



AFRICA INLAND MISSION

Christ-Centred Churches
Among all African Peoples

AFRICA news

Feb-May 18
www.aimint.org/ap



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Just Briefly

AIM Leaders training: Leaders will gather in Kenya in February. Leaders or potential leaders from across Africa and our mobilising regions, including the Asia Pacific will attend. Pray for positive connections and productive training and development.

English Teacher and Administrator for a Language Centre, North Africa: AIM is looking for two people to work at a Language Centre in northern Africa, one English Teacher and one Administrator. The positions will be from August 2018 to July 2019. Major tasks include preparing and teaching English lessons, various admin tasks and sharing truth at every opportunity. See: aimint.org/au/english-teacher-administrator-language-college-north-africa/ or email: personnel.au@aimint.org.

AIM Prayer Days: AIM in Australia and New Zealand will hold biannual prayer days on **Wednesday 28 March and 31 October 2018**. This is a great opportunity to join with others and pray for AIM's ministries and for the unreached people groups of Africa. The Gosford office will host the prayer days from 2 pm to 4 pm, and in Auckland they will be from 10 am to 12 noon. For more information including the location of other prayer groups, phone 02 4322 4777.



New staff in Gosford and Sydney: **Liz Moore** will join the Gosford office team as Personnel Manager / Media



Liz Moore

Coordinator in February. Liz will be part-time, three days per week. **David Pym** joins the NSW team as our Sydney Ambassador. David is part-time one-day per week. He will represent AIM at Bible colleges and churches. David is also an associate pastor at Petersham Baptist Church.

Asia-Pacific Forum: Representatives from AIM in Hong Kong, New Zealand and Australia will meet in Gosford on 9-10 April 2018. This is a biennial meeting to foster cooperation and coordination among the member offices in the Asia-Pacific.

Mobilising the Bara People

Mobilising the Bara people of Madagascar to be effective disciples of Christ and to reach out to their own people.

This is the focus and dream of AIM South American missionaries Fernando and Janaine Basso.

Fernando said they began mobilising people to reach the Bara at the beginning of 2017.

In November, Fernando assisted in training 24 evangelists, six pastors and 22 bible teachers from different parts of Madagascar.

"They are from the Lutheran church and work in the Bara area."

"Our desire is that they will look towards the unreached Bara people and use stories and farming to reach out to the Bara."

Fernando said that in the training they talked about the mission of God, sustainable farming, storytelling, and they gave each one the Bara-language Bible in audio form.

Evangelism is an important part of ministry. In 2017 Fernando visited more than 16 villages to show the Jesus video.

"We hope God attracts them to himself."

"We have seen some Bara people coming to Christ in a miraculous way."

Fernando said their hope was the Bara will take the Gospel to their own people.

The Bara are a people group of about 750,000. They live in the grasslands of south-central Madagascar, and although there are some roads, it is not very accessible by vehicles.

Follow the Bara on PrayAfrica.org and learn more about the mobilisation of Africans on www.aimint.org/amc.

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Cover Photo Reaching and Mobilising the Bara of Madagascar — page 2

Year of African Mobilisation 2018

Africa Inland Mission has declared 2018 as the year of African Mobilisation.

This will herald an increased and concentrated focus throughout the year on helping mobilise African workers into cross-cultural mission.

The main focus is mobilising Africans to share Christ and make disciples among unreached African people groups (UPGs).

Mobilising only about 1 % of Africa's estimated 150 million evangelicals to work among unreached people groups will provide 1.5 million missionaries! This will give a more than 100-fold increase to the number of evangelical missionaries to UPGs around the

world. (based on figures from Atlas of Global Christianity 2009, cited by thetravelingteam.org.)

AIM is inviting African church leaders to a mobilisation summit in May 2018. The specific focus questions will be "How can we work together to reach Africa's UPGs?" Pray for God-inspired discussions and planning for increased African mobilisation and collaboration.

Pray for this and other initiatives to help mobilise Africans into cross-cultural mission among African Unreached People Groups (UPGs). Pray God will exceed the Vision 2020 goal of mobilising 400 Africans in 2015-2020. Forty African missionaries were mobilised in 2016.



Other "Year of African Mobilisation" initiatives will include increasing the number of African missionaries on AIM teams.

AIM is also seeking to recruit people from its mobilising regions around the world to help in mobilisation of Africans.

New Book Shows Fruit of AIM in Kenya

A new eBook shows the fruit of the more than 100 years of ministry of Africa Inland Mission.

This book tells the amazing story of how God grew the Africa Inland Church (AIC) to be one of the largest protestant churches in Kenya.

"The Spreading Vineyard: The Growth of the Africa Inland Church, Kenya, From 1945 Onward"

is by former AIM missionary Richard Gehman.

The book is full of remarkable accounts of divine providence. This

providence opened doors for evangelising unreached peoples.

The book highlights the role of the Kenyans who gave life, vitality and growth to the AIC.

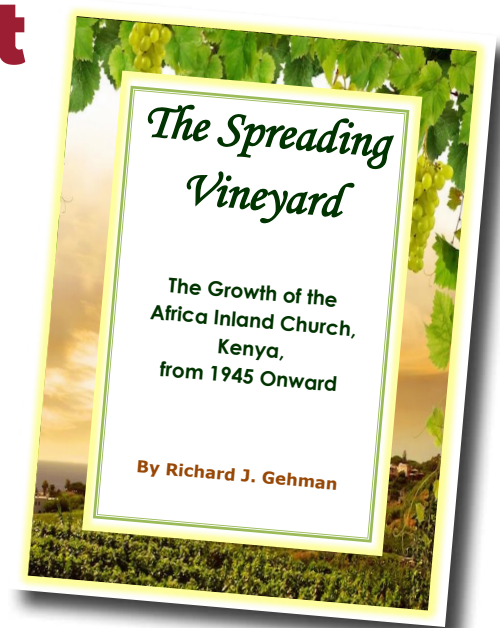
This is a well-researched book with 13 pages of bibliographical references from interviews and archival research in Kenya and America.

According to AIC member Dr. John Mondri, the book is fascinating and incredibly full of spicy, unique stories.

"These details reflect the good research that was done for the book. This book, to me, is a jewel for AIC and AIM circles."

This is an exciting account and encouragement for all AIM supporters. Your prayers and financial support made a difference in Africa.

The book is now available in three formats. It is a 500 page eBook with 240 pictures and maps costing \$US 5.00. The same book without pictures or maps is \$US 2.00. A shorter printed version is



available in Kenya only.

To buy, google "Amazon.com: Kindle eBooks: Kindle Store: Literature & Fiction" and search for books by Richard Gehman. This volume complements volume 1, From Death to Life: The Birth of the Africa Inland Church, Kenya, 1895-1945. This is also available as an eBook on Amazon.com: Kindle eBooks.



Scriptures Key to Reaching Africa's Unreached

Scripture engagement is vital to reaching the unreached peoples of Africa.

This is the view of Africa Inland Missions' Bible Translation Consultant, Bruce Rossington.

Bruce and his wife Jan, along with their three children have served with AIM since 2006. They left their home church in Bristol in the UK and first went to Kigali, Rwanda. The family now live in Kijabe, Kenya where Jan teaches at AIM's international school, Rift Valley Academy and Bruce serves as translation consultant.

Bruce defined scripture engagement as giving people access to God's word in the languages and formats that are most meaningful to them.

Then, you must encourage them to engage with the scriptures in ways that will transform their lives, their churches and their communities, he said.

"We will not see reproducing indigenous Christ-centred churches amongst African peoples until they have access to God's word in the languages and formats in which they need it."



Bruce said effective scripture engagement boiled down to using the right languages, the right format, the right activity or tool, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

In Africa there are many languages, including heart languages specific to people groups and those used widely as trade languages such as Swahili.

Bruce referred to his experiences in multi-lingual Tanzania where most people speak Swahili to one degree or another. Bruce had previously led workshops there with AIM workers, Bible translators and church leaders working among three unreached people groups the Rang'i, the Alagwa and the Sandawe.

According to Bruce, there is always a place for the "heart-language" scripture alongside Swahili.

"As well as leading to increased understanding, mother-tongue Scripture creates a powerful emotional connection between a people and God's Word."

Bruce said this is especially the case when they read or hear passages that relate to areas of life where they use their heart language rather than Swahili — working in their fields, attending funerals, discussing the spirit world.

Bruce remembered one of the participants at his workshops who said: "At a funeral, if someone speaks our language, it touches people — their hairs stand on end!"

"When I hear in my language that Jesus walked, that he went here and



there...we know who Jesus is," said another. "It makes us realize that the Bible is about things that happened here on earth. It is not just stories."

Bruce said a second important principle learned was that it is unwise to pit mother tongue Scripture against the Swahili Bible.

"In many cases, it is not 'either...or', but 'both...and.' Both versions of God's Word are precious resources that can be used alongside one another to improve understanding and to bring Scripture to bear on every area of a Tanzanian's life — both the public 'domains' where Swahili is used and the private ones where only the heart language will do."

Bruce said it was important to consider the biggest barriers to Scripture Engagement.

"Many of these were as much an obstacle in Martin Luther's time as they are in East Africa today.

“Just as 16th Century German was considered too poor and coarse a language (compared to Latin) to communicate God’s Word, so many minority language groups in Tanzania struggle to accept that the Creator would bother with their ‘dialect’ and, by implication, with them.

“At such times, it is a joy to refer people to verses like Revelation 5:9 and show them that God has a plan for every people group and that the language which their children are forbidden to speak in the local school will be used to praise Him in Heaven.

“Other barriers that need to be overcome are accessibility and illiteracy, both of which can be tackled through the use of technology.”

“Luther’s New Testament was distributed widely using the printing press that Gutenberg had developed some 70 years earlier, and a comparable revolution in Scripture accessibility is taking place today as a result of mobile phone technology.

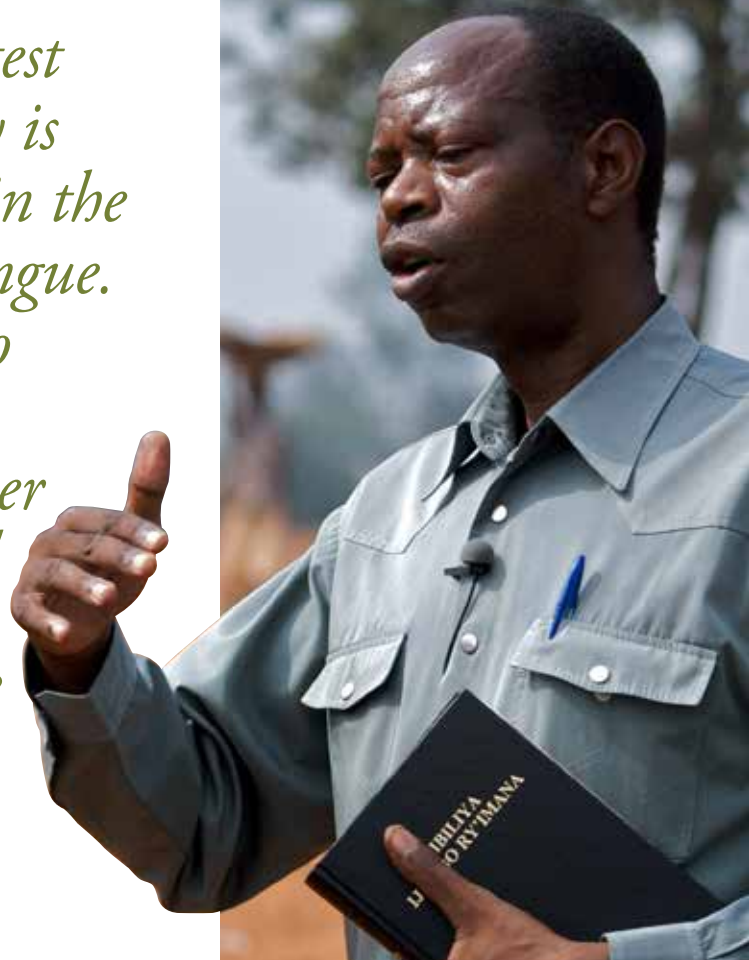
“The Bibles that used to gather dust in distribution hubs around Africa are now being accessed in minutes through internet downloads or Bluetooth transfers from phone to phone.

“The same technology is overcoming the literacy barrier with audio versions of Scripture that meet the needs of the continent’s predominantly oral cultures.

“God’s Word is being heard for the first time by individuals, listening groups and house churches — not only in places like Tanzania, but also in ‘closed countries’ where the authorities have previously been able to limit people’s access to physical Bibles.” Bruce said.

“The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It needs no furlough and is never considered a foreigner.”

Cameron Townsend
Founder of Wycliffe
Bible Translators



2017 at a Glance

5

new full-term
workers
sent to Africa.

5 of
these
workers went to
**unreached
people** groups.

27

full-term
workers serving
in Africa.

9 **staff in AIM offices**
in Australia,
Hong Kong and
New Zealand, as
full-time or part-time
supported, salaried and
volunteer workers.

7

experienced
short-term
mission in Africa.



Snap Shots from Africa, 2017

God continues to move in Africa! Here are some highlights from our Asia-Pacific team in Africa.



Rwanda
Peter and Cath GITAU,
Makena and Keama



From: Australia
Serving in: Kigali, Rwanda since 2015
Ministry: Coordinating the 3DCC ministry, a leadership training program using camping and outdoor education. Catherine volunteers as a part-time play therapist.
Home Church: Nowra Baptist Church, NSW
The Gitau's write: "Forma Camp 2017 — so many answered prayers!"

*God healed,
challenged and
grew the hearts
of both our
campers and
our staff. We
had 36 campers
and around 24
staff."*



South — Sudan
Jeremy and Felicity AITKEN,
Orlando and Caspian



From: Australia
Serving in: South Sudan
Ministry: Working with the Laarmin people through a church planting FOCUS team.
Home Church: Mooroolbark Baptist, VIC
The Aitkens write: "This year has taught us so much! We have been brought down to our knees in desperation and dependence on God as we have adapted to this new environment, with significant challenges surrounding us."

*"We have soared
high as we
have witnessed
God saving the
Laarim, and
being more
faithful, more
amazing, and
more beautiful to
our family and
those around us,
than we have
known before."*



Kenya
Peter and Sue BIRD,
Lizzy and Joanna



From: Australia
Serving in: Kijabe, Kenya since 2000
Ministry: Peter works as a general surgeon and Head of Surgery at Kijabe Hospital; they also help run the Kairos Course at Kijabe to help mobilise Africans.
Home Church: Crossway Baptist Church, Vic
The Birds write: "Please pray for wisdom, and that we can reach as many hospital staff as possible with whichever (or both) styles of the Kairos course we run. Kairos is so successful at helping people gain a biblical worldview and a better understanding of God's mission to reach the whole world."



Kenya
Matthew and Belinda CHAN,
Levi, Kathy and Topher



From: Hong Kong
Serving in: AIM since 2006
Ministry: Outreach to a displaced unreached people by teaching English.
Home Church: Shek Yam Evangelical Baptist Church
The Chans write: "Pray for our English classes with unreached people."

"May these classes be a good platform for us to share the good news with them."



Madagascar
Anna JARMY



From: Australia
Serving in: Antananarivo (Tana), Madagascar since 1993
Ministry: Discipling through Bible studies, training African missionaries; and member care for AIM missionaries in Madagascar.
Home Church: Belgrave South Baptist in Melbourne, Vic
Anna writes: "My lessons were cancelled and then I was asked to be the speaker at a mini-conference they had organised for that Sunday afternoon!!! Thankfully I was able to expand and make some changes to the lesson I had already prepared."

"Over 50 people attended, mostly young. I spoke about becoming Christ-like as part of growing as a Christian."

God undertook and the talk seemed to go well.



Ben Wirth from NSW, experienced short-term mission among the Rendille people of North Kenya in 2017. Ben also undertook short-term training in AIM's GO program. Go is two months of training and internship, held in the middle of the year.

Creative Access Locations

We use 'Creative Access' to refer to nations, areas or ministries where there is great hostility towards Christianity and where traditional 'missionary work' is not possible.

Indian Ocean Islands

Our worker writes: "I have had the privilege of reading through a book with a young lady. She has been coming regularly and we are currently going through a book called 'Dare to Compare' looking at our religions."

"Pray for this friend that in her seeking she will come to know the truth!"

North Africa

Our workers say: "We meet semi-regularly with a couple of students and are going through stories with them, discussing what is said, and answering questions."

"One guy in particular is very interested, and has a book to read for himself."

PRIORITY PROJECTS WITH



AFRICA INLAND MISSION

Focus your giving and increase your impact on the kingdom of God.

Africa Inland Mission has several priority projects. You may find it a blessing to support one or more of these, as you are able.

These will each play an important role in reaching Africa's unreached people and creating Christ centred churches among all Africa's peoples. Thank you for your consideration and support.

You can give through our offices in Australia (02 4322 4777) or New Zealand (09 281 4595) or on line at www.aimint.org/ap/give quoting the project name or number.

Thank you for giving.

1. VISION2020 — Mobilising the Asia-Pacific (Project Number: AP 001)



You can play a key role in helping AIM in Australia and New Zealand grow and play an increasingly important

role in mobilising people to serve in Africa.

Currently both these offices are stretching their resources to grow and have a greater impact on reaching Africa's unreached. We are employing new staff to increase our mobilising capacity. We need your help to make this growth and transition possible and sustainable.

Your gifts will help pay modest salaries for two new part-time staff in Australia and one existing part-time staff worker in New Zealand. Currently our NZ position is funded by AIM in Australia.

Our goal is for these positions to help us mobilise more people to work among unreached people groups; more people to mobilise Africans into mission; more support workers for Africa; and more people to pray for and financially support the ministry. This pushes toward AIM's vision of reaching 40 unreached people groups, mobilising 400 Africans and facilitating 40 teams to reach Africans from UPGs living outside of Africa, by the end of 2020. Thank you!

2. Advanced Training Fund (Project Number IO 135)



You can help train present and future African church leaders. Partial scholarships from this fund help leaders of the future gain post graduate and specialised training to help ensure Christ-centred churches in Africa. Scholarships are paid direct to the educational institution and students share in meeting the total cost.

In 2017, 13 students were assisted by the Advanced Training Fund. This is the lowest number of scholarships for many years, limited by available funds. Six students are working on PhDs, one on a Masters degree and six on Bachelor degrees with majors in Missions, Theology, Biblical studies, leadership and

management. Thank you for investing in the future of churches in Africa.

3. African Missionary Assistance

(Project Number IO 137)



You can help AIM provide financial assistance to African missionaries working among an unreached people group or mobilising Africans into mission. These are one-off grants usually up to US\$1,000 to help fund a missionary's in-service training; travel to or from their work location; conferences; and member care. This does not cover normal living costs. Applications are carefully screened and missionaries can re-apply for grants.

4. International Famine Relief and Crises Response

(Project Number IO 130)



You can help provide emergency first-response assistance to people hurting from famine, war and other disasters. Assistance is provided through AIM workers and our partner churches working in the area of the disaster.

Funds recently have been used to aid civilian Christians and Muslims alike in war-torn Central Africa Republic. People are hurting from loss of loved ones and their means of support. This provides opportunity to reach out with God's love and the good news of Jesus. Other countries assisted recently include South Sudan. Your gift helps us respond quickly. Please visit:

www.aimint.org/ap/give

Response Form

Yes, I would like to support AIM's ministry

I want to give monthly

\$50 \$25 \$100 \$

Give a 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: AfricaInlandMission.org/ap/give (PayPal fees apply to online gifts)

Please use my donation

Where Most Needed

Vision 2020 Initiatives	\$
Advanced Training Fund	\$
African Missionary Assistance	\$
Famine Relief and Crises Response	\$
My Own Option	\$
My Total Donation	\$

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Mr/Mrs/Miss/Dt/Rev

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First Name

Address

Postcode

Email

Phone

Payment Authority

(Card payments processed in Australia only)

Card Type Visacard / Mastercard

Card Number

Expiry Date

Name on Card

Signed

Date

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You can make direct payments into AIM Australia or New Zealand bank accounts.

For Details, Contact:

New Zealand: **T** 09 281 4595, or

Australia: Robbyn **T** 02 4322 4777

Response slips can be mailed to AIM in:

New Zealand: PO Box 13457 Onehunga 1643

Australia: PO Box 328 Gosford NSW 2250



Get Connected

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."