change country for other reasons.

Where we meet

Theo uses cafes a lot! At times we work together or with same-sex groupings. When I’m with women from a very conservative community, I often meet in parks or secluded places.

“Enriching” is how Jamila describes engagement with the self-help group: It’s cross-cultural work without moving country. I could talk for a long time of the issues women face, their food, their culture and sad recent histories, our assumptions and misunderstandings (mine and theirs) and of the days when the frustration of cultural misunderstanding runs deep, the days when I feel that after three years, I have understood nothing yet... But when we meet, these ‘sisters’ and I hug warmly. We share what women share across the world - our lives, laughter and tears. Faith-talk and praying for God’s blessings through Christ is just a natural step.



We’re now so committed to these new friends and relationships we’re moving into the city! Not the average retirement aspiration but we trust that it’s God’s leading. The adventure continues.

Pray for Victor

“What I like about you, Theo, is the way you relate everything to God!” Victor’s compliment was the best I could have been paid! Victor, one of my ESOL students from



a strict Islamic country, has many questions. He’s been involved with us over six months - he’s seen a friend converted and baptised, attended outreach meetings about the wonders of God’s creation and attended church lunches, he’s been in our home and had great table discussions alongside his friends - pray for him, please.

Even just how we teach can make the gospel “attractive” (see Titus 2:10): showing genuine interest and concern for them as individuals, meeting one-to-one for a coffee, taking a trip outside the city for an afternoon to a country park...

What do my ESOL students like best and least about the UK? Predictably they all liked the weather least, but the women named “the respect” as the best aspect. We can easily model this in the classroom.

Spending time in local cafes is a great way to get into conversation with local men. They are so happy to talk about matters of faith - a total contrast to your average Brit!

Why don’t you try it in your own local area?

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT CROSS-CULTURAL WORK WITHOUT GOING ABROAD borderlessafrica.org

*'Small cheer and great
welcome makes a merry feast'*

William Shakespeare



Tony & Cath Swanson head up the Eastern Region Office, helping missionaries and all those who stop by.

Chai time at the Eastern Region Office is a time-honoured tradition. Every weekday at 10.30am, you'll find the ERO staff drinking tea (or coffee if you prefer).

We have so many guests here at Lenana Road in Nairobi - Kenyan PhD students digging into AIM archives; bright-eyed medical students on their way to Kijabe hospital; AIMers picking up vehicles or supplies, travelling to or from Home Assignment, plus those just passing.

Tea fits well with the 'warm, welcoming and worshipping' community we hope to be, it is our strapline and vision for Eastern Region. Making space for these W's doesn't come naturally when we are caught up in our own ministry priorities. Regional Offices have a fundamentally administrative function - a plethora of planning and paperwork and meetings. It's all vital to keep the Region running smoothly and yet, it is way too easy to lose the point of it all.

Ultimately worship is the whole point, the end goal of any church and of AIM. As John Piper famously put it: 'Mission exists because worship doesn't'. Mission is all about bringing others to know, love, adore

and surrender to the God of all eternity. Without that end goal in mind, all our conscientious activity is just that - activity which produces more activity.

In a world of spreadsheets, budgets, chatbots and online everything, fundamentally what psychologists (and Scripture!) tells us is that our fundamental human needs are actually love, belonging and connection. People need people.

I firmly believe that we are not tools, commodities, objects or resources to get a job done. We are God's dearly loved children, co-labourers with Christ. Every person matters. Everyone has their story.

*A warm, welcoming and
worshipping community*

Tony and I try hard to visit our members on location, to see life through their eyes. Marking milestones, recognising losses, celebrating triumphs and noticing the things that matter together. Simone Weil said, 'Attention is the purest and rarest form of generosity,' so we try to listen hard and ask the right questions, with Jesus as our model!

Please pray for us and if you are passing do drop in. And if you want to serve God here in Kenya or Tanzania please get in touch! The kettle is on and the door is open!



AfriGO

In 2019, AIM joined forces with SIM to publish their Afrigo magazine, created to encourage the African Church and tell the stories of African missionaries. With thousands of missionaries serving around the world, the African missions movement is well underway, but little information is available online.

AfriGO serves to report on the movement, provide training and guidance on topics ranging from cross-cultural adjustment to being a missionary kid, and shares the experiences of African missionaries with a wider audience. These stories show Africans that they, too, can answer God's call to reach the lost across cultures.

With four issues a year in English, and translated into French, Portuguese and Swahili as the team is able. Afrigo's voice is growing in the service of the Kingdom.

Visit afrigo.org and download every issue for free, as well as reading stories from African missionaries.

The Bible in their heart language

"The book of Acts is ready to be printed... Our idea is to have 200 copies of the Gospel of Luke and to have 100 copies of the book of Acts printed... We are extremely happy about finishing the translation of Acts, and we hope and pray that the booklets may greatly bless the Antanala (and the other people groups in the southeast) of Madagascar. May they come to understand and accept the saving work of our Lord Jesus!" Jurgen Hofmann

The newly translated book of Acts



Find out more and pray for the Hofmans eu.aimint.org/people/thehofmanns

SUMMER EVENTS

We had a great time at Keswick and Bangor this summer, meeting potential AIM members, friends and missionaries. If you haven't tried our 'find your fit' quiz then do you can do it online here:

eu.aimint.org/find-your-fit



INTO AFRICA.

**AN ONLINE EVENT
TO EXPLORE YOUR
PLACE IN MISSION**

**SATURDAY
7TH OCTOBER 2023
10AM - 12:30PM**

➔ [EU.AIMINT.ORG/INTOAFRICA](https://eu.aimint.org/intoafrica)

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.

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