



AFRICA INLAND MISSION

Christ-Centred Churches
Among all African Peoples

AFRICA news

Oct 23-Mar 24
www.aimint.org/ap



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Just Briefly news from Africa and the Asia-Pacific

New Director

New designate Mission Mobilising Director (MMD) **Tim Matthews** arrives from the Europe office in February. Tim will take-over from current MMD Len Lesleighter on 2 April 2024.



pilot/mechanic and Lauren will join the Nairobi Outreach Team.

Luo Family in Kijabe

Joe and Nicola Luo, with Lucas have served short-term at AIC Kijabe Hospital since April. Joe is a plastic surgeon. Now with three consultants and a trainee reconstructive surgeon, the hospital has commenced the first reconstructive surgery training program for the Pan African Academy of Christian Surgeons.

Tyrrells to South Sudan

Chris and Fiona Tyrrell are set for a new assignment in South Sudan from early 2024. They will be Team and Member Coaches and will run the next Torit Inbound Team.

Birds in Kijabe

Surgeon Peter Bird returned to the Africa Inland Church Kijabe Hospital in July short-term. Peter is working to bolster the breast cancer program.

Kings in Kenya

Steve and Heidi King left Tasmania in July for the Africa Based Orientation Program in Kenya. They are now teaching at the AIM International School, Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe.

New Borderless Outreach NZ

AIM is preparing to send workers and partner with an organisation reaching out to Muslims in New Zealand. Programs in seven cities offer training and ministry opportunity.

Interest in Mission Not Just For Adults

The attraction to help Africa and share Jesus with her people is for all ages. The Soper family from Sydney recently reported the initiative of their children to help Africans by supporting the ministry of AIM taking the Gospel to African people.

Dad, Lachlan, said the children were excited to be involved in using the AIM money boxes.

Pictured are Abigail, the oldest,

Miriam, and then Joshua. Abigail was excited to make the bank deposit.

“When they earned a little pocket money or received prizes for performing at school, they were offered the opportunity to donate to help Africans.

“Sometimes they simply spontaneously did it. It wasn’t a great amount of money, but they get money rather infrequently, so it meant something for them.”



Thank you, Abigail, Miriam, and Joshua!

Pray for more young people to be interested in mission and involved through giving, praying, and eventually going.



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Mobilising Region.

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**AFRICA
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Cover: Jeffery Tai-Tai Wu is sharing with an African friend during the South Sudan Inbound Team. **See story on page 5.**
Photo by Mattias Schilling.

Crisis Relief in Sudan

Africa Inland Mission and our partners are helping Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Sudan.

Many IDPs fled the capital Khartoum after the ongoing conflict between two military factions. More than 150,000 fled to the Nuba Mountain Region, and tens of thousands to Darfur, where AIM and our partners are helping.

In June and July, AIM International gave more than A\$90,000 in aid, including more than A\$11,000 from Australian donors.

AIM's partner Greater Nuba ACTSion Coalition (GNAC), has provided non-food items to make the displaced more comfortable in their new surroundings. Funds have allowed people to purchase food items. AIM workers in Nuba Mountains are helping GNAC coordinate aid provision. Local partners in Darfur and Khartoum are distributing relief to those displaced and persecuted. Some funds have helped evacuate leaders at risk.

You can continue supporting this relief effort with tax-deductible and non-tax-deductible gifts in Australia and New Zealand or local AIM offices.

To make a tax-deductible gift in Australia and New Zealand, you can give by credit card through our partners Global Development Group at www.gdg.org.au/GiveToJ1076N.

To give a non-tax-deductible gift in Australia or New Zealand, give to AIM's IO-130 International Crisis Response through an AIM office or our website: www.aimint.org/ap/give.

You can read more about the AIM and GNAC work in the Nuba Mountains on pages 6-7.



Emergency supplies were going to Nuba Mountains to help thousands of Internally Displaced People (below).



Missionary Memorial Service

Missionary Steve Wintermantel died on 13 June, with many attending a memorial service at Torit, South Sudan.

Steve, with his wife Gina and four children, worked in Torit. They were seconded from the Christian Veterinary Mission to AIM Central Region. Steve awoke with chest pain. Taken by AIM Air to Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi, he went into cardiac arrest in the evening and passed into the Lord's presence.

Together with local pastors, Steve and Gina founded and led the Kingdom Builders School (KBS).

The KBS is having an impact across multiple denominations in Torit, raising disciples and training disciple-makers, men and women from different backgrounds who will plant and lead churches and ministries, helping build the Kingdom.

Local workers Luka, Moses, Barazza, Gildo, and Agnus continue leading the 12 men and women who started the program in June. Pray for this leadership team to press on in the work with unity and faith, in God's strength, to the glory of His name.



The memorial service for Steve Wintermantel in Torit, South Sudan.

Reaching the Unreached by Teaching in South Sudan

By **Marlene van Tonder**,

AIM Missionary from New Zealand

I look up to see a tiny, shy smile, quickly hidden. But I saw it, and my heart soared.

Yes, you sweet girl, I finally cracked that hard shell. At first, you were reluctant. You never joined the games or class activities, and you tried to hide your damaged arm. Anger radiated from your body.

Today was different. Today you took the risk, you tried, and you succeeded. Tomorrow you might try and fail, but I know you will have the confidence to weather that storm and I will still be here to hold your hand if you need me.

These words give a glimpse into the tiny mud-walled classroom in the middle of an average Torit, South Sudan neighbourhood.

So many children have had little or no opportunity to attend school. So many seem damaged by trauma: war, famine, drunkenness and a culture of child marriage. It's a rough environment to wake up to each day. But they do it.

Their resilience is astounding and humbling.

South Sudan has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world. Thousands of children do not attend school at all. Of those who do, most will not finish high school. Many won't even get a basic primary school education. It is a country with its doors wide open. Christian

Religious Education, or CRE, is a part of the national curriculum. Sharing the gospel at school is welcomed!

If only there were enough dedicated Christian teachers or graduates who were willing and available.

Over the past nearly ten years, I have had the privilege to teach many children and adults how to read and write.

Reading and writing are so basic we take them for granted. Yet an independent faith needs to be able to read the Word of God for ourselves.

There are many opportunities to work in education on the mission field, particularly in South Sudan.

South Sudan needs teachers at all levels. I work in primary schools with Africa Inland Mission, teaching literacy and other subjects as needed. I have also trained teachers, worked in literacy promotion and development and done a brief stint with adult literacy.

Currently I sit on the board of a mission school in Juba, Juba Christian Academy, which provides schooling for missionary families based there, particularly MAF.

When I first moved to the Lopit mountains, one of the girls in my neighbourhood had stopped attending school. I was privileged to teach her to read and write, and she returned to complete primary school. She attends high school in Torit, and we still meet for weekly Bible studies, where she

improves her reading comprehension, and the Lord deepens her knowledge of Him. In a country where girls seldom complete primary school due to home demands or early marriage, it is a blessing to make a difference in at least one life.

Others within our AIM South Sudan Unit serve in education as well. Crystal, in Torit, teaches public health at the Torit Health Science Institute. The Laarim team leader Jacob has worked with literacy education for children and adults. Another Laarim Team member, Tessa, has taught maths and recently started teaching literacy to the lower classes at their local primary school. Andrea in the Lopit Ministry Team hopes to pick up literacy teaching at her local school now that she has returned home to the mountains.

There are so many more opportunities to reach the lost for Christ through education.

Inquiries: <https://aimint.org/ap/go>



Author, Marlene van Tonder, teaching Lopit children in South Sudan.

Reflections from the South Sudan Inbound Team

In July 2022, a group of people from across the world arrived in Africa to take the first step in hopefully a lifelong journey of serving the Lord through Mission. Each expressed a desire to serve the Lord long-term through cross-cultural ministry.

The team completed AIM's Africa-Based Orientation in Nairobi and headed to Torit, South Sudan, their home for the next year. Here are some of the team's thoughts.

Team Member:

Danielle Lester, Canada

Why did you choose to join Inbound South Sudan?

God put missions on my heart. I wanted to give one year to learn more about AIM and to get some experience, training, and understanding of what I would need to equip for long-term missions. When I applied, the only option that fit was AM's Inbound South Sudan.

What surprised you the most during the year?

Before coming, my biggest concern was learning a language. While it was challenging and had many ups and downs, it was easier than expected. I was encouraged and blessed by the patience of local friends who taught and encouraged me in my language learning.

What is the most important thing you learned this year?

The importance of having a learning attitude and the need to daily submit my life to God and put my trust in Him.

What would your advice be to anyone thinking of joining Inbound?

I advise people to come with an open mind and heart, a learning attitude and willingness to be challenged and pushed, and a desire to understand different perspectives and views.

What's next for you?

I will return to Canada for a year of Bible College and Paramedic Training to be better equipped to come back and



The 2023 South Sudan Inbound Team, including Danielle Lester (second left), Leader Marlene van Tonder (third left), Jeffery Tai-Ta Wu (fourth left) and Mattias Schilling (right).

serve as a full-term missionary in South Sudan.

Team Member:

Jeffrey Tai-Ta Wu, Canada

Why did you choose to join Inbound South Sudan?

First, I learned about AIM because our Canadian office has a very good relationship with my seminary. So, I joined the Inbound Team to fulfil the internship requirement for my M.Div. degree.

What surprised you the most during the year?

There were so many surprises throughout the year. Overall, I am just amazed by the amount and depth of sacrifices that generations of missionaries have undertaken to establish the infrastructure we enjoy and use today for God's kingdom!

What is the most important thing you learned this year?

This one year of Inbound Team experience is 200% beyond what I had anticipated. My biggest takeaway from this experience is that God's thoughts and ways are always higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8-9).

What would your advice be to anyone thinking of joining Inbound?

"Just do it!"

Jeffrey is returning to Canada to join AIM full term, raise funds and return

as a theological educator to support the church in South Sudan.

Team Member:

Matthias (Matze) Schilling; Europe (Germany)

Why did you choose to join Inbound South Sudan?

I joined Inbound to get a good start in missions, learning about the culture and different ministries.

What surprised you the most during the year?

I never thought learning a language would be so much fun and fulfilling.

What is the most important thing you learned this year?

I did not expect to learn so much from my local brothers and sisters and be inspired and encouraged in my faith by them.

What would your advice be to anyone thinking of joining Inbound?

"Do it!" Inbound is an amazing start to long-term missions, equipping you to make you last on the field. (Lord willing, Matze will join the Lopit Team in South Sudan after a short break in Germany.)

Inbound Teams help support new workers as they embark on their mission journey with the Lord. Inquire now:

<https://aimint.org/ap/go>

A Community Recovering from War

The Nuba Mountains story

Food production, education, crises support and planting churches among the unreached.

These are all priorities for the Nuba Mountains Region of Sudan, fostered by the Greater Nuba ACTs-ion Coalition (GNAC). GNAC is a cooperative, including local Church denominations and organisations, such as AIM, complementing the local Nuba Mountains Region Government.

The Nuba Mountains Region has experienced conflict for many years, fighting between the Sudanese government forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement. In 2023 they provide a haven for people fleeing the military conflict in Khartoum between factions of the Sudanese government forces.

Nuba Mountains Region has a usual population of about seven million. Wedged between Sudan and Southern Sudan, the region is still technically part of the now-governmentless Sudan. However, the Nuba Mountains region has its government and aspires to be a new country one day.

AIM Asia-Pacific workers Mr D and Mrs D are supporting the humanitarian and outreach projects of the region with GNAC.

Fish Production in the Nuba Mountains

Mr D, an aquaculturist, is helping coordinate the Agriculture Development, Aquaculture Production for Transformation (ADAPT) Project. Production of Tilapia and catfish in ponds and dams is one way this project will produce food. Locals will use earth ponds, dams, cages, or tanks to grow fish in this project which commenced in January 2023.

With 15 years of experience developing aquaculture projects in Uganda, Mr D said a key part of this project is training people to grow

fish and other agricultural produce. Community farmer groups will also be a key part of the project.

While integrating the production of crops, we hope the project will help provide household income and help build resilient households in the Nuba Mountains.

While we hope everyone will always have food in the house, we also hope to export food as the production grows.

Training Teachers to Improve Education

With a PhD in Education, Mrs D focuses on improving education by training local teachers.

This program follows a project which began in 2020 in cooperation with the Secretariat of Education. GNAC trained 77 teachers in teaching techniques, teaching new words, classroom management, lesson preparation and types of school records.

Most teachers and headteachers have no access to any school equipment or furniture. They have no offices, desks, tables or chairs. More than a decade has passed without any education for children of the Nuba Mountains, with enormous consequences on health, nutrition and the economy.

Leaders of groups, including many unreached people groups, are asking GNAC for help training teachers to serve local schools. In partnership with

the Heiban Bible College, GNAC offers Early Childhood Education and Primary Teacher Certificates.

The past civil conflict between Sudan and the South has seriously impacted education.

GNAC will also use Education centres to train people in agricultural and fish production.

Making Disciples

GNAC also strongly focuses on making disciples among the region's many unreached people groups. Through connections made in the education and food production programs, they are also sharing the Good News. The strategy involves assessing how GNAC can assist meet other needs among unreached and underserved communities. The strategy is underpinned by prayer and compassion.

Support our Workers

Mr D and Mrs D are vitally involved in all these projects in the Nuba Mountains Region. You can be involved in the projects too, by supporting Mr D and Mrs D financially through the Australia office and in prayer. Find your support options here: www.cognitofirms.com/AfricaInlandMissionLtd/PartnerWithDAndDFromAustralia Australia **or please use this QR code.**

Workers names changed for security reasons.





Mrs D is leading disciple-making activities among women.



Farmed fish like these in Uganda will soon be abundant in the Nuba Mountains.



Training teachers in the Nuba Mountains.



Mr D with fish selected to produce fingerlings for these tanks.



Mrs D registers and provides aid to Internally Displaced Peoples in the Nuba Mountains.



Why Medical Mission Works

By Felicity Aitken,

Australian Missionary in Madagascar.

I forgot what it was like to live in a place where health care is not abundant.

When I walk down the road, I notice many legs and feet twisted or deformed. Things that could have been corrected during infancy in Australia, or simply prevented by good nutrition. It is so wonderful to live and work at the Good News Hospital, in Mandritsara, a place where I know something can be done to help a lot of these people.

They can come and receive treatment, and have their lives changed. They can avoid the often dangerous and costly remedies of the witchdoctors. As a homeschooling mum I don't often get first-hand contact with patients, but I love to hear stories from those who do.

Recently we had a paediatric surgeon visiting from the UK. He was able to operate on a two-year old who was born at our hospital and had a rare condition where he had needed a stoma since birth to stay alive. Now this child was able to receive surgery to form a new passage and should be able to live the rest of his life normally, without any bags attached!

I asked another of our surgeons how his day was and what he had been up to.



The Aitken family serving at the Good News Hospital, Madagascar: Jeremy and Felicity with (oldest to youngest) Orlando, Caspian, Raphael, Keanu and Malachi.



Life-changing surgery for a young boy, supported by loving, prayerful care.

These teams not only treat the sick, and run eye clinics, but they also carry the Good News of Jesus, who offers His forgiveness and healing and opens spiritually blind eyes to the truth of eternal life with Him.

He told me he had been operating for more than five hours on a 17-year-old girl. She had sustained terrible injuries after a traumatic labour and birth. He was able to “borrow” skin from another area and re-create organs, so this girl didn’t have to constantly leak both urine and faeces.

At the age of 17. I was amazed by this day’s work, and asked him what he thought the outcome would be? “She will hopefully be fully continent” he replied. I just couldn’t believe how wonderful this was! Life-changing!

Today we are listening to the sound of the Helimission Helicopter who will take medical teams into the remote parts of Madagascar in this region that are impossible to access without days of hiking.

There are community health evangelists who accompany these teams for this purpose. These same evangelists also visit with patients to explain the



gospel and give gospel presentations to the waiting patients in the mornings.

Some long-term patients and their families get to hear these presentations multiple times a week and develop a lasting faith. They then carry this faith home to the distant villages, and more un-reached people get to hear this wonderful news for the first time!



Projects Provide Impact in 2023

Supporters of Africa Inland Mission in Australia and the Asia-Pacific continue to make a difference through generous giving.

In Australia, donors gave \$700,000 for missionary support in the 2023 financial year. Donors gave a further \$30,000 to projects, including \$8,499 directly to AIM projects and \$11,444 to tax-deductible projects in Australia and New Zealand through our partners Global Development Group (GDG).

While all AIM projects have tax benefits in countries like the UK and the USA, this is not true in Australia and New Zealand.

Africa Inland Mission Asia-Pacific Mission Mobilising Director Len Lesleighter thanked donors for their generosity. He noted that we'd like to increase the project and general giving to further the beneficial impact.

Nonetheless, in 2023 projects had a significant impact. AIM projects most supported included crises and famine relief. All tax-deductible funds given in 2023 via the GDG were for J1076N African Crises Relief.

Project partners GDG and Africa Inland Mission Ltd expanded the GDG Project, J076N African Crises Relief, in 2023 to include many African countries. The immediate priority from May was providing relief for the people of Sudan fleeing to the Nuba Mountains and Darfur regions. Other countries helped included Kenya, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Mozambique.

Other well-supported AIM projects included African Missionary Assistance, the Safina Street Network ministry to homeless children, the Karamoja Ministry Project, and Pastor Training in Kenya. The latter links to the Tax-deductible GDG project, J1061N Equipping Leaders- Kenya, which received significant funding from Australia in 2022.

AIM's Regional Administration Officer in Kenya, Carolyn Cummings, said there were thankful responses from people assisted by AIM earlier in the year after suffering drought in the Hurri Hills, far up in northern Kenya as follows:

From Waara community — Food Delivery

"We are very grateful for how you have cared for us. During this last drought, we lost everything; all our flock and didn't have water to cook. But you remembered us. When we were thirsty, you sent us water; when we were hungry, you sent us food. Thank you so much. We want to be part of what you believe (Christianity), for no one has cared for us like you do. Thank you!"

From Katelo Sora community — Water Delivery

This village is very far from the road where the water trucks can drive, but we have tried twice to get as close as possible to supply families with water. It was a wonderful door for us to start a ministry there. It's a community where the majority of families are Ayanna worshippers. Through supplying the most important living need for them — water — hearts have listened to the Word of God. On one of the days of water delivery, we prayed in the community with the people that God would send us rain and let the people feel His mercy and love and for God's glory and praise. Two days after that, the rain came! Praise be to Jesus!! — Project Worker.



Opportunities to serve with Africa Inland Mission

Business as Mission (BAM)

North Africa

Short-Term Internships

Experience business opportunities and life in North Africa.
May 17 – June 17, 2024 or September 2024 – April/May 2025.

Inbound Teams

These 12-month teams prepare participants for long-term cross-cultural missions, ready to engage the unreached with the person of Jesus Christ.

Torit Inbound, South Sudan

July 2024 – June 2025

Dukana Inbound, Kenya and Mahajanga Inbound, Madagascar

September 2024 – August 2025

Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) Teams

Born out of Africa Inland Mission's heart for reaching Africa's unreached, TIMO is a 2–3 year training program designed to equip men and women for long-term ministry.

Rufiji TIMO, Tanzania

March 2024

There are also Inbound and TIMO teams starting in 2025 and beyond. It's not too early to inquire.

Nairobi Outreach Team

This existing team is open to short-term placements (4 weeks to 1 year) for people with a heart to build relationships with Muslim people.

*Other short-term (6-12 months) opportunities exist for **Theological Educators, Teachers, and Healthcare** workers in many African countries.*

Contact Liz Moore via personnel.au@aimint.org or 02 4322 4777 for further information or complete the ministry Interest form at <https://aimint.org/ap/go>.

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 Ltd. 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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(Card payments processed in Australia only)

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Date

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

For Details, Contact: Ann T 02 4322 4777

Response slips can be mailed to AIM in:

PO Box 328 Gosford NSW 2250



Snap Shots from Workers in Africa in 2023

Kath in Chad

Learning the “Neem” language among my new people group has been good. My language helper works out in the family’s fields so that I can get out of town for lessons. Slowly I am learning new words. Pray for opportunities to practice language without slipping into the ease of speaking Arabic.

T&L in North Africa

Having returned to North Africa at the end of August, they look forward to seeing their friends and neighbours again. They will continue to connect with the local community through English teaching. This connection can lead to great conversations and opportunities to share the Good News with people who haven’t heard.

Nita Finger in Uganda

Wendy Atkins visited and led a workshop with Karamojong believers to create new Bible-based songs. Sometimes church planting is delayed while people build a structure, yet a church operates well under Pastor John’s leadership at Nacagorom. Proclaimers (solar-powered audio Bibles) are being used around Soroti to be heard by small groups, followed by a discussion about what they have listened to.

Marlene van Tonder in South Sudan

“Those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy. He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.” Psalm 126:5-6. Once again, the Lord called home one of our colleagues. This brother’s passing reminds us to make every day count and work while it is yet day.

Pete and Cath Gitau in Uganda

Pete has travelled extensively this year: Kenya for leadership and Spain for the RVA board meetings. Rwanda to encourage those in ministry there. Other trips were made to spend time with missionaries and local partners in church planting and equipping leaders involved with UPGs. Catherine has done a course and is now implementing programs at school for third-culture kids.

Steve and Heidi King in Kenya

In Kenya, we began discipling and teaching music at AIM’s International School, Rift Valley Academy (RVA). First impressions: Kenyans are polite and welcoming, work hard and take pride in their work. Mosquito nets are the best line of defence against malaria. Interesting new food: Matoke (cooked green banana), Ugali (maize meal), Chai tea, Stir-fried chicken for breakfast, Cheap phone plans. No right of way on the local road, and shopping stalls feature lines of tuk-tuks, piki pikis (motorbikes), cars, pedestrians and cattle. Winter afternoons at 26 degrees.

Mr D and Mrs D in Nuba Mountains, Sudan.

Working with some of the more than a million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Sudan. Many have been killed or injured. Mass looting is adding to the chaos. **See story on pages 3, and 5-6.**

