



AFRICA INLAND MISSION

Christ-Centred Churches
Among all African Peoples

AFRICA news

Oct 20-Jan 21
www.aimint.org/ap



In this issue:

A message in a crisis
Page 3

Life in Lockdown in Africa
Pages 4-5

Business for Transformation
Pages 6-7

VISION2020 Progress
Page 8

Just Briefly news from Africa and the Asia-Pacific

New AIM Hong Kong Committee Member

Our Hong Kong Office has a new Committee member Ms. Chan Tin Fung



Elena. Elena was an AIM missionary in Madagascar from 2007 to 2011. She has returned to teach intensive course in a Bible school in Kenya last year and hopes to return again in October this year.

AIM Australia Events

The planned afternoon tea event in Gosford on 5 September was cancelled. The event was to feature Peter Oyugi, AIM's Director of Africa Mobilisation

based in the UK. Instead, an online international prayer event is planned for 28 November. This will commence in New Zealand, and follow the sun to the West Coast of the USA. This event will mark AIM's 125 years of ministry in Africa.

AIM Australia AGM

The AGM for Africa inland Mission Ltd. is now planned as an online event on 5 November. All company members will receive an online link and invite. Membership is now open for individuals and churches at reduced rates for 2020. See www.aimint.org for details and application forms.

Australians Support Africa Crisis Relief

Australians donated more than \$10,000 towards crises relief in Africa. This was through both tax-deductible and non-tax-deductible funds. Thank you for caring. Funds are helping people in the pandemic and suffering from famine after locust plagues and floods. Some assistance has been given to Bible college lecturers out of work in the pandemic. Details on how to donate are on www.aimint.org/ap/give. Also see the Response Form on page 7.

Some AIM Personnel Updates

COVID-19 has caused workers to change plans. COVID is here, but God's mission continues along new paths.

Ready to Go

Craig & Helen Waldo plan to apply to the Australian government for permission to leave Australia for Tanzania. They continue connecting with family and supporters. If they leave, pray for safe travel, good resettlement, and language learning (Kiswahili). If not, pray they'll use the delay to connect AIM with Australian churches and prepare for service among the Nyanwezi.

Jeremy & Felicity Aitken's planned to study French, in France, and then serve in Madagascar at the Good News Hospital, but have been delayed. They

are learning French using language tools, including online classes. Pray God will provide French-speakers or Malagasy people to help them, and their four young boys, with French conversations.

Ready to Return

Nita Finger is due to return from Uganda for Home Assignment in December, while **Peter & Catherine Gitau**, and children, are due to return from Rwanda for HA in February next year. Please pray for these workers as they discern how to proceed with their plans to return, or whether they need to delay.

On Home Assignment

Peter & Sue Bird, and Liz and Jo, after difficulty in finding flights, have returned from Kenya to Melbourne.

They had COVID testing and self-isolation in Kenya and hotel quarantine and more testing in Australia. Then, Melbourne went into Stage-4 lockdown! This makes it difficult to connect with friends, church, school and family, including new grandson Caleb. Pray for wisdom to navigate the challenges.

Serving in Africa

Margaret Papov, Chris & Fiona Tyrrell, Marlene van Tonder are in South Sudan, sharing the gospel and making disciples, as restrictions allow. Please pray each of these workers will continue to seek new ways to love those around them while also finding new ways to keep their own spiritual vigour. **Workers in North Africa** ask us to pray **2 Thessalonians 3:1**.

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Mobilising Region.

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Cover: Cath and Keama all masked up, showing empty streets "Life in Lockdown in Rwanda", see page 4.

God's Message in a Time of Crisis

by Len Lesleighter,
Director, AIM Asia-Pacific

Today, our world is in a COVID crisis. Millions suffering; many dying; economies crashing and people left wondering.



More than 2,600 years ago, God gave the prophet Habakkuk several great lessons for a crisis. (See the short book of Habakkuk, near the end of the Old Testament of the Bible.)

God's lessons to Habakkuk in brief were this:

1. Look and behold – “Look at the nations and watch – be utterly amazed. For I am doing something in your days that you would not believe even if you were told.” (C1:5) TNIV
2. Be patient: “Though it lingers — wait for it!” C2:3. TNIV
3. Have faith in God! “but the righteous will live by their faithfulness.” C2:4. TNIV

Finally, Habakkuk prayed: “Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds. Lord renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath, remember mercy. (3:2)

And then, some of my favourite verses: “Though the fig tree does not blossom, and there are no grapes on the vines, ... yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in my God.” C3:17-9.

Habakkuk's crisis was real. He could

not understand why God did not judge the evil world around him. God's people, Judah, were idolatrous, lawless, unjust and violent. (Chapter 1:1-4).

God answered (1:5-11). He said “Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days that you would not believe if you were told. “(NAS)

God was about to use the evil army of the Chaldeans (Babylonians) to ransack Judah, and bring judgment.

Today, we need to look and be astonished! What is God doing in a world in a pandemic?

I am sure we can't dispute that we live in a Godless world. However, now, in the pandemic, we hear of record numbers reading the Bible online, people turning to God; Australian federal and state governments cooperating (mostly)! Sky's and rivers cleaner than people can remember! What is God doing?

Habakkuk was confused about how a righteous God could use an evil army

to bring judgement on a less-evil Judah. (2:12-2:1): However, God said be patient. The “woes” listed in chapter 2 make it clear all evil people will perish. It's just a matter of time, be patient (2:3).

The key lesson of the book is 2:4. “... but the righteous shall live by his faith.” NAS. Have faith and trust God. As the Africa Bible Commentary says, “Living in faith — (we) must persevere in God and continue to be faithful.”

Verse 4 is quoted in the new testament several times (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; and Hebrews 10:38.) Romans 1:17: “For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’ “

In the New Testament context, the message is to trust in Christ, have faith and experience a righteousness made possible by Christ, and his death and resurrection.

Habakkuk celebrates his faith in his song of prayer in Chapter 3. In verse 2, he declares “I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds. Lord renew them in our day”. The prayer from v17 declares that no matter what comes, as Habakkuk awaits invasion, he will have faith and rejoice in God.

Habakkuk trusted and rejoiced in God in crisis. So, should we.

Times of Habakkuk

Habakkuk is a prophet mentioned in the Bible only in the book by his name. The book of Habakkuk was possibly written around 607 BC. This was during the reign of wicked King Jehoiakim of Judah (2 Kings 23:34.)

The Chaldean Army, the force of the Babylonian empire, was on a

rampage. They ransacked Nineveh around 607 BC or as early as 612. BC. A little later, King Nebuchadnezzar II of the Chaldean Army, invaded Judah and took captives, including the prophet Daniel; and the Babylonians defeated Egypt at Carchemish. (606-605BC)

Ultimately in 586 BC Nebuchadnezzar

occupied Jerusalem, capital of Judah. Jerusalem was burned and laid desolate. Judah was taken into captivity. This included the prophet Jeremiah. Babylonia, spanning modern day Syria and Iraq, itself dissolved and disappeared from history in about 539 BC.

(Sources include: Halley's Bible Handbook; Ryrie Study Bible, New Bible Commentary Revised and Africa Bible Commentary.)

Life in Lockdown in Rwanda



**From the Gitau family,
Serving in youth and camping
ministry.**

Our lockdown life began in the middle of March when Rwanda went into a full, enforced lockdown about a week after the first positive case was reported.

Kigali International Community School (KICS) where the kids go and Catherine teaches, rolled out their remote learning program, with very little warning. This was initially for two weeks.

Two weeks turned into nine as the school year finished online at the end of May.

Peter's life switched to online as well, with Unit Leader, Mission Mobilisation, and local ministry partner meetings switching to video conferencing. We normally run camps through 3D Christian Camps – Discover, Decide, Do it. Our camp dates came and went, with no camp during the pandemic.

Peter also had an opportunity to provide some training in rock climbing. This may not have happened without COVID.

One of our 3D Christian Camps (3DCC) team members has started a tourism business, Beautiful Rwanda Tours. She would like to include rock-climbing as an activity offered by her business. In return, she will offer employment to other members of the 3DCC community. (The 3Ds are: discover, decide, do it.)

In June the local restrictions lifted a little, allowing us to be out and about for non-essential travel, with the addition of mandatory masks and an overnight curfew.

The reprieve from being home 24/7 and doing life online was appreciated. However, with COVID cases rising in Rwanda we now know that the new school year will begin online and most likely we won't go back to in-person school until January 2021 at the earliest.

We continue to avoid contact with big crowds and watch the travel restrictions in Australia as we tentatively plan for Home Assignment early 2021.

One of the hardest parts has been seeing the economic impact on the most vulnerable communities here.

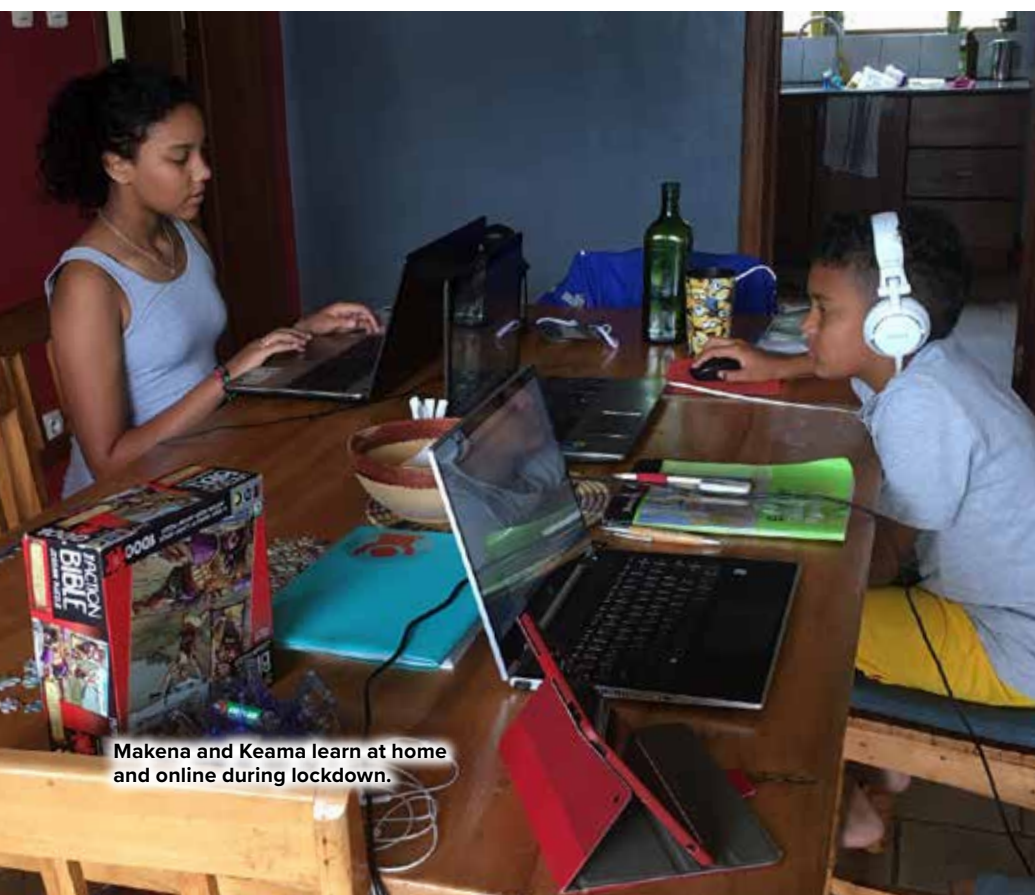
We wrestle each day with how to “be the hands and feet of Jesus” to those around us in need.

We have enjoyed the time spent together and have discovered some new family favourites — badminton in the front yard, board and card games with friends and family via Zoom, and the kids taking turns to cook meals one night each a week.

We also got a new puppy who has been a great distraction and lots of fun!



COVID created opportunities for Peter to provide training in rock climbing.



Makena and Keama learn at home and online during lockdown.



Makena creating delicacies and making the most of lockdown.

Lockdown in North Africa

Our workers in North Africa have been through extended lockdowns, working online and now have some release. The 'new normal' is emerging.

April 2020 — The lockdown in this country has been extended again. We are restricted to going out to buy essentials during the day with a curfew all night. We are grateful for a small terrace outside our flat where we can read, exercise and enjoy the sunshine.

The month of fasting starts on Friday and will be quite different this year. Usually the streets are full of food and juice sellers in the late afternoon as families get ready to break the fast together at sunset. However, this year the mosques are closed and the streets deserted.

May 2020 — This month has been the month of fasting. During the lockdown it has been hard for people to spend time just at home, to do their prayers there, and not be able to break the fast with their family and friends.

July 2020 — One of the things we enjoy most about being here is spending time with our clients and helping them improve English. The past few months have been hard, as we have tried to stay in touch electronically.

Now that we can get out and about a bit we have been reconnecting with our local friends. It's been lovely to see people (masked) face to (masked) face again after so long. We have been able to meet people for walks, picnics or at a cafe.

August 2020 — At the end of July our friends celebrated the Eid. At this time of the year every family kills a sheep, remembering their story of Abraham and his son.

The Eid lasts three days and this year we spent each day with a different family.

During the Eid holiday we were also able to spend more time with some of our neighbours. It is great to stop in the street for a chat when we are out and about.

We probably won't be adopted as locals anytime soon, but we certainly feel accepted into our neighbourhood.

People appreciated us staying here during the lockdown and continuing to live life as normally as possible.



Mint tea anyone?



Beaches empty during lockdown.



Lamb during the Eid: before and after.



The cats in the basket!

Business for Transformation

growing the kingdom of God by doing business

Genuine businesses and Christian business people have a key role to play in blessing communities around the globe. They can significantly and positively grow the Kingdom of God.



Dr Anton Beukes

This is the view of Perth Bible College Dean of Studies and missions' lecturer, Dr Anton Beukes, speaking in a recent Missions Interlink on-line seminar.

South African born Dr Beukes has lectured at the Perth Bible College since 2019, and previously in 2005-08 and 2013-14. He has a Doctorate of Divinity in Missions, having completed a thesis on Missiological Perspectives of Short-term Outreaches.

Dr Beukes said the growth of Islam in Indonesia is a good example of the impact of business people on religion.

The first Muslims came to Java as traders in the 14th and 15th Century. They did not come as Imams or missionaries but they brought their religion with them.

"People saw their integrity in business and followed their religion. Most of Java converted to Islam."

Indonesia now has the largest Muslim population in the world.

Dr Beukes said Christian missionaries came to Indonesia, initially associated with Colonialism. They had no work. They preached but there was not much response.

For-profit businesses can be strategically placed among unreached people groups around the world. Their focus is to bless the communities in which they work through their business.

"Business for transformation is usually defined as businesses strategically placed in unreached areas to create jobs and bless the locals in Jesus' name. Impact is primarily through transformation, and specifically through evangelism, discipleship and church planting."

Dr Beukes contrasted this with Business as Mission (BAM), which is an integration of business and mission goals, with the business people not being artificially supported by donors.

He said while they are similar, business for transformation's goal is to bring transformation of individuals and communities.

Three keys are focusing on for-profit business; having a kingdom perspective through evangelism, outreach and discipleship; and aiming for social change and transformation.

Dr Beukes said God set the platform for work and business. God created everything. We see God at work. God was the first one to work. On the sixth day he rested from his work (Genesis 1 and 2.) God sets the example.

God created us in His image. As His image bearers we have been created in God's footsteps.

We are encouraged to be fruitful and multiply. This is to grow our social structures and be in community. As stewards, we are encouraged to look after creation.

Dr Beukes emphasised business existed before the fall. Business was broken by the fall.

"Work, business and economics is

not a result of a curse or the fall. God worked before the fall. He wanted us to follow in his footsteps before the fall."

After Genesis 3, God takes the initiative to redeem humanity, through Jesus Christ.

This includes individuals but also social communities and work-based activity.

"Therefore, in Christ, all things are being reconciled. This includes our relationship, our work, and economic life."

In Isaiah chapter 62, and Revelation, we read of a new heaven and earth.

"What we do on earth is not temporary but goes into eternity.

"What we do in our work, our relationship, our business should also have eternal value.

"God uses all of our redemptive work, including business and economic life."

"In many cultures today, and in the Bible, people are seen as a whole. There is no dichotomy between secular and spiritual.

"We should not separate between Gospel focus and development focused."

Dr Beukes said our needs include spiritual, emotional and social.

"When we look at our ministry, it is important to bring these together.

"We should have ministry through our ordinary work."

"We should not separate Gospel proclamation and social development. One may come before the other in some situations, but they are two parts of the same coin."

Dr Beukes said there is a danger of having fake businesses as a front to do something else.

"We need integrity." Dr Beukes gave examples from Mark Russel's book, "The

Missional Entrepreneur', in Chang Mai in Thailand, where there were two types of businesses. One type thrived with a positive ministry and good results. There were others with poor performance.

The positive ones had a mind-set to bless the local communities. The missionaries could say they were Christian business people here to bless the community. They were open about their identity and usually had better relationship with local churches.

The poor performing business had a primary goal to convert people. They were shy about their identity. They were more independent of local churches and organisation and had a low cultural adaption.

Contact us:

If you are a successful business owner and would like to expand and use your business to bless communities of Africa, especially those people unreached with the Gospel, please get in touch.

T: 024322 4777 or

E: personnel.au@aimint.org



One focussed on brining blessing to the community. The other was more aimed at mission or proclamation, but not principally for profit.

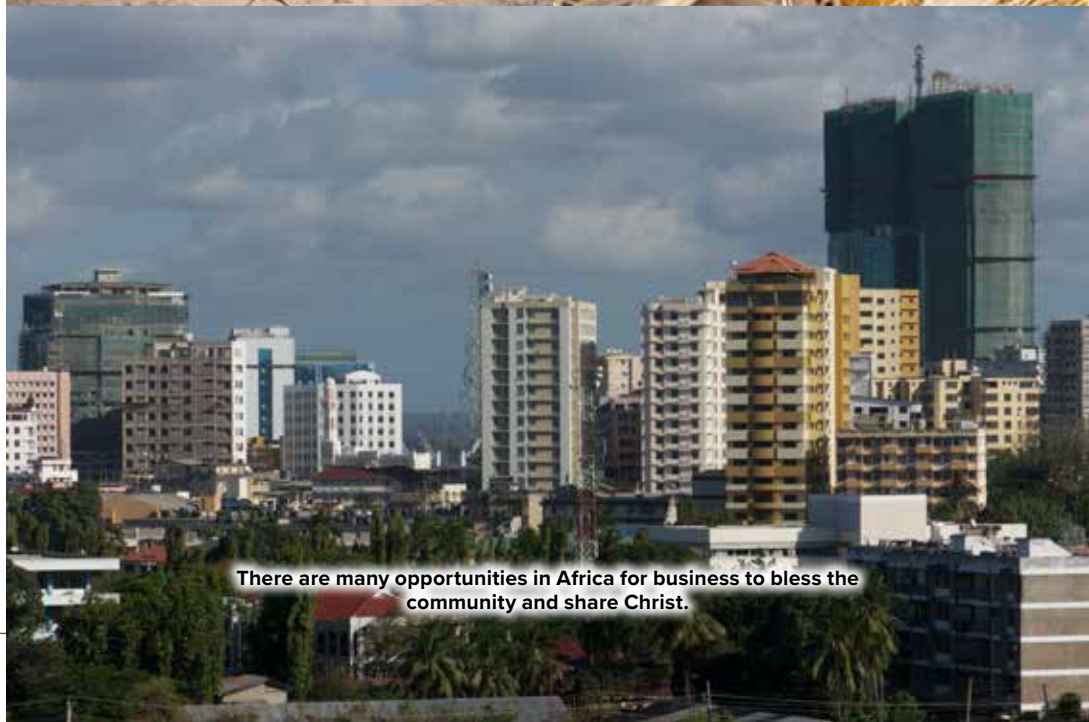


Those focused on being a blessing had a 48 times greater success rate, measured by numbers becoming Christians, compared to those focused primarily on making converts.

“By looking at busines from a blessing perspective, we can reach more than those just aiming at conversions.

“We need to glorify God through our business, and everything we do.

“Business for Transformation is to glorify God in everything we do.”



There are many opportunities in Africa for business to bless the community and share Christ.



**AFRICA
INLAND MISSION**



VISION2020
IN FAITH • IN HOPE • INLAND

PROGRESS

God is working in Africa. Africa Inland Mission invites you to praise Him for what He has done through Vision 2020. These figures show results from the past five years January 2015 to December 2019. Vision 2020 continues to the end of this year. Africa Inland Missions work in making disciple will continue. Please continue to pray as God moves among the unreached people of Africa. You can find out more about Africa's unreached on PrayAfrica.org.

VISION2020

6-year goal, 2015-2020

Engage 20 UPGs
With AIM or partner workers.

Reach 20 UPGs
Christ-centred reproducing churches.

Build 40 Diaspora Teams
With churches outside Africa to reach African UPGs living outside Africa.

Mobilise 400
Africans into cross-cultural mission.

Equip 4000
African church leaders.

Progress

Data as at January 2020

40 engaged since 2015
104 UPGs Engaged currently.

4 UPGs Reached
Samburu, Dorobo, Rendille and Borana.

15 Teams;
26 Locations
Praise God. Please keep praying!

328 Mobilised
Praise God. Please keep praying!

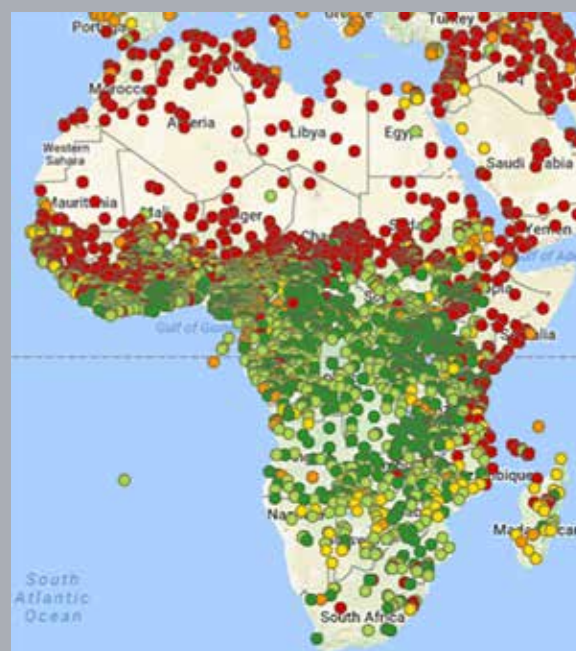
9690 Equipped
Target Exceeded. Praise God.

**Sharing
the gospel
and making
disciples
among
African
Unreached
People
Groups
(UPGs)**

Other exciting things God is making happen:

- **904 baptisms** among UPGs in 2019; a total of **2471** since 2015.
- **1286 new disciples** among UPGs in 2019; a total of **6574** since 2015.
- **109 new churches** among UPGs in 2019; a total of **250** since 2015.
- **Now AIM and close partners minister among 104 UPGs.**

Africa's Unreached



Source: Joshua Project Google Maps, www.joshuaproject.net

Legend

- Unreached peoples
- Formerly reached
- Minimally reached
- Partially reached
- Significantly reached

God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. John 3:17 (TNIV)

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 Inc. or complete details below; or donate online: www.aimint.org/ap/give (PayPal fees apply to online gifts)

Please use my donation

☐ Where Most Needed

Kenya Famine Relief \$

AIM International Famine and Crisis Relief IO-130 \$

My Own Option \$

My Total Donation \$

Gifts for these overseas projects are not tax-deductible in Australia or New Zealand.

General fund gifts in NZ are tax-deductible and are used in New Zealand. If a project is oversubscribed, your gift may be allocated to a similar project, or project in the same region.

Thank you for your support.

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Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Rev

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Payment Authority

(Card payments processed in Australia only)

Card Type Visacard / Mastercard

Card Number

Expiry Date

Name on Card

Signed

Date

Periodical Payments/Internet Deposits

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

Ways to give to new tax-deductible project

You can help Africans in a time of crisis by donating to African Crises Relief J1076N.

Donors in Australia

Credit Card: www.gdg.org.au/GiveToJ1076N

Direct Deposit: BSB 064118 A/C 10200094 (GDG) **Email details*** to

info@globaldevelopment.org.au

Cheque: Payable to Global Development Group, Include a note with donation details* and post to: PO Box 651, Rochedale South QLD 4123.

PayPal: www.gdg.org.au/PayPalJ1076N

On-line Donation: africancrisesrelief-gdg-j1076n.raisely.com/



Donors in New Zealand

Credit Card/PayPal:

www.gdg.org.nz/GiveToJ1076N, and complete details.

Direct Deposit: www.gdg.org.nz/DD, and follow instructions on the page.

Cheque: Payable to: Global Development Group Ltd. Include a note with the donation details* and Post to: Global Development Group NZ, PO Box 10076, Bayfair, Tauranga 3152.

*Donation Details: date, amount, project number (J1076N), name & email/ address.

Thank you for caring!

Africa Inland Mission Ltd in Australia and Africa Inland Mission International New Zealand are partners for project J1076N African Crises Relief with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993) an Australian NGO approved by the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Australia, and with Global Development Group Ltd (GDGNZ) IRD: 116-721-430; Registered Charity #: CC54017. Gifts over A\$2 in Australia and NZ\$5 in New Zealand are tax deductible. Excess Funds may be applied to other approved project activities. Please note, no non-development (evangelistic, political or welfare) activities are a part of, or funded by, GDG projects.



For more information please visit

www.gdg.org.au or www.gdg.org.nz

For other non-tax-deductible project options please see www.aimint.org/ap/give and overleaf.