

CONNECT

ISSUE SIX / THREE MAGAZINES A YEAR

magazine

**FROM MISSION FIELD
TO MISSION FORCE**



**AFRICA
INLAND MISSION**

FROM MISSION FIELD TO MISSION FORCE

AIM'S ROLE IN MOBILISING AFRICANS FOR MISSION

When you hear about missionaries in Africa, where does your mind go? It is easy to focus on those we know from Europe, with David Livingstone a name many would recognise. But what about African missionaries and their impact on the African Church? While the name Samuel Crowther may ring a bell (the first African Anglican Bishop of West Africa), others from the 19th/20th century are lost to the history books. Many Africans played a significant part in advancing African mission but we will never hear of them. Although there isn't space to tell their stories here, we will explore how AIM is helping to encourage the African church to mobilise (prepare and send) missionaries and look at their impact in the 21st century.

If you have the time, I highly recommend looking into the history of Africans in mission. Their stories are amazing, and should not be forgotten. You can find some of them in Volume 4 issue 3 of AfriGO: <https://afriGO.org/issues/volume-4-3/>

Rosie

CONNECT EDITOR

Note: We use an * for pseudonyms, to protect people and their people groups. Images are often representative and we will note where AI was used to create images.



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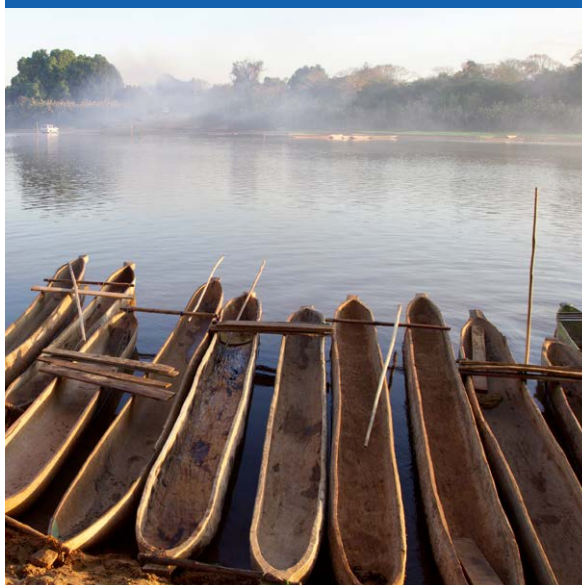
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“I am blessed to be a blessing and so the salary I receive every month is not only for me, but I should keep aside part of it to support... reaching the unreached.”

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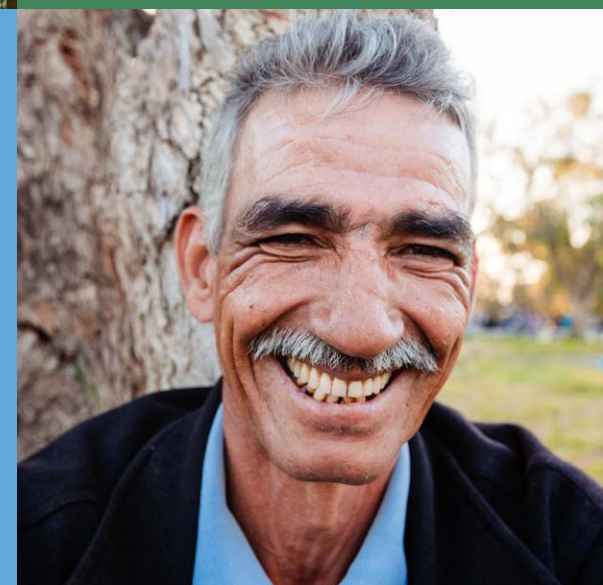


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“We never knew there were Africans who are Christian.”

Discover more on page 24

AFRICA TO THE REST



Sam Ngugi is the co-founder of Mission Campaign Network (MCN) and GEN12, mission agencies based in Kenya and Rwanda, and he is also co-author alongside Yaw Perbi of the book "Africa to the Rest: From Mission Field to Mission Force (Again)". He's currently doing research on "the state of discipleship and cross-cultural missions in Afro-diaspora churches in the UK" with Oxford Centre for Mission Studies.

GOD HAS ALWAYS WORKED IN AFRICA

We are living at the dawn of an emerging African mission movement. Biblical faith is perhaps the most powerful force engaging the minds and hearts of Africans today, reorganising and transforming people's lives and communities in tangible ways. In our book "Africa to the Rest", Perbi and I try to make it abundantly clear that, contrary to the popular tales, God's hand has always been upon the peoples and continent of Africa. In the formative years of Christianity, Africa was a "theological force", with early church fathers from Africa playing a critical role in grounding global Christianity in sound biblical doctrines that have carried the global Church to date! Once again, the Great I AM is on the move in Africa.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN AFRICA

In the Lausanne Movement's "State of the Great Commission" report, the most common word associated with Christianity

in Africa is "growth": from the numerical growth of Christianity and churches to mission agencies, missionaries, international students, diasporas, resources, Bible schools, etc. All projections convey optimism and hope. Take Bible translation, for example: between 2010 and 2024, SIL Global's expatriate workforce in Africa decreased by 20% while the African workforce increased by 70%! In addition, the leadership of all the four major translation agencies - SIL Global, United Bible Societies, Wycliffe Global Alliance, and the Word for the World - are from continental Africa.

ENCOURAGING THE MISSION MOVEMENT

Enthusiasm about the emerging mission movement out of Africa is off the charts. But how can the growth and youthfulness of African Christianity translate to a real, fruitful and transformative mission movement in our generation and beyond? I propose at least two things:



1. MATCH MISSION THEOLOGY WITH MISSION PRACTICE

Biblical Christianity and mission stand or falter on sound theology, biblical teaching and discipleship. While everyone acknowledges the dire need for discipleship in the Church in Africa, we don't seem to have the will and the determination to invest significant resources - human and financial - in it. I believe we need to make the ability/skill to disciple people a prerequisite qualification for missionary candidates and enquirers and peg all ministry funding in Africa to robust discipleship training programs. We need a mission-focussed discipleship revolution in Africa! Indeed, Missio Dei is about BEING and DOING, but the current mission enterprise is too heavy on 'doing' and little on 'being'. It's time to match our mission theology with our mission practice.

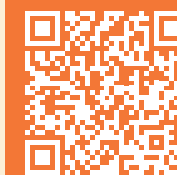
2. OVERCOME RACIAL & CULTURAL BARRIERS

The Africa mission movement will flourish through kingdom partnerships built on genuine trust and hope. As they say, 'attitude leaks'; Africans still face racial obstacles, and we must work hand-in-hand to overcome these racial and cultural barriers and demolish every negative stereotype that creates doubts in the abilities of Africans to be missionaries in North Africa, Asia, Middle East and Europe. While mission strategy that links gospel workers with unreached peoples of similar/closer cultural affinity can be helpful

to determine how and where to effectively mobilise a country's missionaries, this can lead to unintended negative implications which can marginalise and have a crippling effect e.g. determining that Africans can only be missionaries among dark-skinned unreached peoples. This does not advance God's mission or motivate participation. Where is the faith and confidence in the power of the cross to both confound and save nations (Psalm 2:1-4)? God's mission is colourblind and Africa shall be a blessing among all nations.

LISTEN TO SAM TALK ABOUT THE BOOK

HE CO-AUTHORED, AFRICA TO THE
REST: FROM MISSION FIELD TO
MISSION FORCE



EU.AIMINT.ORG/AFRICA-TO-THE-REST

LEAVING BEHIND A LEGACY: MOÏSE BAOU



In February, Moïse Baou, a pastor with Église Evangélique du Tchad (EET) for over 40 years, and director for 15 years of a missionary training college set up by the EET in partnership with AIM, was called home to the Lord. He leaves behind a legacy which will impact generations to come. Janny, a retired AIM missionary, remembers him:

We first met in Kenya shortly after Moïse and his wife, Catherine, had graduated from the AIC Missionary College in Eldoret. Six months later we met again in Chad, ready to start a brand new ministry of EET, in partnership with AIM; the first Missionary Training College in French-speaking Africa. It officially opened its doors in September 1994 and Moïse was its first director. Not only was he highly respected in the evangelical church in Chad but, over time, also in the local community of mainly Muslim people. Ba Illi, a large village where the College was built and where people of nearly 40 different people groups had settled,

was a mission field itself. As well as the trade language Arabic, Moïse spoke 11 local languages fluently, so especially on market days he could be seen chatting to traders who had often come from far away.

As well as a director and teacher, Moïse was a mentor who, over the years, saw dozens of families taking up missionary posts all over Chad, often in extremely remote and difficult to reach places. He kept in touch with them - the bush telegraph, the informal network that passes news through rural areas, was a very effective means to contact people - and former students sought his wise and fatherly counsel.

Being his close neighbour for eight years I spent many evenings with him and Catherine, sitting on our mats under the stars, talking about our hopes and dreams for the men and women we were teaching. Today, many will thank God for the influence he has had on their lives.

AS WELL AS A DIRECTOR
AND TEACHER, MOÏSE
WAS A MENTOR WHO,
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DOZENS OF FAMILIES
TAKING UP MISSIONARY
POSTS ALL OVER CHAD...



THE MISSIONARY TRAINING COLLEGE IN BA ILLI RECENTLY REOPENED AS THE INSTITUT
MISSIONNAIRE DE SILO (IMS), TRAINING EET MISSIONARIES WITH A TWO-YEAR TRAINING PROGRAM.

MOBILISING IN MOZAMBIQUE AND BEYOND

Claire is passionate about mobilising the Mozambican Church to fulfil the Great Commission. She works with local churches in central Mozambique, in the areas of discipleship, leadership development and envisioning for missions, to make disciples who will in turn make disciples.

STILL NEED TO GO

Many Christians are familiar with the command of Jesus in Matthew 28:19, “go and make disciples of all nations...” Yet today, nearly 2000 years since those words were first spoken, still 42.4% of the world’s population have never even heard of Jesus¹ As a team devoted to mobilising Africans for mission, we long to see believers fulfilling the Great Commission as Jesus commanded.

TEACHING TO REACH

We began by using the Kairos Course² to help church leaders recognise that God’s plan includes those beyond the four walls of the church, beyond their city and beyond even their own nation. Later we introduced the Interface seminar² to help them understand how God desires his Church to interface with and reach out to the world around them, emphasising that the privilege of knowing Christ cannot be separated from the responsibility of making him known. Every believer has a part to play in the Great Commission.

SEEING THE IMPACT

Ministry in one of the remote bush churches began with teaching literacy, discipleship, Bible study and Farming God’s Way³. The group now meet every week to pray for



unreached people groups and they recently saved up an offering of 70 meticaïs (about 83p), to be used for Bible translation. They understand the need and, like the widow in Mark 12, out of their poverty they are giving the little they have – in this case so that others can have the Word of God in a language they understand.

Those who have been discipled there are now travelling to another village to disciple others and to pass on what they have learned.

UNDERSTANDING FOR THEMSELVES

One lady said, “Before we could read and write, we were totally dependent on the men of the church to tell us what the Bible says, and they taught us that wives must submit to their husbands. But now that we can read and write, we have seen for ourselves that the same passage also says, “Men, love your wives.” They never told us it says that!” What a blessing to be able to read the Bible for themselves and at the same time, learn to handle the Word of God correctly.



RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION

Through the Youth Mobilization Program we have been privileged to see young people recognising that their generation has a significant role to play in fulfilling the Great Commission, and an incredible opportunity to do exactly that.

It’s exciting to live a life on mission with God! Will YOU?!

REFERENCES:

- 1 Statistics from joshuaproject.net Feb 2025.
- 2 The Kairos Course and the Interface seminar – courses to learn about God’s heart and mission. simplymobilizing.com
- 3 Farming God’s Way – biblically-based approach to sustainable agriculture. farming-gods-way.org

EXPLORE YOUR PLACE IN MISSION.

WHY NOT DOWNLOAD OUR NEW DEVOTIONAL?

EU.AIMINT.ORG/DEVOTIONAL



MADAGASCAR TO THE NATIONS



**SIMON AND MIRIAM DESBOROUGH BEGAN SERVING IN
MADAGASCAR IN JANUARY 2023, AND PARTNER WITH
LOCAL CHURCHES AND ORGANISATIONS TO MOBILISE
MALAGASY BELIEVERS.**



**MORE THAN 80% OF THE POPULATION LIVE IN POVERTY.
THE MAJORITY OF MALAGASIES LIVE ON LESS THAN \$2.15 A DAY.**

World Bank, 2023

WHERE TO START?

In 2024, a Malagasy couple approached our team because God was calling them to preach the gospel to the unreached in a closed country. They poured their hearts out as they shared their missionary desire with us. But alongside their zeal was a frustration, they had no idea where to start to make their dream a reality. They needed the approval of their church, they needed financial support, and they did not know what to expect when they arrived in their new country.

BARRIERS TO MISSION

There are many limitations holding Malagasy churches back from sending people to the nations, with two very apparent barriers. The first comes from a lack of awareness of God's Great Commission for world evangelisation, and therefore there is a resistance from the Malagasy churches to lose their flock when the Holy Spirit calls them. Sadly, missionary agencies have not always played a helpful role, often supplanting churches instead of supporting them. The second barrier is financial, as Madagascar is ranked among the ten poorest countries in the world. Churches have little to support their family, let alone their pastor, let alone a missionary.

MOVING TOWARDS MOBILISING

Madagascar has a rich history of Christianity since the 19th century, and its Church has grown and established itself as the main religion on the Great Red Island. And whilst many Malagasy have gone on mission domestically, there have been very few cross-cultural, overseas missionaries. Over the last two years in Madagascar, we have been on a journey of learning how to effectively mobilise people like the couple we met in 2024. To this end, AIM members working in Madagascar have created a group called the Madagascar Mobilisation Committee, which is committed to helping Malagasy churches to faithfully envision, equip, and empower long-term cross-cultural missionaries to reach the unreached with the Gospel of Christ. This new group has three primary aims.

1. Raise awareness within the Malagasy Church of the need for mission. This often starts with the local church itself, helping them to discover how they can become a more missional congregation and expand their evangelistic horizons. We have a number of collaborative partnerships with several denominations, who have granted us access to their churches so that we can train and prepare them. One pioneering denomination





has established a missions training school and invited us to teach their students, covering the topics of integral mission and missiological anthropology.

2. Walk alongside churches who have prospective missionaries ready to respond to God's missionary call. Our desire is that Malagasy churches will send members of their flock prayerfully, biblically and faithfully. We serve churches by helping them to rigorously assess candidates on their commitment, doctrine, and calling. Have they counted the cost? Are they known for serving well within the church? Do they require further cross-cultural experience?

3. Help local churches with logistics, immigration, and ongoing member care on the field so missionaries can realise their calling and flourish on the field. This is where AIM as a mission organisation comes into its own. We have the expertise and understanding that churches can lean on when they wish to send missionaries. Our hope is to bring these missionaries into AIM membership so that they can receive ongoing support and accountability.

Our team is fledgling, but passionate for God's Church in Madagascar to raise up passionate missionaries to spread his gospel for his glory. Would you pray for us that the Lord would use us in the service of his Church?

PLEASE PRAY

- Give thanks for the opportunities the committee has to support the Malagasy church in mobilisation.
- Pray for the Lord to use the Desboroughs in the service of his Church.
- Pray that the Father would supply all the financial support the Desboroughs need, so they can continue the work they have been called to.

**TO SUPPORT THIS WORK, THERE IS A PROJECT
FUND GIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OUR
MALAGASY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS.**



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GIVE TO THIS CAUSE:
EU.AIMINT.ORG/AIM-PROJECTS/

THE AFRICAN MISSIONARY FUND

Answering the call to be a missionary is a courageous and selfless act—especially for African missionaries who often face significant financial challenges.

AN ETERNAL IMPACT

The African Missionary Fund (AMF), established in 2020, exists to support African missionaries reaching unreached people groups of Africa. Through bursaries, training, and sustainable business initiatives, AMF is working to ease financial burdens and reduce dependence, allowing missionaries to focus on their life-changing work.

COLLABORATING TO EASE THE BURDEN

AMF's mission is rooted in kingdom values, supporting not only AIM African missionaries but also indigenous mission agencies across Africa, multiplying the impact and accelerating progress. By collaborating, we're seeing tangible results—missionaries reporting reduced financial stress and the ability to continue their service with joy.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

One recipient shared, "this has been such a blessing, easing our financial burdens so we can focus on the work at hand." Another spoke of the joy of meeting their budget for the first time, being able to pay for medication and rent. Another said, "we are deeply grateful for the support we receive monthly from AMF and for how the Lord has used that to further his work in our lives as a family and in the work he has entrusted to us in mercy".

SUPPORT

As we look toward the future, AMF's vision is clear: to support more missionaries and reach more communities with the hope of the gospel. The generous contributions of individuals and churches have been instrumental in this journey, fuelling the faith and determination of everyone involved, making a lasting impact and eternal difference.



"WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT WE RECEIVE MONTHLY FROM AMF AND FOR HOW THE LORD HAS USED THAT TO FURTHER HIS WORK IN OUR LIVES AS A FAMILY AND IN THE WORK HE HAS ENTRUSTED TO US IN MERCY"



SUPPORT THE FUND:
EU.AIMINT.ORG/AFRICAN-MISSIONARY-FUND



Watch Lucky, an AIM missionary serving in Madagascar, share his experience of learning to trust God for the finances he needs to serve.

EU.AIMINT.ORG/LUCKY'S-STORY

AFRIGO: THE VOICE OF THE AFRICAN MISSIONS MOVEMENT

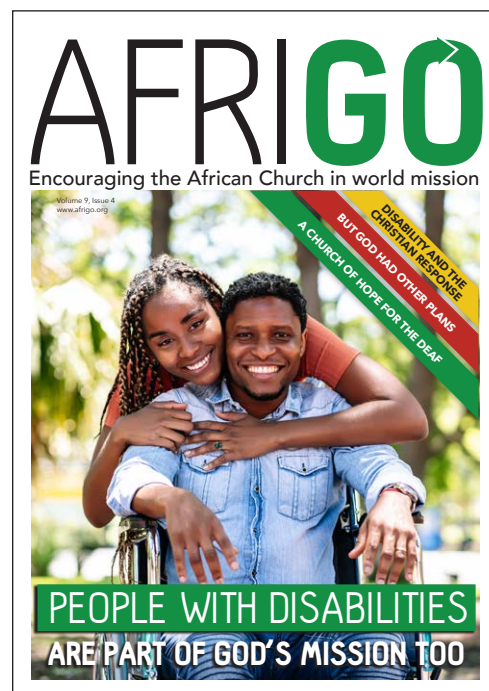
Cami Peterson-Zwart, an AIM missionary, serves on the team at AfriGO magazine as Editor-in-Chief, alongside five staff members and volunteers from Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania and Angola. Stephen Nitte La'abes, an SIM missionary from Nigeria, is Team Lead for the project. The team work remotely from all corners of Africa, meeting online and swapping stories. This excerpt was originally published in the AIM US Heartbeat magazine.

THE UNTOLD STORIES

Although Africans have been involved in missions from the earliest years of foreign missionaries bringing the gospel, very few of their stories have been told. It was from a desire to tell these stories, and to inspire the African Church to claim her place as a sending church, that the dream for AfriGO came.

AFRIGO'S JOURNEY

Inspired by former SIM international director Joshua Bogunjoko, a Nigerian, AfriGO magazine published their first issue in 2016. In 2019, AIM joined forces with SIM. To date, we've published 32 magazines covering a range of topics from "Business as Mission" to "How to reach the Muslim next door," a very pertinent topic for many Africans. We have also expanded to three other languages: Portuguese, KiSwahili and French. AfriGO is in 38 African countries now, with subscribers in 28 non-African countries!



LIMITED BY EXPECTATIONS

Across Africa, believers have reached out locally, then further, and global missions is growing. However, this has not been the story everywhere. For many African churches, the idea of sending missionaries is still a foreign concept – literally. Their expectation that foreigners should do such outreach has stifled their vision. AIM's goal is to ignite the fire of God's call to missions in every African church.

INSPIRING AND MOBILISING

Through our stories, Africans are hearing about their rich history of missions, as well as discovering how wide and deep the African mission movement stretches. Youth are being stirred, and AIM mobilisers working to spread God's missionary vision find AfriGO



THE AFRIGO TEAM



an inspiring and educational tool. Through this ministry, we hope to encourage the African Church to send, support and pray for African missionaries, and to reach the lost wherever they are, near and far.

THE FUTURE OF AFRICAN MISSIONS

Our vibrant website and dynamic social media broadcast inspirational content on African missions daily. And there are many stories to tell! The African mission movement has taken off, and there are literally tens of thousands of Africans serving as full-time, cross-cultural missionaries all over the world, including

in some places where Westerners are less welcome. The African Church is already a powerhouse for world mission, and will become even more so as they fully embrace the Great Commission. The receivers are now the senders, with joy! What a privilege to tell their stories.

THE RECEIVERS ARE NOW THE SENDERS, WITH JOY! WHAT A PRIVILEGE TO TELL THEIR STORIES.

HELP FUND THE AFRIGO PROJECT

With funding, AfriGO can translate more issues into French, Swahili and Portuguese, resources that those language-speakers are asking for!



AFRIGO.ORG/GIVE

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF AFRICA ARISE



In this excerpt from AfriGO Vol 4.4, Jacob Igba, mobilisation coordinator for AIM's South African region, shares how the African Church is seeing the Lord of the harvest answer their prayers in astonishing ways.

Today, the mission field is becoming the mission force! The Church in Africa is taking her place in furthering God's global mission. But the first and important step in doing this, according to Jesus in Luke 10, is not a lot of money or a flight ticket! The first and most important step is to pray to the Lord of the harvest! He is the one who calls new workers and he commands us to join him by praying that he will send out more. Many have come to recognize God's call as other Christians prayed for them.

The Church in Africa is known as a praying church. She possesses this vital resource [prayer] needed for the advancement of God's global mission. But this resource needs to be more focused

on the advancement of God's global mission through prayer and intercession for missionaries and the unreached.

God calls some to go and some to stay, but he calls all of us to pray. He expects those who stay to evangelize locally, make disciples, send disciples and pray. Those who are sent always need a committed group of senders standing with them in prayer and providing financial support.

Through strategic, consistent and persistent prayer (Luke 11:1-10), leaders, churches, sons and daughters of Africa who are in Christ can rise and embrace this privilege and the honour of joining God in his noble quest for the worship due to him.

ANSWERED PRAYER

"I served four years in North Africa with my family as a missionary... The country was majority Muslim, with an ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor. The corrupt police defrauded taxi drivers.

"THE RESULT WAS ASTONISHING. IN THE SAME WEEK WE STARTED PRAYING...THE GOVERNMENT ORDERED THE POLICE OFF THE ROADS IMMEDIATELY AND THE CHECK-POINTS WERE REMOVED"



Sanitation was almost non-existent. Sunday was a national working day. The situation called for desperate action. So, Christian leaders prepared a comprehensive prayer list covering every possible national concern and mobilised the few evangelical churches in the capital to begin 40 days of fasting and spiritual warfare.

The result was astonishing. In the same week we started praying about the corruption of the police, the taxi drivers went on strike. Upon investigation, the government ordered the police off the roads immediately and the check-points were removed, to the relief of everyone. Also, in the week we were praying about the sanitation in the city, about 50 big refuse-collection trucks donated by Israel moved around the city clearing the refuse. Our final surprise came when the president announced the changeover to a Saturday-Sunday weekend. The country was making this change after 30 years of a Friday-Saturday weekend.

This is the power of fasting, prayer and spiritual warfare."

– J.F.K Mensah of Ghana



JACOB IGBA



USE THE CODE FOR THE FULL ARTICLE

KAIROS: EQUIPPING THE CHURCH



Caroline Bell is serving on a team whose desire is to encourage and equip the local church to share the gospel of Jesus Christ in unreached communities of Karamoja, northeast Uganda. Caroline shares about one of the tools they use – the Kairos Course.

BEING TRAINED TO REACH

The Kairos Course shares God's heart for people of all nations and his desire to use his Church to reach them. As well as giving a thorough biblical and historical foundation of mission, it shares strategic and cultural insights for reaching out to people of other cultures. It helps us to see we all have a part in reaching the unreached of the world, whether we can go to them ourselves or not. As one participant said: "I realized I am blessed to be a blessing and so the salary I receive every month is not only for me, but I should keep aside part of it to support the work of reaching the unreached peoples."

WORKING TOGETHER

We have run the Kairos Course three times, with a mixture of church leaders and members participating. It has been very well received with participants sharing how it expanded their understanding of God's purposes in the world. After the second course, members from both cohorts started to come together each month; alternating between praying for unreached peoples and engaging in evangelism in nearby communities. In November 2024 members went out to a community for the first time. We met a group of ladies breaking stones by hand and joined in their work – some of us breaking stones and others going to the river to collect more stones. After some time, they invited us to explain why we had come, and we shared how knowing Jesus changes our lives. All the ladies said they want to know Jesus more, and one shared some difficult situations within her family. She said she had been wanting to ask someone to pray for her, but she didn't know who she could ask until we came.



POWER IN SIMPLICITY

I have learnt that raising up missionaries doesn't need to be complicated. It is simply helping other believers understand God's heart for all nations and helping them to find their part in seeing the unreached reached. It can be as simple as inviting a friend to pray together for an unreached people group.

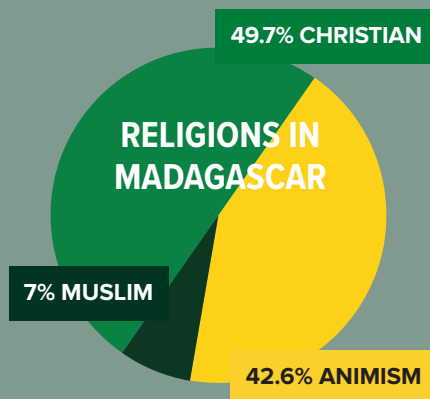
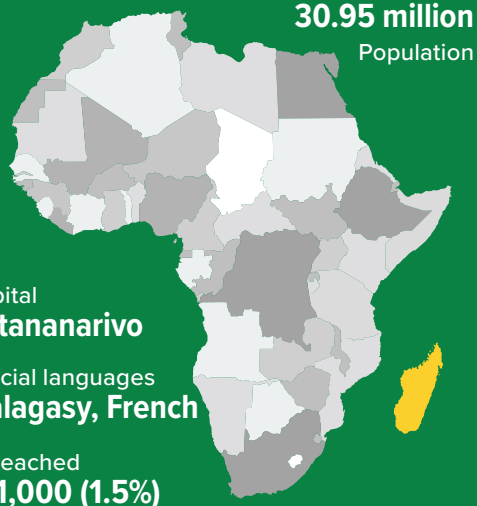
"THE KAIROS COURSE HAS ENCOURAGED ME TO REACH OUT AND PREACH THE WORD. I HAVE GOTTEN CONFIDENCE AND FEAR HAS GONE. NOW I CAN PREACH THE WORD OF GOD TO ANYONE."

Pastor Julius Kibukuna, Kairos Course participant

PLEASE PRAY

- Give thanks for the Kairos Course and the way it helps people see their part in reaching the unreached of the world.
- Pray for the Kairos graduates who are planning an outreach to a Tepeth community (the neighbouring people group).
- Pray for the encouragement and equipping of Karimojong church leaders, especially in rural communities.

MADAGASCAR



BEAUTY HIDES THE NEED

The tropical island of Madagascar is found off the east coast of Africa. It boasts rainforests and unspoilt beaches and is home to over 110 species of lemur. But it is also one of the poorest countries in sub-Saharan Africa with nearly half a million people who have yet to hear the gospel.



THE PEOPLE

With a language and culture that points to Indonesian roots, as well as the influence of Afro-Arab settlers, the Malagasy people have a unique blend of Asian and African cultural ideas, beliefs and practices that are only found on this island. Over 90% of the population is Malagasy, divided into an estimated twenty ethnic groups. However, these groups are not always clear cut, as one blends and merges into another.

HISTORY OF TURMOIL

While the people scattered across the island have had their own power struggles, they have also dealt with frequent invasions from European nations and attempts to occupy the island, culminating in the French occupation at the turn of the 20th century. Even when Madagascar became autonomous in 1958, political turmoil continued within its government. Unrest, protests and presidential impeachments have been a regular occurrence.

A DAMAGED COUNTRY

The constant upheaval of its government has left its mark on Madagascar. Changes in foreign and domestic policies between 1972 - 1975 saw a significant decline in the economy and deterioration of the country's infrastructure and social services. The country was declared bankrupt in 1982. Since then it has relied on foreign aid, which has been suspended multiple times over the years in response to the political turmoil.

A UNIQUE PLACE

Madagascar is home to many species that are found nowhere else in the world. From all the species of lemur, to the unique fossa (a cat-like mammal), to the island's national tree – the baobab – it is estimated that 5% of all known plants and animals in the world are only found here. These unique plants and animals are threatened though by the demand for wood and charcoal, which sees the forested areas of the island continue to decline.



UNDISCOVERED

There is no evidence of any indigenous people living on Madagascar prior to circa 500 AD.

NATIONAL TREE

The baobab can grow up to 30 metres tall and live for over 1000 years.



BIGGER THAN YOU THINK

Madagascar is the world's fourth largest island and is more than twice the size of the UK.

FAMADIHANA

The Malagasy people engage in a tradition known as the 'turning of the bones', where they rewrap the bodies of their ancestors. Image by Hery Zo Rakotondramanana.



CHRISTIAN

Nearly half of the population are considered to be Christian, but people groups like the Antankarana remain unreached.

FOCUS ON THE ANTANKARANA



WHO ARE THE ANTANKARANA?

The Antankarana are originally of mixed Austronesian, African and Arab ancestry. They settled in the far north of Madagascar in the 12th century in a geographically isolated, rocky part of the island. This has lent them their name, which means 'People of the White Coral Rocks'. While some work as coastal fishermen, those in inland villages harvest rice, raise cattle and grow crops on a small scale. Others have moved to towns and factories for work.

WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE?

Although the Antankarana converted to Islam in the 1840s, their Islam is mixed with animistic beliefs, and taboos known as 'fady' are adhered to in daily life. A lot of these refer to the protection of wildlife and preserving the wilderness, owing to their deep connection to the environment in both the practical and spiritual sense. In response to the tangible growth of the influence of the few Christians, the local elders have called a 'fundy' – a religious teacher – to deepen and further establish the Muslim beliefs and culture in the different villages in the island.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO REACH THEM?

There are a number of families currently serving among the Antankarana on a small island off the northwest coast of Madagascar. For the past year, there has been a handful of village people joining for Sunday gatherings with these missionaries. More intentional evangelistic approaches have progressively been introduced, such as sharing memory cards with Christian songs, and audio Scripture in Antankarana, as well as running special events on Easter and Pentecost.



PRAY FOR MADAGASCAR

- In 2022, over 75% of the population were considered to be poor. Pray that there will be relief for them, especially through foreign aid.
- After many years of political turmoil, pray that there would now be stability in the government, and that the country would recover well.
- The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund recently approved funding of \$8.56 million towards a five-year conservation project in Madagascar to help save the threatened species on the island. Pray this project will be a success in protecting God's creation.
- The island often faces cyclones and tropical storms, bringing damage to an already vulnerable infrastructure. Pray protection upon Madagascar's people as they prepare for these storms and give thanks for their resilience.



PRAY FOR THE ANTANKARANA

- Give thanks for local believers with genuine interest and faith, who will play a key role in reaching other locals.
- Give thanks that local village leaders welcome those who can support the community through healthcare, and pray wisdom for projects being planned.
- Pray that we would see Christ-centred Antankarana church communities grow in northern Madagascar.

A CALL TO THE NORTH



After returning from North Africa in 2016, Megan* has been serving in the South Africa Mobilising region office (ZAMRO) to help people from southern Africa find their place in mission to North Africa.

MIGRATING MISSION

We became acutely aware that Africans were moving into the nations, largely as economic migrants and students, and a significant percentage of them were followers of Jesus. We began to explore how we could envision, equip and support these African believers who were already crossing borders for work and study purposes to live for the glory of God where he was placing them.

THE CALL FOR ALL

Although this was not a new model in missions, it required a shift in thinking. Could the professional really be part of God's strategic harvest force in the nations?

Did churches see the professional as a missionary moving into the nations needing to be commissioned, supported and prayed for by them? We realised the importance of communicating that the call to make disciples of all nations was for all - including the professional taking a job among the least reached peoples across Africa and beyond.

FROM ZAMBIA TO THE NATIONS

In 2021, the ZAMRO office hosted the Fuel Missions training online. The fruits from the course have been amazing. It opened doors to Zambian churches. Today I am mentoring and helping seven Zambians to go into the nations, with four of them going to nations where the freedom to preach the gospel is restricted. African missionaries are on the move!

OPENING EYES

One Zambian nurse, Linda*, went to volunteer at a hospital in North Africa

"WE NEVER KNEW THERE WERE AFRICANS WHO ARE CHRISTIAN."



for 4 weeks in 2024. What a life-changing experience it was for her, but also for the local unreached peoples. One said to her: "We never knew there were Africans who are Christian." More sub-Saharan African Christians need to go to engage the African Muslims of North Africa!

EXPLORING THE OPTIONS

A young Zambian graduate, Sam*, felt the call to reach Muslims but could not go on the traditional support model. In 2022 he graduated and got himself a job in the mines in Zambia. Now almost 3 years later, he is ready to go and preparing to do a site visit to a country in North Africa later this year. He will be joined by a young Zambian couple, Len* and Yvette*, who have a strong call to reach Muslims. They reached out to me knowing we are facilitating the sending of young African professionals for the sake of the gospel into the nations.

Sam and Len will have to raise support for their first year to learn language and culture and to look for the job of God's choosing for them in that country. The challenges are huge, but God remains faithful to those he has called.

*Names changed for security purposes.

PRAYING TOGETHER

- Pray for a strong network of prayer to surround the four workers moving into North Africa and for support from their sending churches and families.
- Pray that Megan's work in South Africa will become an effective instrument to mobilise disciple-makers in the marketplace for the unreached nations.

MISSION IN ACTION

There is still time to join the events we are hosting in Northern Ireland and England. Be inspired by reports from our missionaries including African colleagues who have been involved in helping African churches find their place in mission to the unreached. Come along and be inspired and see how you and your church can become a force for mission too.

SATURDAYS:

26 APRIL BRIDGEND

3 MAY EDINBURGH

10 MAY BELFAST

17 MAY BIRMINGHAM (NEW)

All events will run from 11am – 1pm, with coffee served from 10.30am and a light lunch to follow the event.

Sign up here: eu.aimint.org/events



MISSION IN ACTION

Be inspired by reports from our missionaries including African colleagues who have been involved in helping African churches find their place in mission to the unreached.

SATURDAYS 11AM – 1PM

26 APRIL BRIDGEND
3 MAY EDINBURGH
10 MAY BELFAST
17 MAY BIRMINGHAM

AUTUMN CONFERENCE

Join us for our Autumn Conference in September 2025, where we will be focussing on the theme: To live is Christ. This will be a great time of fellowship, teaching and hearing about the amazing work God is doing among the unreached peoples of Africa.

Whether you have been supporting AIM for years or just beginning to explore your place in mission we would love to have you join us between the 9 – 11 September at the King's Park Conference Centre in Northampton.

9 - 11 SEPTEMBER 2025

Book your place: eu.aimint.org/autumn

TO LIVE IS CHRIST

CHRIST OUR PASSION, PATH, GOAL AND STABILITY

AIM EUROPE'S AUTUMN CONFERENCE

9 - 11 SEPTEMBER 2025



JOIN A TEAM

TEAM MEMBER IN MOROTO, UGANDA

Join a team partnering with local churches to raise up and mobilise disciples with the goal of holistically reaching local communities and beyond with the gospel.

Training and qualifications: Wide variety of professions, e.g. business, health care, agriculture, counselling etc.

Language: English. Local language to be learnt on assignment.

Length: Short or long-term.

Contact: mobcoord.eu@aimint.org

A MISSION MAGAZINE • STORIES • PRAYER • FACTS • ACTIVITIES 25

CONNECT JUNIOR

AFRICA INLAND MISSION

MEDICAL MISSION

What is it? Why do it? What stops people getting the help they need? Explore Somalia and meet the Somalis. What is it like to be a missionary kid?

Sign up here: eu.aimint.org/sign-up

MEDICS IN MISSION

Are you a medical professional (doctor, nurse, midwife, physiotherapist, dentist, mental health professional - the list could go on!) looking for a way you can serve in mission with your skills? We have the perfect opportunity to explore the options at our BRAND NEW Medics in Mission webinar.

With a chance to hear from current missionaries serving in a medical setting, as well as chat to our Mission Advisors, this will be a great way to find out how you can use your medical skills to not just change lives through medical care, but also through sharing the gospel message.

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER 2025 10AM-12PM

Find out more: eu.aimint.org/events



SOCIAL MEDIA AND CONNECT JUNIOR

Did you know that you can follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X for exciting updates, encouragements and resources? Or join us to pray on PrayerMate or with our weekly prayer email.

Alongside Connect, we also publish Connect Junior, for a younger audience. Packed full of fun information about Africa, mission, missionaries, and creative activities that will inspire and inform.

Help your children, grandchildren or the young people at your church get excited about mission.

YOU ARE UNIQUELY POSITIONED

Whether you go, pray, give, serve or encourage,
your part in mission matters deeply.

YOUR INVITED...

Jesus is inviting you into his redemptive plan for the world.
We want to walk alongside you as you discern your role in
the Great Commission and invite you to consider your next
step in your journey into mission.

Together, we can play our part in seeing Christ-centred
churches established among all African peoples.

DISCOVER HOW GOD IS CALLING YOU

TO TAKE YOUR NEXT SMALL, FAITHFUL STEP

IN WORLD MISSION WITH OUR FREE DEVOTIONAL



GET A FREE COPY
OF THE DEVOTIONAL
TO SEE WHERE GOD
IS LEADING YOU



**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.*

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