

Africa Inland Mission Canada

2016 Annual Report



Canadian Director

Dan Baetz

The term “Paradigm Shift” was first coined by the American physicist Thomas Kuhn in 1962, describing a profound change in a model or perception of events in science. Since then, the term has been widely utilized to describe massive change in other disciplines as well. This 2016 Report will focus on some significant changes, challenges and successes we are experiencing in our ministries.

Several Canadian missions, of which AIM was part, commissioned the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada to survey the Canadian landscape to better understand and quantify what everyone was sensing – that a ‘seismic paradigm shift’ was happening under our feet!

Sure enough, the results were less than encouraging. Processing this new reality poses challenges to every mission, including AIM Canada. Some of the most significant finds were:

- A large percentage of parents reporting evangelical-based faith would not want their children to be missionaries but rather be settled financially;
- A significant percentage of evangelicals feel evangelism should be banned from the public square
- Missional Churches are often opposed to missions.

Nonetheless, and gratefully, AIM Canada has seen many positive signs in 2016:

- Preparing Candidates for overseas service at our Home Based Orientation in February and July.
- Growth in our Ministry to Africans in Canada (MAC) program
- Full Support for departing appointees.
- Positive debriefs from returning short term personnel – often paving the way for future long term service
- Additional staff financial support
- A generous outpouring of finances in November and December! An encouraging beginning and solid foundation laid for our Development Ministry.
- Compassion Fund launched with the “Ride for Refuge” and other donors giving a significant balance to help our personnel in need. An incredible blessing to our personnel!!
- Too numerous to mention answers to prayer for our staff and personnel
- Reports of Canadian personnel serving ‘with distinction’ in Africa.

Thank you to those who have prayed and sacrificially supported our ministries in 2016!

Significant Dates

- AIM Canada Open House Luncheon – see our new renovations. (Date forthcoming)
- GALA – June 13, 2017 raising funds to send African kids to camp!
- Home Based Orientation Candidate Week (preparing them for service in Africa) July 10-15
- Provincial Mobilizers Forum (August 28-September 02) Scott Mission Camp, Ontario
- Ride for Refuge 2017 September 30th – different cities in Canada
- Christmas celebration November 25th with special guest Sunder Krishnan.

Sunder Krishnan grew up in New Delhi, India. After studying Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology he joined the staff of Atomic Energy of Canada. Most of his eleven years on staff were spent in safety analysis of nuclear generating stations.

Since arriving in Toronto, Sunder and his family have worshipped at Rexdale Alliance Church. In October 1980, Sunder resigned his position with Atomic Energy of Canada and joined the pastoral staff of Rexdale Alliance Church where he served until June 30, 2016.

Rev. Krishnan is a dynamic speaker who is in demand around the world. We are delighted he is coming to our Christmas celebration. Plan to attend and be inspired – and be thinking and praying now who you can be inviting.



Staff Appointment

Keith and Christine Tennant



Keith and Christine Tennant have lived in British Columbia and in the last several years in Ontario. They have two adult children and four grandchildren. They had a significant life change when they gave their hearts to the Lord and started walking with him in 1998. Their love for the church has led Keith to serve as a treasurer in two different cities. Christine serves as an administrator at a church in the Greater Toronto Area. They work very well as a couple, with complimentary gifts of leadership, administration, service, giving and teaching.

Together they have started and sold two businesses and have launched a third venture on a part-time basis. Keith sits on the board of two non-profit organizations. Christine also serves as the administrator of two nutritional programs that serve to feed hundreds of schoolchildren in their area. She was awarded "2016 Volunteer of the Year" in the Hamilton/Stoney Creek area. They participated in an AIM vision 'trip of a lifetime' to North Africa in November 2016. They will be leading a team back there in October 2017. Their passion is to see God's work progress and resourced!

They work with interested donors in helping them see the significant benefits and tax savings of giving to AIM Canada with planned giving, wills, legacies, life insurance, stocks and bonds and much more! For further information contact Keith or Christine at kctennant@aimint.org or 289-686-9753. Every AIM Member and donor can take advantage of their expertise and participate in seeing AIM ministry well resourced – for eternal dividends!

2017 Projects

For more information on these projects, see www.ca.aimint.org/CanadaProjects.

Next Generation Scholarship Fund **Goal: \$15,000**

Short Term Missions is one gateway that encourages students to consider God's call on their lives for vocational missionary service. Most of our servants living in Africa have been on a STM. While we continue to desire students to experience stepping out in faith to see God work to help cover the costs, these days the rising costs of school and the fear of increasing student debt deter many. This scholarship will help to subsidize students next semester upon their return to Canada from an STM – and Lord willing encourage them for service!



Camp Rhino – Not your average Camp! **Goal: \$30,000**

Description: The cost to send an African-origin kid is approximately \$300 – much cheaper than the average in our area. Many of these are refugee kids who are contributing one – sixth to the cost. This project will help the many expenses of our camps in three locations and Lord willing send 90 kids!



Pray Africa Subscriptions: **Goal: 50 people**

Our desire as an AIM Mobilizing Region is to send personnel and funds but also raise prayer support. We have an excellent website, Pray Africa, that gives amazing stories and brief requests to pray for – delivered every day to your 'in box'.

PRAY
AFRICA

AIM Air Plane **Goal: \$10,000**

One of our six AIM AIR planes is being retired after 2.5 million miles – like going to the moon and back six times. AIM AIR serves our personnel by getting them and supplies to remote regions where many of our Unreached People Groups are. This project will join with our AIM Family around the world to help get a new plane in the air!



Personnel Director's Report

Murray Schmidt

There are a number of paradigm shifts happening in our world today, which significantly affect applications for missionary service in cross-cultural environments. Here are a few:

1. An increasing emphasis among believers about 'shining the light', demonstrated through acts of service, humanitarian concern, and taking on the 'causes' of the world. With AIM's focus on unreached people groups and the establishment of churches among them, we **definitely** employ holistic ministry but **also** with a clear mandate to evangelism and disciple-making. AIM needs those who are engaged with needy causes but also active **verbal proclaimers** of the Gospel in Canada first – and Africa.
2. Churches, particularly large and/or non-denominational churches are establishing their own partnerships with ministries in other parts of the world. **They often are not looking to missions organizations to facilitate their going.**
3. The reality and emphasis that the **'world is coming to us'** can mitigate the overwhelming need of Unreached People's in Africa.
4. AIM's priority focus on Unreached People Groups means that we need to get to the most difficult places to reach the most difficult-to-reach people. There are still roughly **1000 unique ethnic/tribal groups**, which do not have a viable church within their culture - to reach their own people with the Gospel.

These Unreached People Groups fall into three categories:

- They live in **geographically difficult areas** (such as deserts, harsh climates or remote locations);
- They may have **lifestyles very different from our own** – for example, nomadic peoples who move from place to place.
- They are **strongly Muslim**.

We are seeking to find Canadians who are willing to (1) **live in hard places** (2) **to reach 'gospel - resistant people'**.

5. The focus on safety and security, both within our culture and as an emphasis of our government means increasing challenges working in many of the countries in Africa. The threat of terrorism looms large. It also means that Canadians are hesitant to move their families to these difficult places. There is sacrifice involved in following the call of God to the 'ends of the earth'. As one aptly said recently: "Following the Great Commission is the exact opposite of the American [or Canadian] Dream."

In the midst of all of these trends, there are three desired responses:

- Seek to understand how we can serve in Canada's new environment,
- Continue and increase our prayer to the Lord of the Harvest to send labourers into the harvest fields of Africa through AIM.
- Cultivate an attitude of gratitude that God is still calling Canadians to AIM service!

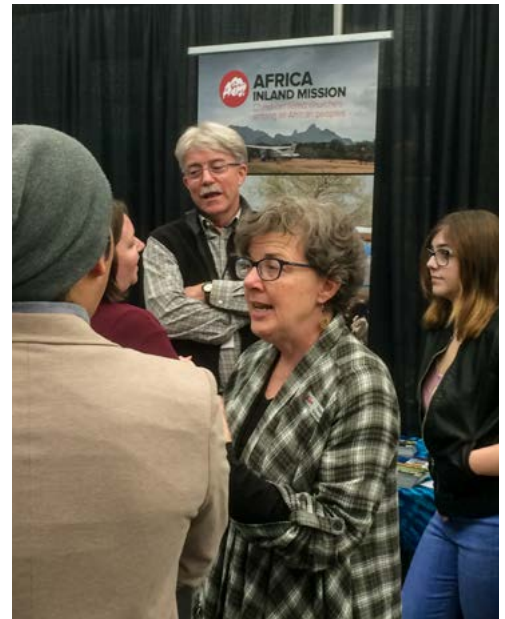
Financial Miracles

Raising financial support can be a daunting challenge, especially when moving a family overseas. Repeatedly, we face a test of our faith as we watch the deadline approaching by which individuals need to have 100% of their financial needs in place. With rising costs and the low value of our Canadian dollar, the needs are significant. Despite all of the challenges, God consistently provides as people take steps of faith and trust Him.

Staff Needs

We have been blessed with an amazing team, made up of our AIM Canada office staff and the Mobilizers who live across the country. However, we are in need of filling several key positions to fill out the team to make us even more effective. Please pray that God will lead us to:

- A French-speaking Mobilizer for Quebec and parts of the Maritimes
- A Mobilizer (preferably a couple) to serve long-term in Ontario
- A Mobilizer for the Maritimes
- An Executive Administrative Assistant to serve in the AIM Canada office



Statistically Speaking in 2016...

- 55 Full Term personnel serving in Africa
- 21 Full Term personnel serving in Canada (in the AIM Canada Office; in Mobilization)
- 2 Full Term personnel serving in Canada in the Ministry to Africans in Canada
- 6 Adults and 2 Children who departed for Africa on Full Term assignments
- 8 Short Term personnel sent
- 15 Full Term Appointees at some stage of the process of preparation to go overseas



Ministry to African-Canadians

John P. Brown

Ministries to African-Canadians Director

People are flowing into Canada from around the world, and the fourth largest source of our immigrants is Africa. The last published census in 2011 showed that over 750,000 respondents identified themselves as African. When data from the 2016 census is published, we believe it will show that we now have 1 million Africans coast to coast. The majority of these are younger than 24, and about half are Muslims.

If we are going to reach Africans in this country, we must evangelize the youth. In August 2016, we held our first overnight wilderness camp at Graphite Bible Camp near Bancroft, Ontario. We partnered with Mount Zion Worship Center, an Eritrean Church in Toronto. The five-day outreach demonstrated that camps can effectively disciple young people, strengthen the youth ministries of African churches, and train cross-cultural workers. In 2017 three camps are planned.

In 2016, Jay & Laura Callaghan, John & Jennifer Brown, and Amanda Spruit (home for 12 months from Chad) filled out our MAC Team. The Callaghans began their ministry in Nova Scotia in September and immediately made great inroads into the Halifax and Wolfville international student groups. Additionally, they forged a close connection to the African Diaspora Association of the Maritimes.



In the fall of 2016, we commissioned a 3-part study to determine the population of Africans in Canada by people group in each province, learn their location in the neighborhoods of our 10 largest cities, and gather contact information for over 320 African Canadian churches coast-to-coast. It proved to be a gold mine of information that will greatly assist in planning strategy going forward.

We are anxious to launch a grassroots Bible and leadership-training program for African church leaders in Canada. The challenge of organizing our first youth camp, interviewing African community leaders across the country, and completing our 5-year strategic plan were priorities in the last year. We nevertheless believe such a training program is one of the greatest needs of our African churches and one of our most important callings in MAC.

We humbly thank you for your prayers for MAC in 2016.

AIM Canada Income & Expenses

From donations for missionary support AIM Canada allocates 12.5% for mobilization and services.

2015 total expenses \$3,986,248

2015 total income \$3,637,968

2016 total expenses \$3,532,574

2016 total income \$3,618,245

CCCC Seal of Approval

Congratulations to the Finance Team and AIM Canada for receiving the 2016 and 2017 Canadian Council of Christian Charities Gold Seal of Approval! Every five years the '4 C's' conducts an 'on-site' in depth evaluation of all aspects of our organizational infrastructure, financial policies and operations. Their evaluation was very positive, commending both the Home Council for excellent governance practice and staff for operational excellence. We strive to honour the Lord in everything we do, and to give our Members and Donors the utmost trust for their efforts and funding!



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