

AFRICA INLAND MISSION CANADA



Changing our **world**



Changing Our World

Dan Baetz *Canadian Director*



In a faraway country, I was introduced to a smiling faced national believer, “Mr. X.” He recounted to me how he once was an alcoholic and his life was on a downward spiral. Then he met ‘The Master.’ Mr. X confessed his sins, was converted and completely transformed. He recounted how his life’s trajectory changed and he started treating his wife and family differently. He was able to keep a job and eventually purchase a home, where we were now enjoying tea. His radiant smile testified to this dramatic change!

Sociologist Robert Woodbury, researching the field of missions and its impact on society, published in 2012 his then-shocking findings entitled “The Missionary Roots of Liberal Democracy.” This article demonstrates with statistical evidence that missionaries who emphasize the need to be ‘born again’ significantly influence the rise and spread of stable democracy around the world. Woodbury argues that the work of those missionaries were a critical catalyst initiating the development and spread of religious liberty, mass education, mass printing, newspapers, voluntary organizations, and colonial reforms; thereby creating the conditions that made stable democracy thrive. Not very politically correct information – but I have seen the proof!

But...I have also seen the opposite...

Recently, I had a heartbreaking experience in one of the countries where our Canadians serve amongst “Unreached People Groups.” I flew to this remote area with AIM AIR. For years, NGOs (Non Governmental Organizations) have been working hard in this regional center to improve people’s lives through agricultural, cultural, and health programs. I met a livestock expert who was working on preventing cattle disease. The sad consensus was that, in spite of those well -intentioned efforts, little has changed— even after 50+ years of work.

Their local library had broken windows, and to get into the door, you had to jump over a wide ditch. It was often closed in the daytime. I visited slums where women did backbreaking work while men played games nearby. I played ‘football’ with scrawny kids with torn clothes who were not in school. The social problems were enormous. With my own eyes, I saw a young mother seriously attempt to give away her newborn baby to our local personnel.

What was missing amongst these dear people? Not only were they resistant to the gospel, but in doing so, they also rejected the many positive personal and social benefits that come from a deep heart change – transformation through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

While we continue to do agricultural training, medical work, and educational work, Africa In-land Mission continues to focus on sharing the transforming, world-changing message of the gospel in pursuit of establishing Christ-centred churches amongst all African peoples. This edition focuses on how God has used and is using our personnel. God is changing our world!



Robert D. Woodbury, May 2012, “The Missionary Roots of Liberal Democracy,” *American Political Science Review*, 106(2), pp. 244-274.

Partners Together in the Work of God

a letter from the mission field

Kelby and Michelle Friesen are two millennials from Winnipeg, Manitoba, who are presently serving short term as AIM Missionaries at Nassa Theological College (NTC) in Tanzania. Their love for Jesus has taken them to Africa to empower believers through theological education and ESL. They have shared one of their stories with us:



“Our student’s name is Lucas. He has an incredible testimony. He was raised as a Muslim (in fact, his whole clan is still Muslim), but he is now the only believer in his family. This creates some danger for him, and he has had to run from his family to save his life and the lives of his wife and daughters.

He first found Christ when he was in secondary school (high school) when his parents sent him to a school run by Christians. This is common as boarding schools can provide a much higher quality of education for children if the family can afford it. Here, Lucas was introduced to Christ. Upon graduating, Lucas made the choice that he was going to devote his life to following Jesus. His family detested this, and he was forced to leave home. As a young man, he had to provide for himself by selling jugs of water.

When he heard that his father was on his death bed, Lucas felt burdened to return to his side even though the risk was great because some of his relatives had threatened to kill him. Lucas knew that he had to try and show Jesus to his father one last time. Obviously, the Holy Spirit was leading him to visit his father, who at that time accepted Christ – right before his death. The rest of Lucas’ family did not believe that this event had taken place and once again chased him off. He still visits home from time to time to greet his family, but he says that he is far from welcome in that place.

Now as a student at NTC, he is not able to afford to have his wife and children move here and yet, called by God, he has come to learn and train to be a church leader. While most students have the support and financial backing of family, Lucas does not. His family does not even know that he is here as a student. He also did not share with us where his wife and children are staying out of fear that his relatives would find out and harm them in order to hurt Lucas.

Please join us in praying for Lucas. Pray that his family would have an encounter with Christ and see their need to follow him.

Asante! (Thank you!)”

“The god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”

2 Cor. 4:4



Committed to God's Service

Two Generations

God began nudging **Ron and Jacqui Shaw** out of a comfortable, secure Canadian life in 1985. This is their story.

"We had no idea of the wonderful adventure He'd eventually take us on! Seven years later, with stories of God-moments everywhere, we arrived in Nairobi: Ron as a pilot/mechanic, Jacqui in administrative support, and our three children, aged 13, 10, and 8. God allowed us to have dramatic overviews of several of the countries AIM serves in: Kenya, Congo, Central African Republic, Tanzania and even the Comoros, with many exciting adventures along the way!



In September 2016, we started a different role - mobilizing new Canadian workers through mentoring and walking with all of the people whom God is nudging towards serving Him in Africa including new pilots!

Our daughter, Danielle, chose to join AIM in spite of — or maybe because of — seeing us grapple with life issues, yet recognizing God's faithfulness and sovereignty over our lives. Her choice and direction was and is humbling to us as parents. Our other children also walk closely with the Lord - we are very thankful for God's grace towards our family!

What a tremendous privilege we have enjoyed being led by the Master these past 32 years!"

Danielle Shaw recounts...

"I vividly remember asking Jesus into my heart as a very young child. However, it wasn't until my High School Senior year that I realized that, despite my belief in God, I had never made a conscious decision to follow Him. Two months later, my 'second mom' passed away very suddenly, which pushed me to make that decision — and the direction of my life shifted.



I have been serving as the Administrative Officer in Uganda since May 2013. Despite many challenges, I love it! Life in Uganda is a strange mix of newness and the sense of home from growing up in Kenya. Supporting and seeing the vastly different contexts of our workers in Central Africa has been fascinating and a great joy! Most of all, drawing closer to God through the highs and lows has made it all worthwhile.

Watching my parents serve in support roles in Nairobi with A.I.M. built the base for my strong belief in the need for missionaries to serve and support other missionaries. Serving is a 'divine privilege' which my parents introduced me to."

Donor Development Ministry

Keith & Christine Tennant



What noteworthy events over the millennia have been world changers?

Some significant ones are the following:

- Flat earth becomes a sphere
- Nuclear capable superpowers
- Space travel no longer science fiction
- Velcro is invented
- Jesus Christ's resurrection
- The Beatles arrive in New York
- Magna Carta - June 15, 1215
- August 17, 1895 (Africa Inland Mission)
- McDonald's restaurants open
- My birthday ☺

Some stand out to us more than others! Here are two worth mentioning...

- The resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. A definite world-changer! From that moment onward, until his return, our mandate is to continue the world changing process until all people [groups] are reached with the Good News.
- On August 17, 1895, Peter Cameron Scott departed for Kenya as the leader of the first missionary party for Africa Inland Mission. Within a year, Peter Cameron Scott died. But not before a movement was launched that has seen hundreds of missionaries serving!

Since 1895, many others have given of themselves sacrificially through their going, their praying, and their giving. Our personnel cannot go to Africa and our home staff cannot support them without those who stay behind and give financially. Your willingness and participation to do what the Lord calls you to do is what matters most! It is not how much that counts – but equal sacrifice for the task. So, if God is prompting you to contribute, obey and give!

Through giving, you can participate in hastening the Lord's coming- the biggest change yet! There are many creative ways to give including bequests, will designations, company stocks, life insurance policies, property, 'gifts in kind' and from foundations. Maranatha! (Mathew 24:14)

Christ Followers Changing our World

David and Heather Hildebrandt

Retired Bible College Teachers at Nassa Theological College in Tanzania

"Before Heather and I were married, God was leading us to be missionaries in Africa. As God has done so much for us in providing Jesus as our Saviour, we wanted to serve Him where He would lead us. We loved our work in Africa, where we both taught! We loved the people we worked with! We especially loved it when former students would visit and describe how God was working in them to reach the people through their ministries."



Kristen Dewald - Pilot and Flight Instructor

"Growing up in a Christian home, my love for God began as a logical fact rather than as complete devotion. Over the past few years, God has gradually 'stretched' me and increased my love for Him! I want to live the life that Jesus calls me to as a true follower of Him.

Three years ago, God led me to the Prairie College of Mission Aviation. Despite no prior interest in aviation, not nearly enough money, and no idea if I would even like flying, God provided in miraculous ways! How? With the finances, skill, talents, and connections that I needed to make it through the program! Gradually He planted in me an unquenchable desire to serve Him as a missionary pilot.

There has always been a special place in my heart for Africa (though I could never quite say why). I love the people, the culture, the geography, and the wildlife. God led me to participate in a Vision trip with AIM to Kenya and Uganda. When I saw the work God was doing there, the hearts of the people (both missionaries and nationals), and how mission aviation could be such a help to God's servants, I knew that God was leading me to return to serve Him in Africa. With so many people groups in Africa that have no access to the Gospel, I have a deep and urgent desire to return to Africa and to serve with AIM AIR."



"The Africa Inland Mission is not a thing. It is not building or lands. It is not even a program. The A.I.M. is people, a society of men and women called and gifted by God, committed to a cause and organized to accomplish certain goals. It is not perfect, because it is human. It has no reason to be proud, because it believes that it is "not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit saith the Lord of Hosts." (Zech 4:7) it is a body of Christian workers united in bringing the light of the Gospel to East and Central Africa and to the Inner Cities of (North) America." E. Schuit -Inland Africa Magazine, 1976

Rosemary Walker - Mon Témoignage

Quand j'avais dix ans, mes parents m'ont amenée à Maple Leaf Gardens pour écouter un jeune évangéliste, Billy Graham. Billy nous a expliqué qu'il fallait faire pour être sûr d'être sauvés, selon Romains 10:9-10. Ce soir-là, j'ai invité le Seigneur dans mon cœur; et, par la suite, mes parents, frères, pasteurs, enseignants d'école du dimanche, groupes de jeunesse, amis et le Groupe Biblique Universitaire ont contribué à ma croissance en Christ.

Mes parents invitaient souvent les prédicateurs et bien d'autres qui visitaient notre église, Knox Presbyterian Church, à manger chez nous après le culte matinal. Ils ont dû recevoir des centaines d'étudiants malaisiens, coréens, chinois, japonais, nigériens, etc., et Ils ont aussi eu une étude biblique de quartier à la maison. J'étais toujours à notre grande conférence missionnaire annuelle, où nos missionnaires montraient des images fascinantes, faisaient des rapports épatants sur leurs ministères en Afrique, en Thaïlande, au Brésil, en Israël, en Irian Jaya, aux Indes, en Équateur, etc. Knox m'a envoyée deux fois à la Conférence Missionnaire Urbana, et a tout payé pour ma première mission outre-mer quand j'ai enseigné l'anglais au Tchad.

L'enseignement me permet de servir Dieu en servant les autres. Cette année, au Congo (RDC), j'ai enseigné aux futurs enseignants l'anglais conversationnel, un cours d'introduction à l'ordinateur et comment taper sans regarder le clavier. Nous avons eu aussi une étude biblique hebdomadaire. C'était beau de réaliser que parmi mes étudiants se trouvaient sûrement quelques-uns qui, un jour (si le Seigneur ne revient pas avant) enseigneront ce qu'ils ont appris avec moi dans les lycées chrétiens et églises ici et là dans ce vaste pays.



Visit www.ca.aimint.org to read more stories of how God is using Canadians living in Africa to change our world.



PRAY



- For God to pour His heart into believers in Canada so they have a burden for those who need the gospel!
- That God's Spirit would raise up intercessors to intercede for those held captive by Animism, Islam and other religions that do not honour God.
- For those in Africa who are persecuted for their faith, some who have been tortured and imprisoned.
- For the continued financial needs of AIM Canada: particularly for our increasing operational costs.
- That our missionaries and their families would grow in their relationship with God as they seek to follow His will for their lives.
- For our retirees. Pray that God may continue to enrich their lives, and that they may, in turn, enrich the lives of others.
- Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send 12 new full time and 20 new short term applicants to AIM.

When he (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest fields".

GIVE

During this season, we celebrate that God gave us His Son, Jesus Christ. In response, let us consider ways of giving more in an effort to expand God's kingdom and change our world. AIM Canada uses your gifts to provide support for missionaries in 12 African countries.

As we celebrate our Saviour's birth, please consider partnering with us through monthly donations or one time gifts which will honour God and support His redemptive work for all peoples.

Please use the attached envelope or visit us online at www.ca.aimint.org/give



**Urgent Need:
Homeschool Teacher
Torit, South Sudan (6-12 months)**

GO

Two AIM families need someone special to come alongside and assist with homeschooling their seven children (preschool–grade 6). Having home-school support would free the missionaries to sharing the Gospel with the unreached and mobilizing the church for mission. While focusing on home-schooling, there will be time to learn some local language and build relationships with Africans in the community. Curriculum will be supplied by the families. A professional teacher's certificate is not necessary.

Summer Training Teams (2 months)

These teams are designed for those who have little cross-cultural experience and are looking for an introduction to cross-cultural ministry.

GO Program

This is an opportunity for classroom learning and hands-on exposure to evangelism and discipleship among an unreached people group. The GO program begins with two weeks of training as a larger group. Then, together with a partner, you will be mentored by an experienced missionary for 5 weeks in an outreach location. The group comes back together for a week of debriefing and sharing experiences.

GO East Africa: June 20–August 20. Application due March 15

GO North Africa: June 6–July 23. Application due February 15

Fuel Program

Fuel is a team for young single men who have a passion for Jesus and want a challenge. Each participant is partnered with a Ugandan Short Term missionary and will receive in-depth training together as you learn to reach out to the Karimojong people of Uganda. During this 8-week program you will live and breathe missions – both academically and practically.

June 10–August 14 2018. (Applications due March 1.)

While highlighting these Short-Term opportunities, AIM is constantly seeking those who have been called to serve Long-Term in Africa. For more information on these, and other Short-Term and Long-Term opportunities please visit: www.ca.aimint.org/go

Options to Give

1

Cheque Payable to Africa Inland Mission (Canada)
1641 Victoria Park Ave., Scarborough, Ontario. M1R 1P8

Monthly pre-authorized payments by bank withdrawal or credit card
visit www.ca.aimint.org/give

2

3

Credit Card
Call 416.751.6077 or toll free 877-407-6077

Ministry to Africans in Canada (MAC)

John P. Brown Director of Ministries to African-Canadians



He serves the Queen, while we serve our King!

"I am a Canadian. I am extremely proud of our country's history as a place of asylum, a place that opens its doors and hearts to new immigrants and refugees." Ahmed had a lump in his throat as he spoke these words in Ottawa several months ago. Born in Mogadishu, Ahmed fled the Somali Civil War and arrived with his parents in Nairobi, where his mother still lives. Already speaking Somali and Swahili, he arrived in Hamilton in 1993 as a solitary teenager where he learned English from his cousin.

His new life was bewildering, but Ahmed excelled as a high school athlete. He is quick to credit others who helped him, like his track coach, teachers and fellow students. He says, "They were very, very generous to me in my early years in Canada and I've never forgotten that."

After high school, Ahmed moved into subsidized housing in Toronto's Regent Park neighbourhood. To put himself through York University, he commuted nearly two hours to pump gas in Mississauga. From York, he went on to study Law at Ottawa University.

Aware of ongoing turmoil in his homeland, Ahmed assisted the RCMP and served on the Harper government's Cross-Cultural Roundtable on Security. In 2011, he testified before the Homeland Security Committee in Washington, DC, about Al-Shabaab recruitment in North America.

A few years later, Ahmed ran for office in the working-class riding of York-South-Weston and became the first Somali-Canadian elected to Parliament. That was a game changer. On January 10 of this year, standing beside Prime Minister Trudeau at Rideau Hall, Ahmed Hussen swore to serve the Queen as Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship.

The planet is changing. And for sure, Canada is changing, as we welcome Africa and the world to our neighbourhoods, schools, farms and businesses, and yes, into our government. What mind-blowing opportunities we have as AIMers and as the Canadian Church to proclaim without interference the Good News of Jesus on our Mission Field next door!



Would you consider becoming a WELCOMER by initiating a relationship with an international student, professional or refugee in your community and showing him or her hospitality and the love of Christ?

Move In to the Neighbourhood

Murray Schmidt *Personnel Director*



The Message paraphrases John 1:14 this way: “The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.” The first part of our missionary calling is to “move into the neighborhood” so that we can build relationships and allow people to watch our lives as we follow Jesus Christ in their community.

Canadian missionaries Joy* and Larry* “moved into the neighborhood” in a village about a year ago. Their initial goal was to establish relationships in the community and seek permission to bring a team into their Muslim village where there were no known believers. As team leaders, they would spend the year before their team arrived to learn the local language, arrange for housing, and take care of logistics in advance of their new team’s arrival.

They were not in their village very long before a young man approached them with a striking request: he asked if he could have a Bible. Larry had not been intentional in reaching out to the young man. This encounter was not part of an elaborate strategic plan for evangelism. Joy and Larry had simply “moved into the neighbourhood.” But now they had a chance to give a young man a copy of the Living Word of God! They didn’t have a full bible in the local tribal language, but they gave him a New Testament.



The young man returned a couple of weeks later having read through the whole New Testament. He asked Larry if he had the rest of the Bible. While not having the Old Testament in his mother tongue, Larry gave him a trade language Bible. After dutifully reading through the rest of the Bible, the man returned to talk to Leroy.

Larry asked him, “Do you have any questions? Would you like to study the Bible together?” “No,” came the reply, “I already believe. When can I get baptized?”

Larry’s new friend became the first believer in his village and has been faithful in worshipping with Larry and Joy in their fledgling church. One local believer was won just because Larry and Joy “moved into the neighborhood.” They were present and could give the young man a Bible. The Holy Spirit did the rest.

Joy and Larry still have a lot of hard work and ministry to do to follow up with this new believer and help him to integrate his faith into his everyday life; to help him to understand the need to share the Good News with his family and friends; and to share the Gospel in word and deed with others in the village. But it all started with Joy and Larry “moving into the neighborhood.”

Stories like this compel us to pray for more Canadians who, like Jesus Christ, are willing to leave their comfort and security to “move into the neighborhood.”

*Alternate names have been used due to their sensitive ministry location.

AFRICA INLAND MISSION CANADA

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Christ-Centred Churches Among All African Peoples

Praise Report

Ride for Refuge 2017 Update

Many thanks to our generous donors across Canada who sponsored AIM Participants in Ride for Refuge 2017! Over \$14,000 was raised to support Colin Gilmore in his quest to serve as a missionary pilot with AIM AIR.



Before the Gilmores can depart for Africa (January 2019) Colin needs flight hours in particular aircraft and 3 months of specialized training in the U.S. The training costs to be an AIM AIR pilot are high so this project will remain open.

Donations designated for Colin Gilmore may be made on our website at www.ca.aimint.org/give