



AFRICA INLAND MISSION

Christ-Centred Churches
Among all African Peoples

AFRICA news

Feb-May 21

www.aimint.org/ap

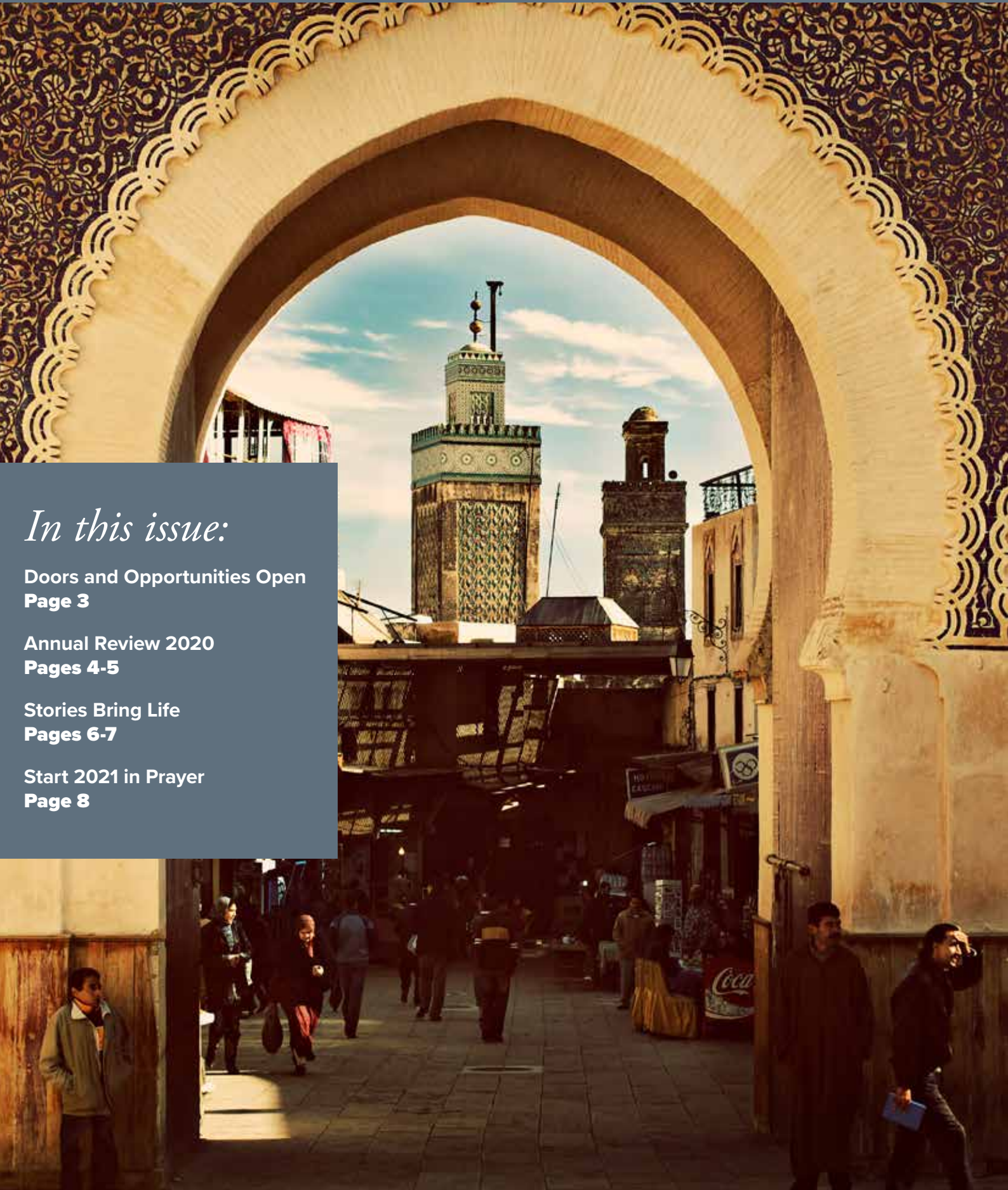
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New Committee Member in New Zealand



The board of trustees for Africa Inland Mission Intentional New Zealand appointed Andrew Mun as a new trustee in December 2020.

Andrew is based in Auckland, where he is Director and Senior Accountant of his Accounting company. His firm, THE Accounting Services, has the motto Trustworthy, Honesty, Efficiency.

Andrew is Korean-born but educated in New Zealand. He has a Bachelor of Commerce from Auckland University. He has been Treasurer of the Korean Student Council at the University of Auckland and an Auckland church.

Andrew will be Treasurer and bookkeeper for the AIM New Zealand committee. He will relieve Australian

Finance Manager Robbyn Lesleighter of the bookkeeping role.

Andrew has a passion for mission and is looking forward to being involved in the work of Africa Inland Mission. Welcome, Andrew!

Just Briefly news from Africa and the Asia-Pacific

Workers on Home Assignment

Several Australian workers will be on home assignment in Australia in 2021. They include **Nita Finger** from early 2021; and **Margaret Papov**, from May to August, before taking a time-out from AIM to care for elderly parents. The **Gitau family** plan to return from Rwanda to Australia in December 2021 for home assignment before returning to Uganda for a new position. All will be available to meet churches and supporters during their home assignments.

2020 Annual Reports

The 2020 Annual Report of Africa Inland Mission Ltd. (8 pages) and audited financial reports for the company and AIM in New Zealand are available on the Asia-Pacific website. www.aimint.org/ap/connect. See a brief Annual Review in this issue of Africa News.

Workers Preparing to Go

Craig and Helen Waldo expect to return to ministry in Tanzania in early 2021. They will continue work among the Nyamwezi people. **Jeremy and Felicity Aitken** and their family are building their support-team and learning French in preparation for a new assignment at the Good News Hospital in Manditsara, Madagascar.

Offices Open

AIM offices in Australia and New Zealand office look forward to returning to a new normal in 2021 and be open for visitors under Covid-safe rules applying at the time.

New Auditors

Africa Inland Mission Ltd in Australia has appointed new Auditors on the retirement of previous Auditor Lawrie Green of Shedden and Green. WSC Group will audit the company in 2020-2021.

Invitation for New Members

Africa Inland Mission Ltd in Australia is inviting new members to join the company. Members can include individuals and churches. Members are required to agree with the purpose and constitution of the organisation. Details and membership forms are on www.aimint.org/ap. Members are involved in the governance of the organisation.

Africa Crises Relief Project

Almost AUD 5,000 was transferred to Africa in the J1076N African Crises Relief tax-deductible project through our partners Global Development Group between July and December 2020. AIM workers in Africa use these funds to provide emergency relief to Africans in a time of crises. **Thank you for your support.** You can give by PayPal on www.gdg.org.au/PayPalJ1076N and online at: africancrisesrelief-gdg-j1076n.raisely.com/

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**AFRICA
INLAND MISSION**
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Cover: Doors to Africa are opening after COVID. Opportunities are many. See page 3.

AIM Prayer Concert says “Thank you, God”



Hundreds of people gathered online to thank God during Africa Inland Mission's 24-hour global Concert of Prayer on 28 November.

The event began in the Asia-Pacific from New Zealand, then Australia, Korea and Hong Kong. It was then broadcast from several African locations, United Kingdom, South America, USA and Canada, finishing in California.

Participants either joined by Zoom or watched the Livestream through YouTube. In Australia, both individuals and small groups gathered around the country. Others joined in as well, from places including Africa and the USA.

The event featured videos, live interviews and prayer. The focus was first to thank God for AIM's 125 years since the work began in Kenya in 1895.

Then, participants praised God

for the outstanding accomplishments in the present through Vision 2020. Vision 2020 was a six-year strategy from January 2015, finishing in December 2020. (See a recent report of results in Africa News, October 2020 on www.aimint.org/connect.)

Participants then focused on prayer for the future ministry of AIM. One continuing need is for more people to “go, make disciples” (Matthew 28: 18-20) and join the 680 AIM workers in Africa, partnering with African coworkers and churches (Luke 10:2).

AIM's Concert of Prayer broadcast from Australia featured live and recorded presentations from workers including Australians Peter

and Sue Bird, Chris and Fiona Tyrrell; Jeremy and Felicity Aitken and future workers Phil and Lauren Castelijin (pictured).



Peter and Sue Bird



Chris and Fiona Tyrrell serving in South Sudan



Phil and Lauren Castelijin preparing to serve in Africa, shared in the Prayer Concert.

Africa Inland Mission Open for Business

from Len Lesleighter, AIM Australia/ Asia-Pacific Director

COVID-19 has had an impact unprecedented in our lifetimes, but God remains in control.

The work of Africa Inland Mission is continuing and moving as much as possible back to normal.

In Australia, closed borders and travel restrictions have delayed AIM workers returning to Australia or leaving for Africa. Some workers have returned to Australia during 2020 for home assignment, and we expect workers will be returning to Africa in 2021.

Travel from Australia is possible if people have long-term work engagement overseas, and flights are available. Workers have moved more freely to and from our Hong Kong base and Africa in 2020.

Freedom of movement is likely to increase as vaccinations are rolled out in Australia later this year. Opportunities

abound to share the Gospel and make disciples, especially among the unreached peoples of Africa.

AIM has priority teams needing workers. These generally require a two to three-year commitment.

A Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) in Belgium is partnering with a Belgium church to reach out to refugees and immigrants. Eight more team members are needed. Members will ideally have some cross-cultural experience and a degree or diploma to help obtain a visa.

A Focus Team in Chad requires four more members who can join from August 2021. This team aims to plant a Christ-centred church among an unreached people.

A Christian Educators Team in Chad is seeking another seven members

to help fulfil its vision of influence through 600

Christian schools. Professionals with a Bachelor's degree are preferred.

A Ministry Team in Marsabit, Kenya needs three new members to live, proclaim the Gospel and make disciples in Marsabit town. People with practical or professional skills are required. These include teachers, a general surgeon; interns, paediatrician, orthopaedic surgeon, anesthesiologist and ophthalmologist.

For information on these, and more priority teams or individual placements, inquire via our website, www.aimint.org/ap/go or email personnel.au@aimint.org or phone 02 4322 4777.



God Provided Finances in 2020

God continued to bless through finances in 2020. More than \$618,000 was given to Africa Inland Mission Ltd in Australia to support workers serving in Africa and \$98,921 was received to support projects in Africa. A Home Administration contribution of 10% is deducted from support and up to 10% from project gifts to help support the

Australian office. Other major sources of income are general donations (\$114,463) and investment income (\$47,767). This year COVID assistance from the Australian Government was a blessing for the Australian-based operations in difficult times.

The graphs below show a simple pictorial view of finances in 2020. Full

details of finances for 2019-2020 for Africa Inland Mission Ltd in Australia and Africa Inland Mission International New Zealand are available in our Annual Audited Report's on www.aimint.org/ap/connect. Thank you to all the churches and individual partners throughout the Asia-Pacific for your financial and prayer support.



Asia-Pacific Connecting with Africa in 2020

The year of 2020 is one many may love to forget. However, AIM continues to be active in the Asia-Pacific and Africa. The Council of Africa Inland Mission Ltd. in Australia (AIM Ltd), oversees AIM in the Asia-Pacific including separate legal entities in Hong Kong and New Zealand.

This report refers to July 2019 to June 2020. Council's goals or targets focus on AIM connecting with the Christian Community in Australia and the Asia-Pacific. A driving purpose is to help churches in Australia and the Asia-Pacific be involved in Jesus' Great Commission, among Africans.

AIM Ltd. and Asia-Pacific partners also assist AIM International achieve its goals. These include proclaiming the

gospel and making disciples, especially among Africa's unreached peoples. The desire is Christ-centred churches among all African peoples.

Partnering with Australian and Asia-Pacific Churches in 2020

Asia-Pacific Churches Send Workers

In 2020 there were 27 people serving full-term in Africa (i.e., more than 2 years), all sent by Asia-Pacific churches. This included 15 from Australia, nine from Hong Kong and three from New Zealand. About 70% of our Asia-Pacific workers served among unreached African people groups (UPGs). Others trained African church leaders (5) or mobilised Africans into mission

(2); or provided support services (6). In 2020, 19 short-termers served (up to 12 months), compared to 20 in 2019. Asia-Pacific workers help form a team of about 680 AIM International workers serving in Africa and diaspora ministries.

Churches and the Christian Community Financially Support Workers

Workers were financially supported by 116 churches in the Asia Pacific in 2020. This included 46 in Australia; 57 in Hong Kong and 13 in New Zealand. While the number of churches was slightly down on 2019, the amount given increased.

Visiting and Informing Churches

About 21 Asia-Pacific churches in

2020

Australia (4), Hong Kong (16) and New Zealand (1) hosted AIM speakers in 2020. Emphasis is on participation in the Great Commission motivation. This included online talks during COVID restrictions. Invitations for speakers are always welcomed.

Church Membership of AIM Ltd.

Church membership is one way we are seeking to build connection with Australian churches. In late 2019 the Glenorie Mission Church, became the inaugural legal member of AIM Ltd. We hope many more churches will take the opportunity to become “owners” of AIM, as now allowed by our constitution.

People Praying

The number of people receiving prayer material increased slightly in 2020. Social media recipients increased from 2052 in 2019 to 2133 in 2020. This year of 2020 is one which is seeing the advent of some online prayer events. These are still emerging in AIM.

Projects and General Support of AIM

The number of churches supporting our Asia-Pacific offices and AIM projects increased slightly. The number of people giving to AIM projects went from 48 in 2019 to 28 in 2020. However, the sum given increased from \$14,459 in 2019 to \$94,821 in 2020. AIM is also supported by a 10% home administration contribution from worker support donations.

In addition to donations through AIM, in 2019-20, about AUD\$55,000 has been given to tax-deductible projects through partners Global Development Group. *Equipping Leaders: Kenya J1061N* received \$50,000 in September 2019 and *J1076N African Crises Relief* received about \$5,000. Government financial support was valued in the pandemic in Australia, Hong Kong and New Zealand.

An 8-page 2020 Annual Report and audited financial reports are available:
www.aimint.org/ap/connect



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).



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Africa News Oct 20-Jan 21



Africa News Oct 19-Jan 20

Did You Bring a Story Today?

Story by Rebekah Saylor | Photos by Jordan Andre and Mark Eekhoff | AIM Stories.com

Serving as part of AIM's Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) team among the Zigua people of Tanzania, Rebekah Saylor is working to translate a series of Scripture-based stories into the Zigua language to be shared throughout the community.

I ducked my head and made my way into the small, smoky house. I greeted the Bibi (grandmother) and Babu (grandfather) as they fluttered about so happy that I had come.

It had been a week or two since I had stopped by to visit. "Rebekah! You came! We've missed you so much and I was just wondering yesterday when you'd come by again. I'm so glad you've come!"

This is the response I get every time I stop by this little house, whether it's been a month, or two weeks or even just one day since I last visited. Once the greetings were complete I sat down and settled in for the visit. Shortly after, the Bibi asked, "So, did you bring a story today?"

Stories are such an important part of this culture.

Whether it's retelling an event from earlier in the day or telling an old folk tale, these people take their stories seriously and it's such a fun thing to be a part of.

I love listening to people tell stories...sometimes it's a fun challenge

to put the pieces of the puzzle together as I try to fill in the gaps that I don't understand, other times I find myself hardly able to contain my laughter because most Zigua have an incredible sense of humour, other times the stories are sad and full of grief, and other times I just flat out don't understand any of the story.

Regardless, stories are a big thing here.

The Zigua number about 630,000 and live in rural communities near coastal Tanzania. Most Zigua claim to be Muslims. Many Zigua farm sisal plants which are used to make mats, baskets and rope.

Part of my work here in Tanzania has been the development of a story set spanning Creation to Christ, giving our team the ability to share God's story beginning at Creation through Jesus' life and ministry. This is such a natural way to share the gospel with people that are so used to using stories as a regular form of communication.

The set is made up of 37 stories that are already translated into Swahili, so my work is to translate them from Swahili



into Zigua. From there, I take the Zigua stories to my language teacher who helps correct my Zigua grammar (which is sometimes still a mystery to me!) and together we complete the story.

The hope is that these stories will be shared in groups of five to 10 people and that as people hear the stories we share together, they will go and share them with others in their community, even before they have come to faith in Christ.

It's often a temptation to just start

with the New Testament and share about Jesus' life and work on the cross when sharing the gospel (and sometimes that's necessary), but for people who have never considered the idea of a Saviour, the concept can be confusing. When we start at the beginning, we have the opportunity to lay the foundation and share how each story points to a promised Saviour and that God had a plan of redemption from the very beginning.

Once Jesus appears in the stories, they have already understood how this was something that had been anticipated for years and years. It's a really exciting prospect of what could come with these stories.

Back to the Bibi's question. "So, did you bring a story today?"

Well, little did she know that I did, indeed, bring a story – and that story was the very first story in this set that had never been shared with anyone.

Little did she know that as I was seeking God's guidance on this project, he brought her to mind as the first person to share these stories with.

Little did she know, that just a few minutes before, as I approached her house, I asked God for strength and for an open opportunity to share this story with her as I wasn't sure how I was going to lead into it and I was nervous about starting this big project. Little did she know that those very words out of her mouth were the answer to so many prayers.

And little does she know that these stories have the power to change her whole world, if only she will believe. I returned the next week with the next story, ready to share if she would let me.

As soon as I sat down, those same words returned, "So, did you bring a story today?"



Start 2021 in PRAYER with AIM

As we turn our back on 2020, you are invited to join AIM in prayer to start 2021.

March 21 PRAYER Week

March 21 to 27 is AIM's PRAYER Week in Australia and the Asia Pacific.

Join with the Australian office team on **Wednesday 24 March** for a prayer day from 2 pm to 4 pm, in the Gosford office. This will be subject to COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time and there may be limited numbers allowed. Phone ahead for the latest, on 02 4322 4777.

Online Hour of PRAYER

Join our **Online Hour of PRAYER** on **Saturday 27 March, 7pm to 8pm** Sydney time. Videos and live connections with workers in Africa will help make this an encouraging time. Watch for further details including the video conferencing link in the March 2021 Intercessor Guides.

Our 2021 Prayer Focus

A special focus on prayer is for churches in Australia and the Asia-Pacific to be blessed with a renewed and Bible-based vision of mission. In the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus encouraged and commanded His disciples:

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has

been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." NIV

- Pray Churches will be challenged to consider what this Great Commission means to them today. Pray God will freshen their vision as they emerge from the pandemic.
- Pray Africa Inland Mission will know how best to serve our Australian and Asia-Pacific churches, to help them fulfill this Great Commission.
- Pray God will burden the hearts of many to take the Gospel and make disciples among the almost 1,000 unreached peoples of Africa. Pray especially for 600 unreached people groups of North Africa.
- Pray God will continue to raise up Africans to take the Gospel to all nations.

The words of Jesus 2,000 years ago seem as true today:

"He (Jesus) told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

Ask the LORD of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." NIV



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.

My Address

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Dr/Rev

Family Name

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

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.