



AFRICA INLAND MISSION

Christ-Centred Churches
Among all African Peoples

AFRICA news

Apr-Sep 22
www.aimint.org/ap



In this issue:

Church-Based Teams
page 3

**Fishers of Men — Coastal
Kenya Missions Network**
page 4

**Perspectives from North
Africa** Pages 5

Reflections on Mission
page 6

God causes good things from near tragedy

AIM's Africa Base Support (ABS) team recently celebrated God's bringing good things from a near tragedy.

ABS Director Charles Mugaithi recalled in September 2019 that an AIM Air aircraft landed "somewhere" in Northern Kenya after the engine ceased. All on board were uninjured, and the plane only had a small scratch on the tail, showing God's mercy.

Mr Mugaithi said that was a sad and terrifying day and brought memories of other tragedies.

"However, in January, we heard testimonies of God's miracles and amazing things that have happened since then."

As a result of the emergency landing, the local men and women, most of whom had not heard the Gospel, had a chance to ask about AIM.

This emergency landing led to the planting of a church nearby. Locals even made an airstrip.

Missionary Art Davis was instrumental in guiding the ABS team to recover the aircraft.

Mr Davis told the pilots, "It is good you landed there."

Jerry and Sarah were the pilots of the day, and they both had trained on emergency landing three days before this incident. It is amazing how God prepares us in His ways!

After hours of work in the past 27 months by the AIM Air

Maintenance team, the aircraft (call sign "Seven Delta Golf") is ready to serve with a new engine, propeller, and fresh coat of paint.

Mr Mugaithi invited others to celebrate God's faithfulness.



Just Briefly news from Africa and the Asia-Pacific

Workers Home in Australia

AIM workers on home assignment in Australia in 2022 include Pete and Cath Gitau and the family from Rwanda, and Kath from Chad. Both will return to Central Africa for new terms mid-year. Workers from North Africa are expected home in July.

Church Speakers

Churches requiring missionaries or home staff as speakers should contact AIM

Australia (**E** director.au@aimint.org), Hong Kong (**E** director.hk@aimint.org), or New Zealand (**E** admin.nz@aimint.org) offices. Hear about what God is doing in Africa and beyond.

Diaspora Work Renamed

AIM's is renaming its ministry to millions of Africans outside of Africa "Borderless", reflecting the movement of Africans around the globe. We partner with local churches, focusing

on reaching out to Africans and mixed Muslim groups.

Ministry in West Africa

AIM is starting new ministries in West Africa, including the Republic of Guinea, Mali, Niger and Senegal. Please pray for the right people to go.

People interested in the new opportunities can inquire on our website: aimint.org/ap/go or **E** Personnel.au@aimint.org

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**AFRICA
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Among all African Peoples

Cover: A young believer and trainee with a coastal Kenya missions network practices an oral presentation. **Story page 4.**

Young Hong Kong Couple in New Ministry in Kenya



Habari yako? All faithful saints of God!

We are excited to have our self-introduction here, “BE”, a new Hong Kong missionary couple working in North Kenya. We want to reach out to UPGs and preach the Word of God to the young African generation.

To fulfil the Great Commission from God, we would like to start youth ministry like teaching, Bible study, sports ministry, discipleship and leadership training at local schools and churches, and evangelism to those teenagers in rural communities. Hopefully, we could bring up a new generation of faithful disciples committed to spreading the gospel to those unreached tribes in Africa.

Is it possible? Absolutely YES, though not easy, but by God’s grace and with your prayer support. Please pray for us for some of the challenges:



1. We have just passed the driving test and received our licences. We are looking for the right vehicle to access the areas where those UPGs live.
2. We have stayed in Kenya since last August. We strive to learn a local language, Kiswahili, with language helpers; and are looking for a language school now.
3. Our mission field is an area of unrest where tribal killings and burglaries

happen pretty often. Please pray for the peace and safety of missionaries in the community.

4. May God bless our ministry to bring more unreached people in northern Kenya to know the gospel of love, peace, and forgiveness.

Thank you very much for all your prayer support for His work in the kingdom of God.

AIM Considers Potential for Church-Based Teams

The Africa Inland Mission is considering the options of church-based teams for a long-term ministry to Africa’s unreached.

The concept is for churches in mobilising locations, like the Asia-Pacific, to offer teams to do ministry within AIM, especially among Muslim peoples in Africa or the African diaspora.

In a recent webinar, AIM leaders heard how Frontiers in the USA have progressed with this concept since 2003.

A Frontiers spokesman said Frontiers helped send 40 church-based teams in 17 years since 2005.

“We went from one in three years to one every six months.”

Churches as small as 130 adult members have raised teams of three

couples from their church. However, most churches sending teams had more than 1200 adults.

Church-based teams were 17% faster to place on the field. The application process averaged 15 months for the church-based teams compared to 18 months for others.

Another key advantage was that church planting advanced more quickly with church-based teams, which the sending church better supported.

Churches were more engaged and had greater team and ministry ownership.

Church-based teams are pre-formed as members know each other and are already through the team “honeymoon” phase. These teams are often able to solve problems more satisfactorily.

The mission agency also developed a stronger relationship with the church, sending teams instead of individual workers.

Disadvantages included the church-based teams being more insulated from the mission agency community.

This insulation means they didn’t have the agency relationships necessary to help them get through a crisis. Better integration was vital for successful teams.

Partnership agreements helped ensure a smoother operation.

*If you or your church are interested in the concept of church-based teams with AIM from the Asia-Pacific, please get in touch with the Asia-Pacific Mobilising Director on **E** director.au@aimint.au or*

P 02 4322 4777.

Fishers of Men

— Equipping a network of African missionaries to reach their coastal Muslim neighbours.

by Lauren White, Photos by Shaggy White and Mark Eekhoff

Breathe in; can you taste it? What do you feel?; How does it look?; What do you hear?

I taste salt and seaweed; I feel sticky and hot; I smell and hear the fresh salty breeze from the beautiful blue water on the coast. I also hear the sounds of the city invading the tranquil seaside. And I see the trash; this isn't exactly a tidy tourist beach.

The Kenyan coast is a complete experience of all the senses. Breathe in. Can you taste it now?

We get in the car, windows down, and hear the sound of the nearby mosque calling for prayer. It is almost a chorus as you hear a multitude of mosques simultaneously from many directions. We start our drive down the coast.

Today, we will see some villages that are part of a coastal missionary network and cooperative. The dream for this network, founded by Kenyan missionary and AIM ministry partner Peter Macharia, was to place one missionary about every 70km along the 700km coastline. Not only has that dream been realized, but it has also expanded tenfold — there are now over 100 missionaries serving in the coastal network.

We have a flat tyre shortly into our drive, so we pull over and sip on some Coke baridi (cold Cokes) in the shade while waiting for the repairs. Thankfully it was an easy fix, and we are back on our way.

Along the way, we see towns such as Kwale and Vega, where network ministry is happening.

We make it as far as the Tanzanian border and swing north again, headed to a village called Shimoni, once a slaveholding port. Just outside of Shimoni, we stop for lunch and spiced tea. We meet with a missionary couple, part of the network, and observe one of their discipleship meetings with some locals. They use their farm as a business and a place to do ministry, a bi-

vocational model Peter has encouraged and fostered up and down the coast.

For the ministry leader, daily life centres on building relationships with the locals and those in the network; and discipling youth and adults from near and far.

While in one of our meetings, one of our hosts tells us that we can catch a baptism if we hurry. "It's happening in the ocean right now." Baptisms frequently happen during the meetings, but quietly so as not to be disruptive. We made it to the beach just as the woman, a former Muslim, was coming out of the water, surrounded by Mama, our hostess, and about five other ladies. It was so amazing to see this happen. We learned later that the woman's daughter also recently trusted Christ.

The coastal network develops in many ways.

Those who have been participating longer help train new missionaries. Peter holds monthly gatherings for training and ministry at a former AIM Property in the port city of Mombasa. A group of local teachers from a local school come, neighbours join in, missionaries from the network come from all locations along the coast, and those that live on the compound all gather to learn new skills, study Scripture, and grow in Christ.

Can you taste it?; What do you feel; How does it look; What do you hear?

I hear the sounds of laughter and learning intermingled with the breeze and the call to prayer.

I smell the salty air intermingled with the sweet aroma of children playing nearby.

I see trees giving shade to a sandy clearing filled with people of all tribes and colours.

I feel the coolness of the breeze as it sweeps

through the group.

I taste the salt in the air and the goodness of God

covering His people.

This project is the gospel shared. Read more on AIMStories.com



AIM ministry partner and coastal network leader Peter Macharia.

Short-term Opportunity

Learn how you can be involved in this and similar projects as a short term, inquire at aimint.org/ap/go.

The "Old Town Project" reaches Coastal Swahili and South Asians in Old Town Mombasa.

You will complement the existing "Business as Mission" enterprises.

Join the team for up to 12 months and use your skills, including business and accounting; social work or counselling; medical; teaching adult literacy; teaching cooking; coffee house manager; children's literacy; and youth workers.

A local coastal believer, sharing a laugh with a friend during one of the Coastal Network events.



Perspectives from North Africa

What's it really like..?

My friends often ask me about life in Africa: “What’s it like to live in a place where there’s no English, and the culture is completely different to Australia?”

Of course, there are many things we can learn from our host cultures, such as taking time to greet people, dedication to prayer, and respect for elders.

However, one aspect, in particular, stands out: welcoming strangers.

Back in Australia, I wouldn't have embraced the idea of inviting a stranger to my home, especially one who can barely speak my language.

It sounds awkward and potentially embarrassing and, therefore, best not attempted. After all, what would we talk about?

Now, I am the stranger, and I am genuinely thankful for the kind and generous people who invite me over for meals, include me in their family events, and engage in sign language so that we can understand each other. They are not bothered by awkwardness - they love to show hospitality.

They are happy to spend time together even if the conversation is limited, misunderstandings abound, and I make many cultural mistakes. Now that I can speak more of the local language, we can laugh together about

my past blunders.

As believers, we are commanded to invite strangers in, show hospitality, and love our neighbours.

This ask is not easy for any of us. It takes a step of faith and obedience. It may not turn out as we planned.

An easy way to start is by inviting someone to help you make something: a cake, a meal, or a craft. A shared activity breaks down barriers and allows conversation. And over time, simple conversations can become deeper and more meaningful.

A good friend often invites me over to eat or cook with her. She is devout in her own beliefs and is cautious about her questions. But over time, we have explored many matters of faith, and as our friendship continues to deepen, there will be more opportunities.

Then there is Richard, a Berber who is a cook in a fish restaurant. We met him because he wanted to learn English. He already knew something of the Christian faith through interaction with foreigners but had never read the Bible.

We studied the Bible together and discussed what it means. I introduced him to a local believer who also meets with him regularly.

May these relationships and interactions open eyes to the Truth of God's love.



Reflections on Mission to the Karamojong



Bruce Turner, right, and Emmanuel shared the Good News with the Karamojong.

by Bruce Turner

Bruce and Christine Turner recently retired from ministry to the Karamojong in Uganda. They hope to serve as AIM Mission Mentors in their homeland, New Zealand.

I've had a lot of time for reflection, having left Uganda a few months ago. The work of God's mission is not complete. There are still many people everywhere who need to be confronted by Jesus.

There are many people groups with no witness of our Lord. To be among such people takes great courage, faith, and a change of life values.

It takes courage to engage with strangers, learn about them, and be uncomfortable yet not show fear.

You may be faced with eating a dish of fried insects, sleeping on a dirt floor or eating a meal with your fingers. Sometimes things go well, and sometimes they don't.

Early one Sunday morning, I travelled about 20km with a church lay reader to a village where a small Christian community gathers for prayers.

We walked around some of the homes early, letting the people know that we had come.

We crossed a dry river bed to a village on the other side, where a group of about twenty young men were weaving canes into granaries.

Their elderly teacher was almost blind. My thoughts were, 'How do I engage this group with the Gospel?' I only had Emmanuel with me; I was unprepared, not experienced enough, not brave enough, so I didn't.

On another occasion, prayers had started under a large tree right on the road's edge.

A group of about a dozen young men started walking past. They were in no hurry, so I pointed them out to the song leader and asked him to change the songs' style to the one used by warriors.

As the music changed, the men stopped, and we invited them into the circle.

Half the men joined in and stayed put, but the rest went over to another tree and sat down there. They neither wanted to join in or continue on their way without the others.

So all of these men stayed around and engaged with teachings about Jesus that day.

Young men like these are the most challenging group of Jie (related to the Karamojong) to engage. They are the missing group at prayers, but I started to see more of them coming to listen to the Gospel over time.

Faith means that you know that God has called you to go.

You have a God story to tell about your going, but you will be challenged significantly along the way.

Jesus is sending you as a lamb among wolves, and you will be treated as Jesus was treated.

What kind of values do you need to go and be amongst a very different or unfamiliar people?

You can no longer evaluate yourself in terms of position, earnings or Western cultural values of self-worth.

Still, the adventure of being among other people because you are compelled to by Jesus is a noble, worthy, joyful and fulfilling journey.

So what are your dreams? What is your vision? Have you taken up your cross to play your part in God's mission?

*“Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions.”
Joel 2:28.*

To learn how you can be part of God's mission to the unreached, inquire at: aimint.org/ap/go



Tax-Deductible Projects Gave Benefits in 2021

Two tax-deductible projects involving the Africa Inland Mission and tax-deductible partner Global Development Group (GDG) brought many benefits to Africa in 2021. The projects are tax-deductible in Australia and New Zealand. Thank you to all those who support the projects. While these projects complement AIM's ministry, GDG projects do not fund evangelism activities.

GDG Project J1061N Equipping Leaders: Kenya

This program develops community leaders to help ensure their integrity and spiritual, moral and economic development in Kenya and East Africa. Scholarships of USD 500 paid to colleges help train selected students in theological understanding, ethics, values, leadership and change management.

In 2021 institutions included the Scott Christian University, Africa Inland Church Missionary Training College, Northern Bible Training Institute and the Ravine, Moffat and Baringo Bible Colleges.

The 15 new enrolments for scholarships and 11 graduates exceeded targets. Nine graduates are in influential positions, and ten are providing spiritual guidance, emotional counsel and uplift in the communities in which they serve.

Africa Project Manager Colin McDougall described the project as an unqualified success in 2021. The project continues to train young men and women in 2022.

If you are blessed to help contribute to Africa's future through training, please give by credit card at www.gdg.org.au/GiveToJ1061N. or in New Zealand www.gdg.org.nz/GiveToJ1061N. You can donate by direct deposit in Australia to BSB 064118 A/C 10200094 and email details to GDG: info@globaldevelopment.org.au
Thank you for your support.



Australia



New Zealand



Equipping Leaders project manager in 2021, Colin McDougall, encouraging six graduates of the Northern Training College, Kenya, who received partial bursaries from the Equipping Leaders program.

Response Form

Yes, I would like to support AIM's ministry

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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

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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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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



Food distribution at the Kiserian Internally Displaced Persons Camp.

Tax-Deductible Projects Gave Benefits in 2021

GDG Project J1076N African Crises Relief

This project helps provide emergency aid and relief through financial assistance for food and essential supplies in a crisis. In 2021, the project gave relief to several communities in need.

Violence from raiding impacted Kiserian, and Orma suffered an unusual drought. Some areas, including the Chalbi Desert and Marsabit County villages, benefited from the Food for Work program after the common occurrence of drought bringing famine.

More than 3600 families and individuals received help from the Work for Food program, while 2147 households benefited from food and water parcels. In the Huri Hills, the project replenished communal water sources in four villages.

In Australia, you can help Africans in a time of need by donating on a credit card at www.gdg.org.au/GiveToJ1076N or <https://africancrisesrelief-gdg-j1076n.raisely.com/>. You can also give by direct deposit to GDG, BSB 064118 A/C 1020094 and email details to info@obaldevelopment.org.au.

In New Zealand, you can give by credit card at www.gdg.org.nz/GiveToJ1076N. Thank you.



Australia



New Zealand



Dukana women make ropes in the Work for Food program.



The African Crises Relief gave food to 12 villages among the Orma.