



AFRICA INLAND MISSION

Christ-Centered Churches
Among all African Peoples

AFRICA news

Oct 15-Jan 16
www.aimint.org



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AIC Kijabe Hospital Centennial Celebration



The Africa Inland Church Kijabe hospital has come a very long way since its inception in 1915. A busy day in early years might have seen five admissions. Now serving 20,000 inpatients and 80,000 outpatients per year, with patients arriving from as far as Somalia and South Sudan! Thanks to the remarkable work of our physicians, every day the lame walk, the blind see, and the good news is preached in word and deed at Kijabe!

The hospital team celebrated the centennial anniversary this May, welcoming back alumni missionaries and looking toward the future by celebrating our current staff. A visit by Kenyan President Kenyatta culminated the celebrations of the week, and several thousand visitors from the community packed into the field behind the hospital for the events.

Africa Inland Mission workers from Australia at the hospital are Surgeon Peter Bird and his wife Sue.



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Introducing **new workers** with AIM

Rob Varicak from the Kardinia Church in Victoria has recently joined AIM and is planning to serve among the Didinga people in South Sudan. Rob previously served with SIM in South Sudan. In June Rob married AIM worker from the USA, Tianne Cole, in America. Tianne has been serving as a mid-wife with AIM in South Sudan.

Rob and Tianne will visit Australia later in the year, before returning to South Sudan in mid-2016. Rob has a heart for evangelisation of unreached people groups in South Sudan. He has practical skills in construction and maintenance.



African Church must **reach out** to Muslims

The main challenge for the church today in Africa is to reach out to the Muslim community, according to Bishop of the Africa Inland Church (AIC) in Kenya, Silas Yego (pictured).

Bishop Yego when speaking to a recent meeting of Africa Inland Mission leaders in Kenya said the church must see how it can reach out to the Muslim community.

“We can’t be like Jonah and say let the people perish!

“We need to strategize together as a church and as a mission.”

Bishop Yego referred to arms of the Africa Inland Church birthed by

Africa Inland Mission, now across many African countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, DR Congo, and South Sudan. In Kenya there are more than 7,000 AIC churches with about six million members.

“We still have a large section of people in Kenya who are unreached.”

These included the Muslim communities in coastal regions, he said.

“Our ministry to Muslim peoples is very difficult. We need to know the way the Spirit is telling us to go.”

Bishop Yego referred to centenary celebrations for AIC Kijabe Hospital earlier this year. The hospital was commenced by AIM pioneers in 1915.



“Are we prepared to make the sacrifices of those pioneers?”

“Together let us plan and join forces, to take the Gospel to North Africa and coastal areas.”

“AIC is willing to partner with AIM. We need to move together.”

Bishop Yego said the AIC Kenya Missions Board currently had 45 families out sharing the gospel. Only three are working among Muslim communities.

“We want to have 100 families out by 2020.” Bishop Yego said.

Just **briefly** —

In **August** about 200 people in four states received training and encouragement to share Jesus with Muslims. Guest speaker Fouad Masri shared at five events associated with the AIM Australia annual conference. About 90 people from NSW churches have undertaken Bridges training through AIM since November to help connect with Muslims. Pray for positive connections and sharing.

Craig and Helen Waldock are set for an early October departure to join the TIMO or Training in Ministry Outreach Team to the San people of

Namibia. Pray for the team as they come together and begin to learn the click language of the San.

AIM Australia’s Centenary will be celebrated in August 2016. Guest speakers will be Peter Macharia from Kenya and International Director Luke Herrin. The main celebration will be in Sydney from 26-28 August. To receive your invitation contact AIM Australia or email director.au@aimint.org

Church Representatives wanted. AIM Australia / Asia-Pacific is seeking 100 people to represent AIM to their home church in Australia

and New Zealand. This can involve making people in your church aware of AIM through short-videos or slide promotions in services, and providing AIM magazines and literature on opportunities for prayer and service with AIM. If you are interested please contact Director, Len Leslighter on director.au@aimint.org.

New Look for AIM – This issue of Africa News features part of Africa Inland Mission’s new look including our new logo and corporate promotional style.

Kairos comes to Kijabe!

by Peter and Sue Bird

Peter and Sue Bird, Africa Inland Mission workers from Crossway Church in Melbourne have ministered at the Africa Inland Church Kijabe Hospital for more than 12 years with their family. Peter is Head of Surgery and the Africa Inland Mission Unit Leader. In line with AIM's new Framework of Ministry and Vision 2020, Peter and Sue have introduced the Kairos Course to Kijabe. This course is offering Kenyan national workers a clear vision of what God is doing in Africa and how they can fit into cross-cultural mission, to help reach the unreached.

The introduction of the Kairos Missions Course at Kijabe hospital in Kenya has been an exciting development in the past year, (www.kairoscourse.org).

Our first course was run in October–November 2014, with 23 students. This comprised 19 Kenyan, two from the USA, and two from South Korea.

The second course in March 2015 had 12 participants with 11 Kenyans and one from the USA.

Students have had a transformation in their understanding of what it means to be a Christian, what God's mission is in the world and God's purpose for every

one of us as believers to be involved in reaching the whole world with the Gospel.

It has been amazing to see the impact God makes on people's lives through the course.

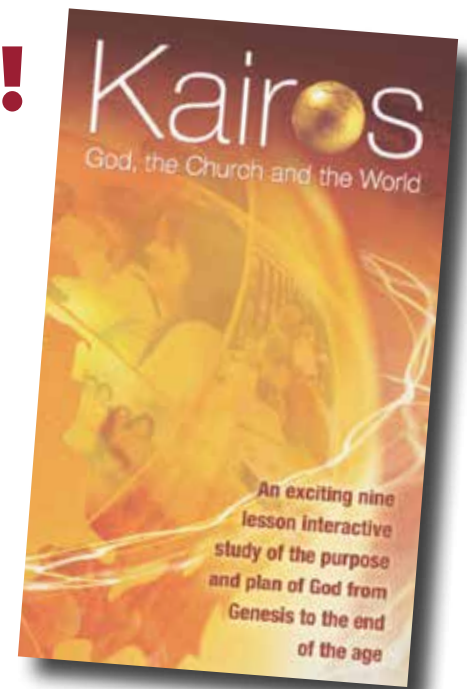
We study passages throughout the Bible to learn about God's heart for the whole world. For example:

Gen 12:1-3 God, speaking to Abraham, says: "... and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Mark 11:17 Jesus, in the temple, says: "...My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations"

Rev 5:9 The four living creatures sing: "...with Your blood You purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."

At the end of the course, some have



felt called to missions, some called to prayer, some to mobilizing and some to giving towards reaching the unreached.

We recently had Kairos Kenya's leader, Sam Ngugi, speak in our local Kenyan church. He gave many statistics on the state of Christianity and missions in Kenya:

Kenya's Population: 44 million
Percentage evangelical Christian: 49% (about 20 million, or 70,000 congregations)

Unreached People Groups: 31
Current Kenyan cross-cultural missionaries: 200



Mr Ngugi talked of the Kenyan church as having the potential to reach all 31 Unreached People Groups (UPGs) within Kenya. However, he said the church in Kenya is largely a sleeping giant. He challenged our Kenyan brothers and sisters to wake up, realize that now is the opportune time, and that God has plans to reach Kenya, East Africa and the world, through them! Kenya must become a missionary-sending nation, and must plan and strategize how to reach all of the UPGs within Kenya and in the surrounding nations.

In June 2015 we ran our first Kairos training day, training seven Kenyans as new Kairos facilitators, who will be able to help in the planning and running of future courses.

We are very excited that the Kairos Course is a tool that God is using to help raise up the Kenyan Church. We are currently planning dates for the next course to be held in September/ October. Please pray for this!

Prayer Points:

- To decide on the best dates to suit the most people for the Sept/Oct course
- For many of the new facilitators to be available to help
- For the right people to sign up to study the course
- For all the details to come together
- For God to mightily use the course to accomplish His will
- For Kenyan Christians to rise up and learn how to reach the unreached in Kenya



AFRICA INLAND MISSION



God's Plans **Are Not** Always Ours

Short-term worker with Africa Inland Mission, Abbey Ratten, from One Community Church in Blackburn, Victoria tells of her three-months, often unexpected, experiences in North Kenya from Easter to July. Abbey's role in home schooling helped keep AIM workers in the field.

I came to Kenya to spend three months home schooling the Callaghan family and the Swanepoel family in Kurungu, North Kenya. That was my plan; that was AIM's plan; that was the Callaghan's plan; that was the Swanepoel's plan. But that was not God's plan!

Due to tribal fighting between the Samburu and Turkana tribes, we had to evacuate Kurungu. The Callaghans went south to Nairobi, and I went north with The Swanepoel's to Kalacha. We ended up spending six weeks in Kalacha with the Andersens, another missionary family, which in total was longer than I spent in Kurungu!

For a while I wondered why this had to happen. What was God going to do through this, if anything? I loved Kurungu. I loved the nature. I loved the heat that wasn't unbearable. I finally started feeling at home in our rondavels. I got along really well with my ministry partner, Morgan. I had just started to make friends with some of the youth girls at the Africa Inland Church. I had to say goodbye to all of that.

Kalacha is a barren land compared to Kurungu. It is unbearably hot. I had to pack and unpack in a new place. I said goodbye to Morgan and the Callaghan's. I had to say goodbye to Josephine and Lavina, the girls from Kurungu, expecting not to see them again. I had to say hello to these horribly big hunter spiders that are everywhere in Kalacha!

It was hard going at first, but it didn't take long for me to realise that God was working through this change of plans. Firstly, I was able to help with home schooling the Andersen children. This gave Rachel Andersen a couple of hours extra each day to pack, seeing as though they are going on home assignment in mid-July. So I was able to be a blessing to her in this way.

Then, Eddie Andersen became quite sick and was medevacked to Nairobi. His wife Rachel travelled as well. This left the Swanepoels and I in Kalacha, caring for the Andersen children for five days. This was a real privilege, and I'm so glad that I was able to help out in such a way. God used our presence in Kalacha to serve those who serve Him.

I spent a lot of time with the Swanepoel children and the Andersen children. In Kurungu, I would teach the kids in the morning, and then in the afternoon I would retire to my rondavel and they would stay in their houses, and often the rest of the day would go by and I wouldn't see much of them. However,

in Kalacha, I would spend almost every afternoon with the kids in the pool, getting to know them.

I was able to build a friendship with them, rather than just a 'teacher-student' relationship. This is something I have really valued because I believe it is so important to build relationships with others.

So, while I started out feeling frustrated about having to leave and go to Kalacha, I can look back and know that God had His hand over the whole situation, and He was able to use me in this new place and this new situation, despite my concerns.



Reaching the Gabbra in Kenya with audio Bibles

Interest in Christianity has skyrocketed among the Gabbra people in the desert regions of north Kenya.

This follows the introduction of solar-powered players equipped with the Bible in the Gabbra language.

According to Africa Inland Mission worker among the Gabbra, Eddie Andersen, solar-powered audio Bibles, called Treasures, have made a huge impact on the unreached Gabbra tribe.

“We have requests every day for the (Treasure) units and there are still thousands of people we still want to reach out to with the units.”

Project donations in 2014 through Africa Inland Mission in Australia included \$7831 from the Katoomba Reachout Missions Conference and about \$5,000 from other sources. These funds have purchased about 240 “Treasures” which will be distributed among the Gabbra.

The Treasures are provided through World Mission in the USA, and include the old and new testaments in Gabbra.

This work among the Gabbra is centred in villages out from some small towns in North Kenya.

“As far as we know there are around 200 registered evangelical Believers in Gabbra spread between the Africa Inland Church and Anglican Church of Kenya Churches with Kalacha being the largest body.

“Yet with the advent of the Treasure, interest in Christianity has skyrocketed and many villages are begging for Churches to be planted.”

“The Gabbra are a Cushitic nomadic camel-herding people of 89,000 living in a 40,000 square km area of Northern Kenya Desert.” Mr Andersen said.

AIM’s prayer website www.PrayAfrica.org notes the Gabbra keep livestock such as camels, sheep and

goats. The camel is central to their way of life and economy. They follow weather patterns and move their herds in search of water and pastures.

Their mobile houses are made of sticks, woven mats, skins and cloth. They can easily move it all on two or three camels. Women and children and the elderly live in semi-permanent shelters.

The Gabbra believe in a benevolent God or Waaqa, who gives rain as he pleases. Their religious practices include animal sacrifices and ritual prayers. Islam is increasing as mosques are built in each town with promises of education and finance.



New Hope

by Lara Dik-ha

Lara Dik-ha from the Riverstone Baptist Church in Sydney is a teacher on 12 months short-term ministry with Africa Inland Mission in Madagascar to December 2015. Here is part of her story!

I can hardly believe it but the school year has come to a close already and I am more than half way through my time in Madagascar!

This place has absolutely blown my mind since I arrived in February. I cannot begin to express in words how much I have learnt and how many times I have thanked God for giving me the courage to take this big leap.

My reflections must begin where it all started. MCA (Madagascar Christian Academy).

MCA is the school that first drew me into coming to Madagascar. I came here to help provide training for the teachers and improve the curriculum. In my first week at school, I observed classes from Nursery up to Grade 11. As I went around the school, I made notes of topics and areas I thought would be helpful for the 40 teachers that I would address in training workshops.

In the first two months I went from class to class modelling different teaching and behaviour management strategies. Then the following months, I became more of a guide and observed the teachers implementing various training workshops in their lessons. I spent my days going from class to class providing teachers with both positive and constructive feedback on lessons.

When I actually pause for a moment and reflect ... I just smile. I have witnessed lessons become more engaging, challenging and fun. I have witnessed students bring new excitement into their classrooms. I have witnessed teachers gain confidence in their abilities to deliver the curriculum in new ways that are not prescribed for them. I realise what an incredible privilege it has been for me to be a part of this process of growth.



I have gained so much from my time at MCA so far. I have been so deeply struck by the privilege that teaching is because it provides individuals with an incredible weapon of empowerment: an education. I have always believed education is a powerful tool for change, and I am more convinced, than ever, of that now.

Today, I am living in a society where many children cannot afford to eat, let alone afford to pay for books. This is a society where many children are forced to work, in order to help provide an income for their families, instead of attend school. A society where many children are taught how to beg for money but not how to read. A society where many children are taken advantage of and exploited in terrible ways and where many children have low and limited expectations for their future.

It is against this black backdrop that education really does have the potential to melt the effects of poverty on a society, like a hot knife through

butter. When children receive a quality education they are empowered, protected, invested in, valued, instilled with dignity, given a voice and brought into an arena of opportunities and a world of hope.

When I look at the teachers and principals at MCA and the way they are inputting into the lives of students, I see the beginning of a movement — A movement of children who are driven by compassion to instigate and propel change. Children who will grow into strategic thinkers who are seeking to play their part in alleviating the effects of poverty on their society, from a heart of love.

The potential I see in the future of MCA and those who leave it to go out into the world excites me.

Follow Lara on her blog: larahannah.wordpress.com/2015/07/05/mighty-hands/



Response Form

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PO Box 13457 Onehunga 1643

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PO Box 328 Gosford NSW 2250

Help Reach the Unreached!



AFRICA INLAND MISSION

Christ-Centered Churches
Among all African Peoples

Join Africa Inland Mission in the task of reaching Africa's remaining unreached people groups with the good news. There are more than 1000 unreached people groups, with more than 700 being Muslim peoples.

Enjoy the privilege of sharing the Hope of Jesus Christ with those who have never heard!

BY 2020, our goal is to engage 20 new unreached African people groups (upg); to reach 20 already engaged groups; to mobilise 400 African workers to work among unreached groups and to train and equip 4,000 African pastors. We hope to partner with churches to create 40 teams to unreached African peoples living outside of Africa.

Can you help?

- We need team leaders; church planters; personal evangelists.
- We need support workers for our regional offices, including administrators, builders; and logistics people.
- We need people willing and available to go where God leads and share Jesus!
- We need people to pray!

Get in touch with our offices in Australia and New Zealand, or email director.au@aimint.org

PrayAfrica.org:

AfricaInlandMission.org/au or

AfricaInlandMission.org/nz

