



# AFRICA INLAND MISSION

# 2020

## Annual Report

After 125 years, we are still making Jesus known



Africa Inland Mission Ltd.

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# Welcome to our 2020 Annual Report

Peter Aldridge, Council Chairman

The year of 2020 is one many may love to forget. It has been one to stop and reflect. However, AIM continues to be active in Australia, the Asia-Pacific and Africa.

The Council of Africa Inland Mission Ltd. (AIM Ltd), oversees AIM in the Asia-Pacific including separate legal entities in Australia, Hong Kong and New Zealand. Council has met online in 2020, with members from four states and Hong Kong (members list on p 6). Council policies set direction and targets for the Asia-Pacific Director and team. This report gives some results from July 2019 to June 2020.

Our focus is connecting AIM with the Christian Community in Australia and the Asia-Pacific. A driving purpose is to help churches in Australia and the Asia-Pacific participate in Jesus' Great Commission.

AIM Ltd. and our Asia-Pacific partners assist AIM International achieve its goals. These include proclaiming the gospel and making disciples, especially among Africa's unreached peoples. Our goal is Christ-centred churches among all African peoples.

Thank you for your support in 2020.

## Connecting the Asia-Pacific with Africa

Len Lesleighter, Australia & Asia-Pacific Director

### Asia-Pacific Churches Send Workers

In 2020, 27 people served full-term in Africa (i.e. for more than 2 years) from Australia (15), Hong Kong (9) and New Zealand (3). Each were sent by an Asia-Pacific church. Numbers are similar to 2019.

About 70% of our Asia-Pacific workers served among unreached African people groups (UPGs). Others trained African church leaders (5); mobilised Africans into mission (2); or provided support services (6).

Currently there is an Australian couple waiting to resume ministry after leave of absence and a single person on leave of absence. Two couples are on home assignment, with one planning to return to Africa soon. Others are preparing for future service and are undertaking ministry training, increasing flying hours; or undertaking Bible school training. No new workers have been sent since July 2016, something we are eager to see change, and keep praying Luke 10:2.

Asia-Pacific full-term workers help form a team of 680 AIM

International workers in Africa and diaspora ministries.

In 2020, 19 short-termers from the Asia-Pacific served (up to 12 months), compared to 20 in 2019. This included four from Australia and 13 from Hong Kong. However, 2020 was marked by COVID-19 restrictions, and cancellation of short-term programs. People delayed or withdraw. Some completed orientation and other training, with one doing orientation and an East Africa Kairos course online.

### Workers Supported by Churches

Workers were supported by 116 Asia-Pacific churches in 2020, including 46 in Australia; 57 in Hong Kong and 13 in New Zealand. This was down on 2019, but the sum increased in Australia by AUD \$6,567 to AUD \$174,425 and in Hong Kong by HKD 433,735 to HKD 2,980,780. Supporters of workers included about 500 individuals or non-church entities in Australia (350); Hong Kong (51) and New Zealand (68). Donations for Australian workers from churches and individuals totalled \$618,137 in 2020. Australians gave \$35,000 for workers sent by other regions.

## The Mission of Africa Inland Mission Ltd:

- Who we are:** We are an Australian-based Christian mission working with sister organisations in the Asia-Pacific, Africa and worldwide.
- What we do:** We are focused on engaging the Australian and Asia-Pacific Christian community in the work of establishing Christ-centered churches among all African peoples.
- Why we do it:** We are compelled by the Great Commission from Jesus in the Bible, to go, make disciples of all nations, teaching them all Christ taught his disciples. (Matthew 28: 18-20; and John 3:16-18).
- Cover:** 2020 marks 125 years since Africa Inland Mission began in East Africa. AIM began in Australia in 1916.

## Informed Churches

Twenty-one Asia-Pacific churches in Australia (4), Hong Kong (16) and New Zealand (1) hosted AIM speakers in 2020, with emphasis on joining in the Great Commission. This included online talks during COVID restrictions. A range of other activities including meetings, mission trips, mission course and expos were used, especially in Hong Kong in 2019-20. More than 520 churches in Australia receive our *Africa News* and remain informed about the ministry of AIM, with 40 sent bulk copies.

## Church Membership of AIM Ltd.

Australian churches can be involved by being a company member. Glenorie Mission Church joined in 2019. We hope more churches will become “owners” of AIM. We have 32 individual company members and welcome more.

## People Praying

More people received prayer material in 2020. Social media recipients increased from 2,052 in 2019 to 2,133 in 2020. People receiving prayer material by email increased by 81, from 2052 in 2019 to 2133 in 2020. There have been more online prayer events in 2020.

## General Support of AIM

Asia-Pacific offices and AIM projects were supported by 51 churches and AIM projects in 2020, up on 47 in 2019. In Australia, churches gave to projects (1) and general donations (7), giving \$5,008. The number of individuals or non-church entities supporting AIM in the Asia-Pacific declined in the past three years but the total sum given increased.

General donations to AIM Ltd. was \$48,463 in 2020. AIM Ltd. is also supported by a 10% home-admin. charge from worker support donations. This was \$91,553 in 2020.

Various Government COVID-relief grants were a blessing received in Australia, Hong Kong and New Zealand.

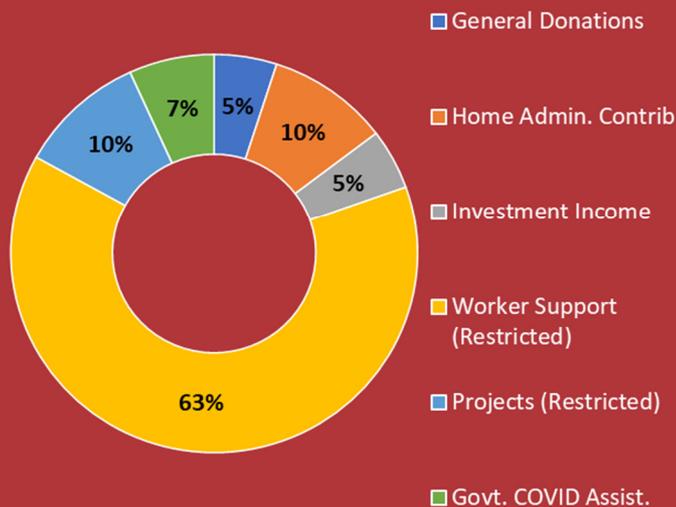
## Projects Supported

Donors to AIM projects dropped from 48 in 2019 to 28 in 2020, but the sum given increased from \$14,459 in 2019 to \$94,821 in 2020. Donors gave to 14 projects including *Restore Counselling (ABS-120-U)* \$12,620; *Crises and Famine Relief IO-130* \$6,406; *East Africa Famine Relief ER 002-R* \$6,243. A donation of \$61,346 was used to establish an *Australian Worker Support Project*. This sum is invested and will be used to assist workers taking the Gospel to UPGs. AUD\$55,000 was given to tax-deductible projects via partners Global Development Group. *Equipping Leaders Kenya J1061N* received \$50,000 and *African Crises Relief J1076N* received about \$5,000 from 17 donors. AIM Ltd. received 5% home admin. for J1061N and 10% for J1076N.

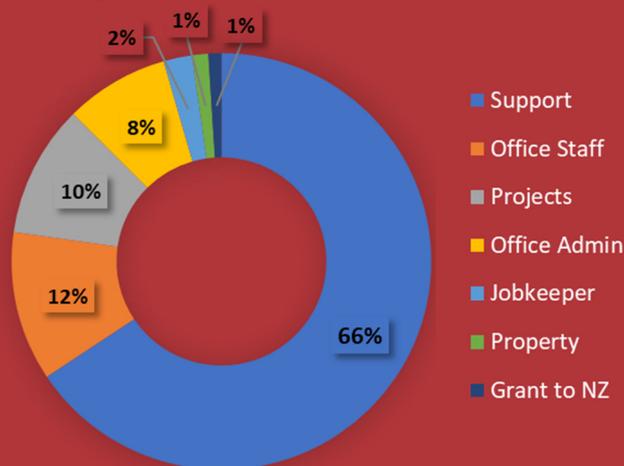
## 2020 Financial Overview

Africa Inland Mission Ltd. in Australia  
(See Audited Reports for Details)

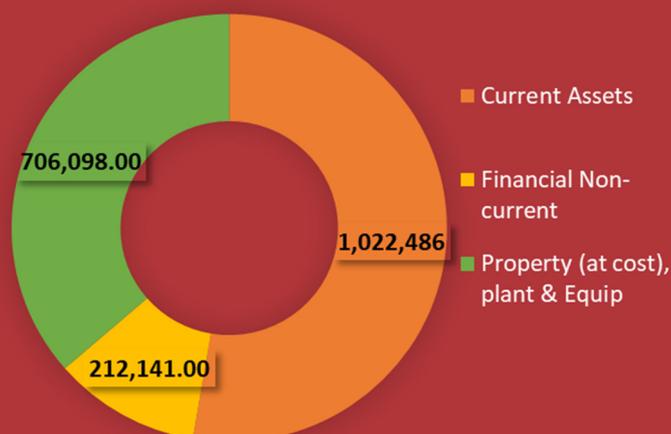
**Income: \$973,632**



**Expenses: \$942,801**



**Assets: \$1,940,725**



Note: Total Liabilities in 2020 were \$842,305



### People of the Moon Follow the Son

Australians Craig and Helen Waldock in Tanzania reported that people of the moon became disciples of the Lord! This summarises some of the exciting things God is doing among the Nyamwezi people in Tanzania.

The Nyamwezi people are a Bantu group of East Africa and are the second-largest ethnic group in Tanzania. Their ancestral homelands are parts of the Tabora, Singida, Shinyanga and Katavi regions of western Tanzania.

The name Nyamwezi is Swahili in origin and means “people of the moon” or “people of the west”. The traditional language of the Kinyamwezi is still utilised though many also speak Swahili.

The Waldocks took home assignment in Australia in early 2020 and hope to return to Tanzania in late 2020.



Africa News Oct-Jan 2020

*Part of the medical elective experience was exposure to outreach work in Nairobi and Korr (pictured below.)*

### Singaporean Students in Kenya

Four medical students from Singapore completed medical training electives at the Africa Inland Church Kapsowar Hospital in central-west Kenya during April. The students, Ryan, Katelyn, Xin Hui and Marcus, had completed their third year of medical training in Singapore.

Kapsowar is a small village in the Marakwet district of the North Rift Valley, and home to Kalenjin people. The hospital, established by AIM in 1933, is now a 126-bed facility providing maternity, paediatric, medical and surgical care. Australian involvement among this people group began with Stuart and Elise Bryson among the Nandi subgroup 100 years ago. The Kalenjin, including the Nandi, are now regraded a people reached with the gospel.



Africa News Oct-Jan 2020

### Reaching Didinga in South Sudan

An Australian-led team is bringing Christ to the Didinga. Chris and Fiona are Team leaders. Fiona is developing friendships among the women and sits with some of them on Wednesdays at a compound set aside as a safe place for women. Relational trust needs to be established.

Chris shares some of the Sunday ministry, is working on building trust with the elders and leaders in the community, spends time with a young Christian Didinga man, as well as preparing Bible stories to use for evangelism and discipleship. Some locals responded well to stories in 2020.

Margaret, our other Aussie on the team is a nurse and midwife, and hopes to become involved in the local clinic and adult literacy classes.



Africa News Feb-May 2020

### Paediatrician serves Short-term

Australian Jonathan Nguyen served for six months to October 2019 at the Africa Inland Church (AIC) Kijabe Hospital, Kenya. Jonathan was a medical student about eight years earlier and completed his medical training elective at Kijabe through Africa Inland Mission in Australia.

Jonathan enjoyed some time in charge of the paediatric ward at Kijabe.

“This had its fair share of challenges. But it's been inspirational to witness the children's amazing resilience in the face of suffering. This is probably one of the main reasons that attracted me to paediatrics.

“So many of my patients have gone through immense suffering but still wear the biggest smiles at the end of the day.”



Africa News Feb-May 2020



## Australians Help Marriages

Barry and Paula Davis served short-term in September and October 2019. They conducted marriage enrichment seminars for missionaries from Kenya and Uganda. Together, Barry and Paula design relational tools for married couples and conduct workshops for traumatised couples in post-war, developing countries. Funding from the Restore Counselling Project helped of workers attend the marriage enrichment program.



Africa News Feb –May 2020

## And Then Came COVID-19

COVID-19 was on the move in in early 2020 prompting preparations to be made in Africa. Here Australian Sue Bird and a team of volunteers helped make masks and other Personal Protection Equipment for he team at Kijabe Hospital.

Peter and Sue and daughters Liz and Jo, made the transition to Australia in July amidst hotel quarantines and the Victorian lockdowns.



Africa News Jun-Sep 2020



The Bird family are on a scheduled 12-months home assignment in Australia for 2020-2021.

They are members of Crossway Baptist Church Melbourne.

## Lockdown in North Africa

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

In April 2020 they reported – “The lockdown in this country has been extended. We are restricted to going out to buy essentials during the day with a curfew at 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.”



Africa News Oct 20– Jan 21

## Life In Lockdown in Rwanda

The Gitau family reported life in lockdown in Rwanda began mid-March. This was full, enforced lockdown the week after the first positive case was reported.

Kigali International Community School is where the kids attend and Catherine teaches. They quickly rolled-out online learning. This continued until the term finished at the end of May.

Peter’s mentoring ministry also went online, even though camps were cancelled.



Africa News Oct 20– Jan 21



**Nandi Bible Celebrations July 2019**

July 2019 marked 80 years since the Nandi Bible was published in Kenya. It also was 100 years since the arrival of Australian missionaries Stuart and Elsie Bryson.

The Brysons, helped translate the Bible into Nandi with assistance of Africans including Samuel Grimnyige. Nandi is a language of the now reached Kalenjin group.

**AIM Hong Kong Turns 35 Years**

Africa Inland Mission’s Hong Kong Committee celebrated 35 years at a celebratory dinner in October 2019.

Long-time chairman Rev Edie Chu (right) recalls the visit to initiate the work in Hong Kong, by then International Director Dr Dick Anderson and Australian Director David Checkley in 1984. AIM was the first mission in Hong Kong promoting cross-cultural mission.

**New Tax-Deductible Projects**

AIM in Australia and Africa has partnered with Global Development Group in Australia to establish two tax-deductible projects. These are *Equipping African Leaders: Kenya J1061N* and *African Crises Relief J1076N*.

Ongoing support is needed for the *African Crises Relief*. Donation details are on [www.aimint.org/ap/give](http://www.aimint.org/ap/give) or give at <https://africanscrisesrelief-gdg-j1076n.raisely.com/>.

**New Zealanders Serve Short-term**

Reinhardt and Christine Vollert returned to New Zealand in October 2019, after almost 12 months in South Sudan,

Justine assisted full-term workers as a home-school teacher. Rinehardt helped out with many practical skills. Serving short-term can make appositive impact on ministry in Africa by providing support in this way.

**Laura Joins the Australian Council**

Laura Sleeman was welcomed to the Council of Africa Inland Mission Ltd in March 2020 at an online video-conference meeting. Laura previously served in Kenya among the Digo people and now lives in Victoria. Opportunities exist for others, like Laura, to join the Council: Inquire by email to [director.au@aimint.org](mailto:director.au@aimint.org) or [chair.au@aimint.org](mailto:chair.au@aimint.org)



Africa News Oct-Jan 2020



Africa News Oct-Jan 2020



Africa News Jun-Sep 2020



Africa News Feb -May



Africa News June-Sep 2020

## AIM Life Goes on **Despite COVID**

The Australian office team closed-up and worked from home in Gosford, from late March. However, as restrictions in New South Wales eased, the team recommenced work in the office.

The office registered with the NSW Government as a COVID-Safe workplace, with a hygiene plan in place.



AIM finances were impacted enough to allow the Australian operations to join the Federal Government's JobKeeper and Economic Boost. We are grateful for this assistance.

Our small staff team of Len Lesleighter (Director), Robbyn Lesleighter (Finance Manager) and Liz Moore, (Personnel

## The Australian / Asia-Pacific Council

The Australian Council and board of Africa Inland Mission Ltd., in 2020 comprised Chairman Peter Aldridge (Tasmania); Deputy Chair Colin Earnshaw (NSW); Dr Jack Hung (Hong Kong); Heather Love (South Australia); Laura Sleeman (Victoria); and Director, Len Lesleighter (NSW).

Council was saddened to farewell former members Gavin Currie and Billy Kelly. Gavin resigned shortly before he passed away in November 2019. Billy resigned in March 2020 after extended leave, following the death of his wife Joy. Laura Sleeman joined Council in March, having previously served in Kenya.

## A great way to use your new, world-first **Donation Dollar** from the Australian Mint

AIM's 125-year celebration money boxes were mailed out with the Africa News in January 2020. As at 30 June 2020, more than \$600 had been raised through the money boxes. While our 125-years celebratory- events were cancelled, we are grateful for people who contributed a thank offering to God, in this way.

The Australian government's new donation dollar is another way to encourage people to give. The new initiative created one new "donation dollar" for every Australian to encouraging giving in difficult times. Donors also connect through our website [www.aimint.org/ap/give](http://www.aimint.org/ap/give).

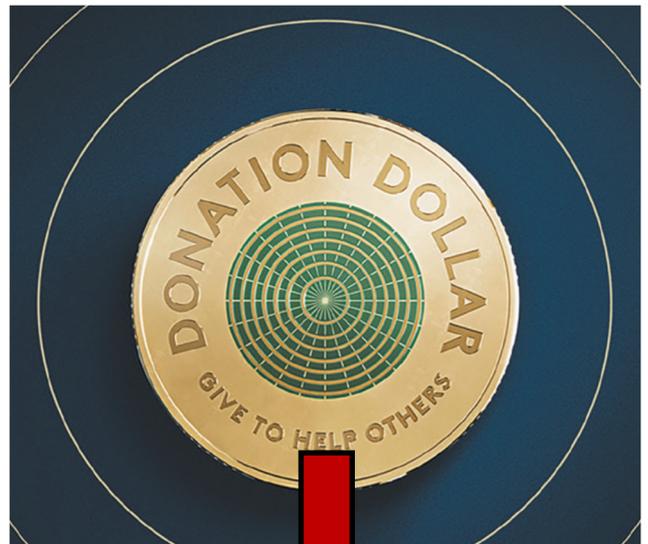
Thank you for your support in this and other ways.



Valued volunteers including Stuart and Joy, mailout *Africa News* from our office in October – keeping Covid-safe. Thank you to all our volunteers.

Manager); and volunteer Judy Carter thank you for your continued support.

Activities in 2019-2020 included revising policies and agreements to ensure we meet the new External Conduct Standards of the Australian Government. Memorandums of Understanding were established with overseas partners.



# Australia / Asia-Pacific **Contribute to Vision 2020**

Australian and Asia-Pacific workers comprise a small but significant part of the AIM International team.

Seventy percent of our workers live and work among Africa's unreached people groups.

Australian and New Zealanders serve among the Karamojong in Uganda. Others serve among the Didinga and Lopit people of South Sudan. Story telling is being used to bring people into the Kingdom of Light in Didinga amidst strong spiritual challenges.

Workers serve the people of north Africa and the Horn of Africa. Another shares Christ in Chad.

In these locations some have committed to the Saviour and become some of the 904 people baptised in 2019 or 6,574 baptised among unreached people groups since 2015.

Workers in Rwanda and Kenya are among those training Africans and equipping some of the 9690 church leaders trained or 328 Africans mobilised into mission- al disciple making. Workers in Tanzania help make disciples of Christ among an unreached people group.

Our teams share in the 1286 new disciples among unreached people groups in 2019 or 6574 since 2015.

## Vision 2020 Progress

Data as at January 2020

**40 UPGs Engaged**

Engaged since 2015, with 104 UPGs now engaged

**4 UPGs Reached**

**15 Teams; 26 Locations**

**328 Mobilised**

**9690 Equipped**

## Vision 2020 Targets

6-year goals, January 2015– December 2020

**Engage 20 UPGs**

**Reach 20 UPGs**

**Build 40 Diaspora Teams**

**Mobilise 400**

**Equip 4,000**

## After 125 years, the challenge remains



AIM thanks God for all He has done through our organisation and others, to bring the *Good News* of Jesus to Africans.

We are very aware there is still a great challenge to reach almost 1000 people groups yet to hear and respond the Gospel.

In Australia and the Asia-Pacific our challenge seems greater than ever. The need is to better connect with our churches and facilitate their sending of workers to help fulfil Jesus' Great Commission of Mathew 28: "Go, make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Africa Inland Mission in the Asia Pacific operates as: Africa Inland Mission Ltd. in Australia, serving as the Asia-Pacific Council; Africa Inland Mission International New Zealand, and Africa Inland Mission International Hong Kong Committee.