

CONNECT

SEPTEMBER 2024 / THREE ISSUES A YEAR

magazine

THE
WONDERFUL
GROWTH OF
THE AFRICAN
CHURCH

AND THE HUGE NEED FOR
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

TRAINING
A GENERATION
OF LEADERS

CHALLENGES
IN A CLOSED NATION

THEOLOGICAL
EDUCATION



AFRICA
INLAND MISSION

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

The Lord is growing his church, and Africa is home to some of the world's largest Christian communities. Yet as few as 5% of church leaders and pastors in Africa have the biblical training they need to lead their church effectively. Unsurprisingly, in such a rapidly growing church unsurprisingly many new African believers will hear a confused gospel, and many are faced with wrong teaching, simply because their church leader hasn't been trained. In James 3:1, we are told how serious the responsibility is for those who teach in the church. It is not to be taken lightly.

The need for theological education is great. But with limits on time, finances and opportunities, how can this be addressed? In this edition of Connect, we'll see how AIM plays its part in meeting this challenge and hear encouraging stories of the ministries already equipping leaders and transforming local churches across Africa.

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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‘As the century proceeds, Christianity will become ever more markedly a religion of Africa and the African diaspora.’

History Professor Philip Jenkins



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‘The church in Africa has a feminine face and owes much of its tremendous growth to the agency of women.’

Kenyan theologian Philomena Mwaura

AFRICA'S CHURCH

LEADERSHIP

CRISIS

HOW WILL GOD TRAIN AFRICA'S CHURCH LEADERS?

A GROWING CHURCH

In 2018, for the first time, Africa became the continent with the most Christians, compared to the rest of the world – a staggering 631 million people.¹ This is only 45% of the continent's population though, and not all of these Christians would be considered evangelical or born again. But when considering the fact that each year the church in Africa is growing by 2.6%, while the rest of the world sees a decline of 0.4%², this continent will become a force to be reckoned with when it comes to spreading the gospel.

A GLOBAL INFLUENCE

Not only is the church in Africa growing, but it is also spreading across the world. Since 2010, eight of the ten fastest growing international migrant populations have been from sub-Saharan African nations. Already there are African churches firmly established in the US and, of the four largest megachurches in Great Britain, three of them are African led. It is incredible to see this growth when 130 years ago the number of Christians in Africa was estimated to be fewer than 10 million.²



HUGE CONSEQUENCES

But the rapid growth of the church in Africa brings with it a problem. A problem highlighted by the Centre for the Study of Global Christianity and the Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA), who have estimated that 85-90% of church leaders in Africa have little or no biblical training. When we think of the staggering number of Christians in Africa, as well as those who are now leading the churches across the rest of the world, there are serious implications for this lack of training. If poorly trained leaders cannot effectively disciple³ their congregations or preach the gospel message, then the consequences will be far reaching, affecting the global church.

Each year the church in Africa grows, while the rest of the world sees a decline...



HOPE AND EXCITEMENT

The solution sounds simple: receive a solid understanding of the Bible and doctrine through theological education. But for about 90% of church leaders in Africa, attending a university or college to study is impossible. There are alternatives though, such as grassroots training ministries found across the continent, bringing non-formal training to people where they serve. AIM has an exciting part to play in a range of theological education, so that the church in Africa – and by extension, the worldwide church – can grow and thrive. There's an abundance of opportunities for those with a passion for teaching God's Word. Might you have a part to play?

- Notes: 1. In 2024 there are 734 million Christians estimated to live in Africa.
2. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Status of Global Christianity 2024.
3. Association of Evangelicals in Africa, Scaling Up Theological Education in Africa, (2020), p.3.



FROM AFRICA TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH



DISCIPLE-MAKING, IN FAITH-FILLED TRAINING SCHOOLS



Chris Howles served from 2011-2023 in theological education at Uganda Martyrs' Seminary in Kampala. He is now Director of Cross-Cultural Training at Oak Hill College, London.

THE PURPOSE OF TRAINING

Not all theological education is equal. Some experience their once lively and living faith crushed by the heavy weight of teachers and cold, cynical or even irrelevant texts. However, when theological colleges understand their purpose - ultimately to serve the church - and specifically God's mission for the church, then people are empowered to serve well. There are many wonderful testimonies from across Africa today from brothers and sisters who have studied in Bible colleges across the continent and been spiritually enriched in their relationship with God and practically equipped for works of service as a result.

PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S PURPOSES

The local church is not a comfy Christian club in which to retreat from the world. Rather, it is God's primary means by which he will accomplish his mission in the world - to reconcile all things to himself by the blood of Jesus Christ (Col 1:18-20). By witnessing to that extraordinary good news, the church participates at the very centre of God's glorious global gospel purposes to see every knee bow before the risen and exalted Lord Jesus (Phil 2:9-11). British





missions author Chris Wright expresses this clearly in the 2010 'Cape Town Commitment' by explaining how "the mission of the church on earth is to serve the mission of God, and the mission of theological education is to strengthen and accompany the mission of the church".

So why does theological education exist then? Not as a self-serving end in itself, but rather as an opportunity to prepare people to participate in God's glorious mission. Not to be soul-crushing cemeteries but disciple-making, faith-filled training schools for God's mission in the world!

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR MISSION

What we are increasingly seeing across Africa, and would love to see more of, are theological colleges intentionally seeking to prepare students for passionate long-term engagement with Jesus' remarkable worldwide gospel mission of Matthew 28:18-20. Whether those graduates minister cross-culturally away from their home area, or lead churches that send and support those who do, or just more generally live and work as Christian mission advocates and allies, participants and partners, they get to enjoy the privilege of being part of God's work in and to and from every nation. No wonder one recent book by African authors Yaw Perbi & Sam Ngugi on African Great Commission work was titled 'Africa to the Rest: From Mission Field to Mission Force'.

HOW CAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGES IN AFRICA HELP ENRICH AND EQUIP STUDENTS?

-  Place prayer for God's global mission purposes at the centre of daily college worship.
-  Inform students of what God is doing across Africa and the world, including where he is using African believers powerfully in his mission purposes.
-  Help students understand that the story of the Bible is the story of God's mission in the world, and to teach it themselves.
-  Mentor students to consider carefully how God is inviting them into his gospel purposes locally and globally.

How thrilling to see this happening more and more across Africa!

By witnessing to [the] extraordinary good news the church participates at the very centre of God's glorious global gospel purposes



HEAR MORE FROM CHRIS

Chris writes a monthly email, 'Mission Hits', with links to stimulating and significant resources (articles, podcasts, books and more) about God's worldwide mission purposes. **Sign up at fromevernation.net**



KEEPING IT LOCAL



Allan Muchiri is AIM's Eastern Region Personnel Officer, based in Nairobi, Kenya. He reflects on the need for a wider range of theological training.

CARRYING AN UMBRELLA IN A DROUGHT

A story is told of a community that was enduring a serious drought. The elders called for a meeting where they would pray to God for rain. One boy attended the meeting with an umbrella. When he was asked why he carried the umbrella, he responded by saying that he was sure God would hear their prayers and send rain immediately. What faith! Shortly after the prayers ended, the skies opened.

The Church in Africa, like the community in the story, is in great need. We need more well-trained church leaders. Africa has the highest Christian growth rate of all continents, with a 2.6% increase each year,¹ but only 10-15% of church leaders have any theological training.²

TRUSTING GOD'S PROVISION

Just like the boy in the story, we come to God in faith that he will provide training for African church leaders. The African Church recognises the need for well-trained leaders and is working to address this need.

East Africa has a rich history of formal theological training through Bible colleges and, more recently, Christian universities. However, the reality is that formal training is inaccessible to many due to time, finances, academic or other constraints. This has opened the door for the growth of non-formal theological education.

EQUIPPING FOR EVERY SETTING

These non-accredited programmes furnish church leaders with doctrinal and ministerial knowledge to equip them for service. The flexibility of this training is one of its greatest strengths. Non-formal programmes range from

those tailored for professionals and business executives in boardrooms, to oral programmes tailored for nomadic pastoralists, seated under a tree, and everything else in between. The goal is to enable these leaders to watch their life and doctrine carefully (1 Tim. 4:16) so that they can in turn equip the saints for works of ministry and shepherd them into maturity (Eph 4:12-13).

AN ADVENTURE IN DISCIPLESHIP

AIM Eastern Region (Kenya & Tanzania) is currently engaged in non-formal theological training in Northern Kenya and Central Tanzania. We have a desire to grow our support for the Church in its efforts to scale up theological education. We are not only seeking people with impressive theological training, but with a heart to disciple. Scripture discusses the qualifications and training for church leadership in terms of character and doctrinal soundness. These are the primary hallmarks of a well-

trained church leader. Theological education is ultimately a form of discipleship. It is an adventure in knowing God more deeply so we can respond more appropriately to who he is.

PRAYING IN LIGHT OF THE CHALLENGE

We covet your prayers, particularly for ongoing efforts along Kenya's coastal belt, where the presence of Islam presents a significant challenge and opportunity for the Church. Please ask our Father to send more workers to help train church leaders.

FOR FURTHER READING

1. Gordon-Conwell, Status of Global Christianity 2024.

2. Association of Evangelicals in Africa, Scaling Up Theological Education in Africa, (2020), p.3.





BIBLE TRAINING SUCCESSSES

Alan and Pauline Jordan reflect on their time in Marsabit and the way God worked through the Bible training course and two students who God equipped and is using for his purposes.

A VISION TO BE REALISED

A Bible college was established in Marsabit in 2019 by AIM missionaries to teach the programme. Many students completed the course and have since planted churches or serve leading and discipling new believers in Christ. In Nanyuki, the course is being taught to professionals who either give up their evenings or Saturdays to study the Word of God. The prayer and vision is to build a Bible College on the equator, having been granted the land and approved plans for the building. Please pray for this new vision to have an impact on many potential and established church leaders from all denominations to study sound doctrine.



GIVE THANKS

Praise God for the success of this course, and the way it allows those passionate and called by God to learn to teach the Word of God in an accessible way.

Alan and Pauline Jordan began their AIM journey by serving in Nairobi from 1993-1995. They returned to Kenya in 2019 to be part of a team in Marsabit, northern Kenya, where Alan taught the Bible Training Course for Pastors/Leaders (BTCP/L) programme, a course to help pastors grow in their knowledge of the Bible and train them in pastoral ministry. In March 2022, the Jordans moved to Nanyuki, central Kenya, where Alan continues to teach this programme and Pauline has a ministry among the white Kenyans – descendants of Europeans who live in Kenya.

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Within Kenya alone there are over forty established BTCP/L teachers who are training the next generation of biblically based pastors and leaders; some of these programmes have been established for several decades. The course is producing men and women who are biblically trained by appointed teachers approved and trained to teach the programme. Many churches have been established with godly, passionate men and women who are teaching sound doctrine.



AMOS

AMOS WAS LED TO PLANT AND GROW A CHURCH

Amos Adible, from the Rendille tribe, was one of BTCP/L's first students in 2019. His desire and passion was to have more biblical knowledge to enable him to become a pastor within his home community in Marsabit county. God provided a new church plant for him in the desert area of Farokoren, initially under an acacia tree. The church grew to more people than the tree could shade, so God provided a corrugated shelter where all can gather on Saturdays and Sundays to hear his Word.



JAMES

JAMES CALLED TO BE A PASTOR AND PLANTER

James Leogosa, from Merille in Marsabit county, graduated from the BTCP/L programme in 2021. James gave up his policing job to focus on the call to be a pastor to his local village where there are both Samburu and Rendille people. He is now the chairman of the local pastors' fellowship and has planted two new churches where the Word of God is having a positive impact on the local people.



A CLASS
IN GATAB



STUDENTS AT THE KURUNGU CAMPUS



CHALLENGES IN A CLOSED NATION

Phinehas* is one of our workers from Nigeria, currently serving in North Africa with his wife, Deborah*, and their two daughters. Due to the sensitivity needed in their ministry, the way he trains church leaders looks very different to other countries.

IMPORTANCE OF DISCIPLESHIP

Our ministry here focuses not only on leading locals to the faith but also teaching and training them through discipleship. We help them to grow, to be mature in the faith, and to become leaders themselves, able to teach others. We do all these through fervent prayers, relying on the leading of the Holy Spirit, personal contacts and friendship evangelism. Reaching people from Islamic backgrounds, who live in Islamic systems like ours, is very demanding.

JOURNEYING WITH NEW BELIEVERS

Discipling and training new converts is another challenge, which involves visitation and follow up. We grow close to the new convert, addressing their doubts, reassuring them about the forgiveness of their sins and encouraging them to continue in the faith. Presenting the gospel alone is not enough; you have to be aware of the challenges people face in their daily lives.



Pray for wisdom for Phinehas and his family, as they seek to raise up leaders in this challenging environment. Pray that, despite adversity, the church would be able to flourish.

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY EVANGELISE AND DISCIPLE IN NORTH AFRICA

1 COMMITTING TO PRAYER

You need to create time to really seek the face of God in prayer for your converts until Christ is formed in them.

2 FOLLOW-UP

You need very close and persistent follow-up. Perseverance and patience are vital.

3 BIBLE TEACHING

As a Christian worker, one must have a good understanding of the Scriptures and the ability to teach the new convert the fundamental things of the Christian faith.

4 A SAFE SPACE

You need to create or find a conducive environment where the new converts can meet with you without fear.

5 PRAYER LIFE

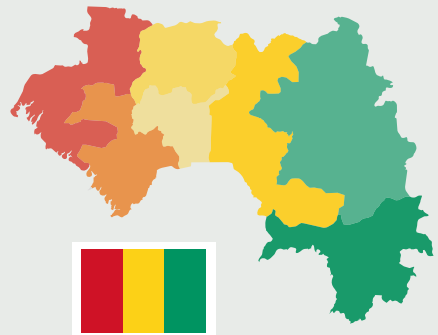
Most Muslim converts find it difficult to adjust to the Christian ways of praying: you need to help them by praying together regularly. This helps them not only develop their prayer life but grow in their confidence in the promises of God. They need courage to overcome the fear of persecution and wisdom to share their faith.

IMMENSE JOY

There's a great joy in leading a soul to Christ, seeing them grow and become well established in the faith. There's a peace of knowing that there is an eternal reward waiting for them. There's the utmost satisfaction doing the will of God, knowing that he desires for all to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.



GUINEA FOCUS



LIFE IN GUINEA

It is estimated that 60% of the population is still rural, with another 10% living in and around the capital city, Conakry. The country has four major cities, across its four geographical regions: Conakry in Lower Guinea, Kankan in Upper Guinea, Labé in the Fouta Djallon, and Nzérékoré in the Forest Region.

THE CITIES

Found on the coast, Conakry is the country's main port as well as its capital city. Its large population is struggling with a shortage of housing. The flat plains of Upper Guinea are home to Kankan, a commercial, educational and administrative city, as well as an important Muslim religious centre. The two key market towns of Labé and Nzérékoré serve as administrative and education centres, and can be found in the rocky highlands of the Fouta Djallon, and the mountainous Forest Region, respectively.

MUSIC CULTURE

At the heart of Guinean culture is music. One of its best-known styles is Manding music. This traditional music of the Mande-speaking people makes use of a harp-like instrument known as the kora. This musical style featured in the music of the late Mory Kanté, a Guinean musician, as well as in the work of Les Ballets Africains, the national dance company of Guinea.

THE PEOPLE

While Guinea is home to over 24 different ethnic groups, 90% of its population is made up of just three groups: the Fulbe, Maninka and Soussou. They are all predominantly Muslim, with each group practising Islam in different ways alongside their traditional beliefs. Very few people from these groups have become believers.



AFRICA'S FOURTH-LARGEST MOSQUE

The famous Grand Mosque, located in Conakry, was opened in 1982 and is capable of hosting 25,000 worshippers.

LONG COASTLINE AND ICONIC BEACHES

The 200 mile-long coastline of Guinea features beautiful beaches, such as those found at Cape Verga and the Îles de Los.



RELIANCE ON HEALERS

Traditional healers are believed to be the first port of call for around 80% of sick Guineans.



CONSERVATION PROJECTS

Over 1/3 of the country is protected for the conservation of wildlife and forests, including three national parks.



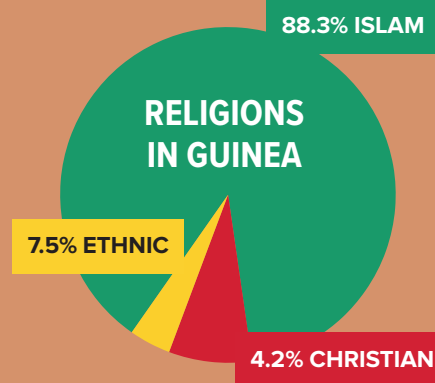
YÉ KÉ YÉ KÉ

In 1988, this song from Guinean singer-songwriter, Mory Kanté, was the first ever African single to sell over a million copies.

14.6 Million
Population

Capital
Conakry
Official language
French / Fula

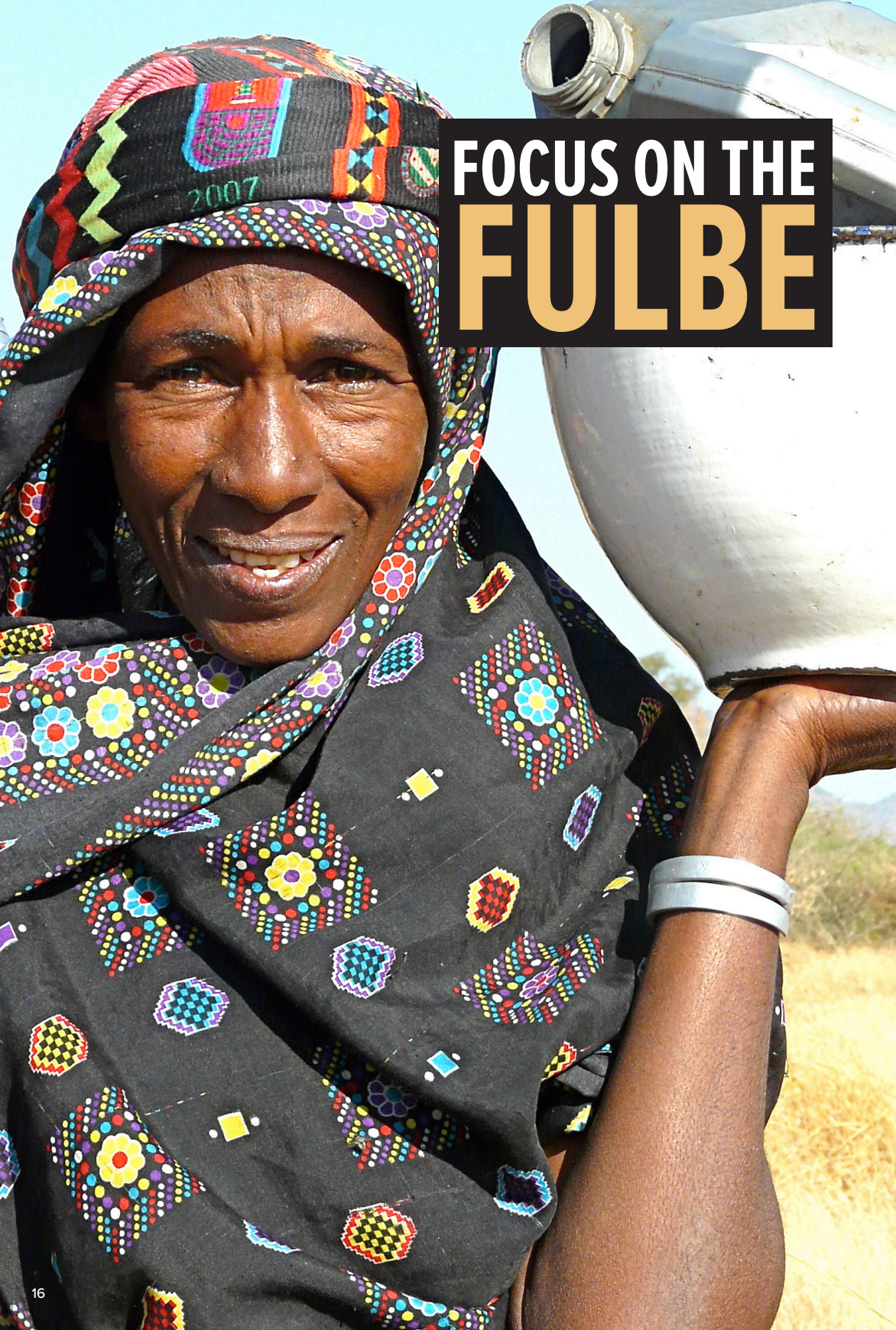
No. unreached
12.2 Million



IN NEED OF CHRIST

Despite boasting the second largest reserves of bauxite in the world (ore used for creating aluminium metal), as well as significant amounts of iron, gold and diamonds, Guinea is one of the poorest countries on the planet. Its economy is largely based around agriculture with less than a third of those aged 15 and over able to read and write. More than 12 million people have yet to hear the gospel message.





FOCUS ON THE FULBE

WHO ARE THE FULBE?

The Fulbe, also known as the Fulani, Fula and Peul, are the largest indigenous people group in Guinea, with a population of nearly 5 million. They are semi-nomadic, raising crops as well as livestock (cows, sheep and goats) on the plateaus of Fouta Djallon. They also settled in southern Senegal and northern Sierra Leone, where their culture and heritage remain virtually identical despite the distance.

WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE?

It is estimated that 99.9% of the Fulbe are Muslim, practising pre-Islamic animism alongside it. Each village will have a mosque and some have Islamic schools for children. The Fulbe follow a code of moral behaviour known as Pulaaku, focusing on the virtues of kindness, bravery, patience, tolerance, perseverance, honesty, diligence, generosity and dignity.

WHAT IS BEING DONE TO REACH THE FULBE WITH THE GOSPEL?

While there has been evangelism among the Fulbe, very few have become believers. As Islam is perceived to fulfil all their needs, they are very devoted to it. Any work among them will need to show them their need for Jesus as the only one qualified to forgive sins. There are opportunities open for mission in Guinea, reaching out to this people group.

PHOTOS ON THE LEFT & BELOW BY RITA WILLAERT



PRAY FOR GUINEA

- Give thanks that financial and economic sanctions have been lifted; pray that Guinea would gain economic and financial stability as a result.
- After a military coup in 2021, the country is transitioning back to a government of elected civilians. Pray for this new government to move away from its authoritarian past.
- Pray for the Spirit to open eyes, send workers and bring many to faith in Jesus; pray for the church in Guinea to grow.
- Pray for the Fulbe, Maninka and Soussou people who are held so strongly by Islam.



PRAY FOR THE FULBE

- Pray that the Fulbe will discover that only Jesus can fulfil their deepest needs.
- Ask for strength for the few Fulbe believers, who face pressure from family and friends to return to Islam.
- Ask God to raise up missionaries to work among the Fulbe.
- Pray that a flourishing church will be established among the Fulbe.



TRAINING TO DEFEND THE FAITH



Bishop Philipo, from the Pwani diocese in Tanzania, recently joined us at our Mission in Action events to talk about how AIM is working together with Africa Inland Church Tanzania (AICT). We asked him about the impact theological education has had on his life.

WHAT WAS THE PERSONAL IMPACT OF YOUR THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION?

Through the course of my theological studies, I grew in the exercise of the core disciplines of the Christian life including regular prayer and Bible study. Theology is the study of God, his nature, his works. I was humbled before this great God I learned about and moved to pursue a greater love and intimacy with Christ.

Rooted in Christ, I have gone about my life and ministry, whether that has been discipling my family at home or teaching my students at Nassa Theological College or overseeing 110 churches and their leaders in the Pwani diocese.

HOW ELSE HAS THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION HELPED YOU?

Education in any career is necessary. Theological education is a training in knowing Christ through his Word. You can't teach the Word of God if you have no training in the Word of God. My training has helped me to defend the faith and to work together with others who have different capacities to understand the Word of God. It has underlined for me the importance of church-wide discipleship through Bible study groups, life groups, children's ministry.

RESPONDING TO THE NEED



Dave and Cristyn Wakefield, along with their two young children, Stevie (4) and Caleb (1), are about to start serving at Moffat Bible College in Kijabe, Kenya.

Dave will be the Vice Principal of Administration, leading the effective running of the college with some teaching responsibilities, while Cristyn will be the Administrative Assistant to the college Principal, alongside looking after Stevie and Caleb. They give insight into why they are following God's call into this ministry.

When asked 'Why theological education?', the first place I (Cristyn) turn to is Ephesians 6, where famously Paul depicts the full armour of God. The belt of truth and the sword of the Spirit in particular aid an answer to the question. How can we as Christians discern what is of God and what is of the times and culture we live in? We come back to the Bible and couple that with established theological method, historical orthodoxy, anthropological understanding and cultural awareness, to name just a few. It is astonishing that, globally, 85% of church leaders have no formal theological training, and thus to extend Paul's analogy, many Christian brothers and sisters around the world are putting on armour that is perhaps patchy, or even looks fashionable, but cannot serve the purpose of protecting!

We are aware of the challenge ahead of us. Having learnt our theology in an entirely Western context, our own understanding will undoubtedly be challenged and we look forward to being refined by those we serve alongside! In turn, we are hoping that we will be able to share our passion for discipleship and mission with the staff team and students.

ABOUT MOFFAT BIBLE COLLEGE

Moffat Bible College has students from across Kenya and further afield, even recently welcoming students from India.

FOUNDED
1929

NUMBER OF CURRENT STUDENTS
78 online and in person

NUMBER OF GRADUATES
2,480



PRAY FOR THE WAKEFIELDS

- Pray for the Wakefields and all the new things they will have to get used to.
- Pray for them to be able to share their passion for discipleship and mission.
- Pray for Moffat Bible College as they equip people for God's mission in Africa and beyond.



SHORT-TERM MISSION

LONG-TERM

IMPACT



A SABBATICAL TEACHING IN KENYA

Graeme Scott, pastor of Johnstone Baptist Church near Glasgow, made use of his sabbatical to serve with AIM. He spent six weeks teaching at Bishop Birech College in Kitale, Kenya. This is taken from an interview with Graeme, reflecting on his experiences.

CONNECTING WITH AIM

I'd been due a sabbatical from the church and I'd been out to Africa previously, so I thought I would love to go back. I linked in with Sheona, the Scottish rep for AIM, and she said, "Oh, we'll tailor make something for you". They came back with Bishop Birech College. Would I be up for doing some teaching? So, I said, well, that's outside my comfort zone. But yes, why not?

TEACHING THE TEACHER

I ended up teaching the gospels and world religions. It was my first experience, not just of teaching in Kenya or in Africa, but teaching full stop. I learned so much: dealing with my first class of 25 students and dealing with 25 students who are coming at it from a different cultural perspective. The learning curve in that was enormous for me.

A VISION FOR AFRICA

This opportunity has strengthened my view of mission. I want to see the African churches and the people that are V from what the African churches are doing, grow themselves. I want them to be the ones that take things forward. All I've done is I've gone in and helped them because they need some help and support.

IT STARTS WITH THEM

I spoke to the Bishop of Kitale and encouraged him to value Bishop Birech College. They need to be doing more for the college because it is providing them with pastors for their churches. It would be very easy for me to come home and start a wee campaign and get loads of churches to start throwing money at the college. But that's not what it's about. It needs to start with the Africa Inland Church (AIC) itself.

EXPERIENCE IT FOR YOURSELF

What I would strongly suggest is, if you are a minister, if you are coming up for a sabbatical and you fancy doing something different, please speak to AIM, please let them tailor



something for you and go out there and experience the things I've experienced. I've been so blessed by what I've been able to see and do. So, thank you, AIM, for doing all of that for me.

STAND WITH THEM

Pray for the work being done by AIM and the AIC churches. Pray specifically for the students and the teachers at Bishop Birech College in Kitale, because there are some phenomenal people there who are going to make a real difference when they graduate and get into the churches because they are so on fire to see the Lord work.



INVITATION TO SCOTLAND

And I've said to them, if they want to come over to Scotland and start a revival for us, I would be more than happy!

Listen to the full interview with Graeme here:





HOPE IN MOZAMBIQUE



Inge Michel has been serving with AIM in Mozambique since 1991. She teaches and trains pastors and church workers at the Seminário Teológico Evangélico de Nampula (SEMTENA). She reflects on how students and graduates have been impacted by their studies.

The Great Commission in Matthew 28 will be known by most of us by heart - preaching the good news of salvation, through and in Christ, testifying this salvation in public and teaching, learning and practising in every area of life who Christ is and what he has done. How do we practise this in our daily lives as a follower of Christ?

Visiting the churches of SEMTENA's students and graduates I've had the privilege, over the years, to assist, with praise in my heart, as they practise with growing love and enthusiasm what has been planted by God's grace in their hearts.



TEACHING YOUNG PEOPLE

After he graduated from our mid-level course in theology, Diogo was entrusted with the leadership of the Sunday school teachers of his denomination across the town. He prioritised two things for his leaders: to have them teach Bible stories to the kids and have them grow deeper in knowing and trusting the Lord personally.

DISCIPLING THAT LED TO CHURCH PLANTING

Nazaré started his studies at SEMTENA last year. While he studied our basics of faith course he shared it with his family. Others joined and a small house church was established and grew. Last autumn they built the church and officially inaugurated it. They pray for more people to come to know Jesus and follow him too.



SERVING HIS KINDERGARTEN

Vasco works with kids in a kindergarten. In order to learn more about Christ and teach the children better, he enrolled at SEMTENA. Vasco's pastor noticed his love and ability to work with kids and has put him in charge of the kids in his local church. May the Lord use him in planting the seeds of his Word in the lives of these children.

Knowing the Bible and serving Christ and his church is SEMTENA's focus and I am grateful and happy to see how God's Word brings fruit like the tree planted at the brook in Psalm 1:3. At SEMTENA, disciples of Jesus are being trained, growing in faith and serving the Lord. They are the hope for Mozambique.

Pray with us for our new higher level course that started in May this year with twelve graduates from the mid-level course, as they want to learn further to better serve the Lord and teach others. Diogo, the Sunday school teacher, is one of them.

WORKFORCE FOR THE GOSPEL



Janny van der Klis first served with AIM during the 1970s, over the years she was based in Kenya, Namibia and Chad. Even in retirement, she is still serving by returning each year to Kenya to teach students at the AIC Missionary College (AICMC) in Eldoret.

A FAR-REACHING IMPACT

The AICMC is a very special place. Since it opened its doors in 1986, a steady stream of men and women have been trained for missionary service, not only in Kenya but to unreached parts of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Congo, Chad and - increasingly - South Sudan. More recently, theological training is being offered to future pastors.

A HUMBLING EXPERIENCE

It has been my privilege to teach for yet another term. Being with motivated and enthusiastic students is a joy. Their willingness to learn is stimulating and the stories of their lives are humbling.

HOPE'S EDUCATION CHANGED HER LIFE

Hope* is the eldest daughter of a polygamous Maasai father. He is illiterate and felt the need that at least one of his children should learn to read and write. A Christian family offered to take Hope to town and help her through school, where she did well. But she also heard

about Jesus and asked him to be her Lord and Saviour. She married a Christian pastor and together with her husband is now training to become a missionary to the many unreached peoples of Maasai land.

GEORGE'S WITNESS BEHIND BARS

George*, from Ethiopia, survived a terrible attack when he and four friends went into a neighbouring Muslim country seeking opportunities to share the gospel. Three of his friends were shot and killed. He himself and his remaining friend were jailed for a year. Yet even in jail they witnessed to the love and power of Jesus and led people to Christ. George and his wife are now in training at AICMC and have a great burden for the Muslim world.

FAITH FOUND HOPE

Faith* is a theological student. Raped by a teacher in school and pregnant, she was desperate. One day she walked into a church where she heard of Jesus who loves her



unconditionally. She hopes to become a hospital chaplain after her training.

SUPPORT FOR THE FUTURE

There is an enormous work force for the gospel in Africa: Christian men and women eager to serve the Lord. They have great advantages over us as they adapt easily to new languages and are used to living more simply. The big obstacle they face is a lack of finances and support both for their training and when they go to the field. Let's pray that national churches will rise to the wonderful opportunities for the gospel on their doorstep. And that we will do all we can to support this willing task force.



OPPORTUNITIES IN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION



LECTURER, NAMIBIA

We have opportunities in Namibia, Kenya, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. These vary in length of service, as well as qualifications and experience required. If you have a passion for theology, and a desire to help equip church leaders with the important training they need, do check them out.

Lecturer at Namibian Evangelical Theological School (NETS), Windhoek, Namibia

One of the only evangelical institutions in the country, NETS trains leaders of all ages from various denominations. Their vision is to equip church leaders and mobilise disciple-makers through teaching and personal discipleship.

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelors or Masters degree in Theology, teaching experience of a minimum 2+ years in a church or Bible school setting
LANGUAGE: English, Dutch/Afrikaans (desirable, but can be learnt on assignment)
LENGTH OF TERM: Minimum of 1 year

Theological Educator in Nanyuki, Kenya

Across Nanyuki, the BTCPL course is taught to local church leaders by just one theological educator. This opportunity will involve teaching the course in a couple of locations.

QUALIFICATIONS: Formal seminary or Bible school education, completion of the BTCPL training course before beginning the assignment, some experience in theological education.
LANGUAGE: English. Basic Swahili can be learnt on assignment
LENGTH OF TERM: Short term (2 - 12 weeks)

Theological educator in Torit, South Sudan

The local church in this area recognises the need for biblical training among their leaders and workers. A facilitator is required to lead and coordinate Theological Education by Extension (TEE) courses in Torit and the surrounding areas.

QUALIFICATIONS: Masters in Theology or Christian Ministry, training in school admin
LANGUAGE: English. Teaching is in English, although Juba Arabic is the dominant trade language in church and town
LENGTH OF TERM: Long term (3 - 10 years)



UNIVERSITY LECTURER
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Teaching at Shalom University or a CECA 20 Bible School/Institute

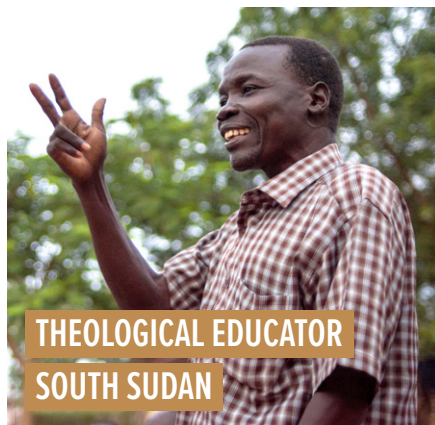
Through Bible schools, Bible institutes, the Shalom University, and ongoing education, the local church desires to train leaders who will impact the church and society as they serve. There are various teaching positions available at Bible schools and Shalom University.

QUALIFICATIONS: Degree in Theology or equivalent, discipleship and/or academic teaching experience
LANGUAGE: French (required). Teaching is in French at SU, and Swahili or Lingala at Bible schools (local language will be learnt on assignment)
LENGTH OF TERM: Short term (2 weeks) or long term (up to 12 years)

To find out more and to sign up go to eu.aimint.org/teachers



THEOLOGICAL EDUCATOR
KENYA



THEOLOGICAL EDUCATOR
SOUTH SUDAN



A FOND FAREWELL TO PETER ROOT

A pastoral gift and a real concern for people.

In July we bid a fond farewell to our Personnel Director, Peter Root, who has faithfully served with Africa Inland Mission since 1989. He will be sadly missed as he embraces the new adventure of retirement. Over his years of service he has impacted many lives and inspired many to follow God's call to the mission field. There are new believers and churches in Africa because of Peter's service to God.

Debbie McEvoy is our new Personnel Director. Please pray with us for God's blessing as she grows into the role.

Pray for Peter and his wife Daryll as God leads them into pastures new

NEVER WASTED

IN MARK 14 A WOMAN BROKE A COSTLY JAR OF PERFUME, WORTH £35,000 TODAY, AND POURED IT ON JESUS' HEAD, JUST DAYS BEFORE HIS CRUCIFIXION. THOSE AROUND HER WERE INDIGNANT, CALLING IT A WASTE. YET JESUS SAW THE BEAUTY AND VALUE IN HER SACRIFICIAL OFFERING. UNLIKE THE WOMEN WHO LATER VISITED JESUS' TOMB, SHE ANOINTED HIM BEFOREHAND, PREPARING HIM FOR HIS DEATH.

WHEN JESUS RETURNS, EVERY KNEE WILL BOW TO HIM, BUT HOW MUCH MORE PRECIOUS IS IT TO BOW DOWN AND ANOINT HIS FEET NOW? NOT WITH PERFUME, BUT WITH OUR LIVES, READY TO SURRENDER EVERYTHING.

GIVE TODAY AND HELP OTHERS COME TO KNOW THE JOY OF LIVING FOR JESUS



[EU.AIMINT.ORG/GIVE](https://eu.aimint.org/give)

**SHE HAS
DONE A
BEAUTIFUL
THING**

**SHE DID
WHAT SHE
COULD**

**MARK
14:6,8**

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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