

CONNECT

magazine

skills & passions



**AFRICA
INLAND MISSION**

ISSUE TEN / THREE MAGAZINES A YEAR

GIFTS TO BE USED

The shape of mission has changed dramatically over the years; in how we send, how we receive, and how we serve. In countries where there are barriers to gospel proclamation, God is using the skills, passions and expertise of his people in new and creative ways to share the good news among the unreached. Where one door closes, another opens.

Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that “we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do”. God is not looking for extraordinary people, but for faithful people who will offer him what they have and follow where he leads. Each of us has a unique part to play, but together, as the body of Christ, we participate in God’s greater mission – to make his name known among all nations, tribes and tongues.

AMELIA GIBSON, CONNECT EDITOR



COVER AND "TOUAREG MAN" ABOVE BY AMELIA GIBSON

4 You are God's plan
Seeing our place in God's global plan.

5 Building God's Kingdom
God's call to build a mission hub.

6 Connecting the dots
Phil on surrendering our skills to God.

8 Reaching out through radio
The good news across the air waves.

10 Art and story telling
When mission, stories and art meet.

12 Business as mission
Business for the glory of God.

14 Serving mission partner families
How we help children & families thrive.

18 Catching the vision
Mission often starts with simple things.

20 English lessons and trees in prison
Ministries that point people to Christ.

22 The Central African Republic
Untamed, unrest and hope in the CAR.

24 From field to board
Serving and seeking wise decisions.

26 News and events



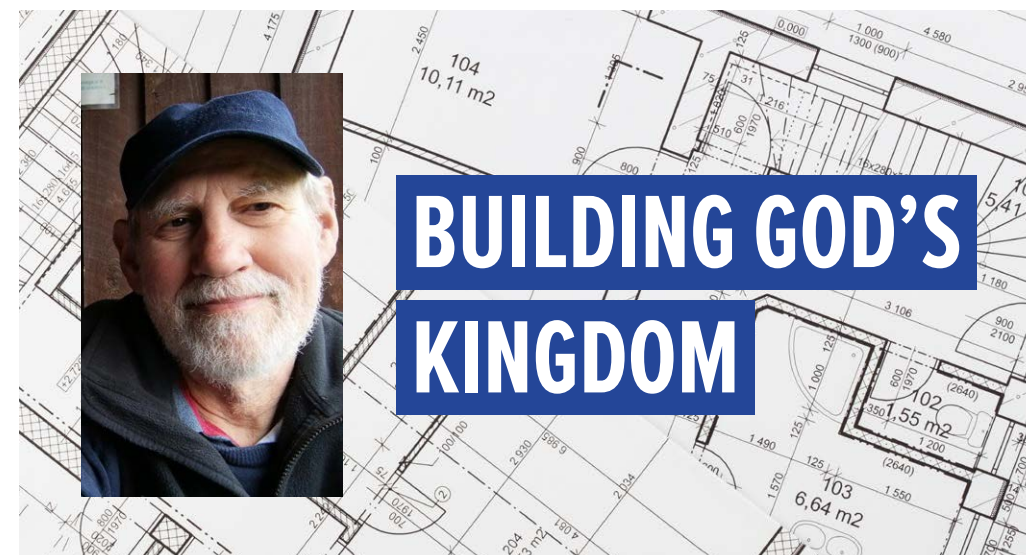
You ARE GOD'S PLAN

When we think about gifts and skills in the Bible, we often jump to people uniquely gifted, placed and set apart by God. People like David, Deborah, Priscilla or Paul. We are quick to place them in a special category; one we quickly exclude ourselves from.

However, look more closely and you will see that every Christian is gifted, placed and set apart. Maybe you find it hard to believe. 'God couldn't use me, I am not good enough.' Yet when we think like this, we limit the ways God chooses to work and count ourselves out of his plans.

Sadly, our focus in church can inadvertently do the same thing. We celebrate evangelists but overlook engineers. We pray for church planters, but not tree planters. We rejoice when our church sends a missionary, whilst overlooking the vital role of mothers.

God's vision is far bigger than ours. As the God of every nation, he has unending love, draws near to the downcast and seeks the lost. May these examples help you see your place in his global purposes, give thanks for your gifts, and delight in him.



After years of engineering experience across various specialities and locations, Paul shares his excitement to join the building project for a mission hub in Uganda.

SERVING WITH MY SKILLS

I applied to Tearfund in the mid-1980s to work on micro-hydro projects in Nepal. However, at that time, most of my civil engineering experience was on large building projects. In God's wisdom, I was asked to lead the construction of a rural development training centre in north-west Uganda, associated with AIM.

By then, after more than ten years as a Christian, I'd learned that when God says 'go', you go. So, I arrived in post-Amin Uganda, not knowing quite what I'd find, but sure I was called by God to use my skills to help the church there live the gospel and not just preach it.

TRUSTING IN THE CHANGE

In 1987, I returned to the UK with my wife, Jan, and a young family, not having completed what I went to do, but confident that the local men and women I'd trained could. I'd also learned to trust God in challenging circumstances and been greatly blessed in my life and faith by Ugandan colleagues and friends.

One outcome of that was sensing God's call to continue in international development, but in the water and sanitation sector, rather

than building. God enabled me to obtain a scholarship to study this specialism, but sadly no mission opportunities arose for us as a family. I therefore worked as an international expert until 2021 to improve services for the poor and marginalised and build the skills and capacity of individuals and organisations.

STEPPING BACK OUT

It was therefore with some excitement, at an age not much less than when God called Abram, that I saw AIM's call for a short-term expert with building experience in rural Africa, to supervise the building of a mission hub in Kotido, north-east Uganda.

I've a better idea about what I'll find this time, and once again I believe it's a call of God. So, how can I refuse?

PRAY FOR PAUL

- A listening ear, and a humble, servant heart.
- Safety and good health, to make best use of the short time available for each 2-3 week visit.



"This year we have seen people aged 18 to 88 serve in different countries across Africa."



CONNECTING THE DOTS

Phil (top left) leads our Mission Partnership team, supporting churches and individuals as they live out the great commission locally and globally.

FULFILLING THE DREAM

I have the wonderful privilege of heading up this team. Previously I've been a missionary myself in Thailand and have pastored and planted a church. One of my dreams was that God would use me to help churches send workers out to the harvest field. For the past few years, I've been so blessed to be able to do precisely that!

EXPLORING TOGETHER

Our Mission Partnership Team helps churches support people as they begin to discover and discern how God might be leading them into mission. We start where people are now and then help them explore what would be a good fit for them. We find that many people approach us as a blank piece of paper: "God might be calling me to mission work!" We spend time getting

to know them, their church background and involvement and what their skills and passions are – what makes them feel alive? Often it is that passion that God will foster and use for his glory.

BREAKING THE STEREOTYPE

People are sometimes surprised to hear that they don't need qualifications in theology to serve God in mission – although you do need to know your Bible and how to share your faith. In what we call Creative Access countries – countries where sharing the gospel is not allowed – it is precisely a person's life/work skills that could be the open door to living in a country where missionary visas are unheard of but bakers, sports coaches, teachers, medics (complete the list with dozens of job titles!) are welcomed. All of these are examples

"I can look people in the eye and tell them that God can take their skills, their passions and use them in wonderful ways to spread the good news"



of people who have gone to serve Jesus in Africa in recent months. We also have opportunities right here in the UK and Europe serving with our Borderless team to help reach African communities closer to home.

DOING MISSION TOGETHER

Our work with the local church of those exploring mission is just as important, as we support and encourage church leaders and help them, as it is the church who sends the missionary. We have seen God create wonderful partnerships with these sending churches, AIM UK and our teams in Africa. All of which helps them to send workers who have surrendered their skills to God and said, "Here I am, send me".

AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

This year we have seen people aged 18 to 88 (yes 88!!) serve in different countries across Africa. That is both so encouraging and challenging to me. It means I can look people in the eye and tell them that God can take their skills, their passions and use them in wonderful ways to spread the good news of his kingdom.

Have you a passion to tell people about Jesus?

Do you have people in your church with skills to open doors for the gospel?

ARE YOU AVAILABLE?

Would you like us to come and inspire your congregation for mission vision or receive resources to equip the church for sending?

We'd love to help you explore how God can use the passions and skills in your church to serve him!

Speak to our Mission Partnership Team about your gifts





David and Patricia have been serving in radio ministry, first in Kenya and now in Tanzania, partnering with different churches and organisations to build and maintain radio stations.

MAKING THE GOSPEL ACCESSIBLE

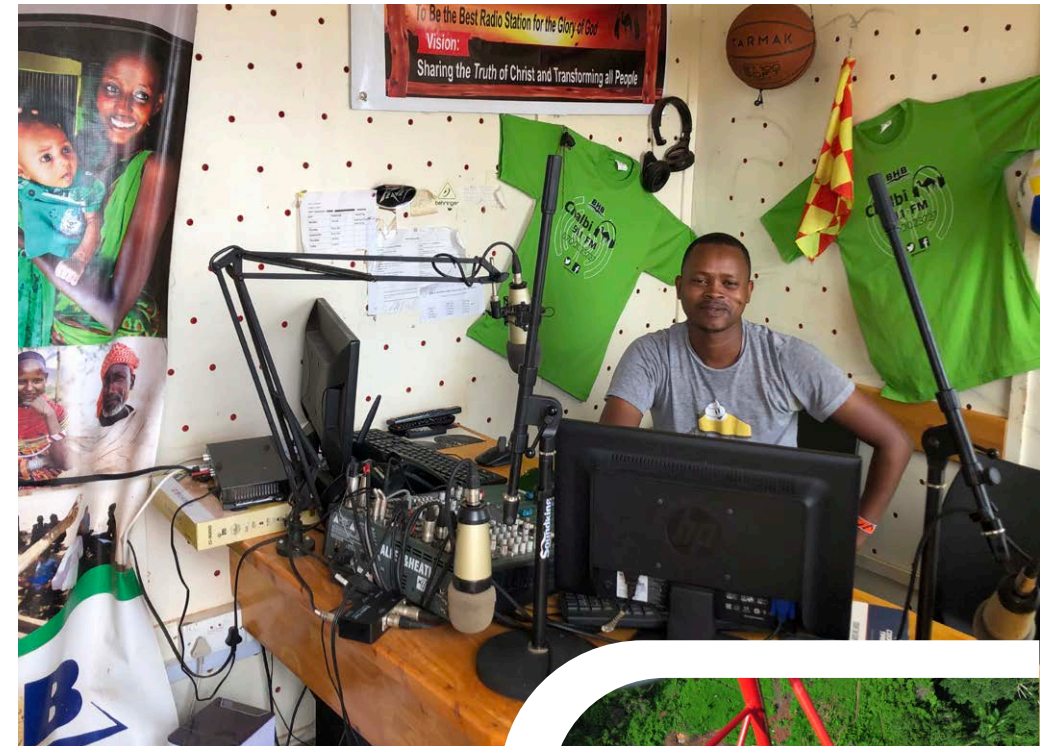
In Africa most people depend on radio as their primary source of information. Even though internet is available in very remote areas, it is costly to access. And so, radio has been and is still a powerful tool to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is amazing to be able to reach thousands of people through the air from one location. People don't have to be educated or rich to listen to a radio programme and so it reaches a very broad spectrum of the population.

WHEN GOD WORKS THROUGH DOUBT

I grew up as a missionary kid in East Africa. I did an apprenticeship as an electrician back in Switzerland. Then as a young adult I wanted to serve the Lord with the gift God had given me. So, I was looking

where and how that could be. I applied to Diguna – a German mission organisation that worked in partnership with AIM. I was open to where and what ministry they would send me to. When they decided I would fit well in their radio ministry, I was a bit sceptical. I thought “I know nothing about how radio works.” And sometimes still after 14 years I think I know little about radio and how it really works. But God again and again used me to help put up new stations in remote places and get existing stations back up and running.

In my life, I see how God has led me and my family over and over again. I want to be continuously open to his working in my life. In the last few years, he has led us from Diguna to AIM and to Tanzania.



I see how God has led me and my family over and over again. I want to be continuously open to his working in my life.

HEARING THE IMPACT

As somebody working on the technical side, you rarely get direct feedback on what impact the radio has. We had helped put up a radio station in southern Tanzania, a predominantly Islamic region. For a couple of years, we didn't hear much from the radio station. Yet just recently, we have heard that over 30 Bible study groups, as well as a couple of new churches, have started because of a discipleship program on the radio.



PLEASE PRAY

- The planning of future radio stations to reach people who are hard to reach in other ways.
- Wisdom for those creating radio programmes, so that Jesus may be glorified.
- For God to raise up other electricians, engineers and skilled people with a heart to serve the Lord.



CALLING THE ARTIST

Rianna is involved in mission partnership in the Netherlands. Alongside her work with AIM, she uses her creativity to share the gospel with those who are yet to hear.

CALLED TO CREATE

God's invitation is genuine; he invites us to be part of his mission and brings to light what he has placed within us from the very beginning. He called fishermen to become fishers of men. He calls on artists to use their talents for his mission: to reach the lost.

REKINDLING THE FIRE

During my youth, I crafted the most beautiful greeting cards, jewellery and other creations. Although I lost my passion for creating things, I never lost my talent or my love for art. In my thirties, I finally accepted a friend's invitation to attend an artists' weekend.

When I arrived, I felt myself coming back to life. All those people spoke the same language and I finally felt understood. That tiny spark of creativity became a flame, a fire burning in my heart. And so, art – alongside Dutch – once again became the language of my heart, and I am convinced that it is a powerful means of communication in mission work to reach the unreached.

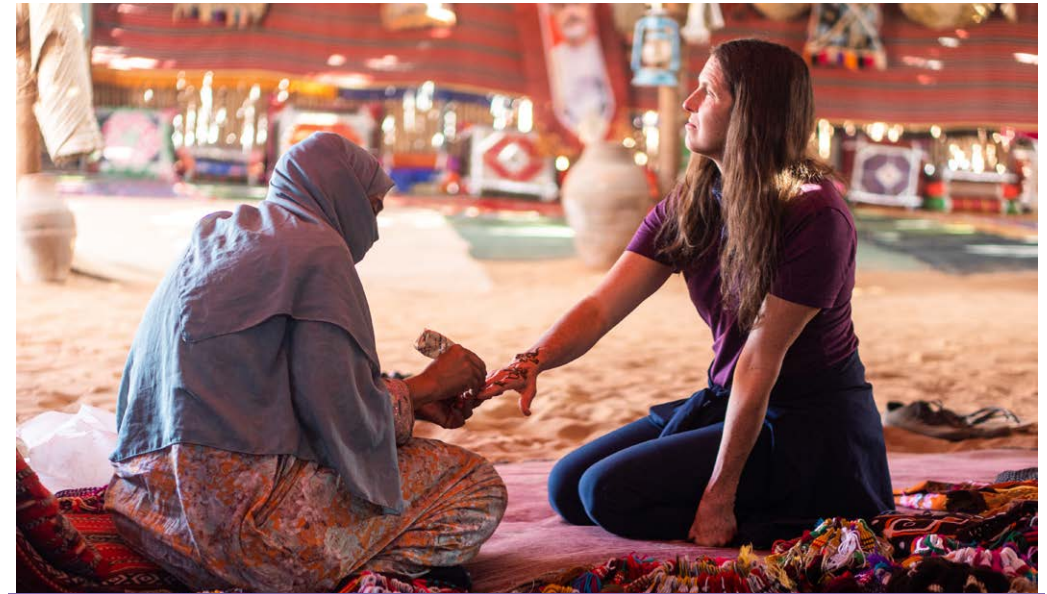
UNEXPECTED OPPORTUNITIES

At that moment, I couldn't imagine what God was stirring in my life, but shortly afterwards two invitations followed. One friend, a professional dancer and mime artist asked me to work with him as a manager and promoter. The second invitation came through at once. The director of the Artist Weekend said, "I believe God is calling you to be part of our mission, but I don't know you yet." She invited me to become the school coordinator for young artists in Biblical art that reaches out to the community.

And now five years later I am a visual artist, coordinating an art project based on the Song of Songs. I organise international theatre tours focusing on physical theatre and dance during Easter and Christmas. I am also a project leader of a powerful production about forced prostitution.

A VESSEL FOR HOPE

God has given me the ability to create and to serve as artist with my talents. That's how I combine mission and art to glorify God. Through art, we reflect Christ's light into dark corners and share the best news ever to those who haven't heard it yet.



STORYTELLERS FOR THE GOSPEL

Two of our workers share how God has led them to use their creative gifts to tell stories of what he is doing among the unreached in North Africa.

THE START OF A DREAM

I was seventeen years old when the Lord first planted the dream of telling stories of what he is doing among the nations. That dream sat on a shelf for over fifteen years, while the Lord began stirring my heart for the unreached. For a little over a decade, my husband and I lived in North Africa where 99 percent of the population in the area are Muslims. Every day, we would step out into the noise and bustle of our neighbourhood and come face to face with those so dearly loved by God but unaware of what he has done for them.

SEEING THE NEED

We ran a film and photography business in a nation where sharing the gospel is prohibited. While we told stories of businesses and weddings, our hearts longed to tell the stories of what the Lord was doing in North Africa and spiritual needs in these countries. We would ask ourselves the question, "What is it going to take for there to be gospel access in every

city, every town, every village in North Africa?" We were just one couple. But if we created a video that encouraged even just one other couple or individual to come to North Africa, our efforts would already be doubled.

INFORMING PRAYER

Following the leading of the Lord, we joined the AIM Northern Region Office in Europe and began leading a team of storytellers. AIM Stories North focuses on creating content (written, videos, and photography) that encourages an increase in prayer, giving, and going to North Africa. Prayer is the foundation for movements of the Lord, and we want to see North Africa saturated with prayer, but how can the global Church pray if they don't know what the prayer needs are? The Lord of the harvest is at work in North Africa, but we need more workers.

FIND OUT MORE AT AIMSTORIES.COM



Sept Bukula, the founder of Osiba Holdings, wrote this article about the place of business in mission for AfriGO magazine – a partnership of AIM and SIM which encourages the African Church toward missions.

When I was confronted with this question 14 years ago, I thought I knew the answer. I was attending a conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, with believers from around the world. After a week of discussions, we finally came to one conclusion: the purpose of business is to glorify God.

That was the beginning of a journey. The question that followed was: How does a business that glorifies God differ from a business that does not consciously seek to glorify God? It has taken years for me to arrive at some of the answers.

That said, I had a strong beginning in business and ministry, long before the term Missional Business (MB) was coined. My dad was a strange character—the only person I’ve ever known who was a full-time pastor, full-time businessman, and full-time farmer. That’s how he raised his eight

children. He and my mum led 20 local congregations on a circuit basis. Because of almost no pay, they had to find ways to make ends meet. My father told me, ‘Son, I am not using church money to run my family; I am using my family money to run the church.’ My dad went beyond subsistence, growing maize and raising livestock on a small-scale commercial basis.

The prosperity gospel has done a lot of damage by teaching people that God exists purely to bless them. This is unbiblical. We are blessed to be a blessing! To be entrusted by God with a blessing is to be entrusted with the responsibility to share it – not just with family or immediate community, but with the rest of the kingdom. I encourage business people to ask themselves, “Do I see my business as mine, or as God’s business that He has entrusted to me to run?”



A large universe of business people are not connected to missions. Missional Business remains a conversation among a very narrow band of business people. As it were, missionaries and business people inhabit two different universes.

Many erroneously believe that business and kingdom don’t mix, and this hinders great opportunities to advance the Kingdom of God. This disconnect comes mainly from churches, which have created a divide between the sacred and the secular. One is made to feel that to be in business is not God’s highest calling. But the Missional Business movements afoot today are righting this wrong.

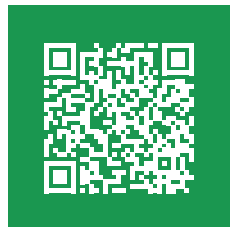
We have failed to disciple business people into a missional mindset. They have grown up, even in our churches, thinking that business is just about getting rich. This is scripturally untrue.

What is true is that the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it (Psalm 24:1). Thus,

business is the Lord’s. If you are running a business, it is God who has deployed you there. You are holding that part of His Kingdom on His behalf.

So, what do you think is the purpose of business? If you agree that it is to bring glory to God, what will that mean for your business today?

**DO YOU WANT HELP EQUIP THOSE IN
THE WORKFORCE TO GRASP THEIR PLACE
IN GOD’S MISSION? WHY NOT INVITE ONE
OF OUR TEAM TO SPEAK INTO THEIR LIVES?**



HELPING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES THRIVE ACROSS CULTURES



LIBBY AND HER FAMILY

Libby serves as our TCK and family care coordinator, walking alongside missionary parents and children as they live out the joys and challenges of serving cross-culturally.

NAVIGATING CROSS-CULTURAL LIFE

Living and serving cross-culturally can be deeply rewarding, but it can also bring specific challenges that are often difficult to navigate. This is true for anyone, but it can be particularly felt by Third Culture Kids and their families.

WHAT IS A TCK?

A Third Culture Kid (TCK) is a child or young person who spends a significant part of their developmental years living in a culture different from that of their parents' passport country. These children often grow up with a rich blend of experiences, perspectives, and even languages, developing a unique worldview shaped by multiple cultures. While this brings many strengths, it can also present specific challenges. The hidden emotional costs of frequent transitions, changing friendships, questions of identity, and the experience of

belonging everywhere and nowhere at once can be difficult for both children and their families. This is why intentional care for TCKs and their parents is so important.

WALKING THROUGH JOYS AND TRIALS

In my role as TCK Care Coordinator, I have the privilege of walking alongside parents, children and young people as they navigate the joys and complexities of cross-cultural life. Whether through listening, encouraging, equipping or providing practical resources, it is a joy to support TCKs and their families at all stages of their AIM journey.

A PASSION FOR PROACTIVE CARE

Although I am based in the UK, my work is greatly informed by the 11 years my family and I lived and served in Kijabe, Kenya. During our time in Kenya, I experienced first-hand the realities of missionary life for families, including the variety of joys and challenges it can bring. As we raised our own three children and as I worked with other TCKs at Rift Valley Academy, I witnessed the excitement of cultural discovery, the pain of goodbyes,



the importance of healthy transitions, and the value of creating spaces where children can process their experiences and flourish. I developed a personal appreciation for proactive, preventative and holistic care that nurtures, supports, and builds resilience in TCKs, even as they face struggles.

HELPING TCK FAMILIES TO THRIVE

At the heart of TCK ministry is a desire to see families thrive as they follow Christ wherever He leads them. Healthy families are vital to sustainable mission, and caring well for children is an essential part of that calling. By supporting TCKs and their parents, we help create strong foundations for both family wellbeing and long-term ministry effectiveness. It is a privilege to support families who have answered God's call to serve in Africa, and it is a joy to use the experiences, passions and skills God has given me to serve and encourage them as they live out His mission to the world.

PRAY FOR TCKS

- For our TCKs and their families, that they would find their identity firmly rooted in Christ and keep their eyes fixed on him as they navigate the joys and challenges of life between cultures.
- That we, as those who desire to care for TCKs and their families, would be guided by God's wisdom, grace, and discernment as we seek to support, encourage, and minister to them well.

CATCHING THE VISION



Myriam shares the impact of a recent vision trip to North Africa, and how we can all play a part in bringing forth springs in dry places.

THIRST IN THE DESERT

For many of us, this Sahel country remains far from our attention, awareness and our prayers. Its vast stretches of sand and silence reflect deeper dryness: an ancient spiritual thirst. And yet, God loves the peoples of the desert. He causes springs to rise there. Through the prophet Isaiah, he promised: “I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs” (Isaiah 41:18).

SEEING THE NEED

The Gospel was only introduced to this country about sixty-five years ago. It is striking walking through the bustling capital, filled with many ethnic groups, and realize that there is almost no visible Christian witness. A few scattered disciples, a few fragile communities... and so many men and women who are born, grow up, and die without ever hearing about the love of God. And yet, even in the heart of this Islamic republic, highly resistant to the Gospel, some doors remain slightly open.

CALLED TO INTERCEDE

Since 2022, we have had the privilege of bringing several small teams to this country to pray, visit, and encourage the workers serving there. Their daily lives are demanding with everything closely monitored, yet they continually seek creative and permissible ways to serve the population and reflect the love of Christ.

Before each trip, we spend time rediscovering our calling to priesthood and intercession through meditating on the Bible. Once there, our days often begin with prayer. We share meals, conversations, moments of prayer, and sometimes simply a brotherly presence alongside those persevering far from their families and familiar surroundings. And we pray that at any moment along the way, we might be the light of Jesus.

ISOLATED YET JOYFUL

These isolated believers deeply need encouragement and presence. This region is a vast open field: millions of people live their entire lives without ever meeting a follower of Jesus. “Seeing persecuted believers persevere with joy...was a

powerful reminder of what truly matters,” one participant said. “We hardly realize the privilege we have in being able to live out our faith freely.”

A SIMPLE FOCUS

One participant shared: “I discovered that simply praying on-site and encouraging the workers is already participating in the advance of God’s Kingdom. I was deeply impacted by the clarity of their vision: their priority remains sharing the Good News.” Another reflected on Philip’s attitude of attentiveness and immediate obedience to the Spirit in Acts 8, saying, “I pray that the Lord would teach me this same dependence on the Spirit, with less calculation and more availability”.

Our journey reminded us that mission often begins in simple ways: through humble presence, attentive listening, and faithful prayer. Even today, God continues to bring forth springs in dry places. And He invites His Church — each one of us — to join Him in this quiet and precious work among the peoples of the desert.

PRAYER

- May the Lord raise up workers for the harvest, for the opportunities are great and the needs are many.
- May God reveal Himself to those who are seeking the truth, and may they encounter believers who will share His love and hope with them.
- May our local brothers and sisters persevere through the loneliness and challenges of persecution.
- May our churches recognize the power of prayer and faithfully intercede, give generously, and send workers with passion and boldness.
- May God open doors for Christians to start projects and businesses in this region of Africa.





One of our mission partners serving in North Africa shares how mixed feelings and doubts led to teaching English and opened the way for sharing the gospel amongst unreached people.

AN UNEXPECTED PATH

I never intended to be a teacher (it was in fact the only career I officially ruled out during sixth form careers advice!), and yet here I am in North Africa, teaching English with AIM since 2018. So, what went wrong?!

WALKING THROUGH UNCERTAINTY

I've forever been an extravert and was longing to work with young men from unreached people groups. So, when doors opened to serve as an English teacher, I had mixed feelings. The promise of constant interaction with students was exciting, even if I was totally unsure of my abilities as a teacher. But God quickly grew me in confidence, helping me to see how the skills and character he gave me could be so useful in that context – not just in relational evangelism, but even in teaching, where I had just assumed I'd fail.

SEEING THE OPEN DOORS

I'm quite overwhelmed as I think back now to all the young men I've connected with

over the last 8 years. Being in the classroom together has always led so naturally into fun friendships and non-stop opportunities to share truth.

A recent highlight was a 9-week class on 'Ethics'. Unable to speak openly about the gospel, I was able to challenge them on an objective definition of 'right/wrong' and push them on what they'd be willing to sacrifice for the good of others. It prompted dozens of deeper discussions with students at my home in the evenings and reminded me once again of the privilege it is to so quickly enter into these guys' lives, hopefully rocking their misplaced foundations a little.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

So do please lift my colleagues and me up as we work to design classes and curricula that are accessible and fun, but that will prompt questions, provoke deeper thought, and open doors to share the most incredible news with our students.

How a last-minute invitation to a prison ministry opened doors for our mission partner to use their gifts as an arborist, so that they can take the light of Christ into dark places.

A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

On my first vision trip, I was still exploring my calling. I had been interested in multiple projects but without a deep connection to any of them or a sense of God's calling. And so came the very last day of my trip. In the last hours of my stay, I met another worker who invited me to join a ministry working with prisoners. He took some time to share the story behind what they do and told me about another project in the pipeline. This one included planting trees in the prison grounds. The plan is to prevent desertification and for the prisoners to help in the process. With my background as an arborist, this was a match literally made in heaven. I'm currently preparing for work in prison ministry. Although working in prisons is new to me, the type of ministry is not.

HOPE IN DARK PLACES

The idea is that, by planting trees, the prisoners are not only given an opportunity to work but are contributing

to the wider society. By serving alongside one another, we are able to build meaningful relationships. These can open doors for us to show something of God's light in the darkest places. The hope and goal is that the prisoners will want to know more about his light and love, and that as we build relationships with them, they will come to want a relationship with Christ for themselves.

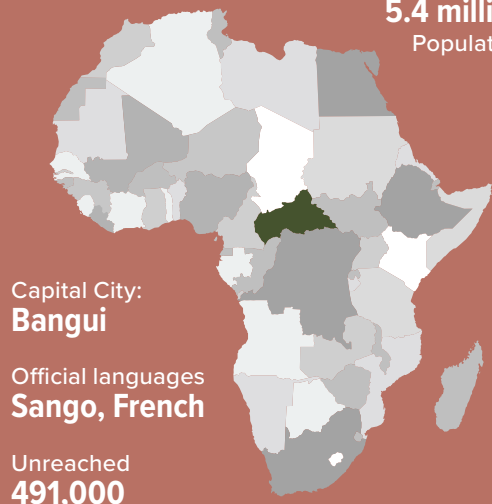
PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- My preparation for this new ministry; that I would be equipped not only practically, but spiritually.
- Opportunities to share the gospel with the prisoners
- Deepening trust and endurance as we build relationships.

THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



5.4 million
Population



RELIGIOUS MAKEUP

CHRISTIANITY 62.5%

ETHNIC 23.8%

ISLAM 12.5%

UNREST AND VIOLENCE

A country of contrasts, the Central African Republic (CAR) holds a wealth of natural resources, cultures and wildlife, yet remains plagued by a long history of conflict. While Christians make up 70-80% of the population, many are at risk of violence, caught between Muslim rebel groups fighting in the civil war and the escalating conflict in neighbouring Sudan. In these circumstances, distinguishing between religious persecution and political conflict can be difficult.



UNTAMED WONDERS

CAR has many natural resources and captivating landscapes, with one of the second largest rainforests in the world. Majestic mountains and expansive grasslands are home to an array of animals, including some of the largest gatherings of forest elephants. Its rich wildlife makes it one of the most distinctive territories in Africa.

RICH YET POOR

The landlocked fertile plateaus of CAR contribute to its largest source of income, with the majority of Central Africans working in livestock or farming. The farming of maize, rice and peanuts supports basic food needs – an economy supported by exports of vegetables, cotton, and coffee, and waterfalls that provide most of the country's electricity. Beneath the surface lie vast deposits of gold, diamonds, and uranium, yet CAR remains one of the poorest countries in the world. More than 2 million people face acute food insecurity, and the country is ranked third globally for risk of humanitarian crisis.

HISTORY OF CONFLICT

Beyond the richness of the culture, people and natural world, lies a history of divisive colonialism, military coups, interethnic civil wars, shifting allegiances and ruthless dictatorships. Exploitation and struggles for power have led to it being one of the most dangerous countries in the world, with over 700,000 refugees abroad and over 400,000 internally displaced. Clashes between extremist groups and government forces continue to contribute to instability, military violence and political chaos.

NOT WITHOUT HOPE

Amidst the deeply fractured society, many seek peace and reconciliation. Despite severe conflict between Muslims and Christians, many church leaders play a central role in rebuilding social cohesion, speaking out for truth and justice. Deep in the middle of extreme tensions there is hope, as followers of Christ are emboldened to see a new future for their country and God's kingdom on earth.

RURAL LIVING

The country is largely rural, with 70% of its population living in farming villages.



BREATHTAKING NATURE

The CAR boasts the world's second largest rainforest, which borders six countries.



DARKEST NIGHTS

With skies that are the least affected by light pollution, this is one of the best places in the world for stargazing.

CULTURALLY DIVERSE

CAR is home to over 80 ethnic groups, where each people group has their own language and culture.



ABUNDANT WILDLIFE

The forests and grasslands shelter chimpanzees, leopards, baboons, antelope, rare lowland gorillas and vast herds of forest elephants.



FOCUS ON THE AZANDE

HOPE IN THE HEART OF AFRICA

Throughout Central Africa, AIM's witness among the Azande reflects the heart of Christ responding to both the spiritual and physical needs of its people. Despite facing much opposition, we praise God for the local church and his sustaining grace.

WHERE THE WORK BEGAN

AIM has served for over a century to make Christ known among the peoples of Central Africa. In 1913, we established the first mission station, and began to reach out to the Zande people. Over the decades, God has used AIM and local believers to proclaim the good news of Christ and strengthen the church through Bible schools, medical ministry, and discipleship among young people, men and women.

A CHURCH LIVING FOR CHRIST

We can praise God for churches across all three countries of the Zande region. Yet there remains an urgent need for discipleship, as traditional beliefs that oppose God still influence daily life and, at times, the church. The Zande church needs mature leaders grounded in God's Word and young believers living who openly live for Christ, to help the church witness to those who don't yet know Jesus.

BARRIERS TO THEIR NEIGHBOURS

The Azande live alongside the Mbororo, another unreached people group, connected to the Fulani. Since the 1980s, AIM and local church leaders have sought to share the gospel with them. Showing Christ's compassion and opening doors for spiritual conversations. However, the 2013 rebellion in CAR brought deep division and violence, stalling much of the outreach to the Mbororo.

PERSEVERING UNDER PERSECUTION

A region scarred by insecurity, fear, armed attacks, looting and abductions of young people. Hardships that make life extremely tough, but nothing can extinguish God's work. The churches gather, Bible schools teach, women's groups meet, medics care for physical and spiritual wounds, and the church stands as a witness to God's grace amidst the suffering.

PRAY FOR THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

- The country has been torn by endless conflict. Pray for lasting peace in the CAR and reconciliation between different ethnic groups.
- Many Muslim-background believers face persecution, rejection and displacement. Pray that believers would find community and have courage to be faithful witnesses.
- Women and girls are highly vulnerable because of the hostility of armed groups. Pray for their protection and for healing from the trauma many have experienced.
- The need for healthcare and humanitarian aid is critical. Pray for access to international aid in providing for those in need.



PRAY FOR THE AZANDE

- For a united church, with wise and godly leaders, who model what it is to live holy lives, seeking and following the heart of God in all things.
- For the region to see an end to the violence, fear and insecurity. For God to bring reconciliation, forgiveness and restoration between the land's peoples.
- For boldness and courage to witness to Christ even whilst the violence, division and fear remain.
- For joy and contentment in the Lord to fill his people with hope, joy, and peace as they trust in Him.



FROM FIELD EXPERIENCE TO BOARD DECISIONS



AIM exists to see Christ centred churches among all African peoples, and the UK Board plays a vital part in stewarding that vision. While mission partners and ministry teams serve on the front lines, the Board provides prayerful oversight, wise stewardship, and long term direction to help us remain faithful to our calling. Ruth gives us an insight into how her experiences have helped her serve on the Board.

STEPPING INTO MISSION

My own journey with AIM began long before joining the Board. From 2013-2020 I served, along with my husband Steve, in Morogoro, Tanzania, as part of a team led by Tony and Cath Swanson. Together with our teammates, we supported the AIC's Institute of Bible & Ministry, providing regular Bible teaching conferences for pastors and evangelists at its centre at Sanga Sanga, as well as travelling across Tanzania to minister to church leaders in their own communities.

These gatherings provided much encouragement, fellowship, and biblical training for those serving in often isolated and challenging contexts. I found it fascinating and, at times, a little unnerving to travel across the country, visiting places that were sometimes far off the beaten track, and meeting men and women serving faithfully in their communities.

LEARNING THROUGH MISSION

My responsibilities included much of the administration behind the conferences, ensuring that each event ran smoothly. As Sanga Sanga grew into a retreat and training centre, I helped put systems and processes in place, trained staff, and managed the accounts – I'm not an accountant so you can imagine the stress of that! These years shaped my understanding of the realities of mission: the joys of partnership, the challenges of cross cultural ministry, and the importance of equipping local leaders with biblical teaching and practical support.

STEWARDED THE MISSION

I joined the UK Board in 2022 and, as this is my first experience of serving on a Board, it has certainly been a learning journey. Our task is not to run the organisation day to day, but to ensure that everything AIM does aligns with its purpose, values, and long term mission outcomes. It has broadened my understanding of the organisation as a whole. It is a privilege to serve in this way, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute. One of the highlights for me is

meeting missionaries who come to share at Board meetings; hearing their stories and insights is inspiring and humbling.

Serving on the field has given me experiences that I draw on now as a Board member. They help me keep the realities of mission at the forefront of my thinking—remembering the people affected by every decision the Board makes, from missionaries on the field to pastors in rural Tanzania.

Who helps you to keep your eyes fixed on global mission and God's heart for the lost? Our mission partnership team can help build mission into the life of your church through speakers, vision trips and resources to continue the conversation.



PRAY FOR RUTH AND THE AIM EUROPE BOARD

- That Ruth will be an effective and wise member of the Board.
- For discernment as the board make decisions that affect mission partners and ministries across Africa and among African communities across the world.
- For your own church leaders and mission committee/team to help you keep God's heart for the lost front and centre.

SKILLS AND PASSIONS

WEBINAR

If you've been inspired to explore how you can surrender your skills, passions, hobbies or business to God, we have the perfect webinar. Discover how others use their gifts and passions, and hear about some exciting opportunities to serve.

Meet current mission partners and our Mission Partnership team. If you have questions or want to know how you can use your skills and passions to change lives and share the gospel with unreached people, then sign up.

ONLINE IN OCTOBER

Sign up at eu.aimint.org/events



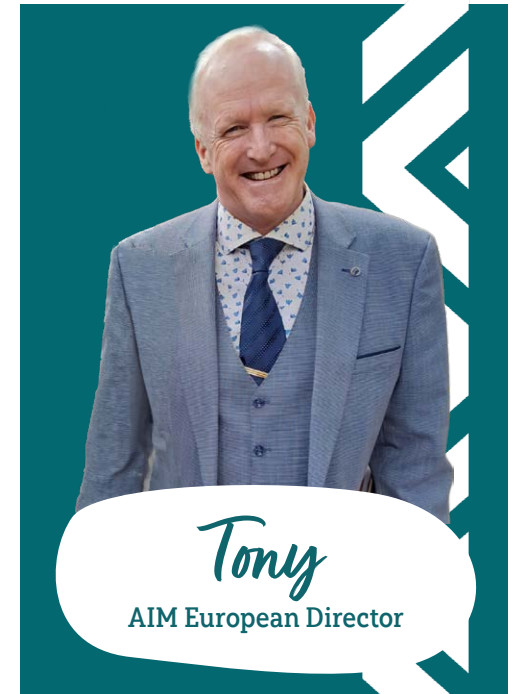
MORE ABOUT

OUR NEW DIRECTOR

Tony and Cath first joined AIM in 1998, drawn together by their shared desire for cross-cultural mission in Africa.

They moved from Kenya at the end of 2025, to the UK and now attend Testwood Baptist Church in Southampton. A large, lively, Gospel-centred church, with a strong community presence and outward focus.

Tony wanted to add a little note of appreciation:
'Through your partnership, the unreached peoples of Africa are hearing and responding to the good news of Jesus Christ. Please know how greatly your commitment is valued.'



JOIN US

ON A

VISION

TRIP

Every year we take church leaders and people exploring mission to a nation closed to traditional mission. Spending time with mission partners and local believers, to encourage and pray with them, as they reach those without Christ. Discover unique ministries and opportunities, God has created for people with different gifts and passions. Here is what people had to say about the experience:

"Whatever expectations I had before the trip were more than surpassed when spending time with local believers. Their inspirational stories showed such bravery in the face of adversity and a genuine love for Christ Jesus. The whole experience will remain with me for a long time."

"Every time someone asks me – 'How did it go?' I say it was incredibly humbling and then I start crying. Just the amazing things God is doing in incredibly hard circumstances."

Visit eu.aimint.org/your-church

AIM AT
YOUR
CHURCH

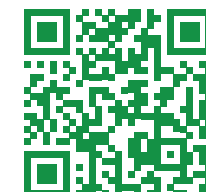


The local church is God's chosen means to reach the world with the gospel. We all need help inspiring, encouraging and helping our church to reach out. Let us help you to reach your community and fulfil the Great Commission. We can provide resources, a church visit, or share ways for you to partner with us.

Contact our Mission

Partnership Team

eu.aimint.org/your-church



How beautiful...are the feet of those who bring good news

Isaiah 52:7

God works through ordinary people who respond to his call, using their gifts, experience and opportunities. It could be a skill, profession, creative gift, practical trade, listening ear, generosity or a heart to serve.

Across Africa and beyond, many communities have few Christian witnesses. Yet God is at work, raising up churches, mission partners and supporters, so the good news can reach the places where he is least known. Your prayers and gifts help us serve churches, send workers and sustain them as they live among Africa's unreached.

Mission may not always look the way we expect. It may look like teaching, engineering, media, business, healthcare, sport, music, administration, prayer or generous giving. But when these gifts are offered to God, they become even more beautiful. Taking the good news across streets, borders and cultures.

Will you take a step so others may hear?

Wherever you find yourself, global mission can begin right where you are. Are you ready to pray, give, care, share and get involved?



*Scan or go to
eu.aimint.org/support*



**AFRICA
INLAND MISSION**

**PARTNERING WITH CHURCHES
REACHING AFRICA'S UNREACHED**



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, UK, NG9 2JG
0115 983 8120
mailings.eu@aimint.org

✕ @aimeurope
fb.com/aimeurope
@africanlandmission.europe
eu.aimint.org