



**AFRICA  
INLAND MISSION**  
Christ-Centred Churches  
Among all African Peoples

**AFRICA**  
news  
Apr-Sep 24  
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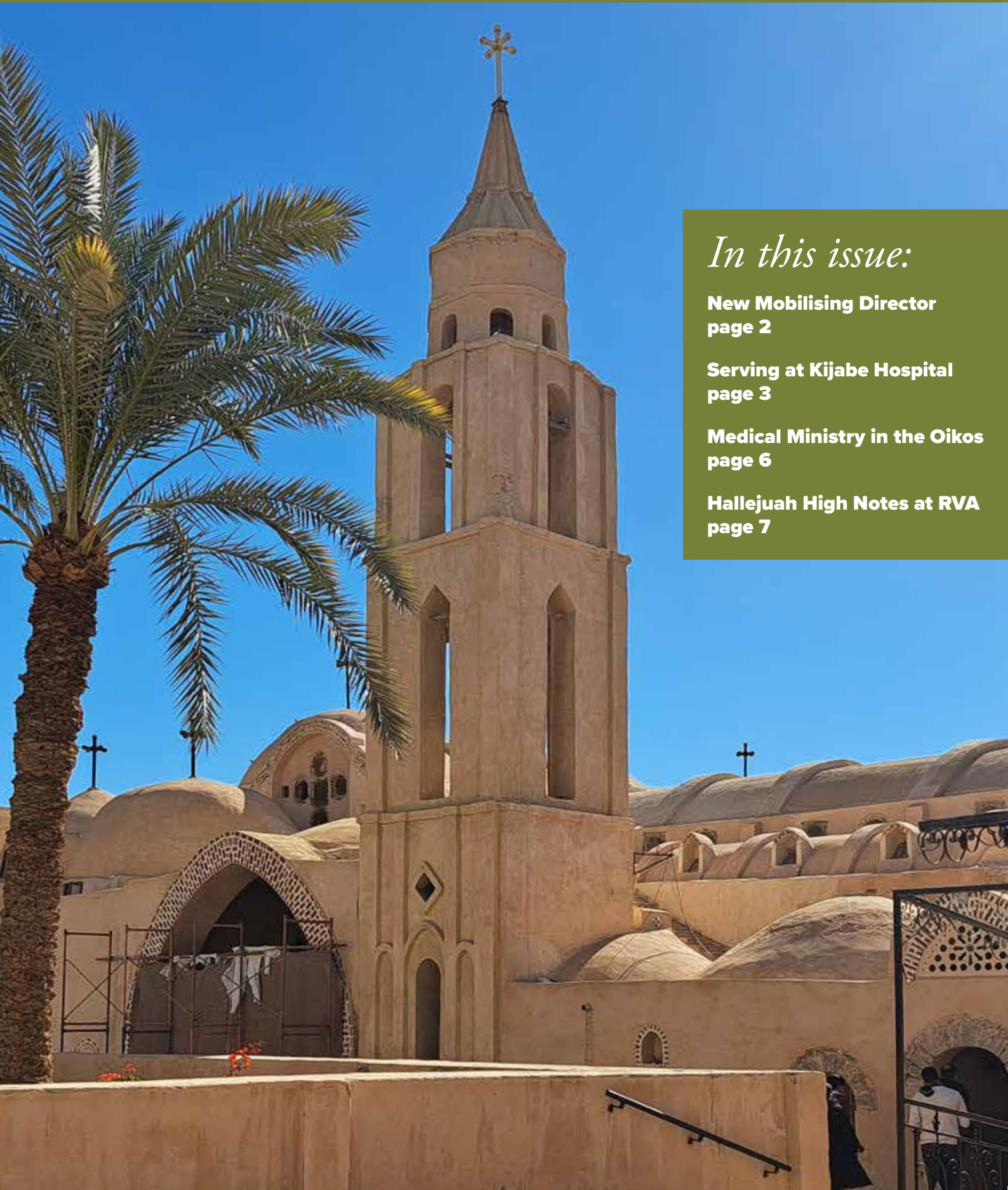
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# Introducing **NEW** Mobilising Director – Tim and Heather Matthews

by **Tim Matthews**

“Are we there yet?” I remember my siblings and me incessantly asking my parents this when we were young on long and not-so-long road trips. We rarely got the answer “yes!”.

We’re on another journey to pick up the baton from the faithful Len and Robbyn. It started over a year ago, although in God’s perspective, long before then. But our journey to Gosford is delayed by a long traffic jam, whose end goes beyond the brow of the next hill to who knows where. The jam is somewhere in the Immigration Office with a delay to my visa!

We are packed, on our way and keen to arrive to begin this next adventure the Lord has planned for us, but we are stuck and living out of suitcases, for now at least.

I’ve walked this journey with

numerous new missionaries over the past 12 years with AIM Europe. We know God’s timing is perfect. He is never late for us or those waiting for us. We hope we learn the lessons He has for us in this time and see the opportunities to serve him along this uncomfortable journey stage.

Maybe the cyst Heather has just been diagnosed with is a detour the Lord has for us along the way.

Please join us in praying for patience and grace to serve remotely until the way is clear, and we can physically join the AIM Asia Pacific team. We are looking forward to meeting many of you.

## Mini Bios

**Tim** — 56, born in Manchester, UK, owned a technology company before joining AIM in 2012 and has been an elder of several independent churches, with AIM Europe — Regional



Mobiliser, Mobilisation Director, Mobilisation & Finance Director.

**Heather** — 52, born in Rockhampton, Senior Staff Nurse, came to the UK in 2003 and married Tim in 2014.

**Children** — James married to Jemima, and Georgia married to Gwion (staying in the UK with Logan, the Springer Spaniel).

## Just Briefly news from Africa and the Asia-Pacific

**On 24 February in Arusha,** Tanzania, a truck lost its brakes colliding with three vehicles killing 25 people including 11 leaders of Youth with a Mission (YWAM). Eight YWAM people were hospitalised.

**The Somali of East Africa** and other Muslim people celebrate a month of

fasting and feasting in Ramadan from 10 March. Ask that believers, our brothers and sisters among the Somali will seek refuge in Jesus daily and hold fast to their shields of faith and be His light. PrayAfrica.org

**The Afrigo magazine** is growing as a source of inspiration in mission

for African people, Produced by AIM and SIM, it tells the stories of African missionaries. See what’s new on the *Afrigo* website: <https://afrigo.org/whats-new/>

**A new Finance Officer,** Petro Venter, started in the AIM Australia office on 6 March. Petro is a mother of two and an accountant.

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**Cover:** Ancient monasteries of Egypt remind us of the once rich Christian heritage of north Africa. Pray for a resurgence of Jesus’ followers in the region.



# Australians serve at Kijabe Hospital in Kenya

*Greetings! We are Joseph, Nicky and Lucas Luo, and we have been based in Kijabe, Kenya, from March 2023 to February 2024.*

Joseph is a plastic surgeon at the Africa Inland Church Kijabe Hospital and CURE Hospital. Nicky cares for Lucas and volunteers at Pisgah Heights School and Rift Valley Workshop, a women's sewing initiative.

Our year of work here has been particularly rewarding.

Joseph has treated many patients, many of whom are children, with conditions such as cleft lip/palate, burn injuries, limb trauma and tumours.

Certainly, the needs are tremendous, and there is a huge disparity between the patient's needs and available resources. It is common for patients to get stuck and have treatment delayed or even decline treatment due to their financial constraints.

We thank God that both Kijabe Hospital and CURE Hospital have various schemes that can help patients in

such situations, but of course even they have their limitations.

It has also been particularly enlightening and encouraging to see how healthcare and Christian ministry go hand in hand through these mission hospitals. It would be uncommon for patients not to have been prayed for or had the Gospel shared with them during their hospital stay.

Nicky has loved visiting the children at Pisgah Heights School.

The school is in one of Kijabe's neighbouring towns, where poverty and prostitution are not uncommon, and there are children without homes or families. Some of these children have been taken in by a local orphanage that founded Pisgah Heights, and they now attend the school.

Nicky has been delighted to visit the school with two other women from Kijabe and read to the students to encourage English language development. She has also been in contact with the Rift Valley Workshop

women, helping them fix broken machines or giving small workshops to help create new products. They are working on making new displays to encourage sales and preparing for the upcoming Christmas season!

Initially, we may have thought that relocating from Australia with a seven-month-old would be quite challenging. However, Lucas (now 16 months) has not noticed any difference. He has grown, learned to walk, and said a few words while here. It has been quite smooth, and we believe that children are probably much more adaptable than we are!

We thank you for partnering with us in God's work here in Kenya! Many blessings!

You can support Kijabe Hospital through AIM's Project: **AIC Kijabe Hospital Project Er-KEN-0540-R**

Donations can be made to AIM in Australia. Contact by phone at 02 4322 4777 or email [finance.au@aimint.org](mailto:finance.au@aimint.org).



# Project Report: Equipping Leaders in Kenya

*Graduate Chulayo Andrew Mindaye was sponsored by the tax-deductible J1061N Equipping Leaders project, helping him become an integral part of his community. This project complements the ER-003-R Pastor's Scholarship Fund. In 2023, the fund gave scholarships to 29 students from UPGS who attended six different Bible colleges: Scott Christian University (4), AIC Missionary College (11), Moffat Bible College (1), Northern Bible Training College (9), Ravine Bible College (1) and Pwani International Christian College (3).*

**M**y name is Chulayo Andrew Mindaye I was born in a family of eight siblings. That is six brothers and two sisters. Growing up in Korr was a struggle for me because our village was about 15 kilometers away from Tirrim School, and I walked daily to school and then headed back in the evening after the last lesson.

The distance was challenging for me, coming to school daily from home. Growing up in Korr was also exciting because it was through Tirrim School that my whole life changed after I accepted Christ in my life in grade seven back in 2013.

About my family, our first-born brother went to be with the Lord when I was young. Now, I have two sisters and five brothers. My two sisters are already married and have kids who call me uncle. I am an uncle of seven. My elder sister has five kids, and my younger sister has two kids. My two brothers are also married. Our second brother got married in 2013. He had a son who was called home by God when he was about two years old, recently, the Lord blessed his family, and they had a baby girl who is now almost one year and a half.

Our third brother got married in 2015. He has two boys. One is four years old, and the other one is two years old. My other brothers, the fourth born, me and the last born, are not yet married. I thank the Lord for blessing my family. We lost our beloved Dad back in 2014,

and now my mother is the breadwinner in the family. I appreciate my mother for the sacrifices that she has made towards me because I am who I am today because of her love and care and the way she brought me up.

## My Call To The Ministry

My great desire was to study the Word of God. My prayers and great desire are to reach out to my family members with the Gospel of Christ. Though it is difficult, I know God's timing is always the best. When I decided to study His word, I went to a Bible College called Presbyterian Foreign Mission. Some Koreans were running it.

At that time, I thought that God had called me to study His word, but the time was not yet because I never joined that College, though I had a sponsor from Korea. Up to now, I still wonder why I did not join that College. I went back home and stayed for three months.

I told God that if it were His will for me to really study His word, He would open another door for me. Then I heard about Moffat Bible College at Kijabe, and that time, God opened a door for me and I came to Moffat on 4 June 2019.

I found Moffat so interesting, and the first thing I did was pray to God. He answered my prayers and brought me back to Moffat, where I am now. I learnt that God wanted me to study at Moffat, not the Presbyterian Foreign Mission.

I believe that God has called me because if it was not His call then I could have just decided to study for other courses in other Colleges and Universities. I desire to minister the word of God to all people in the northern part of Kenya and reach Muslims all over the world. I would serve my people not by becoming their leader but as a servant who serves instead of being served. My

vision is to see many people growing in knowing the Lord Jesus and the word of God and Muslims to know the truth and turn back to God.

I also love to see many churches growing in our area and people serving God and praising Him. I greatly desire to see young men and women in primary and high school grow in knowing the Lord Jesus Christ in their lives.

## Life At Moffat Bible College

Life at Moffat Bible College was very good, and I am glad I could study there. When I first came, I struggled with the cold weather. I thank God I could cope. I have learnt a lot since I came to Moffat in September 2019, finishing in July 2023. Despite studying different courses at Moffat Bible College, we have played games such as table tennis, pull table, darts, volleyball, badminton, and football. Moffat offers concentrations such as Bible and Theology, Chaplaincy and Counselling, Community Health development, and HIV/AIDS.

After studying for four years, I am glad I have just finished my Diploma in Chaplaincy and Counselling at Moffat

*Continued on next page 5.*



Chulayo teaching at the Tirrim School.



# Farewell to Len and Robbyn

by Luke Herrin,  
AIM International Director



**Robbyn and Len in Africa in 2006, looking young, energetic and enthusiastic.**

It is with deep gratitude and a bit of sadness that we say farewell to Len and Robbyn Lesleighter. Len and Robbyn have served faithfully, graciously, and sacrificially with AIM since 2006 (almost 18 years!), Len as Director of the Asia-Pacific Mobilising Region, and Robbyn as Finance Officer and administrator.

Asia-Pacific Mobilising Region (which includes Hong Kong and New Zealand) is a difficult place to mobilise. But under Len's determined and diligent leadership, AIM AP has grown from 13 to 31 long-term missionaries, with three of the newest members coming from the Philippines and East Asia. In 2007 there were also 18 from Korea in the Asia-Pacific, bringing the total to 31, but in 2015, Korea was launched as a Mobilising Region in its own right.

Bible College. Of course, despite a good life at Moffat, there are challenges here and there, but I thank the Lord I got a scholarship through the Tirrim School. Tirrim School has supported me during my four studies at Moffat Bible College. Through studying at Tirrim School, I met Christina and Steve who have been so supportive through my high school up to my four years at Moffat Bible College.

I have been praying and asking God that I should go back to Korr to serve Tirrim School, especially Tirrim Secondary School, as their Chaplain. I desire to encourage and be with those young men and women and share the Gospel with them. I feel like God is directing me to work in institutions such

We thank God for the more than 300 short-termers from the AP region.

During the years both Len and Robbyn have been called upon to meet a variety of needs. Most recently, Robbyn, who had retired the previous year, stepped back in as AP Finance Officer due to a short-term need.

Len and Robbyn, we are sorry to see you go! A huge thank you to both of you. We wish you the very best for the future.

As we say thank you and farewell to the Lesleighters, we welcome Len's replacement: Tim Matthews with his wife, Heather.

*Thank you, Len, and Robbyn!  
The Lord bless and keep you!  
We commend you to the Lord  
with this verse from Psalm 90:*

*“Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!”*

Psalm 90:16-17 ESV

as Schools, prisons and hospitals. My vision is to see many young children together with people growing in knowing the Lord Jesus and the word of God and my Muslims compatriots to know the truth and turn back to God. I also love to see many churches growing in our area and people serving God and praising Him. I greatly desire to see young men and women in primary and high school grow in knowing the Lord Jesus Christ in their lives.

Right is a photo of me at my graduation.

For information on the Global Development Group tax-deductible project, J1061N, Equipping Leaders, see [www.aimint.org/ap/give](http://www.aimint.org/ap/give).



**Len and Robbyn in 2023, looking a bit older and wiser, but all in all, pretty much the same!**



# Medical Ministry in the Oikos

By Jasmine\* in Coastal Kenya  
(name changed for security.)

A key word God has given us in the Scriptures relating to the call of ministry at home is oikos.

Oikos, a Greek word, refers to a literal, physical “house” or “household”. “Oikos” reminds us to focus on gospel ministry to a home or household.

Here in coastal Kenya, we are running a community health program which helps people by taking care of their chronic diseases at home.

This is indeed a great opportunity to knock on the doors of many families in a creative access region and let us pray privately, spread mind-healing gospel stories, and listen to the stories of our “oikos”.

Sudi, a mother of six, came from a patient’s family. She suffered from severe diabetes and she weighs only 35kg with 170cm height. She was weak and fatigued. She is a S people refugee without ID.

We went to visit her almost every day as she couldn’t afford medical expenses at hospital. I found it difficult to persuade her to go to see a doctor as she thought that the “Jini” spirits was to blame for her illness.

Therefore, she kept saying that medicine is of no use. She sought an

Imam to read Quran for her as she believed someone from her extended family made a curse on her/ has evil eyes.

Thankfully, she still allowed us to accompany her to see a doctor at last. We also asked neighbors to come to help as they were worried about Sudi.

“My husband is bad, I would rather just go to die!”, Sudi would say to me.

I still remembered her desperate face. Gradually, she regained some strength, walked better and felt better. I encouraged her “Your kids need you mama!”

*Then I saw she turned from tears to joy. And she allowed me to pray for her in the name of Jesus.*

When walking with people in suffering it would be easy to feel overwhelmed and exhausted.

However, I have been learning patience and discernment from Lord in response to the needs. I realized I was not alone as my prayer team in Hong Kong has been praying for us. Christ is in me to grant me all these strengths.

I felt like seeing Jesus while I visited this family. God allows me to be a part of HIS work here!

Her husband said to me “I assure you will go to heaven without doubt!” Sudi said to me: “I will find you a Muslim husband!”

“She is too holy to have a Muslim husband.”her mother replied.

There are so many good opportunity to share more gospel messages with them. How would you respond?





# Hallelujah High Notes

From Steve & Heidi King serving at Rift Valley Academy

This school term is bursting at the seams. In addition to our regular program of teaching and discipleship, we've added some new challenges.

1. Music ensembles ministry tour to Nairobi, under the theme, "Not I but Christ in Me" (Gal 2:20). We encouraged our students to embrace this theme as they prepared to share the gospel message in word, song, and music.
2. Heidi is preparing the Titchie (Primary School) musical, "O Chicken of little faith". This is a fun and age-appropriate exploration of trust in God.
3. A 120-voice community choir (see photo). The choir members are from Rift Valley Academy, Kijabe Hospital, Africa Inland Church, Bethany Kids, Moffatt Bible College and Cure International. We are learning Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" to perform at Easter. This project truly feels like a foretaste of heaven!

Our weeks are filled to overflowing, but all our tasks allow us to share the love of Christ in rich and varied ways. Our students' families are pouring themselves out for the Kingdom in many places around Africa, and this gives us the motivation to serve to the best of our ability and to the glory of God. Please pray that we all fulfil the Great Commission however God calls each of us to do that.



*AIM Tasmanian Members, Steve & Heidi King, serve as Music Teachers, etc, at Rift Valley Academy in Kenya. Rift Valley Academy provides quality education for the children of missionaries serving among Africa's unreached and national students. Rift Valley needs teachers, dorm parents, and other personnel. For more information visit rva.org/staffing!*



## Response Form

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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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**Response slips can be mailed to AIM in:**  
 PO Box 328 Gosford NSW 2250



# Opportunities to learn how to serve among Africa's unreached

A steady number of inquirers are interested in serving among Africa's unreached. And we are happy to have more!

Training Teams such as GO (two months), Inbound (12 months) and TIMO (2-3 years) provide team-based experiences of what serving in Africa is like living in community, culture and language learning, abiding in Christ, sharing about Jesus. These teams all help build a solid foundation for long-term service.

## Upcoming Teams:

**GO Program, Mombasa, Kenya.** June to August each year for two months is for those who want a short-term exposure option. Start planning to attend in 2025.

**Dukana Inbound, Kenya.** Starting in October 2024 for 12 months. Inland. Hot. Dry. This team is for those happy to go off the beaten track. Experience, among other things, how radio is being used to share Jesus over vast distances.

**Rufiji TIMO, Tanzania.** Starting in March 2025 for 2-3 years. Coastal. Humid. Especially for those ready to commit to long-term service among Africa's unreached.

**Torit Professional Inbound, South Sudan.** Due to start in mid-2025. Take the first steps, hopefully, in a journey of serving the Lord in mission.

## And, Go North!

Have you considered serving in North Africa? There is a great need for people to live as image-bearers, light carriers, and messengers throughout the North. Prayerfully consider if this is where God is calling you. Short-term and long-term opportunities exist.

Contact Liz Moore on 02 4322 4777  
(Monday, Tuesday and Friday) for more  
information on the above or to  
discuss other opportunities.  
You can also inquire via our  
website: [aimint.org/ap/go](http://aimint.org/ap/go)

