



AFRICA INLAND MISSION

Christ-Centred Churches
Among all African Peoples

AFRICA news

Oct 24-Mar 25
www.aimint.org/ap

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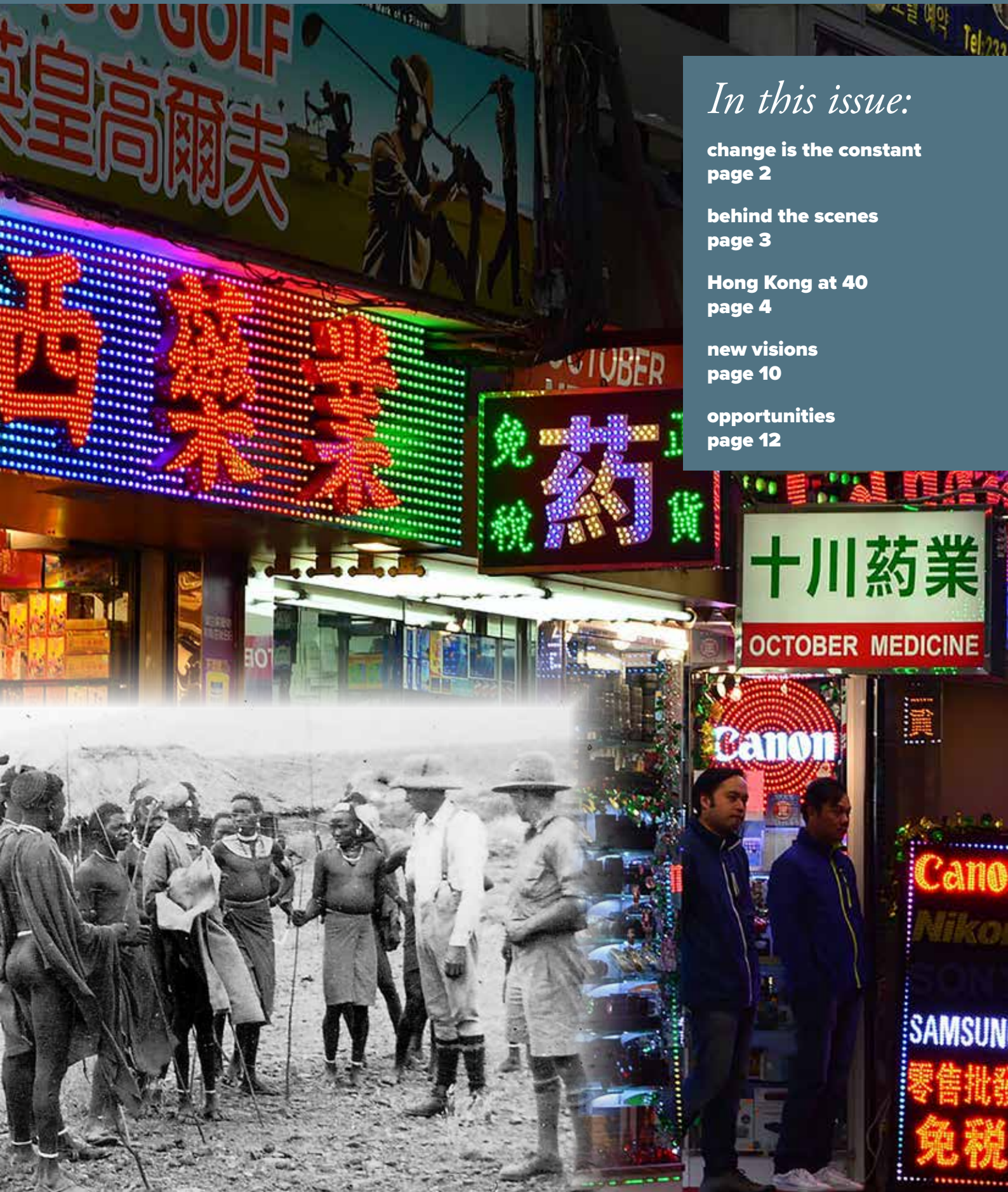
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Director's introduction

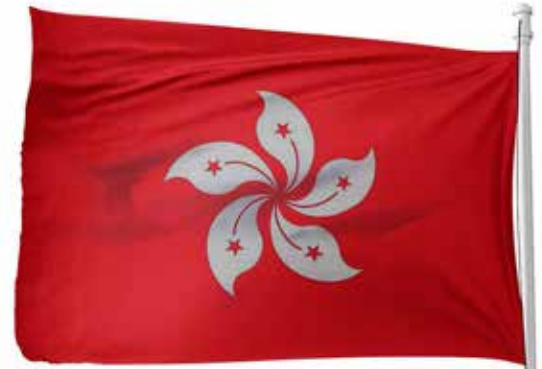
There's an old song that encourages us to look back and 'count your blessings, count them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done'. It's a great thing to do as the writer of Psalm 66 exalts us to "Come and see what the Lord has done" (v6) and "Let me tell you what he has done for me" (v16).

Dwelling on the sad past of our sin and failings is not encouraged, but as our faith is routed in the historical fact of Jesus' life, death and resurrection that has dealt with our sinful past, looking back is immensely valuable, even necessary, to aid us in our worship and give us confidence to push forward

in our faith as we rejoice in God's faithfulness, in the knowledge he has prepared good works for us and has led us into those good works.

In this issue of Africa News, we reflect with grateful hearts in what God has done through 40 years of our Asia-Pacific region's Hong Kong office. Especially as this anniversary coincides with the faithful Dr Jack Hung passing on the director's baton to our new Hong Kong director Belinda Chan.

We also take a wider look at how God has used AIM to play a part in building the church in Africa and two Africans God used in AIM's early



history to take the gospel to others. Be encouraged that God is still at work today as he builds his church, and that he has a part for you to play in this great work.

Tim Matthews
Mission Mobilising Director (CEO),
AIM Asia-Pacific

New Zealand Changes

AIM has been working with churches and believers in New Zealand for some 100 years, sending and supporting God's workers to share the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ with African peoples who have the least opportunity to hear the gospel, and we pray he will again raise a new generation of Kiwi workers in the coming years.

AIM's work in New Zealand has been coordinated and promoted in various ways, most recently with a Trust Board responsible for operating the 'Africa Inland Mission International New Zealand' charity. The AIM NZ

board recently took the decision to wind up the charity in New Zealand, and this currently underway. The decision to close the charity was influenced by several factors: the effort required to maintain a separate legal body and administrative systems for only one Long Term Missionary and two Mission Mentors, the declining interest in missionary service among New Zealand churches and Christians, the competitive donor market and reducing numbers of donors, and the difficulty of finding suitable staff and volunteer board members. We are very thankful to each of the board members who have given

their time and experience over recent years.

Moving forward, AIM Asia-Pacific operating out of the Australia office has assumed responsibility for NZ missionaries and enquirers. To support this, we are immensely grateful for the ongoing involvement of Bruce & Christine Turner as NZ Mission Mentors who will continue to support and promote the work of AIM in New Zealand.

We're hoping that an informal but active AIM presence in New Zealand can be established that will encourage the sending of new workers to the African harvest fields.

AFRICA
news
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www.aimint.org

*English-language magazine of
Africa Inland Mission Asia-Pacific
Mobilising Region.*



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Cover: Come and see what God has done, his awesome deeds for mankind! Psalms 66:5

Introducing Our New Finance Officer, Petro Venter

I was born and bred in South Africa, Gauteng to be specific, and never imagined being in a different country, or continent, than my extended family. However, after much prayerful deliberation, my immediate family and I moved to Australia six years ago. The photo shows one of our first stops. 'Imagine' has certainly been the theme of our journey...

My husband, Stefan, and I have been married for almost 17 years and we have two beautiful children, our son Rowan is 15 and our little princess (maybe not so little anymore), Lindi is 11.

Although we had a rocky start when we moved to Australia in 2018, after we found our church home, Narara Valley Baptist, the kids were settled in their new school, and we made some meaningful connections, we then imagined what else might be possible.

I had worked as an accountant in the corporate world for most of my career but, in the last few years, I had lost a sense of purpose. So I prayed for

a way to be able to contribute to God's plan and that is when, beyond what I imagined, God gave me the opportunity to join AIM.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurable more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the



church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen"
Eph 3:20-21 NIV

Just imagine...



Become a Member and Our AGM Dates

Did you know that you don't have to be a missionary to be a member of AIM! Members of Africa Inland Mission Ltd. company help the with the governance and decision making of our Australian charity that is responsible for AIM's activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

As a member you have the opportunity to attend (in-person or online) our Annual General Meeting, where important issues around our finances and constitution are addressed and voted on by the members. It's also

an opportunity to share your views on our direction as a Christian charity working to further to the purposes of AIM International.

Our next AGM will be on Saturday 26th October. The meeting will be held in Gosford, NSW at 11am and will be followed with a light lunch and an opportunity to meet with the Board of Trustees, Director and staff — the venue to be confirmed. An online option is planned for those who cannot attend in person. If you are a member already, please note the date and plan to join us.

If you are not, please consider joining us ...it would be great to have you with us. You can use these QR codes or follow the links: <https://bit.ly/AIMCoMember>
<https://bit.ly/AIM2024AGM>



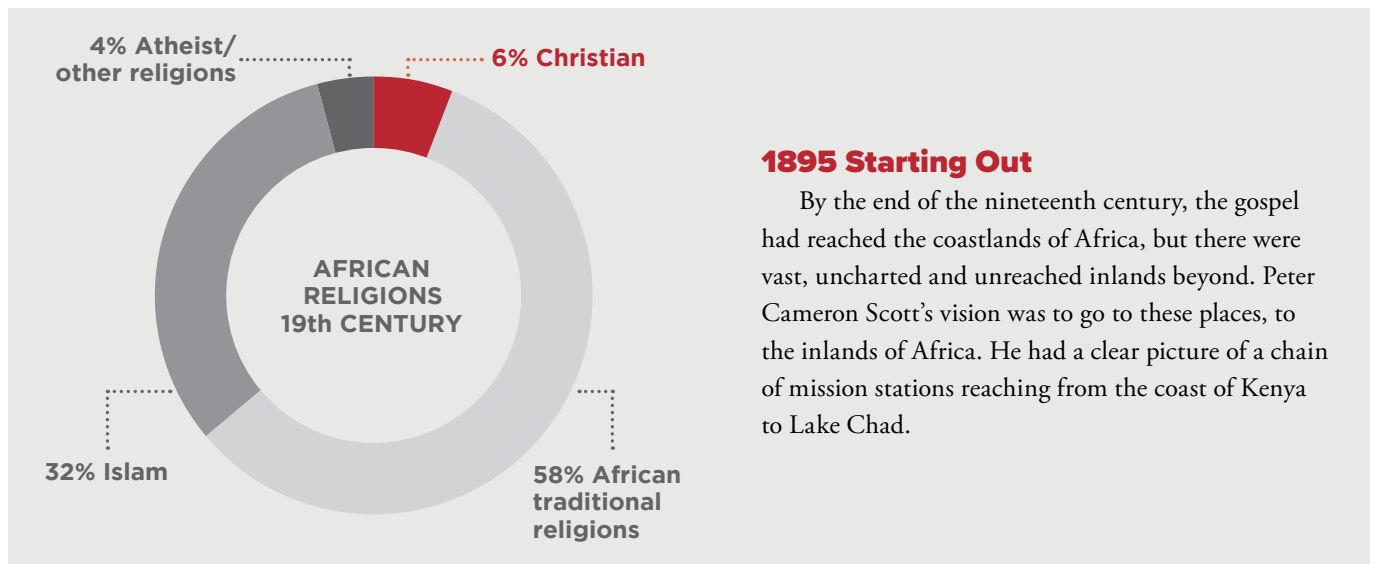
**Become a
Member**



**Attend the
AGM if you are
a Member**

Where Has God Reached?

It can be hard to give thanks for things we struggle to see, but the Bible is brilliant at showing us how God works through history. Here are some snapshots to help us see how God has used AIM to play a part in building the church in Africa.

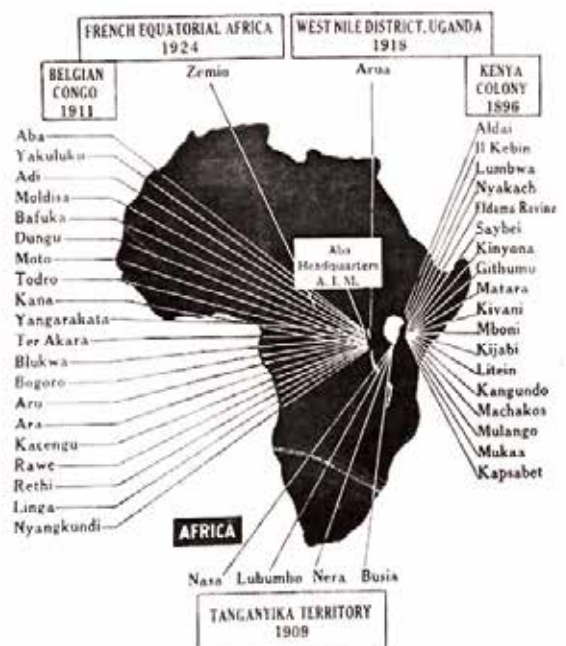


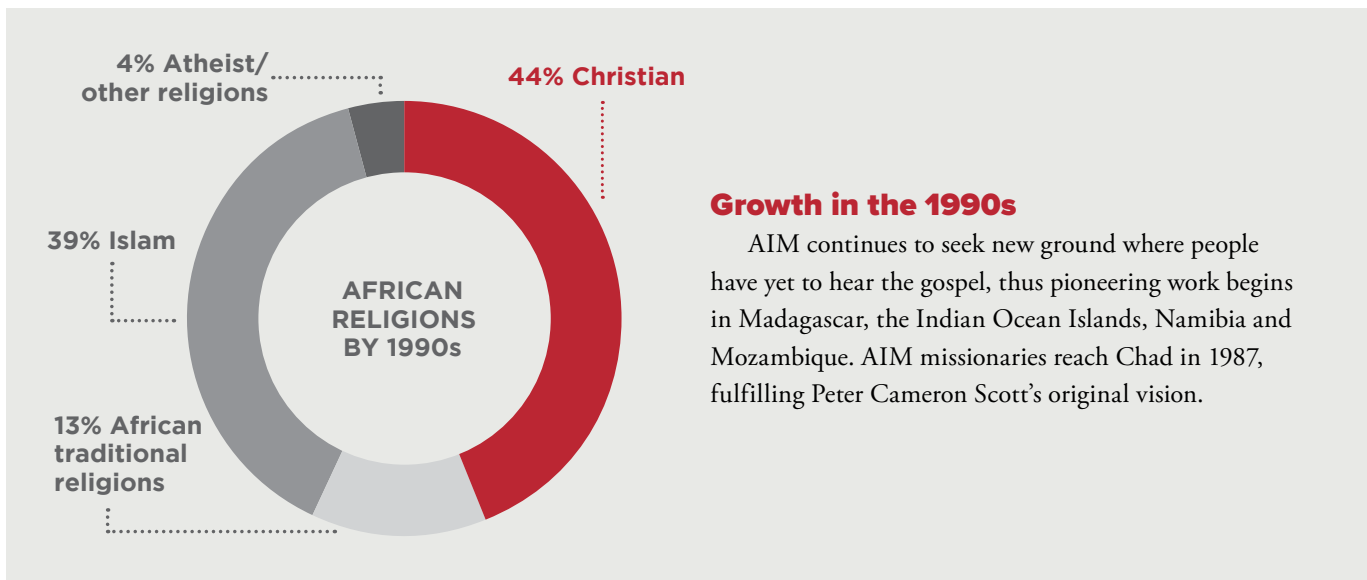
1895 Starting Out

By the end of the nineteenth century, the gospel had reached the coastlands of Africa, but there were vast, uncharted and unreached inlands beyond. Peter Cameron Scott's vision was to go to these places, to the inlands of Africa. He had a clear picture of a chain of mission stations reaching from the coast of Kenya to Lake Chad.

Up to 1950

Despite initial setbacks, and the First and Second World Wars, by 1943 the Africa Inland Church is established across Kenya. 93% of these churches were planted by African church-planters assisting a missionary or autonomously by Africans. By the end of the 1940's, AIM has bases in Kenya, Tanzania, DR Congo, Uganda, Central African Republic and Southeast Sudan.



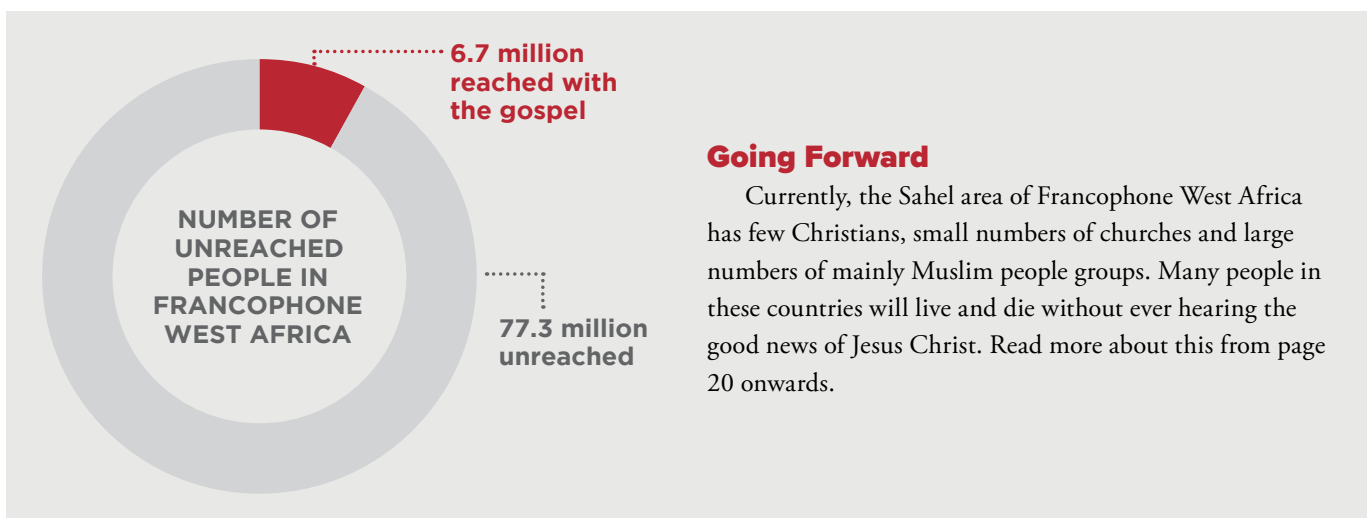


Growth in the 1990s

AIM continues to seek new ground where people have yet to hear the gospel, thus pioneering work begins in Madagascar, the Indian Ocean Islands, Namibia and Mozambique. AIM missionaries reach Chad in 1987, fulfilling Peter Cameron Scott's original vision.

A New Millennium

The noughties led to AIM missionaries returning to Sudan following peace agreements, serving the church in Rwanda, and starting to minister in the North of the continent. The move to the North begins a new challenge of sharing the gospel in locations where missionaries are not welcomed by local government. With 65% of the remaining 1,000 people groups waiting to hear the good news of Jesus located in North Africa, this move is necessary to effectively respond to God's call on AIM.



Going Forward

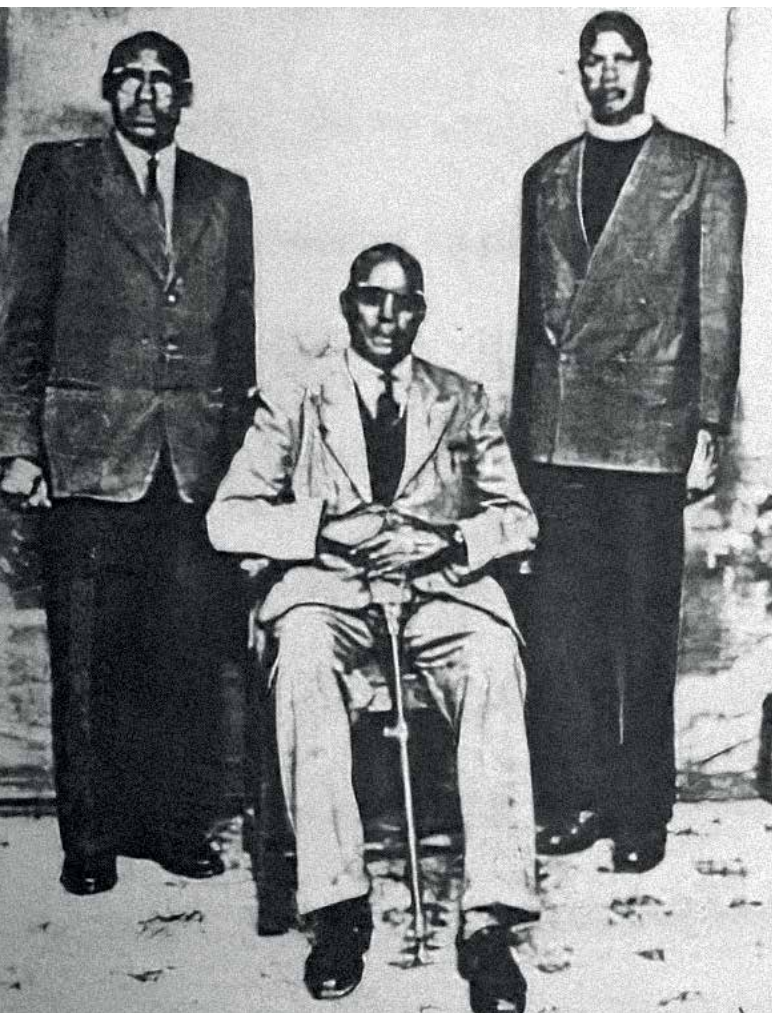
Currently, the Sahel area of Francophone West Africa has few Christians, small numbers of churches and large numbers of mainly Muslim people groups. Many people in these countries will live and die without ever hearing the good news of Jesus Christ. Read more about this from page 20 onwards.

*data from the World Christian Encyclopedia for 1900–2000 and the Joshua Project.

Why not watch a video showing how God has used AIM since we began?
Visit eu.aimint.org/history

Who Has **God** Reached?

Personal stories take history and facts and reveal living testimonies of God's grace. Beyond the geography of Africa, we find its people. Here are two people reached by Jesus who took the gospel to others.



PRAYERFUL PASSION

Ezekiel Kiprop Birech was born in 1910 in Nandi County, Kenya to a Nandi chief. In 1926, many of the Nandi gave up their indigenous religions and followed Christ. But Birech first heard the gospel from a Luhya Christian, who worked on the same farm as him in Eldoret. He was converted and committed himself to reading the Bible so that he too could share the gospel with his people.

Birech translated the Scriptures, hymns, and the classic allegory Pilgrim's Progress to be used for evangelism and discipleship among the Nandi community and other Kalenjin groups. During his teaching ministry at Kapsabet, he met Milcah Cheplel Birech and they were married in 1943. One of his eight children described Birech as a quiet and reflective man, who was devoted to prayer. He would never miss a church prayer meeting, personal prayers, or family prayers in the evening. Whenever asked for counsel, his first response was always, "Have you prayed about it?"

Teaching and training

In 1985 he formed the Africa Inland Church Missionary College, in Eldoret, to train cross-cultural missionaries to evangelise and reach unreached people. Birech's intense passion for evangelism drove him to go to school and then into ministry. As a Bishop in the AIC, he added a missional and educational emphasis, as well as dealing with the challenges of church leaders who lacked personal integrity and a shortage of funds for ministry due to corruption and high administrative overheads.

Birech laboured for the Lord, praying for spiritual depth and evangelistic zeal in the church. He made an indelible mark on the AIC in Kenya and African Christian history. We give thanks to Jesus for the Nandi people, the gift of the Bible in their own language and passionate people like Ezekiel Kiprop Birech, who continue to give their lives to make it possible for people to know life in Christ.

A WITNESS TO ALL

Rebecca Gode was born in 1905 at Sima, Nyanguge, in the Magu District of the Mwanza Region of Tanzania. When she became a Christian she faced hatred and persecution from her husband, in-laws, and even her own parents. They all agreed to exclude her from family relations for her new-found faith. The leaders at her local church took care of Rebecca and helped her find a job. She became a cook at the Christian Training Centre, at the Katunguru Mission of AIM and the AIC Tanzania (AICT).

The Lord then called Rebecca to work as a Christian Education teacher in primary schools and Sunday schools. Teaching at Katunguru Primary School and its local church, she also went outside the local area to proclaim the good news and profess Jesus as redeemer. The church also appointed Rebecca to preach at Katunguru Dispensary every morning before daily dispensary services.

When Rebecca retired from working as a cook, she invested her time in visiting the sick people at home, where she comforted them with verses of scripture, testimonies and prayers. Through her ministry, she brought many people to faith in Jesus. Some of those she helped convert are now serving God with AICT and various church denominations in Tanzania.

A faith family

Even though Rebecca's husband and family disowned and neglected her, she never despaired. She continued working faithfully until her death early in the 1990s. The church and its missionaries worked hand in hand with her until she finished her race and although she had no children of her own, God blessed Rebecca richly with daughters and sons in the faith. So just as AIM and the AICT have recognised Rebecca's service, we give thanks and glory to God for her and her faithful loving witness to those around her.



40 Years of AIM Hong Kong

by Jack Hung

Praise the Lord for what He has done

A renowned Chinese scholar Confucius once said, “Forty but not confused”. In his wisdom, he pointed out that after years of ordeal someone at the age of forty should be mature, wise and with good judgment should not be easily led astray but can have greater achievements.

By God’s grace, AIM Hong Kong is going to celebrate our 40th Anniversary this October. I joined the AIM Hong Kong Committee at its time of inception forty years ago. At that time, we only had a few missionaries who did not stay long. Several of our founding members ran the office in our spare time as volunteers and we tried our best to promote the awareness of Africa mission among the churches in Hong Kong, which had been focusing on missions in China and Southeast Asia.

For many years we did not have a director to lead the development of the mission. When I retired from hospital management in 2012, I responded to God’s calling and accepted the invitation of the Committee to become the first Hong Kong Director, but I took on an honorary position because I wanted to keep on some medical work and family responsibilities. As a small mission agency in Hong Kong, being a voluntary staff will not give the mission a financial burden.

At that time, we only had four missionaries. Time flies. At this time of our 40th Anniversary, we thank God that we now have twelve missionaries, including one borderless worker in Hong Kong. Our missionaries on average have served in Africa for ten years. All of them now serve among UPGs. Our missionaries no longer only serve in Kenya but have also moved into North and West Africa. Even the few in Kenya are reaching out to UPGs in this country.

The current workload and the need to give good member care to our

increasing number of members cannot be managed by me as a voluntary director, supported by two part-time staff (administrator and accounting officer). I have always seen myself as a transitional leader and I have been praying for someone in the field to come back to take on my position to lead the mission forward. At the age of 73, I know that my health is no longer as vibrant as it was. Praise the Lord that in His good time Belinda Chan, one of our senior missionaries has agreed to come back in October to become our first full-time Director.

As Belinda needs to go back to Kenya next January to hand over their ministries among S people for over fifteen years to other workers, I will continue as Associate Director until end of May next year, when Belinda will return to Hong Kong with her husband Matthew to serve in Hong Kong Office. Please pray for their good ending in Nairobi and that someone will continue their good work among the S people.

I am excited that the handover is at the time of our celebration of the Lord’s blessings to us for the past forty years. It is the beginning of a new era. Churches in Hong Kong have been facing the turmoil in political and economic instabilities; pastors and lay leaders have moved to other countries; church membership and donations have dropped significantly. There are uncertainties about the future, especially with overseas missions. However, we are seeing people seeking to serve, but they lack prayer and financial support.

Please pray for Belinda and her team (our missionaries in the field, office workers and Board members) that they will have double portion of the Spirit that has empowered God’s many holy servants; that God will call out more workers into the Harvest fields to reach the many unreached people in Africa and beyond until His Kingdom comes.

Challenges are also opportunities. The number of missionaries going overseas from Hong Kong is still slowly

growing, but young people do not like to join traditional missions like AIM; maybe they do not like to be bound by structure and policies. However, they do not stay long, and many come back wounded. Pray that AIM Hong Kong

can revive our connection with young Christians, challenge them to commit their life to the Master, and strengthen their life and ministry with good member care, field supervision and support.

Similarly, many young people from Mainland China want to commit their life to overseas ministries. Pray that AIM Hong Kong can be used by God to use this great opportunity to build trusting relationships with the mission agencies and churches in the Mainland that they can see the benefits of sending their faithful workers to Africa through our office. One day, they will be able to set up their own receiving offices in different regions of Africa to provide good and healthy member care and supervision to their own missionaries going out to serve in Africa.

May AIM Hong Kong be “Forty but not confused” and by God’s grace become a mature mission force in response to His calling in the strategic moments in Hong Kong. Our Lord be praised for He has done and the great things he will continue to do.



New Hong Kong Director

When I was born, my skin colour was quite dark. My mum told me: that may be the reason why I went to Africa and made friends with Africans. Well, God knows!

I heard about Jesus in my primary school, and I knew that Jesus loves children, but I had a question in my mind: how about when I grow up, would Jesus still love me? Of course, I found the answer in the Bible. He loves all people in the world and even died for our sin on the cross. I became a Christian when I was a teenager. I thank God I learnt the truth of the Bible in Church. I realised that I should serve my Lord in my life. It is my purpose in life.

I met Matthew, my husband, in my church. Both of us had the same vision: we would like to serve our Lord overseas in our lives. Therefore, we chose a Bible seminary that had a strong vision focusing on missions for studies. At that time, we didn't know where we should go and which people group we should reach out to. We just prayed and followed the guidance of God step by step. Our first child Levi was born in the first year of seminary.

In our second year, we had a short-term mission trip to China, and were

shocked to meet many Chinese who had been Muslims for five generations. We felt the calling from God to reach out to Muslims in the future.

We made another short-term mission trip to Uganda in our 3rd year with our professor, who was the chairman of AIMHK. This was how we came to know AIM. God touched our hearts and opened our eyes to see that there are so many needs in Africa. After the trip, we decided to serve Muslims in Africa.

After graduating from Bible seminary, I served in AIMHK office as a mobiliser for about a year. At the time, Matthew and I were serving in two different churches as pastors. Our daughter Kathie was born at that time.

In 2006, we joined AIMHK as missionaries. We joined TIMO in the UK for two years. We were so thankful for those two years. We learnt not only how to love the UPG S people, we also learnt how to work in a multi-cultural team. Our third child Topher was born in the 2nd year of TIMO.

After TIMO, we moved to Kenya in 2008, and we have continued to serve our Lord among the S people until now.

In those 18 years of field experience, God gave us great opportunities to make

friendship with Muslims and share the good news and love of God to them. We also learn how to respect different cultures, languages, and teamwork in a cross-cultural environment in Africa.

Now, we need to take a detour on our mission journey, not working on the front lines but working at the rear.

God reminds me that the perfect picture of mission should be the unity of front-line workers (missionaries) and the rare support teams (churches and organisations). We are one unit working together for the kingdom of God.

My prayer is that we use the gifts from God in different areas to support each other, to fulfil the great commission in the Bible (Matthew 28:18-20).

As a servant of God, I'm looking forward to working with you to make this picture of mission together beautifully. Glory to God!



Hong Kong Missionaries Currently Serving

Mabawa in North Africa. Building relationships and sharing the good news with local Muslims.

PH in West Africa. Serving her community and sharing the good news with local Muslims.

Matthew & Belinda in Hong Kong. Belinda is the incoming Hong Kong Director from 18th October and Matthew will be serving in a local church. Previous assignment was with unreached people in Kenya.

Yasmine in Kenya. A community nurse serving with a Christian NGO reaching out to Muslims.

B&E in Kenya. Bible teachers and youth workers among unreached peoples.

LC in Kenya. Ministry through therapy and training.

Dorothy in Uganda. Serving and learning on an Inbound training and ministry team.

(names disguised for security reasons)

Hong Kong Home Office Team

Dr Jack Hung — outgoing Director.
(Associate Director from 18th October)

Holly Yeun — Administrator
Currently Recruiting — Finance

Hong Kong Board

Mr Danny Sit

Rev Connie Lin

Miss Janet Lo

Mr David Mok

Miss Woo Fung-yuk

Pastor Elena Chan

Dr Jack Hung

Mrs Belinda Chan *(from 18th October)*

Heading West, a New Direction

*A short message from Luke Herrin, AIM
International Director*

A New Direction

While we celebrate what the Lord has done through AIM, the work remains unfinished.

It is our vision and passion to see churches established among all African people groups, including those in the North and West of Africa. We believe God is now leading us into West Africa, with a particular emphasis on Niger, Mali, Senegal and the Republic of Guinea. This is not a new vision for AIM, but a new direction flowing from the original 1895 vision.

Pioneering and Prayer

The equatorial countries of West Africa are ethnically mixed and although predominantly Muslim, they are somewhat religiously tolerant. Church

and missionary work is allowed, and mission partners are welcome here. The long-term missionary work needed in West Africa will require pioneering and strategic thinking. It will take a careful approach with a great deal of humility and partnerships with those who have gone before us. It will also require the adoption of new methods and strategies to be fruitful. We are looking at how we can partner with churches already in these countries, and considering the role we can play. We ask you to pray with us as we explore this exciting new direction.

Going to the Unreached

At the end of Luke 4, we find Jesus in Capernaum, doing powerful kingdom ministry and undoubtedly teaching. As more and more people arrived to receive ministry, the people of Capernaum understandably wanted him to stay, and even wanted to detain him! But Jesus said:

“I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well, for I was sent for this purpose.”

With this, he moved on to preach in the synagogues of Judea. Jesus left fruitful ministry to go to places that had not yet heard the gospel. There is a lesson for AIM in this.

Our ministry in Eastern, Central, and Southern Africa has been wonderful and fruitful. But some places and nations and peoples have yet to hear the gospel. Our orientation should continue to be to the North and West, and our emphasis should be towards places and people that have no church, no witness, no gospel.

This is and will remain the primary role of missions: to bring the gospel to people and places where Jesus is not known. Please pray for the missionaries venturing into these challenging regions, building partnerships and finding the best ways to reach those who have not yet heard.

Director's Vision

Our Asia-Pacific Director, Tim Matthews, shares what's on his heart for the next 12-18 months. Please join us in praying for God's guidance and undertaking in these areas.

Over the next 12-18 months, for the sake of the gospel, I would like to see:

- Churches in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region partnering with us in new and significant ways, identifying people they can send with AIM to serve Africa's unreached.
- An increase in donations from existing and new supporters to provide the funds we need to operate without a budget deficit and to further develop our ministry across the region.
- Clear pathways to partner with and enable an increase in Chinese missionaries working with AIM.
- At least one opportunity to establish an AIM Borderless ministry in partnership with a local church to reach an African diaspora community in Australia.
- That the Lord would be kind and provide my visa soon so we can relocate from the UK to Gosford and serve the region more effectively.



Church Vision

Does your church have a thought through approach to its mission's strategy? Is it looking and praying to send cross-cultural missionaries to people who have little if any opportunity to hear the gospel?

Many do but, many it seems are just doing what they've always done because they've always done it and global missions is a niche interest for just a few in the church. Doing what we've always done may not always a bad thing but, in a constantly changing world where God calls us to follow him as he continues to break down spiritual barriers and build his church, we would do well in our churches to consider our place in and response to global missions (i.e. God's call to make disciples of all ethn — people groups) today, as actively as we plan for our next youth or outreach event or small group teaching programme.

Here's 7 headlines with key questions that local churches have found helpful to develop fruitful mission strategy and activity.

1. Clarify your understanding of mission.

Q. What is Mission? What is the role of the local church in making disciples of all nations?

2. Church leadership commitment

Q. Is the leadership committed to the process of developing mission? Is this commitment shown by the designation of a leader to be fully involved in the church strategy development process?

3. Review and Assessment

Q. Is mission an add-on or a core activity of the Church? Is mission integrated with the wider Church activities of Sunday services, small groups meetings, and the children's and youth work? What cross cultural workers are already part of the church working either locally or overseas? Are there any patterns in the church's mission involvement? What current involvement does the church (the leadership and wider community) already highly value?

4. Formulate a vision, strategy and structure

Q. How does each strategic goal contribute to your vision statement? If asked, would Church members be able to articulate what the Church is doing in terms of mission?

5. Crafting a mission policy

Q. Is there a denominational or church network standard policy statement that can be considered as the basis for crafting a document to fit the unique situation of the Church? Have you thought through the role of people going on mission whether for shorter or longer periods and how the Church would offer support?

6. Partnership

Q. What parameters would be set in relation to partnering with others in mission? How do your partnerships fit with your overall strategic aims?

7. Bringing the church on the mission journey

Q. How can the leadership of the Church guide people into the part that they play in the mission of the Church?

Of course, there are no quick fixes and each church is different, so a one size approach and strategy does not fit all. But if we want to see our churches respond to the call and opportunity to send workers into God's global harvest field, we need to give some thought and attention, just as we do for every other aspect of church life and ministry.

If you'd like a full copy of this 'Fruitful Practices' document or would like to chat about helping your church address its mission's activity, please ask. We don't have all the answers but are happy to share what we've learned from others and act as a catalyst to start your conversations.

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:

The Ministry of the Mission \$

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. 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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Name on Card

Signed

Date / /

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You can make direct payments into AIM Australia bank accounts.

For Details, Contact: Petro **T** 02 4322 4777

E finance.au@aimint.org

Response slips can be mailed to AIM in:

PO Box 328 Gosford NSW 2250

Inbound Team – Torit, South Sudan

July 2025-June 2026

Live, learn, and minister in Torit, a hub city in South Sudan. Torit provides opportunities for exposure to many people groups, cultures, and local church partnerships. Learn AIM core values such as Abiding, Language

Acquisition, Church Relationships, and Team Unity. Members will also use their skills, talents, and training in South Sudan ministry (i.e. agriculture, medical, teaching, engineering, logistics, and more).

Inbound is a one-year, team-based

training and mentoring program designed to equip new missionaries with practical skills and knowledge for long-term cross-cultural life and ministry among unreached people groups. Led by long-term Kiwi missionary, Marlene van Tonder, this Inbound team aims to prepare long-term missionaries for service as well as providing a one-year missions exposure for short-termers interested in considering long-term service.



Teaching – Rift Valley Academy

There are numerous opportunities for teachers and support staff at AIM's boarding school for missionary kids in Kenya. Teach assigned classes within your discipline. Participate in the life of the school with weekend activities, teaching Sunday School, speaking at chapels, and unlimited opportunities for mentoring/discipling students. Two

years teaching experience is required. Rift Valley Academy (RVA) is a Christian boarding school in central Kenya with over a hundred years of rich history. The school serves about 500 missionary children (K-12), representing 30 nationalities and 80 mission organisations and churches. As part of the RVA team you'll be privileged to invest yourself in the lives of students while supporting the broader mission

efforts of making Christ known among Africa's remaining unreached peoples. Ministry opportunities include teachers, dorm-parents, administrators, and other support staff. Staff members should demonstrate a willing and steadfast commitment to the spiritual, social, physical, and emotional well-being of RVA's students.

