

CONNECT

magazine



OUR PRIORITY
PROCLAIMING CHRIST



AFRICA
INLAND MISSION

ISSUE NINE / THREE MAGAZINES A YEAR

OUR PRIORITY...

No doubt, you are familiar with James' words that "Faith without works is dead." (James 2:26). Indeed, if we have truly been changed by the love of God, that must be seen in how we live, the compassion we have for those who are suffering. How can we say we have faith, if it is not shown in how we live out that faith?

But we must not let our focus on doing good overshadow the Great Commission that Jesus has given us. In their book *Mission Drift*, Chris Horst and Peter Greer say this: 'We must do good, but we must not forget we have Good News to share.' At the heart of AIM's work is the desire to see Jesus shared with the unreached of Africa. While our ministries take on a variety of forms, this underpins everything we do. We are, after all, ambassadors of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:29). May this focus on proclamation never be lost!

ROSIE WALLACE, CONNECT EDITOR



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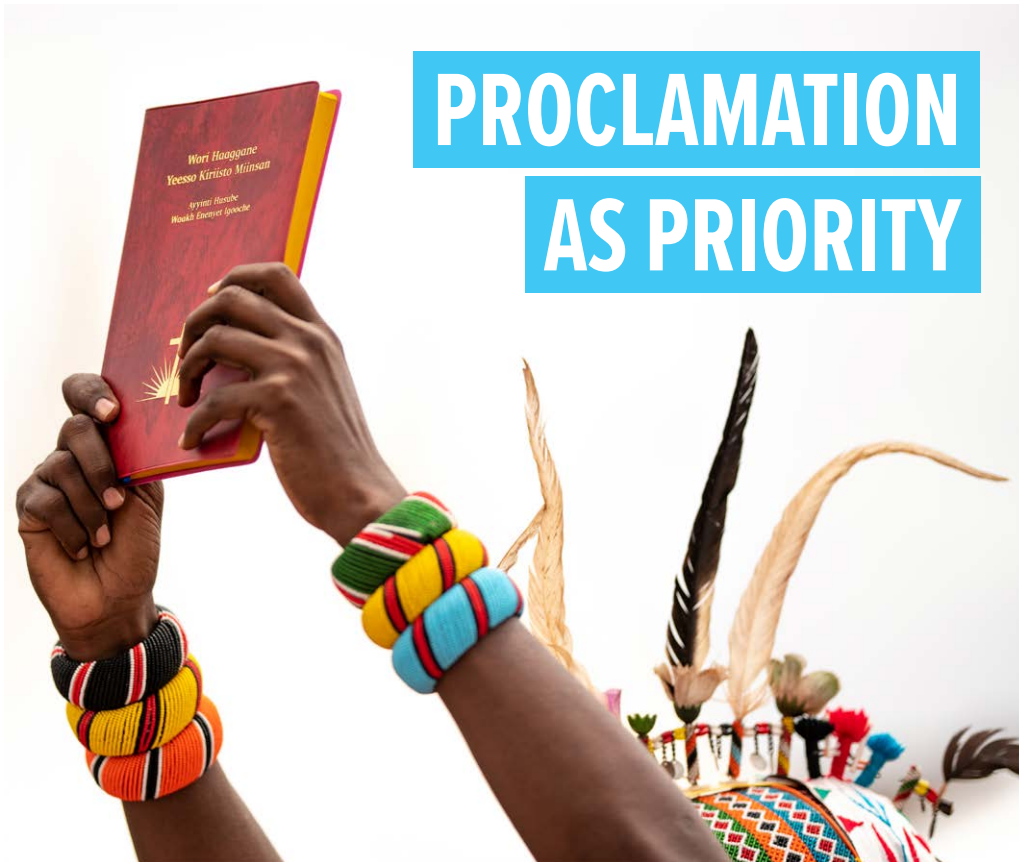
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PROCLAMATION AS PRIORITY

In his last article as European Director, Dudley shares what lies at the heart of AIM's mission, and why this is so important to the work AIM does.

WHERE DOES CIVILISATION BEGIN?

Dr Paul Brand shares a widely told story of eminent anthropologist Margaret Mead who was once asked what she considered to be the first sign of civilization in a culture. In her reply, she didn't talk about fishhooks, clay pots or rock paintings, but instead talked about a femur that had been broken and then healed.

She explained that in the animal kingdom, if you break your leg, you die. No animal survives a broken leg long enough for the bone to heal. A broken femur that has healed is evidence that someone has bound up the wound, carried the person to safety and has tended them through recovery. Helping someone else through difficulty, indeed to avoid certain death, Mead said, is where civilization starts.

WHERE DOES MISSION BEGIN?

What sets apart the mission of the Church from the wonderful work done by UN aid agencies, Amnesty International, Oxfam, Red Cross, Save the Children etc – is that the Church proclaims the gospel for the healing of nations often while ministering to the physical and social needs of the people involved as a necessary corollary of that gospel proclamation.

According to the New Testament, the teaching and proclamation of the gospel message is an indispensable part of the missionary task. This implies that demonstrations of love or acts of service on their own are not sufficient in themselves to communicate the gospel. Verbal, written, or other means of communication are necessary.

WORDS AND DEEDS

The more popular viewpoint in the Church at large is reflected in the phrase attributed to Francis of Assisi, "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary". In other words, acts of service done in the name of Christ, on their own, are sufficient to communicate the gospel to people. I prefer the rephrasing of Assisi's quote as, "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use acts of service if necessary." It is very sad that missionary effort over the past 150 years has been hindered by a perceived split between these two viewpoints. Who can really argue with the view that all believers should not only speak the truth but demonstrate and live out that truth?

When my wife and I lived in Northern Mozambique in 1998, poor rains were causing hardship and hunger. In a large village where we had previously taken the Jesus film in the local language, a church had started, the gospel was being preached and taught. But now hunger was rife and a conjunctivitis epidemic was raging. So the mother church in the provincial capital, with help from AIM project funds, hired a 3-ton truck, filled it with bags of ground maize and as many tubes of tetracycline ointment as we could get from the only pharmacy in our city.

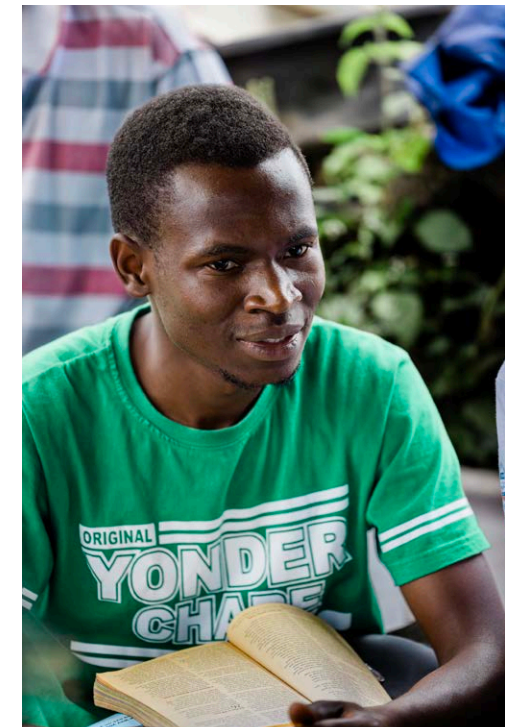
The pastor himself went to deliver the aid. When he got back, he said to me 'Those tubes of ointment **were** the gospel'. He wasn't saying they didn't need to preach and teach. They were already doing that. He was saying that that simple demonstration of love and unity greatly enhanced the reception of the gospel and its teachings in that area.

IT STARTS WITH PROCLAMATION

AIM is still very firmly a proclamation-as-priority mission. I believe that this is a better framework for mission because it almost always includes acts of service. On the other hand, acts of service are often performed without proclamation. This priority sets gospel mission apart from whatever else may be called 'mission'. It's where mission starts, continues and where mission as a biblical enterprise ends when it ceases to be the framework.

Dudley

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AN OVERLOOKED PROBLEM



1 IN 3

More than a third of the world live with little or no access to the gospel

LESS THAN 1%

Less than 1% of Christian giving to Christian causes goes to work among the unreached

3%

Only about 3% of missionaries from Western countries work among the unreached

When considering the vast number of unreached people across the world, and the Church's call to go to the nations, our hope would be to see the priority of mission reflected in our individual giving and that of the local church. So why do the stats tell a different story?

UNAWARE OF THE NEED

In this age of widespread access to technology, information and the ability to connect with others across the world, assumptions can be made that this means easy access for everyone to Bibles, churches, and the gospel message. Not only that, if churches are not actively teaching their congregation about God's heart for the lost and the call to go, this creates a gap in a Christian's understanding of God's call on their life to share the Good News of Jesus with others.

A DIFFERENT FOCUS

Proclamation of the gospel can be lost in the midst of all the different objectives of the many Christian organisations working across the world in areas of social justice, healthcare, education, poverty alleviation etc. Or possibly overlooked completely – some organisations may simply have a Christian ethos as the foundation for the

work they do. With so many Christian organisations doing good works across the world, it is no wonder that the few focusing on evangelism rarely get a look-in when it comes to support.

PLAYING OUR PART

While not all Christian organisations have a focus on proclamation, we as individuals have the ability and the responsibility to support and be involved in gospel proclamation among the unreached. Through prayers for our missionaries and their ministries, financial support of them and the work they do, partnership in sending others to serve among the unreached, and the opportunities we have personally to share with those who have never heard, we can be instrumental in many coming to know Christ.

WHERE DO THE STATS COME FROM?

Joshua Project, Global Dashboard, 2026 and What Happened to People Group Thinking?



Recently one of our missionaries shared this insightful reflection, about working in a nation that doesn't allow the gospel to be freely shared. The situation revealed why going and sharing the gospel of Jesus is so important.

There is little that blocks sound between me and my downstairs neighbours and late last night there was a lot of banging and loud talking. While noise is not unusual, they are normally pretty quiet by midnight. Annoyed, I ignored it for a while but after giving up on sleep I looked at my phone and saw that they had phoned me twice.

Going downstairs I found them talking through the window to a neighbour. They had discovered after padlocking their door for the night that the keys to that padlock were in the other room - which was also padlocked!

They asked me to try my keys, and it turns out that one of the random keys I have on my keychain was the very key they needed. With infectious laughter they spilled out of the room, laughing at how they had been imprisoned but now were free.

Last night it was frustrating and then funny, this morning the spiritual parallels are what strikes me. A people imprisoned,

a key that is needed, and the only way to be in the place to help unlock these doors is through a life disrupted and uncomfortable. But as the doors open, the joy and laughter is for all.

'A PEOPLE IMPRISONED,
A KEY THAT IS NEEDED,
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MOVING TO MEET THE NEED



Holly serves with AIM as a surgeon. Until recently, she served at a hospital in Kenya. She shares why she has moved to a completely new country to work in a different hospital.

SEEING THE REAL AFRICA

Living in Africa has allowed me to see so many of her beautiful resources, in people and environment, as well as to appreciate some of the challenges and injustices many people face in daily life. As a medical professional it is very easy to quote (appalling) statistics about the availability of and access to good medical care in the majority of her countries. I could quote many examples of this, but seeing people die of tooth decay stands out; any visiting medic will have their own terrible accounts of people who suffered unnecessarily because of their place of birth.

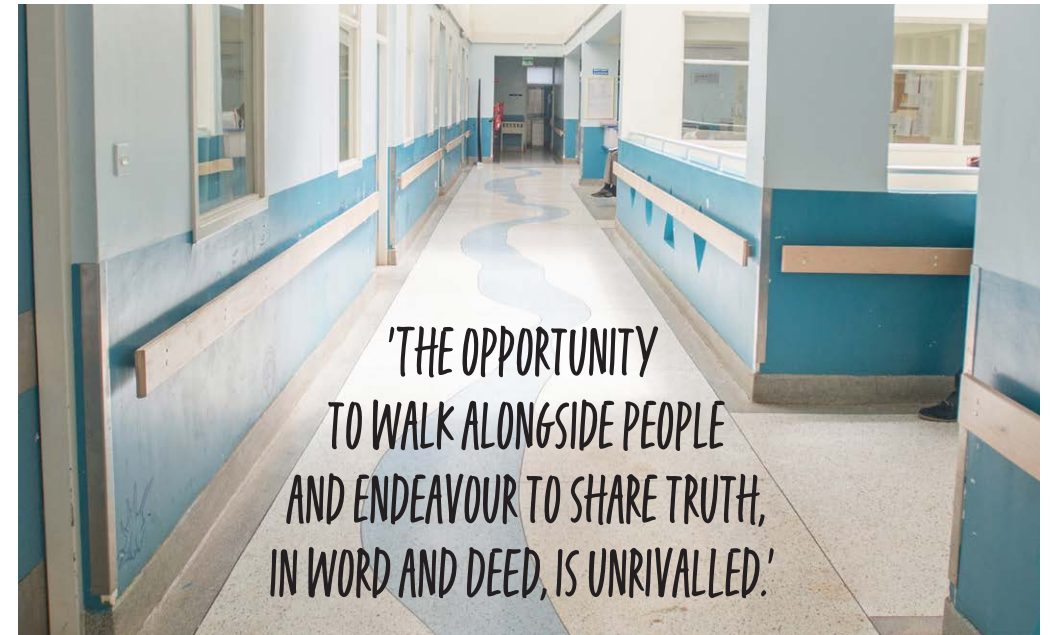
THE JOYS OF A MISSION HOSPITAL

I have had the privilege of living and working in a variety of hospitals in different countries across the years, mostly

mission hospitals, but also privately owned ones, where sharing the gospel is not welcomed. Recently I was in Kenya in a well-respected hospital, relishing working with excellent colleagues who had much compassion, appreciating the chaplains who deliberately shared the gospel, seeing people come to faith, whilst we focused on medical care. The practice of always praying with patients before surgery and often in clinic, especially when delivering bad news, has been a wonderful addition to vocalising my faith in my work (as compared to less freedom in the UK).

THE NEEDS IN A “CLOSED” HOSPITAL

Before my years in Kenya, I had worked elsewhere in a nation where sharing your faith is not allowed. The medical work was largely similar. The understanding that



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almost everyone I came into contact with had never heard any good news, and in fact had been conditioned to condemn people who came from another faith than their own, was sobering. Whilst it raised many challenges, that disconnect was usually a stark reminder that people were living with no understanding of grace and the immeasurable gift available to them in the gospel. The opportunity to walk alongside people and endeavour to share truth, in word and deed, is unrivalled.

MOVING FOR THE GOSPEL

I became very aware that as much as living in Kenya meant I could especially focus on training Kenyan surgeons, I was mindful that the hospital was very rich in terms of personnel and their commitment to sharing Jesus, in a population where most

people are already affiliated with church. My previous experience kept me aware that there are still many countries where such access to hearing the gospel is limited. With an awareness that my professional qualifications still grant me access to many of these places, (and do of course allow me to serve those people in their surgical needs), I can also plan to live intentionally and so share truth.

With all that in mind and heart, I have recently moved to another country that doesn't allow Christians to freely share their faith. Here I can continue the surgical work and training, as in my previous places of work, whilst working on language and relationships to be ready to share Jesus when I can.

PLEASE PRAY

- Give thanks that Holly has been met with a warm welcome and has settled in well.
- Pray that she would be able to progress well in her language learning.
- Pray for opportunities to build relationships with others, as she seeks to share the gospel with them.

UNITED FOR THE GOSPEL



Paul and Virginia Tanner serve in Kilwa Masoko, Tanzania, as the Tanzania South Coast Unit Leaders. Virginia shares about the exciting work local churches are doing together to see the gospel shared with the unreached in their district.

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNITY

There is a reason that Jesus told us that others would know that we are Christians by our love. In his last prayer he prayed, “May they be brought into complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” (John 17:23b) Unity is a radical concept in the world where there is so much divisiveness.

It is for this reason that united churches are so exciting to work with. When we arrived in Kilwa Masoko at the end of 2017, we found about a dozen churches. But in these churches, there were less than a handful of local believers. Historically, the churches felt that their primary role was to provide services for their constituents who were there with their jobs from other parts of the country. We did not see much desire in these churches to reach out beyond that.

NEED BEYOND THE WALLS

Before we moved to Kilwa Masoko, a Tanzanian pastor spent a year going through the entire Kilwa district. He identified over 70 villages in the district which had no Christian witness – no church of any sort, no known believers, no Christian presence. Using this list, Paul started taking the pastors to visit these villages. These pastors were shocked that there were people only hours away who had never heard of Jesus.

Since then, twelve churches spanning the entire range of denominations have come together. They have all signed a statement of faith, agreeing to major doctrines and agreeing to leave minor details in their own congregations. Together they have made a goal of reaching all these villages with the gospel in ten years.

GROWTH THROUGH UNITY

Already we have seen churches started in about 20 of these villages. We receive reports of people asking for prayer, praying to receive Christ, and desiring baptism. It is exciting to see how these denominations are working together to plan outreach events to these villages, then encouraging the leaders who stay behind to lead the new congregations.

This unity is a testimony to our Muslim community in Kilwa Masoko. When one of the churches plans an outreach event to one of the villages, the other churches come alongside as one to support the event and to model togetherness to all involved. We have agreed there is no need to compete; there are plenty of unreached areas for each church to reach out to several villages, provided they have the personnel for follow-up discipleship.

PRAYING FOR UNITY

In Ephesians chapter 4, Paul talks a lot about unity, “that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature,” Unity is powerful. The enemy of our souls will do whatever he can to break us apart and keep these unreached parts of the south coast of Tanzania in darkness. He is trying to sow division in local congregations, between denominations

and among God’s people. Pray that these attempts would be thwarted.

Our prayer is that we would continue to grow in unity and that God’s Word would be proclaimed boldly in Tanzania. We know that the foundation for unity is prayer and abiding with Jesus. We have tried to take this to heart and to encourage our local pastors to do the same. Together we are witnessing God move in the Kilwa District.



A CHURCH PLANT



SHOWING THE JESUS FILM

Meet local believers and hear more about how Christians are uniting together in this video, Finish the task.





WHY WE GO



Peter Oyugi, previous Director of African Mobilisation for AIM, wrote this article for *AfriGO Magazine* - a partnership of AIM and SIM, which shares stories of Africans in mission. He reflects on why it is so important to continue sharing the gospel, and the role the African church has to play.

I remember sitting in a Christian Union meeting in my undergraduate years in Kenya as the speaker preached from the book of Acts. He spoke of Paul's desire to take the gospel where people had never heard about Christ. My heart was warmed that night. I recall God speaking to me and the real presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst. At that time, I did not know how much of the world was not reached with the gospel.

Looking back, I am humbled that God continues to call people to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, but also to respond to his invitation to take the gospel where Christ is still not yet known. This call is real, compelling and personal.

As we think about the areas of the world where Christ is least known, a majority lie within the 10/40 Window. The concept of prioritising least reached peoples is not new; others have historically referred to such people and places as dark, heathen or unoccupied fields. Nonetheless, the 10/40 Window reminds us that these places remain, broadly speaking, the habitat of the majority of those who follow the teachings of Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. These people have no easy access to the gospel and do not even know a Christian because of severe restrictions to Christianity. Such large numbers of people of other faiths and no faith should compel Christ followers to take the gospel to them in obedience to Christ's command.

10/40 WINDOW

The term was first used in 1990 by Luis Bush, a mission strategist, to define the region of the world with the greatest suffering combined with the least exposure to the gospel. This area lies generally between latitudes 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator.



'WHAT A GREAT PRIVILEGE AND JOY...TO RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL TO JOIN HIM IN THE WORK HE IS DOING IN BUILDING HIS KINGDOM.'



The church in Africa must actively and intentionally play its part in global missions simply because of the abundant human resource available in its churches. In obedience to Christ's call, Christian leaders in Africa need to envision the church about global missions, equip believers through biblical teaching to become true disciples of Christ, and fervently pray for God's Spirit to use this historically looked-down upon continent to make Christ known where He is least known. What a great privilege and joy it is to respond to God's call to join him in the work he is doing in building his kingdom.

We can thank God that many people are coming to Christ all over the world and among communities where there were few believers in the past. God has certainly answered prayers for more workers to be sent into his harvest field (Matt. 9:38). Many faithful workers have sacrificed and suffered, obeying the Lord's call to take the gospel where Christ was least known.

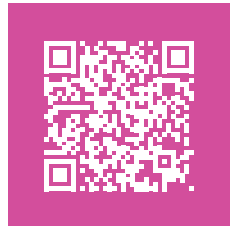
DISCOVER MORE STORIES

FROM AFRICAN

MISSIONARIES AT

AFRIGO.ORG OR READ

THE ARTICLE ONLINE





THE POTENTIAL

The islands here are known for their beauty: wonderful plant life, exciting hiking opportunities and sandy beaches. While tourists are drawn to visit, investment in tourist infrastructure has been hampered over the years. Unlike other countries across Africa, the government has also struggled to protect its indigenous wildlife and landscape from the threat of an expanding population and ongoing commercial deforestation – many species now face extinction.

THE INFRASTRUCTURE

These islands are among the world's poorest and least developed nations. Less than half the population has access to safe drinking water, and serious, but treatable, illnesses are common. However, the majority of the population are able to read and write the native language, but only half are literate in French – the language used by the government. Overpopulation, poor harvests and severe unemployment have prevented the economy from progressing, although there is a significant export of perfumed plants.

THE PRESSURE

On some islands more than 95% of the population are Sunni Muslims, with every aspect of life centred around Islamic principles. Traditional Islamic schools ensure that the Qur'an is studied alongside these teachings and there is often pressure for children of non-Muslims to attend. As can be expected in a nation where Islam is so intrinsic to life, sharing the gospel message is a crime. Those who do decide to follow Jesus often face consequences from their family, friends and society.

THE HOPE

Despite the struggles in this place, where practical needs, as well as spiritual needs, are prevented from being met, there is hope for the people of the Indian Ocean Islands.



TOO MANY TO COUNT

There are 10 main African islands in the Indian Ocean but add all the small islands and there are over 400.

MIXED ETHNICITIES

The history of each island is different, with people of mixed descent; Southeast Asian, East African (Bantu), European, and South Asian.



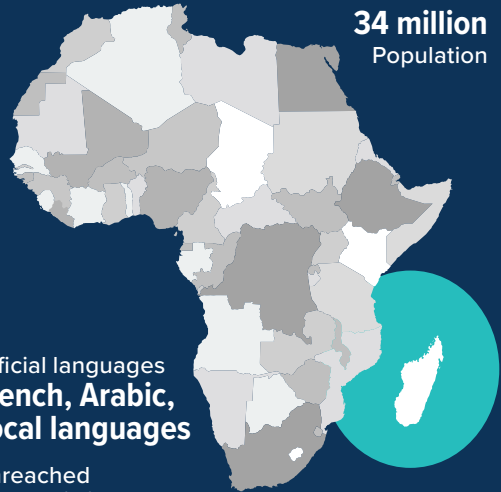
MAJOR RELIGIONS ON THE ISLANDS

ISLAM

HINDUISM

CHRISTIANITY

34 million
Population



Official languages
French, Arabic,
Local languages

Unreached
1.95 million

WELCOME & STRUGGLE

When compared with the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the Indian Ocean has relatively few islands. With a welcoming people, fascinating indigenous wildlife to encounter, and wonderful scenery to explore, these islands sound idyllic. But look beyond the tourist spots, and there are also great struggles.



TALKING THEIR LANGUAGE

The islands have at least 10 to 15 distinct languages, the majority have French as the official language.



FROM NO ONE TO EVERYONE

Very few of the islands have an indigenous population. Instead, they were colonised over the years by various exploring people groups.



DISTINCT AND DRAMATIC

From Madagascar's lemurs, to the Seychelles' granite boulders, the Maldives' coral reefs to the most active volcano in the world.





FOCUS ON THE ISLANDERS

WHO ARE THE ISLANDERS?

While not indigenous to the islands, these people reveal a wonderful diversity of origins: Malay, Arab and African, to name a few. This has resulted in each island having its own blended culture as well as a variation of the local language. More than two-thirds of the population live in rural areas, relying on agriculture to support themselves, growing crops and raising livestock. Two-fifths of the population are below the age of 15.

WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE?

For the islands where the majority of the population are Muslim, this is a key part of their identity and daily life. While each island will have its own culture and language, they are all connected by their practice of Islam. This practice has different forms, as each island has blended their Islamic beliefs with their traditional animistic beliefs, ancestor worship, and fear of the spirit world. Many Islanders will rely on traditional healers for when they are sick. Very few of them will have heard of Jesus, and even fewer of them believe in him.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO REACH THE ISLANDERS?

In such an Islamic culture, sharing the gospel is difficult. In recent years, outreach teams have served among the people on these islands.

While traditional mission work isn't allowed, doors are being opened by other ministries: English language classes, literacy and numeracy classes for women, medical work etc. These practical ministries, which are addressing the physical and educational needs of these people, are also giving opportunities to address the spiritual needs. Friendships are being formed with the Islanders, enabling those serving there to speak about Jesus, pray for those they meet, and open up Scripture with them, possibly for the very first time.

PRAY FOR THE ISLANDS

- These islands are very poor. Pray for those who are in desperate situations, that there would be a reprieve for them.
- There are wonderful opportunities for these islands to prosper from tourism and trade, but this is often limited by lack of investment. Pray that the government would have wisdom in moving forwards with these.
- Pray that there would be freedom to share the gospel on these islands and give these people hope.



PRAY FOR THE ISLANDERS

- Pray for the different ministries taking place among the Islanders, that they would continue to open up opportunities to share the message of hope.
- In some places there are only a small number of local believers spread across different islands. Pray for unity, strength in the face of persecution, and continued growth in their faith.
- There are many who are seeking the truth, pray their hearts would be stirred, and that they would find Jesus is the one they are looking for.



MAKING PROCLAMATION

POSSIBLE

For proclamation to happen, missionaries need support. Based in Nairobi, Kenya, our Africa Based Services (ABS) enhances the work of our missionaries, partner organisations and churches.

ESSENTIAL WELLBEING SUPPORT

Understanding the importance of the mental wellbeing of missionaries who are serving, Tumaini Counselling Centres provide essential mental health services, to support missionaries who are struggling.

FINANCIAL WORRIES

Alongside the difficulties of serving, issues of money can add to the worries and stress our missionaries face. The financial services provided by AIM Finance help to remove some of that stress by providing convenient payment services, practical financial advice, and information.

SUPPORT IN HARD TO REACH PLACES

Sometimes, the barrier to ministry is the remote location of the people being reached. AIM Air provides the support needed for our missionaries to access locations, receive essential supplies, receive visitors, as well as emergency healthcare or evacuation.

Not only that, pilots also provide practical support to missionaries in situ, e.g. repairing and installing equipment.

KEEPING THEM ON THE MOVE

Where would a missionary be without a vehicle to access different locations, and to transport their supplies? When vehicles need replacing, or repairs, this exclusive AIM car insurance service helps missionaries to return to their ministry with minimal hassle and disruption.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

In this age where many missionaries depend on computer technology for their ministry – as well as enabling them to keep in touch with loved ones and supporters – the ABS IT department provides support, repairs, training, and solutions for keeping our missionaries, and staff teams connected.

[FIND OUT MORE AT AIMABS.ORG](http://AIMABS.ORG)



MORE THAN A PLANE

Jerry Hurd, the General Manager of AIM AIR, shares insights into how this ministry enables missionaries to serve among the unreached.

REACHING FAR-OFF PLACES

Despite the complexity, cost, noise, and regulations that make up aviation, AIM AIR is ultimately about one thing: making the proclamation of the gospel possible in places where it would otherwise never be heard.

A MUCH-NEEDED SUPPORT

There are missionaries serving on the border of South Sudan and Sudan, who have the distinct privilege of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus's love and salvation to a language group that merely ten years ago was openly hostile to Christians – throwing rocks at evangelists and telling them to leave.

These missionaries need to be present, living with hardship so they can be near the people who are without the Good News. They depend on AIM AIR. So many of the places they work are volatile – their location in South Sudan has many different factions, heightened by the presence of nine refugee groups. If they need to be evacuated, AIM AIR will answer the call.

CREATING AMBASSADORS & CHAMPIONS

Through vision flights to remote locations, we help inspire church leaders to capture a vision of missions, creating awareness of the need to mobilize the church. Congregants from churches in North America, Europe, as well as East and Central Africa, board our aircraft, strap into their seats, and are whisked away to a completely different world – where few people have heard the name of Jesus.

We have also flown church members to see small churches ministering amidst these spiritually barren places. Returning home not as mere spectators, but as ambassadors and champions for mission. Spurring on the next wave of missionaries to go into the barren places of Africa and proclaim the Good News!

Every mile flown, every landing strip reached, and every life touched through AIM AIR strengthens one outcome: that the Good News of Jesus can reach the most isolated people of Africa.



Since 1991, Tumaini Counselling Centres have provided specialised mental health support to missionaries serving across Africa. Ruth, one of the counsellors serving at Tumaini, heads up the teams who serve there.

OUR CALLING

Tumaini – the Swahili word for hope – reflects our calling and our conviction that missionaries who are emotionally, relationally, and spiritually supported are better able to persevere, flourish, and faithfully proclaim the gospel in the places to which God has called them.

INVESTING IN THE GOSPEL

While our work does not place us on the front lines of direct evangelism, we are deeply invested in gospel proclamation. In a very real sense, Tumaini is present in villages, towns, cities, jungles, coastal regions, and urban centres across Africa – not because we physically go there, but because the missionaries we serve do.

Every counselling conversation, every intervention, is an investment in sustaining gospel proclamation. Our clinicians support those walking these roads as missionaries navigate burnout, trauma, grief, conflict, and emotional exhaustion. In doing so, Tumaini enables them to minister from a place of health rather than survival.

AN EXPRESSION OF GOD'S MISSION

This quiet, behind-the-scenes care plays a strategic role in enabling missionaries to serve faithfully over the long term. Our commitment to preventative and restorative care is rooted in the belief that those who proclaim the gospel are also recipients of God's care. Attending to the emotional and spiritual wellbeing of missionaries is not separate from the mission of God, but an expression of it. Our ultimate aim is to support AIM in reaching the unreached and equipping others to do the same – by caring well for those who carry the message and proclaim the gospel.

SERVE WITH US

If you are a mental health professional (counsellor, psychologist, psychiatrist, or GP with an interest in mental health) and sense God's call to participate in gospel proclamation through missionary care, please contact us.

FIND OUT MORE
TUMAINICOUNSELLING.NET



Schools like Rift Valley Academy (RVA) in Kenya, and Wellspring Academy in Chad, provide education for the children of missionary families. They ensure that missionary families are able to serve, safe in the knowledge that their children's educational, physical and spiritual needs are being met.

Mix serves as a teacher at RVA, as well as mentoring a group of boys. His wife, Katie, helps with the school administration. He reminds us that there's more to each student at the school.

NAMES BEHIND THE NUMBERS

Sometimes I like to remind myself of the stories behind the statistics, of the RVA students and their families, real people with a deep, God-given love for the lost.

Esther and Lexon got to know the people of the desert; they became neighbours, colleagues, and friends. Their kids grew up next to each other, but their kids were not allowed to play outside after violent conflicts took over the region. Schools were shut down. Internet was unreliable for online options. It was a hard choice, but RVA was the best option.

John and Amy knew that boarding school would be their future. The Zagara region was famous for having one of the highest rape rates. When their little girl became a young woman, RVA would be a place of safety for her.

Matt and Shell were highly qualified doctors. Kijabe Hospital was their best option to serve, and they are grateful that RVA gives their kids an education which could enable them to serve similarly one day.

PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

It has been my joy and privilege to get to know these, and hundreds like them, serving in remote, underdeveloped, or even war-torn regions, as well as right here in our village. RVA was founded as a support structure to help missionaries stay in their field. The church of Christ is like a body, and we are all its members. It is our honour to work as support staff and help the parents of these wonderful students serve God.

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

There are various roles available at RVA that are essential for the running of the school, from maintenance, to admin, teaching and everything in between.

FIND OUT MORE
AT RVA.ORG



Hannah serves as the Headteacher of Wellspring Academy, our school in Chad which provides education for the children of missionaries across multiple organizations. She shows just how important this ministry is by giving insight into what a typical day might look like, not just for the children they teach, but also their parents as they serve in their respective ministries.

ABUNDANT IN OPPORTUNITIES

Chad's location between Sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa is reflected in the diversity of language, people, and culture. These dynamics simultaneously bring challenge and complexity, and an abundance of opportunity. Opportunity to share truth with those who have never heard, along with the opportunity to mobilize and support the local church in its calling and mission. Wellspring Academy is a ministry that seeks to support this work.

A TYPICAL DAY - 7:15AM

Abe and Timo come bounding through the gate and head straight to the basketball court to shoot a few hoops before the day begins. Whilst they do that, Timo's dad prepares for a day of surgery at a Christian hospital. Abe's dad begins to connect with the patients and their families, offering prayer, words of truth, and an SD card with gospel recordings and videos to take home.



9:00AM

I sit with Elly who enthusiastically chants her four times table. Meanwhile, her dad attends an Arabic language lesson, and her mum meets a friend from the local church for Bible study. They practice an observation-interpretation-application method and talk about how they might use it with neighbours who have never opened the Word before.

11:30AM

The children have fun experimenting with balloons to create static electricity, whilst Joe's dad is teaching a computer class to local men. At the same time, Joe's mum is sitting on a mat, listening to a refugee from a neighbouring country share a story full of pain and rejection. Joe's mum shares the welcome and freedom Jesus offers; the lady responds with interest, drawn in and intrigued by the welcome she has already experienced from this foreigner.



12:30

The students head to the hall for Music class. Meanwhile Sohyun's mum is navigating her way through the N'Djamena traffic to collect her from school. Once they head home, Sohyun will have a French lesson with a local tutor, do some online Korean classes to keep her grades up for when she's next 'home', and then go on a visit to a neighbour with her mum to greet and drink tea.



VISA STRUGGLES

Currently, our school is a little quieter than usual. Americans are unable to get visas to serve in Chad due to reciprocity with a similar decision from the USA regarding Chadian visas. As the situation continues, many teams have had to leave. Some have relocated temporarily to neighbouring countries; others have returned to the USA while they discern the Lord's will for their next steps.

Please pray for Wellspring and the many teams in Chad affected by this.

This season involves waiting, unknowns and goodbyes, and yet we say with Habakkuk "yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation," because we know that he is on the throne, in complete control, and using all of these circumstances for his glory and our good.

THE OBSERVATION INTERPRETATION APPLICATION METHOD

An inductive study approach used to analyze texts by:

1. Gathering facts
2. Determining their meaning
3. Applying those truths personally



SERVING THE UNREACHED IN THE FIELD...



Owen currently serves with AIM's International Office as Office & IT Manager, alongside his wife, Miriam, the Personnel Director. They began their time with AIM in 2010, serving on a TIMO (Training in Mission Outreach) team. After the team finished, they decided to carry on serving amongst the Alagwa in Tanzania until 2023, when they began working for the International Office.

A SIMPLE LIFE

We lived amongst the Alagwa – a people group whose beliefs were Islamic mixed with traditional religion – in a mountainous, rural area, seeking to live simply, as similar as possible to our neighbours. This reduced barriers, allowing us more opportunity to share the love of Jesus in word and deed, as our front door was always open! We had a car, but we walked, like our friends did, most of the time. In fact, we used the car more for taking sick people to hospital than we did for personal trips!

The time on the TIMO team served us well in equipping us to live and share Jesus with the people we lived with. After the three years, we decided to stay – because of God's love for those people, his deep love in us for them, and so that they may be able to have access to the truth and good news about Jesus.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Over our 13 years there, we went to so many community events, spending hours celebrating and grieving with the people we had grown to love – births, deaths, marriages and annual prayer services. God used these hours for sharing – with words or by just being together. But in all ways showing care for them and valuing the things that were important in their lives. This in turn brought many opportunities to share our faith. People saw our lives and got to know us well enough to ask genuine questions and get answers they trusted and could wrestle with us about.

A GOSPEL THEY COULD UNDERSTAND

As the Alagwa have an unwritten language (Alagwaisa) and had no access to Scripture, we initially worked with people in our community to create a set of 29 oral Bible stories that, together, gave an overview of the big story of the Bible. After recording

...AND THE OFFICE



them, we began telling the stories: one on one, in family groups and in larger story telling groups, using the stories for evangelism and discipleship. The Bible stories were also recorded onto solar-powered audio players and memory cards for phones. The stories began to spread!

We later began oral Bible translation. We wanted to give people direct access to hear God speak through his Word – to encounter and begin to understand from a truly biblical perspective. And for those who began to follow Jesus, to grow in their faith.

A DIFFICULT DECISION

In 2022, we were asked to consider new roles in the International Office. After a lot of wrestling – it was such a struggle to even consider moving away from the Alagwa – we accepted the roles. We moved away from our team and the Alagwa at the end of 2023 and on to Bristol almost exactly two years ago. Whilst the transition has been huge, we have increasingly come to see how God is using us to support many more workers who are working with unreached peoples across the African continent and in communities all over the world.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE AN UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP?

Do you feel the call to go, or to serve from home? God could be calling you to use your gifts in the UK, to support other workers serving across the world. Why not get in touch with one of our Mission Advisors to explore what opportunities there are to serve.

EU.AIMINT.ORG/CONTACT

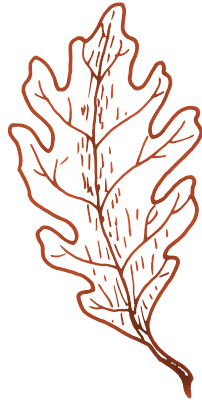
WHAT'S A TIMO TEAM?

TIMO teams run for two or three years and include training under an experienced team leader while living amongst a people group that hasn't had the truth about Jesus communicated in an understandable way.

8-10 SEPTEMBER 2026

AUTUMN CONFERENCE

SEEING THE GOODNESS OF GOD



Don't miss out on the opportunity to join us at our annual conference in Northampton. These three days will be filled with wonderful fellowship, inspiring teaching, and the exciting opportunity to hear how God has been building his Church among unreached Africans.

Join us at the King's Park Conference Centre and be refreshed and stirred up for mission. We can't wait to see you there.



Book your place at
eu.aimint.org/autumn

PODCASTS

Did you know that we have our own Spotify channel? You can find talks from our 2025 Autumn conference, as well as insightful interviews with missionaries, and thoughts about reimagining mission and the church in Africa.

Scan the code or google

'The Africa Inland Mission podcast'

to listen today



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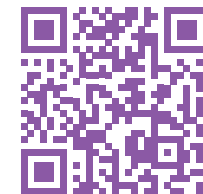
YOUR CHURCH

The local church is God's chosen means to reach the world with the gospel. We all need help keeping proclamation our priority.

So let us inspire, encourage and help your church as you reach your community and as we seek to fulfil the Great Commission together, whether that's through resources, a church visit, or finding out how you can partner with us in our work

To contact our Church Partnership Team

visit eu.aimint.org/your-church





The farmer sows the word

MARK 4:14

The seed we carry is the gospel – the good news our world needs. Across Africa we have seen God answer prayer, raising up Christ-centred churches and new believers. Yet there are still ‘unplanted fields’: communities with few Christian witnesses and even fewer chances to hear Jesus’ name clearly.

Romans 10 reminds us that people cannot believe without hearing and those who preach do not go unless they are sent.

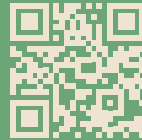
Will you sow with us?

Pray for labourers to be sent and for patient, faithful sowing to take root.

Give to send, support and strengthen workers establishing Christ-centred churches.

Go as God calls you, across the street or across cultures, ready to speak of Jesus with humility and courage.

eu.aimint.org/sow



**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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