

# 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 creche or the children's work. I increasingly realized 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, DRC 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.

And additionally, AIM can help in mission mobilization 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 will own it themselves. Find Hannah and Margot on [eu.aimint.org/people](http://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 organization - 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 organization.

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



Andy Paterson  
Photo: FIEC