



AFRICA INLAND MISSION CANADA

Spring 2020

God @ work

a publication prepared for the friends and supporters of AIM Canada





The Great Commission is an Invitation

Christ came to seek and save the lost and He calls His church to join in. This is missions. Where God delights in beautiful feet that carry good news to the ends of the earth. And among Africa's peoples, this is our mission. If you have a heart for those who don't yet have the gospel, your path may well intersect with ours. We invite you to journey with us in the amazing privilege of sending and being missionaries.

Persons of Peace

Dan Baetz Canadian Director



2020 marks the 125th Anniversary of Africa Inland Mission. In 1895, a young man named Peter Cameron Scott, and his band, set out to preach the Gospel inland where there was no church.

During a recent visit to Africa, I met the very first Christian on record in the location of an AIM missionary. He put his faith in Christ after being given a New Testament in a sister language, not having had a translation in his own language.

I also met the 'Person of Peace' or 'Chair' of that village. Luke 10 records Jesus sending out the 72 disciples and encouraging them to enjoy hospitality if offered to them. The 'Person of Peace' often offers hospitality, an influencer who opens up the door for Gospel proclamation in the area. Although belonging to another religion, that 'Person of Peace' opened up the door for our Canadians to be there. In years past AIM missionaries were not welcomed there; however, after a meeting the village council reversed their decision, having seen the positive impact in neighbouring villages where missionaries

were working. They have welcomed our team, consisting of church planters, a teacher and a nurse. Today, an elementary school, along with improved health care in the village, have made the people more amenable to the Gospel message. I was very encouraged to see the love and affection flowing from the local people to our team!

AIM Canada continues to promote the 'going, giving and praying' of all ages to see Christ-centered churches amongst all African peoples – with priority for the unreached. As we celebrate this 125th milestone, we recognize the contributions of our Canadian pioneers, as well as those who prayed and financially supported them. God continues to work mightily through Africa Inland Mission! Like Nehemiah, our prayer is that God will continue to have His hand upon us in this new decade – even in spite of COVID-19. During a fourth-century pandemic when people were dying in the streets, a church father recorded community feedback about the Christians: "Their deeds are on everyone's lips and people glorify the God of the Christians!"



God at Work...in Torit, South Sudan

The Warkentin Family

Keith and Kerri Warkentin are short-term missionaries from British Columbia serving for one year in the country of South Sudan. They have three children between the ages of 10 and 14. They are providing support services to AIM team leaders and their family in the town of Torit. Keith is a teacher for the children of the three missionary families that make up the Torit team. Kerri is working in the office doing finance and administrative work.

In recent communications from the Warkentin's we heard about some of their experiences in ministry:

"Living in a place where there is so much physical suffering is tough. When grown men walk by and ask for a piece of bread, or a young child with reddish tinged hair and a protruding belly walks into your yard, or a very elderly man is sitting on the side of the road breaking up rocks to try and sell a bag of gravel, it is hard to know how to respond. God is teaching us much amongst the poverty.

"Imagine living with a curable disease but not having access to the necessary health care. A boy about 11 years' old, who spends a considerable amount of time here, injured his leg. When we saw his bandaged leg in September, we were impressed that he was receiving care. But six months later he is still hurting; the dressing has been changed but it is still bandaged. Apparently he has been like this for six years. We were told by a nurse that the infection has probably gone into his bone and he would need an extended heavy antibiotic in a hospital to treat the infection. Likely he will live with this infection, and it will cause him immense pain his whole life, if he can even keep his leg. As it is not likely he will ever be able to receive the medical care he needs, we are praying for God's healing in his life.

"At Christmas our family was involved in a three-day Vacation Bible School event for kids at our church. About 75 kids showed up

and it went great! We played some games and had a time of singing and Bible stories. The kids were engaged, and the Christmas story was shared. I wonder if kids who are often left to fend for themselves, don't hear about this God who came down to earth for them and who loves them, think "WOW! Is this for real?" (At least that is what I hope they are thinking). We were able to bring quite a few kids from our neighborhood with whom we have daily contact, so that was exciting. Pray that this outreach to the community will be effective!"

11 year-old Breanne says: "I have been very excited to see that two of the girls that I have been connecting with have come to church the last two Sundays. Even though they haven't shown much of a response yet and didn't appear to be listening very well during the service, I think that God is still working in their lives. Just last week, we passed a girl on the way to church who was all dressed up. As I walked by her she greeted me and then started walking with us to church. She sat through the whole service. I don't know her very well, and I can't remember her name, but I am looking to see if she will return again this week.

"This week all of our family (except Nathan) got sick. Justin got hit the hardest and still hasn't been out of bed. The rest of us are on the mend and have been back at school. It was a pretty nasty bug, but thankfully most of us were not sick for more than a few days.

"Last week we did our Saturday afternoon



kids' club again, but not without a surprise. Our translator, for some reason or other, did not show up. So my dad proceeded to tell the story of Joseph in Juba Arabic as best as he could. I thought that he did pretty well, although one of the kids who speaks English well, said it was confusing. A few days before Saturday we found out that the neighbours were having a big Saturday party around the same time as we were going to do the kids' club. But surprisingly, about thirty kids showed up again. The rest of it went well and I think that the kids enjoyed the games and had a lot of fun.

"So far I have really enjoyed this year and I will be very sad to have to leave. I have really enjoyed learning a new language and culture, getting to know some of the local girls, trying new foods, and living in a warmer climate. I don't enjoy killing scorpions and spiders in my room, eating goat intestines, and getting sick more often. I have also been reading my Bible daily and spending much more time with God than I did before coming to South Sudan."

13 year-old Justin writes: "This week a lot has been happening. One of the major things that I did was go to a local school with one of my friends. It started at 8:30 and ended at 4:30. There was what they called an "assembly" where all of the children from each grade lined up, boys and girls separate. Then we all sang a bunch of the songs that we would sing at church. After that a man went around checking all of the children's hands to see if they had dirt under their fingernails or too long fingernails. Then we went into the classroom and did Science, Math C.R.E (Christian Religious Education) and Social Studies. During C.R.E the kids were being too loud so the teacher had to discipline them. It was also quite a hot day and the class room, with 110 kids, was smoking hot. Since I have gone to this school, I am much more appreciative of school back in Canada. It is a way less cramped, a way nicer temperature and a lot more relaxed.

"During our kids' club this week we were talking about dreams, from the story of Joseph in the Bible, so I shared my dream

that I had before coming here. I think my friends were slightly wierded out by it, so I don't know how that really went. In the story of Joseph, we are learning about how God never leaves you and how he doesn't forget you. I think that is cool that after all of this relationship-building time we can finally share the gospel with my friends.



Last year, Justin's class raised money for soccer balls which we brought with us to South Sudan. Let's just say they are getting well used!

"This year I've missed a lot of things like my first year of high school, badminton, winter games, and sports but this year has been a lot better than I thought it would be. For instance, I have made some super fun friends, we play soccer basically every day and I have done some great travelling. I am so glad to have this year in Africa."



We gained two pet goats this year—Kala, which means, "Surprise" and Jerry, which means, "Run" in Juba Arabic. The kids are having lots of fun!

Of Service To God In A New Land

by Tamara

Tamara is a short-term missionary from Quebec. She is currently serving in Abéché, Chad as a homeschool teacher. This letter to her supporters and friends was originally shared in French, Tamara's first language.

I cannot believe that I've been in Chad for a month already! In the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity and pleasure of serving with a Canadian family, and also among other missionaries in the community. I have met several wonderful Chadians and I see that the people here are welcoming and very warm. In the Chadian culture, we sit on carpets on the ground when we are visiting, while making sure to remove our sandals. The custom is to offer tea (very sweet!), a few small snacks (dates or peanuts), or even meals to visitors. Community life is a very important value and people help each other a lot. Everyone knows their neighbors and visits each other regularly during the week.

Here everything is very different! The temperature, the toilet, the shower, the food, the clothing, the language, the church and so on. There are several advantages to living in such a hot climate. For example, my coffee always stays hot; I do not need to flush after having been to the toilet; and it is difficult to get sunburned because I am very well dressed from head to foot. In addition, my ecological footprint is much improved in terms of the use of water, waste and electricity.

I have started teaching school to the children of my host family and already their progress in French is visible. With the implementation of different activities and projects, the children participate in the class and always want to learn more. It is encouraging working with them, and above all, enriching. Please pray that the children will be able to improve and learn the French language to facilitate their exchanges with the Chadian community.

Most Chadians in Abéché speak Arabic and a little French. That is why I started the Arabic lessons with my language helper, Mariam. She speaks French, so it is easier for me to communicate with her. Each week we take six hours together to do some theory and to practice. I take advantage of these moments to visit the market, walk around the city to practice more, and meet new people. Chadian Arabic is not an easy language and I need your prayers to support me in this learning.

Due to the pandemic, Tamara decided it would be wise for her to travel back to Canada at this time. Though her time in Abéché has been cut short, in her three months there she clearly has had an impact on the people. Pray for Tamara as she hopes to be able to return to Chad one day.



We are grateful for the men and women across Canada and around the world who stand alongside Africa Inland Mission Canada through prayer and financial support.

Thank you so much for your part in our ministry!

Africa Inland Mission Celebrating 125 Years: A Canadian Reflection!



In 1895, Peter Cameron Scott and seven other believers from North America and Britain were the first members of Africa Inland Mission (AIM) to arrive in East Africa. Jacob Toole, Thomas and Evelyn Allen of Canada were part of a second group soon after. Serving faithfully for just 19 months, Jacob and Thomas died from malaria and dysentery, yet God's work continued. Frank Frew's book **Between Two Mountains** describes these early pioneers as:

...fragile clay pots, needing the power of the Spirit of God to fulfill the commission they had received... They saw themselves as channels through whom God could accomplish His purposes for their adopted people. These ardent workers were each conscious of a distinct call to Africa, maintaining that the work they were about to commence was of God, and that which is of God could not fail. They were convinced that whatever they would meet of hardship could not thwart from them from doing the will of God. (Pg.20)

Edith Devitt from Manitoba followed in their footsteps in the early 1930's by serving with AIM in Kenya. She felt her daily life on a wheat farm prepared her for living in Africa. At eight years old she learned that there were children who had never heard of Jesus, and determined then that she wanted to tell about Him. Years later, supported by her church, she travelled to Rift Valley Academy in Kenya to be a teacher. She served for 33 years, and with her husband, supervised 140 schools, over 20 thousand pupils and hundreds of teachers. Education was the doorway to young hearts who needed to know the love of Jesus Christ. Many Canadian teachers served in other schools. Norma Jean Cameron from Sault

Ste. Marie was one such faithful servant.

Today there are Canadians serving at Rift Valley Academy, Kenya; Wellspring Academy, Chad; and Haven of Peace Academy, Tanzania. Of equal importance are Canadians who are homeschool teachers to children of missionaries. This allows God's servants to focus on their ministries and share the Gospel while mobilizing the church of Jesus Christ.



The missionaries' impact on the spiritual life of Africa through church planting is best illustrated by this example from Kenya. The Africa Inland Church (AIC) was started in partnership with Africa Inland Mission in 1901. This partnership is ongoing. By 1970, it had over 3,000 congregations in each of its seven provinces, with an estimated two million adherents, according to Frank Frew (Pg. 16). He described missionaries then as "initiators" and "developers" of the church in its embryonic stage. Over many years, Canadian church planters like Frank, and his wife Margaret, taught the Word of God, provided training in Bible and pastoral schools, and exhibited family values and Christian living. The couple showed love to the Kamba, Luo and Maasai people. Not trying to convert them, they encouraged them to respond to a God who loves them in their own African way. The couple

were competent in speaking Kikamba and Kiswahili. Frank emphasized the learning of local languages as being critical to evangelism among the unreached people groups. Frank introduced LAMP (Language Acquisition Made Practical) to AIM, and it is still in use today when introducing missionaries to African life, language and culture. He was also instrumental in founding Scott Theological College, AIC's flagship Bible school in Kenya. Many others served in a similar role, including Ross and Ruth Alloway, Peter and Mary McCallum, Wayne and Essie Herrod, and Lyle and Mary Wilton. Others supported evangelism and church planting through general administration, Scripture translation, and literature distribution. Since 2018, AIM has been celebrating our retirees and their contributions to missions at Legacy Events across Canada.

Caring for the sick has also served as a major factor in creating social transformation and societal development in Africa. Canadian AIM missionary, Vivian Henderson, was born to missionaries in Nigeria and served as a nurse/midwife in eight African countries. Through the words in her memoir titled **Challenges and Ventures for Christ** she states that it is "a precious privilege and joy to be called by the Lord to serve him as a missionary in Africa for 40 years, the majority of which were in full-time ministry". She recounts delivering babies, suturing deep lacerations, resuscitating



patients, teaching and supervising student nurses. She also taught Religious Instructions at the village schools. In September 1984 she wrote in a prayer letter: "Praise the Lord for the many, many positive experiences of establishing meaningful relationships with the dear Maraquet people, and of leading patients to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ". Many other Canadians have similar stories gained from nursing and dispensing medicine in remote villages. Retired nurse, Louese Cameron, still has distinct memories of serving alongside Vivian in Northern Kenya, delivering babies on floors in isolated village huts. While much has changed, Canadians are still valued for their positive impact on the medical profession as part of cross-cultural ministry.

Limited time and space make it difficult to highlight everyone and everywhere Canadian AIMers have positively influenced missions since 1895. In 2020, over 100 serve as entrepreneurs, engineers, nurses, teachers, dorm parents, administrators and leaders in obedience to the Great Commission. Our missionaries continue to proclaim the Gospel throughout the continent to reach Africa's unreached peoples. This calling is now extended to the world as together we seek to make Christ-centered churches among all African peoples.

Resources:

Alloway, Ruth. **Desert Fever: A Biography of Ray Jeal-ouse**. Belleville, ON: Guardian Books, 2001.


Alloway, Ruth. **Desert Bound. Blind River**, ON: Alloway's Printing & Publishing, 2012.

Devitt, Edith. **On the Edge of the Rift**. Langley, BC: University Printers Ltd., 1992.

Frew, Frank. **Between Two Mountains**. Africa Inland Mission, 2006.

Henderson, Vivian. **Challenges and Ventures for Christ**. (unpublished)

Pinkerton, Ruby B. **In the Shadow of Cannibal Mountain**. (self-published)



*Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name*

Lord, Blessed be Your Name: Life Lessons Through Times of Illness

by Susan Pinkerton

All of life is a journey, filled with ups and downs, rough roads and smooth, hills and valleys. Mine is no exception. A little over three years ago, receiving the diagnosis of more cancer was not welcome news. However, having already gone through three seasons of various cancers and resulting surgeries, it was not totally unexpected. Following tests and discussions with my doctors I was presented with two options: Do nothing and let the cancer take its toll and in time, my earthly life, or, "Go for the cure," as my surgeon put it, through major, major invasive surgery where I would lose more of my internal organs and certain functions. (I often say, "Lord, how many organs can a person do without and still live? This isn't quite how you created me!")

As Chuck and I considered the options and asked God's direction, it became clear in our minds that I really had only one choice—the major invasive surgery. For me, I felt that God was giving an opportunity to continue living on this earth, and so, I chose life. How could I do

anything but take that gift from Him?

I approached my surgery with a desire to experience God in new ways through this time; to demonstrate the reality of God in my life—that He would be glorified; and to use this period of being set aside for more concentrated time in the Word and in prayer.

So, were those expectations met? What are some of the ongoing lessons that God is teaching me?

The overarching reminder God continues to bring home to me is that He is sovereign. He is over all. All of my life is in the hands of my loving, heavenly Father who created me. And so, everyone and everything that touches me is in His hands. He knows what is best. He does what is best. For His glory and for my growth. In Him I can rest. In Him I find peace.

During our consultation with my surgeon where he described the surgery and its effects, he asked me, "Will you ever regret your decision

to have the surgery?" Without hesitation, I answered, "No." Perhaps I was naïve, not having a full understanding of what was ahead and what could happen, but I based my firm answer on the truth of the all-sufficiency of God. That He would give me what I needed to deal with all that was to come. Indeed, for whatever He allows in my life.

Now, in reality, since my surgery, which was followed by a number of complications and side effects with which I still struggle, there've been a number of times when I have regretted my decision to have the surgery. However, as hard as each day has been and is, I know that it is in the suffering (whatever that entails) that I run to God more often. That I cry out to Him more quickly. That I lean on Him all the more. I know from experience that when things are going well; when I am feeling well; I don't come to Him as often and I rest in my own strength. And so, difficult times serve an important purpose in my life—God's eternal purposes.

A time of health concerns, surgery and recuperation is not necessarily a time when one is able to go deeper in the Word just because one is laid up and has more time. Personally, for me, I found it hard to read, particularly hard to read the Word. It was difficult to sit still and focus for any length of time. Often, there was no desire. This was disturbing to me. Yet, even a spiritual giant like John Piper, acknowledged his experience of this very thing in his book, "Don't Waste Your Cancer". That was comforting. Through him, God reminded me again, that now is the time to be diligent in the Word. Present time in the Word is what prepares us for future difficulties.

I also found it difficult to pray during the time following my surgeries. Again, it was hard to focus. I felt guilty, and asked "Why, Lord?" He showed me that it was okay, that though I could not pray, many other people were praying on my behalf. Then, through a close friend, He encouraged me with the reminder

that, not only are others praying but Jesus Himself is praying for me, bringing me before His Father. Oh, how He loves me!

Again and again God has assured me of His presence. He will never leave me nor forsake me. Throughout this part of my life's journey God has encouraged me in many ways—through his Word, through other people, through hymns I have memorized, through our pastor's sermons on suffering, and through the words and opportunities to sing in corporate worship, Matt Redman's praise song, "Blessed Be Your Name."

Life is a daily battle for me...

...It's a battle, when "the sun is shining down on me" and I am feeling pretty good and able to get to do more—it's a battle to not take it for granted and to remember to say, "Thank you, Lord."

...It's a battle when I am feeling unwell; when the ever-lingering side effects of surgery are debilitating; when I can't sleep and am exhausted; "when the darkness closes in"—to still be content; to still be thankful and praise Him.

...It's a battle to think of others—to remember others, people I know and people I don't, people who are in difficult situations, some in exceedingly worse situations—to remember them and to pray for them; to think of them, not just of 'poor me'.

...It's a battle, when I find myself "in a desert place", "walking through a wilderness" where God seems so far away, to remember that promise that He is near; He is always with me, He has not left me and He never will, no matter how I feel. It's a battle to focus on God and His truths, not on how I am feeling.

But my continual prayer and heart's desire "on (this) road marked with suffering, though there's (indeed) pain in the offering", is that, by His enabling, I "will choose (over and over and over again) to say, 'Lord, blessed be Your Name.'" That He will be glorified in me. Life is all about Him. He alone makes it worth it.



Susan sensed God's call to serve overseas in high school. She soon attended Ontario Bible College (Tyndale University) in Toronto. After obtaining her teaching degree she taught at the Christian school in her hometown of Strathroy, Ontario. In her third year of teaching she learned of an urgent need for a teacher at Rethy Academy, AIM's school for missionary children in the country of Zaire (now Democratic Republic of the Congo). While teaching grades 1 & 2 from 1981 to 1985 she met Chuck Pinkerton, son of AIM missionaries, Emory & Ruby. They were married in 1986.

In 1991 Chuck and Susan returned together to Africa where Chuck served as a pilot/mechanic with AIM AIR in DRC and Kenya. Susan took part in various ministries—working in the AIM Air office; assisting with flight-following of the pilots; teaching Bible clubs in their backyard and in a local elementary school, mentoring young people and working in women's ministry.

In 2001 Chuck and Susan returned to Canada to be a help to Susan's parents while serving AIM Canada as mobilizers in Ontario. In 2005 Chuck moved into the role of IT Coordinator and Susan continued in mobilizing until her retirement at the end of 2019. "I always thought that I would serve in Africa until I retired." Susan says. "However, God had other plans. Working in the home office, mobilizing others to serve—walking alongside individuals, couples and families toward ministry in missions—has been a privilege and brought much joy. It has been such an encouragement to me to watch God work in the hearts of people, giving me a small part in their journeys with Him."

Being In The Place God Wants Me

by Dana B.

Dana is originally from Manitoba and is serving in North Africa. She arrived in early January and is serving at a local language centre.

While it has been less than 3 months since I arrived, I have begun to settle into my new life. My comfort level in this new culture improves daily as well as my ability to navigate the city. My weekdays are spent serving as a support Worker at a local Learning Centre where I assist teachers who educate predominantly children of Westerners. My evenings provide many opportunities to make new friends including regular participation in a women's Holy book study. On weekends, I visit historical sites and explore local markets.

My colleagues and I have found many ways to become involved in our community. Our favourite pastime is to go to the mall to make relationships/conversation with locals who speak English. We offer to pray for those we engage in conversation. While our request is often interpreted as an invitation to pray at a local mosque, it provides an opportunity to exchange contact information, and allows

us to propose a 'meet up' for tea. Once trust has been established during our 'meet up', we follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. This is not very easy in a predominantly Muslim society where the 'soil' is often hard. This makes our dialogue confusing and often leads to a debate on religion.

Recently, my roommate and I started a conversation at the mall with a young woman. This led to a 'date' for tea. When we met, a friend who spoke English fluently accompanied her. They were open and welcoming. We shared the story of Jesus' work from Luke 7. We answered their many questions and prayed with them. They were very happy with the engagement and requested an opportunity to join our Bible study night.

Please join us in praying for our new friends that God would tenderize their hearts so that they become open to choosing Him as their Saviour.



"I feel the Father really opening up my heart for the people of this city, and for all of the amazing people I have met..."

PRAISE....

- We praise God for the generosity of Canadians as they supported Africa Inland Mission's participation in Ride for Refuge 2019. More than \$10,000 was raised for The Least of These ministry. This is a humanitarian project in rural Northern Kenya started by AIM missionaries, Jay and Laura C. who reside in Nova Scotia. All funds raised are used to provide medical care to for the nomadic Samburu people, particularly the most vulnerable among them.
It is not too early to start planning to participate with Africa Inland Mission's team in Ride for Refuge 2020, scheduled for October 3!
- We praise God for his goodness in safely returning some of our missionaries home to Canada as a result of COVID-19. Many of our missionaries have remained on their assignments. They continue to experience the blessings of a faithful God who has promised never to leave nor forsake his children. They have experienced God's protection and providence in many ways over the last twelve months, such as drought and famine in Northern Kenya and the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. God is indeed "our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble". (Psalm 46:1)
- "Praise God that our missionaries in South Sudan have experienced improved health. God takes care of His people: 'He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart...' (Isaiah 40:11) Please pray we will have no serious injury or illness while the borders are closed." (Jordan & Andrea S.)
- Praise God for his wisdom and guidance in the process of identifying and selecting a new location for the headquarters of Africa Inland Mission (Canada) at 25 Faulkland Road, Toronto.
- "Dear Dr. Dan, grace and peace. We are in lockdown, so, yesterday, Emanoel sent me a message telling us that because of the lockdown in our village of Betroka, people were starving; churches and schools, markets and other places are closed. So, because of the money you sent us, we were able to help again. Today we sent 600 kg of rice to Betroka...Blessed be the name of Christ, and thanks to you..." God is at work in Madagascar!

*"give thanks to the Lord for his
unfailing love and
his wonderful deeds
for mankind"*

Psalm 107:8

PRAY....

- Pray for God's wisdom and guidance within the body of Christ around the world, who serve, often with limited personal space, in cultures that struggle with poverty, hygiene and basic health care.
- Pray for spiritual growth and unity in the Nassa Theological College community in Mwanza, Tanzania. Presently it has its largest-ever student body – 80 students (and 25 children) diligently studying God's Word in preparation for ministry among their people. (Rosemary W.)
- Pray for the people of East Africa, where the greatly-anticipated rains came, ending a severe drought, but brought with them locusts of biblical proportions. This will have serious consequences for their fragile food supplies, and a dire impact on their way of life in the future.
- Pray that God will work through the present health crisis, and that many people around the world will recognize their need to have a personal relationship with Him.
- Pray for God's grace and wisdom in our daily lives, and his peace which passes all understanding.
- Pray for Christians around the world that we would:
 - A. - support the sick and their caregivers in meaningful ways,
 - B. - share the Gospel in words and actions with each person we meet,
 - C. - comfort those who mourn the loss of loved ones,
 - D. - experience the comfort and the nearness of the Holy Spirit,
 - E. - intercede for our leaders who influence the future of our world.

Dr. Luke, AIM International Director, in response to COVID-19, reminds us:

"Our work is curtailed, our ability to minister seemingly limited. But there is much that we can do.

We can pray. What might the Lord accomplish in our lives and our ministries if all of us had a 2-month season of focused prayer?

We can take time in His Word. What might the Lord accomplish in our hearts and in our families if all of us had a 2-month season of meditation and study of the Word?

We can serve our neighbors, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Yes, this is a challenge, but it is not impossible. What might the Lord do in our neighborhoods and communities if all of us had a 2-month season of 'practicing the power of His presence' in our neighborhoods?"

Somehow or Other!

John P. Brown, Director of MAC (Ministry to Africans in Canada)

MAC

MINISTRY TO AFRICANS IN CANADA

There's no one way that we in MAC are using to share Christ with New Canadians from Africa and the Middle East. Wherever our MAC Team is serving—from Halifax to Winnipeg—we just look for fresh new ways to LOVE our neighbours...



That's true of Jay & Laura C. in Nova Scotia. They say:

"For three years we have held Camp Soar Nova Scotia for the children of African immigrant and refugee families in Halifax. The highlight of each day is the evening campfire—that's when the gospel is explained in skits and songs and teaching. In our first summer, 2017, our oldest camper was a Muslim girl named Sasha*, and just before leaving camp she said, 'Last night's campfire story really challenged me in my own faith.'

"Flash-forward two years and we have just received Sasha's application to serve on camp staff this August. Remarkably, her references are the teachers at her Christian school. What a faith journey! And it all goes back to those campfires! God's Word does not return void."

Nathan & Liana D. live in a very Muslim neighbourhood in Ontario. Nathan says:

"I'm pretty sure no other table groups that

morning at our Starbucks were congratulating each other on their copious beards! It was my first meeting with Aadil*, the Vice President of the mosque just across the street from our apartment, and we were planning our March 14 Muslim-Christian

Friendship Day. Who knew that our beard talk would build a brotherly connection that's made it so easy to put together the details of our church-mosque event?

"Aadil and I have now met several more times, and praise the Lord, his fellow mosque leaders and the elder boards of two Mississauga churches are EXCITED about our first Friendship Day in Peel Region! The thought that up to 100 Muslims will have the opportunity to hear the Gospel right in their own mosque—and build genuine friendships with ordinary Christians who live close by—it's thrilling!"

Over in Montreal's St-Michel neighbourhood, Greg & Kristen B. write:

"Asalis* is a six-year-old Algerian boy who attended our neighbourhood Winter Carnival in February. 150 North African parents and children packed into a neighbourhood gym for an afternoon of bouncy castles, face painting, and candy floss. Loads of Muslims heard about our

monthly kids' and adult programs and our local Québécois church.

"Asalis' father, Mustapha*, gave his life to Christ a few years before arriving in Canada. Over the past several months he and his wife Fatima* have been studying the Bible with us. In a recent study she admitted that Jesus must be the Son of God, because no mere prophet could say or do what He did. Although she has not yet chosen to follow Him, we praise God for how He is drawing Asalis' whole family to Himself." And in Manitoba, Brett & Candace L. share this story:

"When he was only 11 years old, our friend Abdi* was beaten, tortured, shot and left for dead on a street in Somalia. To protect him, his stricken mother locked him in a single room for almost 5 years. Realizing this was no life for her boy, she decided to smuggle Abdi out of the country. When we met Abdi in

Winnipeg he felt abandoned and hopeless.

"How to break through that wall of trauma? It's taking one get-together at a time.... Brett and I invited Abdi to our house to celebrate Christmas. For his birthday last month we took him bowling. I wish you could have seen his gleaming smile when he blew out the 18 candles on his very first birthday cake. (He asked for vanilla, so that's what the kids and I cooked up!)

"Abdi told us recently that he had put Brett and me down as his emergency contacts because 'you care about what happens to me.' The Holy Spirit is at work!"

...Somehow or other, in French and English, sometimes seasoned with Arabic and Swahili, our MAC Team is telling New Canadians just how much Jesus loves them!

*Names have been changed.



For more information or to donate to MAC please visit: macministries.ca

My Life as a TCK

My name is Charis and I am 12 years old. I have three siblings: one younger sister, and two older brothers.

It would take a while to count all the countries I've been to, but I've lived mainly in Tanzania, Morocco, the U.S. and now, Canada. I have also spent quite a bit of time in Spain and Kenya. I've lived about half of my life in Africa. I want to go back someday.

My FAVOURITE thing about living in Africa? Let me think about that...

- I loved the medieval look of the mosques and houses filling the Moroccan cities.
- I loved the feeling of soft, brightly colored, cactus silk in Morocco, and the amazing, often sparkly scarves in Kenya and Tanzania.
- I loved the taste of tajine, a Moroccan dish with meat, vegetables, and unique spices.
- Maybe the thing I loved most was the people being so accepting and friendly in my early childhood.

I was homeschooled in Africa until 3rd grade when I went to a private school with my nearest-in-age brother and my sister, where we learned a lot of Arabic and French. The kids there were friendly and a few knew English! They listened to me if I talked about my faith and my church, and were open-minded.

Now, near Toronto where I live, many people are from other cultures and countries, and I have made friends by sharing my experiences! I think my past experiences also help me to understand others.

My parents are supportive and remind us that God loves us always.

I love being a TCK.



Pray for our Third Culture Kids, who are all precious to our Lord. There are 76 Canadian TCKs who are an integral part of the AIM Canada family. Pray for:

- Personal salvation and commitment to Christ.
- An eternal mindset.
- A heart of love for all people.
- Appreciation for parents' ministry.
- Fellowship and involvement in the local church.
- God's peace to guard heart and mind.
- Encouragement and strength.
- Grace to handle often being on 'display'.
- Peace during the stresses of transition.
- Comfort in times of grief, separation and loneliness.
- God's provision of daily needs.
- Opportunities to learn practical life skills.
- A loving family environment.
- Solid educational opportunities.
- Development of important social skills.
- Lasting friendships despite changes.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever."

Psalms 118:29

We're Moving!



50 years ago the building at 1641 Victoria Park Avenue, Scarborough, Ontario became the headquarters of Africa Inland Mission (Canada). The property was sold to our organization by a very generous Christian Developer. We are so grateful to God for his provision over so many years, and praise him for his sustenance experienced at our present location. We have been able to provide logistical support as well as helpful orientation for hundreds of servants on full and short-term assignments in Africa—life-changing adventures of serving God in one or more of over 20 African nations. Further, we were able to share temporary comfort as mission-weary brothers and sisters arrived back in Canada on Home Assignment.

Prayerfully, a decision was made to sell our present location as the building no longer met our current needs. Africa Inland Mission (Canada) has purchased a building at 25 Faulkland Road in Toronto, which will meet our growing needs very well. This new office building includes a welcoming lobby, an expansive meeting and training room and ample office space for the AIM Team.

Our new home needs refitting – updated conference room technology, improved phone and network capacity, construction of a chapel/meeting room, and ensuring that our entire building is fully accessible. A special project – New Home Fund – has been established in order to raise a total goal of \$75,000. Generous supporters have already committed to match every dollar up to first \$10,000 donated!

Can we count on you to support this urgent need?

Giving options:

- Cheque payable to Africa Inland Mission (Canada). Please specify "New Home Fund" when mailing a cheque. Send to 25 Faulkland Road, Toronto, ON M1L 3S4
- Pre-authorized Monthly Payment or Credit Card Payments.
- Call 416-751-6077 or 1-877-407-6077
- Online Giving at <https://ca.aimint.org/give/on-line-giving/>

If you have any questions, please contact Keith & Christine Tennant at development.ca@aimint.org or 289-686-9753.





AFRICA INLAND MISSION

Christ-centered churches
among all African peoples

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