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Tribute to Alan Checkley

any family members and friends gathered at Erina Baptist Church, Gosford, on the 19 June to thank God for the life of former AIM missionary Reverend Alan Checkley. Alan passed into glory on 14 June 2017, aged 89.

In 1951, Alan left his fiancé, Coleta, in Australia as he sailed for Africa, to serve with Africa Inland Mission. Alan was a graduate of the Sydney Missionary and Bible College and had undertaken an apprenticeship in carpentry. His first two-years in Africa included language learning, building and church ministry.

Following two-years of separation, Coleta packed her wedding dress and followed in 1953. Coleta arrived at the height of the Mau Mau uprising. Alan and Coleta travelled to the then remote mission station at Kapsowar in northwest Kenya. They were married about a week later, on 15 January 1954.

In 1955, Alan, Coleta, and first son Ian, moved to Kapsabet. This was home for the next 10 years. During 1955 the Africa Inland Church ordained Alan.

Alan was involved in ministry with the local church at Kapsabet. Ministries included church planting and Bible teaching. Alan was principal of the Kalenjin Bible Institute in Kapsabet from 1955 to 1958. Coleta, a nurse, was "matron" of the girl's high school with about 300 students. She ran a clinic for the girls and treated the local people. Alan, Coleta, and sons Ian and Graeme returned to Australia on home assignment in 1958. Third son



Neil was born in Sydney, before they returned to Kenya. Fourth son Owen was born in late 1961.

The Checkley family were then invited by the African church leaders to move to Eldoret. They needed people who spoke their language to teach and preach on recently acquired farms in newly independent Kenya.

The Checkley family returned to Australia for Christmas of 1964. Alan was AIM home director from 1965 to 1980. Only daughter Lynne was born in Sydney in 1970. Following 16 years in the Australian office, they joined the AIM International office in Nairobi, Kenya from 1981 to 1985.

After returning to Australia, they spent six months with AIM in South Korea. Alan's brother David and wife Betty, shared in ministry with Alan and Coleta. David was Australia Director from 1981 to 1996.

Alan and Coleta retired to the Central Coast of NSW in 2003. Coleta passed away on 16 July 2014.

Alan died peacefully after being admitted to hospital the day before.

Just Briefly

AIM Annual Dinner

Africa Inland Mission invites you to the Annual Dinner in Gosford on 25 November 2017. This replaces the August conference this year. The AGM is from 4.30 pm, dinner is at 6 pm followed by a program including speakers: Margaret Papov, home from Tanzania, Director Len Lesleighter, and others preparing to serve. Register via our website or phone 02 4322 4777. Cost is \$35.

Quest teams

AIM's Quest teams are proving popular and provide a great opportunity to explore mission in Africa. They are usually for about one month.

Join a North Africa Quest team in mid-2018 and explore the culture, religion and opportunities. Medi-Quests explore medical opportunities in East Africa. (April-May 2018). TIMO Quests are an opportunity to live with a Training in Ministry Outreach team and see how they reach the unreached or help mobilise African churches into mission. (At various times.) Farming Quests show how AIM uses a conservation farming system to make disciples in Africa. (Usually in May). E:personnel.au@aimint.org. See more short-term opportunities on pages 4-5.

Prayer Day 25 October

Join Africa inland Mission for its biannual Prayer Day on 25 October. Visit our Auckland office from 11am to 1 pm or the Gosford office from 2 pm to 4 pm. Come and pray!

AFRICA Oct 17- Jan 18 NOCK 17- Jan 18 NOCK 17- Jan 18

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Cover Photo Africans are leaving the continent — see page 6.

Missionaries Death Not in Vain

he tragic murder of two Africa Inland Mission missionaries and a student in Uganda on the 18 March 2004 was not in vain.

This was the report of Dr Julius Twongyeirwe, as he shared with a meeting of Africa Inland Mission leaders in Uganda in May 2017.

Dr Julius is founder and national director of a Uganda-based organisation The Proclamation Task, and pastorteacher at Berea Baptist Church in Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. He is author of the book "A biblical rescue form a perverted view of God's grace" and Editor in Chief of *The Reformer*, a magazine of the Consortium of Evangelical Missions in Uganda.

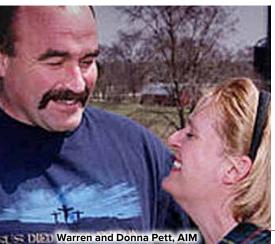
Up to ten armed men attacked the Evangelical School of Technology in Aringa in 2004. They shot dead AIM missionaries, Warren and Donna Pett, and a Ugandan student Isaac. Others were injured.

The Petts were dairy farmers from the USA. They heard the call of God to mission in 1997, sold their 100-year old farm and went to Africa in 1998. They served in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (then Zaire), Kenya and Uganda.

Dr Julius said a Ugandan pastor, Semwanga Wilson heard about the deaths. Semwanga was pastor of a small church in Kampala.

Dr Julius said that after Semwanga heard of the Pett's death, He came to a board meeting of the Evangelical Fellowship of Uganda.

"He was distressed to the point of tears, as he talked about these foreigners



missionaries killed in Uganda in 2004.

who came to bring the good news of Jesus and were killed.

"He said 'the only way to make sense of this death is that the people who shed the blood come to know Christ. A seed has to die before it bears fruit'.

"We on the board said we would pray about it!

"Semwanga said no! 'Someone has to go! I will go, send me!"

"He said, "I want to be planted where they were uprooted.""

"Then he said, 'I must avenge the blood. I must utilise their death,'

Dr Julius recalls the meeting telling Semwanga that he did not know the language and had no specialist training!

"He asked me to train him over the next month and a half."

Pastor Semwanga was born in 1956. He came to Christ on his is sick bed in 1977, suffering from hepatitis. He had finished his O levels in 1976 and then worked with the Ministry of Finance in Uganda. He did further study and served with the Ministry of Animal Husbandry and Fisheries. In 2002 he studied at Bible college and earned a diploma in theory and practical ministry. He then ran a portable Bible school training pastors and itinerant evangelists.

AIM's regional leader in Uganda gave some funds for Semwanga's monthly support as he went to Aringa.



Dr Julius Twongyeirwe, with Provincial Secretary of the Church of Uganda, Rev Amos Magezi. Both were presenters to AIM leadership meetings in Uganda in May 2017.

Dr Julius said Semwanga went on a platform of "Here is Life." "Here is Life reaches Aringa which was very Muslim!" Semwanga joined the team at the Evangelical School of Technology, which taught vocational skills like carpentry and mechanics.

Dr Julius said Semwanga was there for one and a half to two years.

"We were running out of cash to support him.

"Our concern was that he remained alive. I called him every week.

"His concern was making disciples!

"When he received my call to tell him funds had run out and that he needed to come back, he said no!

"He handed the phone to another man. This man had been an influential Muslim leader but had come to Christ.

"This man said, 'No! He will stay. He will live in our houses and we will feed him from our gardens.'

Dr Julius smiled, as he recalled saying to the man 'Don't kill him!'

"Semwanga was there for three and half years. He returned to Kampala about six years ago.

"A church was planted."

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." Tertullian, Berber theologian, 155-240 AD.

AFRICA news – October 2017 to January 2018 \cdot 3

Is Short Term Mission Worth It?

Abbi McClure, 29 years old, Londoner.

Abbi has recently joined the AIM Australia team as Personnel Manager for a



6-month period. She tells us a bit about herself and why the experiences the Lord has given her have made her love Short-Term Mission.

An introduction into my life so far:

I grew up in Niger, West Africa, while my parents served with Serving In Mission (SIM). I've always been interested in Africa and what God is doing there. Once I was old enough too, I went on several Christian short-term mission trips to Africa, supported by my home church. For some of the trips I went by myself and some within a team I knew; from 1 month to 4 months to 8 months.

It was on one of these mission trips, in Musoma Tanzania, that I met my husband Matt. Matt has also developed an interest in mission work in Africa through his eccentric yet lovable parents. Over the past 10 years Matt's parents have devoted themselves to running a small Christian charity which sends teams of short-term volunteers to Tanzania, in partnership with the local church. For 2 of those years I worked as his father's Assistant, mostly based in Tanzania orientating new teams.



This role allowed me to lead, laugh with and learn from over 100 short-term volunteers! Each volunteer fundraised for their trip, each came with different skills and knowledge, each volunteer was at a different stage of their Christian faith, but each wanted to make a difference and share the love of Christ. It was a wonderful blessing to witness these volunteers (students, those on career breaks, parents and retirees) impact others and learn and grow from their experiences.

After settling down in London I worked for Crosslinks, a Christian Mission society. I was given the fantastic opportunity of seeing 'behind the scenes' of a large mission organisaiton. Growing my understanding of some of the logistics, challenges, costs and promotion involved in organising shortterm mission.

Then, last year, Matt and I went on an 8-month short-term trip to Morogoro, Tanzania with Africa Inland Mission. We knew the full-term AIM missionaries there and sought to serve with them in their ministry, witnessing the successes and challenges of the team's work and how the Lord is using them. It was fantastic, difficult, inspiring and draining! Here is one of our highlights:

'On Christmas Day, we celebrated Christ's birth in a remote Tanzanian village with a small congregation of about 20 locals who had been converted from Islam by an evangelist trained through the Africa Inland Church in Tanzania. His determination to connect with and preach to that community was inspiring, especially after we realised that he had to travel through the mountains on a worn-out motorbike to reach them each week. It was amazing to see the fruits of his labour.' (McClure Prayer Letter 2016, Morogoro Tanzania)

Appreciating shortterm mission, from the experiences the Lord has given me:

'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do' *(Ephesians 2:10)*

The Positives!

Growing an understanding of the realities of cross-cultural mission

There can be many misconceptions of what missionary life is like and if you have never experienced it you can get the wrong impression. After participating in short-term mission, people are often wiser about the realities, goals and service of missions; often appreciating what fullterm missionaries face in their ministries.

Developing an awareness of other cultures and the wider

world Short-term volunteers can face unfamiliar languages to understand, customs and body language to navigate and culture shock to deal with. If managed well, they can gain a greater insight into other people's lives and societies. Many volunteers working in poorer societies appreciate the opportunities to practice humility.

Grow in faith and depending upon

God Short-term mission is as much about serving others as about growing in your own faith. Being out of your comfort zone can make you obedient and reliant upon God. Living in a crosscultural mission environment can make you even more passionate about God's people and outreach. Praying every day for opportunities to witness can make you joyful when you receive them, giving the glory to God.

Lightening the burden of full-term missionaries Short-termers can bring fresh perspectives and ideas to the task at hand. They can be an extra pair of hands, bring a much-needed skill, bring enthusiasm and encouragement and add to full-term missionary's Christian fellowship.

Opportunity to seriously consider long-term mission Short-term mission provides opportunity to 'test the water' for those considering full-time missions. They will get an understanding of the mission field, a particular role or country which may help them to know what God is calling them to.

Increase their support of full-term

missionaries Once back home, shorttermers can become life-long supporters of missionaries through giving, prayer and staying in touch. They often report back to their sending churches encouraging others to find out more!

The Challenges!

Self-Doubt I have often thought 'I'm no preacher! I have limited Biblical training, am I even suited to crosscultural mission?' I read a quote recently by Virginia Tanner, an AIM missionary, 'We are part of something big – the greatest story that God is writing on the hearts of men. He uses ordinary people and insignificant events to further his Kingdom.' Those who have gone into any cross-cultural mission work believing they will make a difference because they have the right skills, credentials and are adaptive, often face a steep learning curve. I believe that short-term mission experiences provide a unique opportunity for Christians to humble themselves before the Lord, giving up their comforts and pride to best learn and explore how the Lord can use them in the everyday circumstances.

Culture Clash Ben Wirth, Australian AIM volunteer on the short-term 'GO Program' recently wrote, 'We head out the door, 2 boys, 1 Australian, 1 Bulgarian and 3 girls, 2 Taiwanese and 1 German, the only light-skinned people in sight on a busy main road in Nairobi. It has been interesting to see a little bit of how people live and what society is like for lots of people in a big city in Kenya. While life may seem quite miserable for



them in my eyes, I was reminded that our society does not understand the best way to live and that God's good plan for human life is much more than just the material and whatever my idea of a good life is...'

Living in another culture can be awkward, scary and frustrating. But it can also provide us with new insights and help us to grow. Personally, from living among different cultures I learnt (not always easily) how to love others for who they are and that my identity should be rooted in Christ.

The financial cost One of our greatest fears in preparing for our 8-month trip to Tanzania with AIM was asking the people we knew to support us financially. As well as, knowing we would be restricted to living off what we fundraised with no other significant means to generate income. We reluctantly placed these fears in God's hands and watched in amazement as our support grew. Going overseas is expensive, but we can trust that God will help provide for us if it is His will.

'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.' (*Zechariah 4:6*)

Short-Term Opportunities!

Considering short-term mission? There are so many ways for you to use your gifts and skills, on our team programmes or through individual placements. If you feel called to Africa, then why not get in touch, and explore your role in God's mission plan?

Specific Individual Placements: If you have a particular skill, like teaching, building or nursing and you feel God calling you to Africa, AIM could have a placement to suit you.

You will live alongside long term missionaries and immersed in African life; gaining an insight into different ministries and real understanding for life on the mission field.

Team Placements: Team members will experience the type of work AIM missionaries are involved in with a strong focus on cross-culture training



and learning. There are several team programs that run regularly each year...

The GO Program — East Africa — Two Months

The FUEL Program — North Uganda — Two Months Discipleship

and mission training programs that seeks to develop Christ-like character and to install basic skills for outreach among unreached people.

TIMO Quest — Various Locations

- One Month Serve among an unreached people group, ministering alongside one of AIM's long-term church planting teams.

Medi-Quest — East Africa — One

Month A field orientation to a broad range of cross-cultural health ministries, reflecting the diversity of currently available options for medical service.

Farm Quest — Lesotho — 3 Weeks

Providing participants with opportunities to learn Conservation Agriculture as a means of outreach and discipleship.

Sports in the Desert — North Kenya — Two to Four Months

Sharing the love of Jesus with youth and children through sports outreach projects.

ABO Children's Program — Kenya

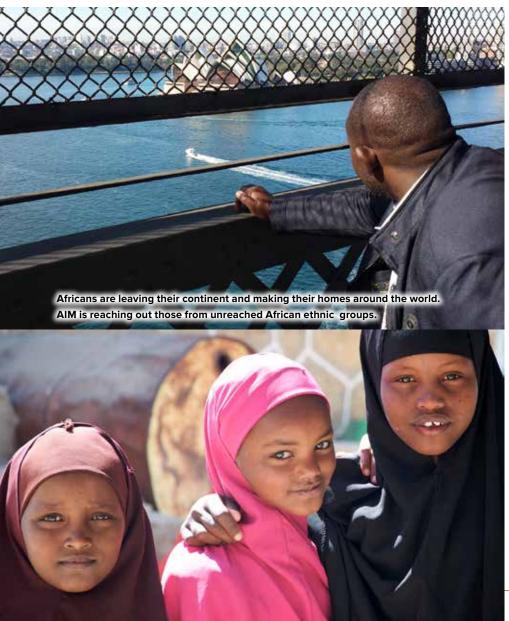
- 1 Month Serve as part of the team that runs the children's program as part of our African Based Orientation (ABO) designed to introduce the children of new AIM missionaries to life and ministry in Africa. "The LORD watches over the sojourners; He upholds the widow and the fatherless." Psalm 146:9

God Cares About Sojourners

S ince the era of Moses, God has instructed His people to take care of marginalized members of the community. The Psalmist reminds us of the Lord's concern for these people in need: widows, fatherless, and sojourners. We know who widows and fatherless are; but who are the *sojourners*?

Throughout Israel's history mention is made of those who lived and worked among the Hebrew community yet they are from outside the nation of Israel. Other translations refer to them as "strangers", "those residing outside their native land", and "the foreigner". In Exodus 22:21 the Lord instructed Moses, "You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt".

In today's world, we refer to them as refugees, asylum seekers or immigrants. The LORD has concern for those who reside in our community, but who are from another culture or country. The Lord protects and watches over them! Why? Because God's chosen people experienced what refugee life is like. They are displaced, vulnerable, and isolated. Like the widow and the fatherless, they need help, support, and Jesus. If the Lord has such compassion and concern for *sojourners* so the church



should reflect the same concern for them.

The AIM Diaspora Region is another strategy to achieve AIM's vision of "Christ Centred Churches Among All African Peoples with priority for the unreached". Since our vision is specific to unreached Africa people groups our focus is those unreached African sojourners who live as immigrants and refugees outside the continent of Africa. The new Diaspora Region of AIM seeks to have a Gospel witness among every African unreached people group residing in other parts of the world.

Each week thousands of African refugees arrive on foreign soil. Many arrive with little or no preparation for their new homes, unable to speak the language, understanding of their new host culture, shopping, jobs, transportation, medical care etc. But most importantly many of them come from countries that are closed to the Gospel and are in desperate need to hear the Good News. Immersed in a new setting many African diaspora have the freedom to explore the truth of Christ that they did not have in their home country.

In Australia the greatest numbers of African immigrants are found in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth. These include Africans from South Africa, Egypt, Zimbabwe and Mauritius.

The AIM Diaspora Region will strive to identify where unreached African communities exist throughout the world so that we can encourage, train and partner with local churches and like-minded ministries to engage with the unreached Africa diaspora. To accomplish this it is our hope to start 40 new teams by the year 2020

For information on how to reach out to the African diaspora contact personnel.au@aimint.org

Short-term Training for Outreach in Kenya

Africa Inland Mission short termer Ben Wirth from Gunnedah in New South Wales, has been trained in the Go program and sent to practice his training in Korr North Kenya as part of a Deserts Sports team. Ben tells some of his story.

The Go Training Program

For two weeks in July, I met and shared with a bunch of great people, who have felt called to go on missions. We learnt and prayed together during our time at Moffat Bible College in Kijabe north of Nairobi, Kenya.

We were being prepared to go out on the mission field to work alongside other missionaries.

There were five teams in training. Three teams were to go Tanzania, one to Nairobi, Kenya and our team to Korr in Northern Kenya.

This time was a good preparation for me. I learnt that I need to love and serve God, even when I do not feel like it! I learnt to be assured that when we are serving God, it does not matter how small or insignificant the task, God uses these things for His glory.

It was during this time also, that I confirmed the need for spiritual disciplines such as Bible reading, prayer and journaling. My team mate Rado and I must rely on God's help. We continually pray together for this ministry, for each other and those around us.

Pray that we will grow in our prayer time and let God use us.

The Desert Sports Team

Rado and I have been helping out in TIRRIM primary and secondary Christian schools in Korr.

We have been able to help the teachers with their tasks and get to know the students during the sport periods and breaks, playing some intense football or soccer!

They are all natural's and make me look terrible on the field.

Fortunately, they still let me play, despite their passion for the game, and cheer really loudly when the 'mzungu' almost scores! Yes, I almost scored a goal. I think they are going easy on me though...

When the school term finished we were able to attend the closing school assembly and pray for the students and teachers.

I hear that youth and kids here, look forward to coming back to school after the break!

We had a debrief in Dar Es Salaam in mid-August. The I headed back to

Korr for more ministry with the Rendille youth.

Rado and I attended Rendille church services, where we have really enjoyed worshipping with many of the students and Rendille people.

One lady will sing out a line and then the whole church is singing harmonies together, no books needed, and although we can't understand exactly what they're singing, or even what language it is (there are numerous language groups in the church), God is always worth praising in whatever way we can.

We have been inspired by all the lives that have been touched out here in Northern Kenya, by the power of God.

Now, there are numerous churches, run solely by Rendille. Their Kenyan pastors firmly believe in the word of God. Men and women are praising their saviour in song, and going out and spreading the good news all over.

Much Bible translation work has been going on to translate the Bible into Rendille.

The New Testament is complete and has been in use for a while and the Old Testament is now almost finished and ready to be used.



Reaching Africa's unreached

Vision 2020 update

here are still about 1000 people groups in Africa, totalling more than 300 million people, which remain substantially unaware of the good news of Jesus Christ.

They do not know that Jesus came and died and rose again to set us free from the grip of sin and death. These unreached people groups remain the focus of Africa Inland Mission (AIM).

By definition, these unreached people groups (UPGs) have less than 2% believers in Jesus among them. There are insufficient believers and resources to evangelise the remainder of their people.

AIM's five-year focus, Vision 2020, includes plans to reach 20 already engaged groups. There are also plans to place workers among 20 new groups and to mobilise 400 African crosscultural workers and train 4,000 African church leaders. As well, there is the goal of facilitating 40 church-based teams among Africans in countries outside of Africa, among the diaspora.

This ambitious set of goals is something only God can achieve!

We are now about mid-way in our five-year *Vision 2020* .So how is it going?

AIM has engaged or placed workers among eight new unreached people groups since 2015. This brings the number of UPGs engaged by AIM to 60. The International Director plans that each year four new UPGs will be engaged.

In the past two years, one unreached people groups has become "reached." This is the Samburu of Kenya, where disciple-making programs continue. The need now is for Samburu Christians to reach out to the remainder of the group, especially in rural areas.

In 2016, 40 African missionaries were mobilised. AIM continues to collaborate with African churches and organisations to mobilise African workers.

Most of these workers are partners with AIM, but not members of AIM. However, AIM's International Director is also investigating the possibility of including more Africans in AIM.

Also in 2016, 1,603 African church leaders received training though AIM workers.

Currently AIM is helping plan or start new teams to reach out to Africans in the Europe, Canada, and the USA. Research teams have been operating in recent months in cities across Europe.

Opportunities for people in Australia, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific to be involved are enormous.

Our priority is to have people praying for the unreached people groups of Africa and for our efforts to take the gospel to them and make disciples.

Only God can make this work happen.

People can register on our prayer web site and receive live updates from a wide range of people groups. See www. PrayAfrica.org or contact our AIM office in Gosford, Auckland or Hong Kong for prayer information.

Opportunities are open for Aussies, Kiwis and Hong Kong Chinese to join the work among unreached peoples.

We have a range of teams and ministry opportunities that will help take the gospel and make disciples among unreached people groups. Teams are forming for Chad, Tanzania and North Africa. Most of these teams are for two-years or more, with a view to long-term ministry. However, there

are also short-term opportunities for workers to go and minister for up to 12 months. Already

we have Australians and New Zealanders and Chinese working among unreached groups in South Sudan, Uganda, Chad, the Indian Ocean islands and North Africa.

Workers use a range of skills to help proclaim the gospel and make disciples. These include teaching, agricultural work, medical ministry and teaching English.

For information on opportunities to serve: E: personnel.au@aimint.org



Progress So Far

New unreached people groups engaged.

Now **60** unreached people groups engaged with gospel ministry

1 formerly unreached group reached — Samburu of Kenya

1603 African church leaders trained in 2016

Field Research

underway for new Diaspora teams

40 African missionaries mobilised in 2016

Pray for God's enabling in Vision 2020

The Samburu people of Kenya are now regarded as reached with the gospel, with churches mainly in urban area. Samburu Christians are now being trained and encouraged to reach out with the gospel to others in their people group and beyond.

Response Form

Yes, I would like to support **AIM's ministry**

I want to give monthly

\$50	\$25	\$100	
Give	one off	gift of \$	

Please complete the payment authority below.

Please make cheques payable to Africa Inland Mission Int. (Aust.) Inc. or complete card details below; or donate online: AfricaInlandMision.org/au/give (PayPal fees apply to online gifts) Please use my donation

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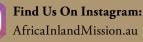
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Get Equipped

If you would like to know more about AIM, mission work in Africa, or about unreached people groups, we have numerous resources available for you to connect with!



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43% OF AFRICA IS UNDER 15 YEARS OLD

Schoolteachers have a unique opportunity to pour into the lives of young people and introduce them to Christ*