



AFRICA INLAND MISSION CANADA

Fall 2021

God @ **work**

a publication prepared for the friends and supporters of AIM Canada



Dear Friends,

It is such a pleasure to again share with you what the Lord is doing through the work of Africa Inland Mission. You are such a vital link to us achieving our goals as a mission to "reach the unreached." We are so grateful for your love, prayers and financial support.

Journey with us in this edition of God@work to:

- Experience the impact of AIM retirees Jim and Joanne Stenstrom on students at Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya earlier this year.
- Sense the total reliance on God's preparation and timing as Tom and Shelly Burry move into a new role with AIM Canada.
- Learn how God is at work through the efforts of "Friends of Africa" in Quebec.
- Meet Ruth Ewert, a registered nurse and AIM stalwart from Manitoba.
- Hear from two Third-Culture Kids who grew up in Kenya and are active in ministry in Ontario.
- Be refreshed through the ongoing work of Ministry to Africans in Canada (MAC).
- Celebrate the life of our dear colleague, Marion Eleftheriadis, who was called home to be with the Lord September 22.

We covet your prayers as we seek to be diligent in our efforts to bring glory to God through our work.

Thank you for your feedback on our articles. Please continue to share your comments with us.

Don't forget to send us a note if you would prefer to read God@work electronically.

Blessings!

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Gospel Proclamation

Dan Baetz Canadian Director



"You feed them."

Over the last eighteen months, many of us have asked ourselves: How does one remain positive as we face the challenges posed by COVID when the world seems to be falling apart? Further, as mission and church leaders, we are constantly grappling with ever-changing realities, restrictions and divisions.

Can our Christian faith survive, and be even stronger, in such a season as this, giving evidence that God is at work?

Jesus' instructions are pertinent to us. After His disciples asked Him to show them how to increase their faith, Jesus answered, "If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'May you be uprooted and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you!" (Luke 17:5-6 NLT). Evidently, Jesus is indicating that while it does not require *much* faith, it does require a *little* faith.

What hinders us from having at least *mustard seed-sized* faith to believe God?

Looking through Mark 7-9, we see the following factors were hindrances to believing faith: an attitude of skepticism and unbelief, hardheartedness, not persevering, demanding God work on our terms, and not having patience to realize that sometimes God's work is more gradual in nature. These Scripture texts indicate that we need to have an **expectant attitude** for God to work, **not take no for an answer**, ask **big** and **persevere**. These are key to accelerating our faith, and to enduring in such a time as this.

One factor often overlooked is found in the account of the feeding of the 5,000, where Jesus said to the disciples, "You feed them" (Mark 6:37 TLB). He then inquired as to what food was available. Jesus also requested that they organize the crowd in groups *before* the multiplication miracle took place. This raises the questions: "What do we already have for God to multiply, and how can we organize ourselves in such a way for God to work?"

Africa Inland Mission (AIM) continues to build on the history and strategy of 125 years of Gospel proclamation and mission. This year, 2021, AIM Canada was again certified by the Canadian Council of Christian Charities with the gold standard of organizational, financial and managerial integrity, having satisfied five benchmark standards and met fifty requirements. We are grateful for God's goodness and His providence as we strive to implement measures to improve and expand our ministry efforts, particularly in respect to our communications outreach. These will enable us to better serve God, our Master, and our missionary members and donors, as well as support the work of our team.

While we seek to do our part, *God* must supply the power and the resources to accomplish His mission! In this issue of *God@work*, we will share many such examples as we build on the labours of our pioneers, with an eye on "reaching the unreached" through expanded Gospel proclamation.

Thank you for your partnership!



Surrounded by the lush beauty of Rift Valley Academy, we were awed that God would still use us in Africa Inland Mission and at RVA.



We first went to RVA in the summer of 1988, and eventually spent 20 years immersed in this ministry. We dorm-parented for many years, taught science and math in the high school (Jim), did speech therapy (Joanne), supervised the RVA laundry (Joanne), served as the academy's guidance director (Jim), worked with several Kenyan pastors (Jim), and started and encouraged an AIDS orphanage in Nakuru. We always saw ministry at RVA as an integral part of the evangelistic and discipleship thrusts of AIM. RVA is essential to other missions too, allowing parents to do their vital work somewhere on the continent of Africa.

In 2010 we left RVA (we thought for good) to return to Canada for other ministry. We joined One Hope Canada (formerly CSSM) and served as a field director for almost a decade. This was a dynamic time of restructuring the mission and overseeing Bible camps and church ministries within the mission. We announced our retirement from One Hope Canada on May 31, 2020, pondering what retirement would look like. That did not last long as we received an invitation from AIM and RVA on June 10th—would we be willing to return to RVA for a short term assignment? We were reluctant to accept as we were older—could we still relate well to youth? And then, we had a number of close Kenyan friends we did not want to leave yet again—that would be emotionally draining. We prayed about the invitation and God answered. We could not help but say yes!

God graciously had our prayer and financial team come on board in this new endeavour. When we arrived at RVA on December 3rd, 2020, we knew God wanted us there. We soon became aware that there was a remnant of the RVA staff who was weary from doing double duty making up for the many staff who left during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as suffering "cabin fever," having been confined to the campus since the March 15, 2020 shut down of the school. The mission community in Africa really needed RVA to reopen to keep missionaries on the field, as opposed to families going home for the sake of their children. Working through incredible obstacles like COVID protocols, Kenyan laws and guidelines, and parent concerns, the RVA administration team and staff came up with a plan for the 2020-21 school year. The RVA school year consists of three three-month terms. It became obvious



that students could not be on campus during Term 1. Through a lot of effort and diligence, RVA developed an on-line form of schooling for all students for the first term, with the possibility of some continuing with that option throughout the school year. Then, for Terms 2 and 3, students would come to the campus. We wondered if all staff would return to RVA to implement the plan and were guessing at the number of students who would come back to RVA during the pandemic. In the end we were at capacity for staff, and the students on campus numbered about 430, compared to the regular enrolment of 460. We knew God was performing miracle after miracle! We enjoyed two on-campus terms with few to no COVID cases. We can only praise Him. Many were and are praying for RVA!

What roles did we play during those two terms? Joanne spent every morning assisting Becky Carter teach the first-grade students. In the afternoons, she did speech therapy with a number of the elementary students. The elementary school, "Titchie Swot," was her world. For

Jim, it was Junior High. He taught two Math 8 classes, hosted a "home-room" group, and covered Study Hall. All in all, we came to love our students and we felt it was mutual.

Pandemic protocols dominated each day. The RVA administration cleverly rolled out the "5 Ms" of COVID. The first M was "Masks." Teachers and students were masked every day. The second M was "Metres." On campus we stayed two metres apart, except for in the classrooms where one metre was maintained. The third M was "Mountain Air." The students ate all meals outside, activities were outside, and, in the classroom, windows and doors had to be wide open. The fourth M was "Maculate Hands." Sanitizers were everywhere and well used. The final M was "Maculate Surfaces." This meant that dorms were constantly cleaned and classroom desks disinfected between every class. All of this added to everyone's busy schedule. What amazed us was the compliance from everyone right through to graduation. Except for the social distancing, little policing of the new procedures

was needed. The result? Other than one event in the third term, we had no COVID on campus. It was certainly an answer to much prayer!

What was our experience in those eight months, December through July? We were tired! We never got adjusted to the high (7500 feet) altitude but God gave us strength for each day. We fully engaged in the rhythm of RVA life and fell into bed each night with a smile on our faces. The people at RVA were so encouraging to us. And it was wonderful to renew friendships again with our Kenyan friends. You might ask, "Is it worth it to do short-term missionary service when you are of retirement age?" At 72 years old we can say enthusiastically, "Yes!" The positive feedback that RVA received from students, parents, and many mission agencies made it all very worthwhile. God is at work, and we were privileged to join Him in that work. Our life verses are Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths." We find trusting in the Lord is far better than trusting in our own understanding. It makes life rich, wonderful, purposeful, and amazing!



For more stories of missionaries on the field please visit:
aimint.org/ca/stories/



Ears to Hear

by Jacob and Breanna Gaudaur

Siblings, Jacob and Breanna Gaudaur grew up as Missionary Kids as their parents served at Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya. They now live in Waterloo, Ontario.

How the experiences of two Missionary Kids in Kenya shapes their advocacy in Canada today.

Sometimes the most defining changes that happen in your life are the changes that you have little or no control over. For two small kids from London, Ontario our defining change was heralded by the words “we are moving to Africa”! At ages three and five we had no idea how that phrase would set our lives down a path which many in our hometown would have labeled unorthodox. For those who identify as TCKs (Third Culture Kids), the notion of *unorthodox* is nothing new. After all, there isn’t much that could be considered orthodox about being immersed and raised in a country you aren’t native to, let alone being raised in a unique amalgamation of dozens of cultures. But from 1998 to 2013 we had the privilege of growing up in such a place, a

school nestled on the escarpment of the Great Rift Valley in Kenya.

Our upbringing had more than its fair share of wild experiences, despite never roughing it like we initially thought all missionaries did. Most of our peers returned to their parents’ area of service across Africa at the end of every school term, but we lived on the Rift Valley Academy campus in Kijabe year round as this is where our parents served as dorm parents and teachers. That being said, we definitely have more stories about being chased by baboons and charged by elephants than the average Canadian. More important than providing us with a lifetime of un-Canadian stories though, Kenya also gave us a new place to call home. And it undoubtedly shaped us

into the people we are today in ways both big and small.

In December 2007, Kenya experienced large-scale violence in the wake of a contested presidential election. Due to the tightly interwoven nature of ethnicity and politics in Kenya, neighbour turned against neighbour with deadly consequences. Many had to abandon their homes and flee to IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps with little more than their loved ones. Many of those camps remain all these years later. This directly affected two of my (Jacob’s) Kenyan classmates, who had to pull out of school overnight due to threats made against their families. I had called Kenya home for most of my life, and I didn’t understand how such serious consequences could have transpired right in front of me in a country I largely considered a paradise. From that point on, I knew I wanted to learn how to live life with eyes open, and help those affected by conflict like this.

Fast forward to 2021 and I have completed degrees in Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Waterloo and work in the non-profit sector. Breanna’s path after her graduation from RVA in 2013 has included a degree in Children’s Ministry from Heritage College and Seminary, and she has been on staff at a church in



Kitchener since 2017. Although our stories have looked very different at times, we are quick to acknowledge the role which Kenya, our faith, and the firm biblical foundation we received at RVA have played.

Years after leaving Kenya we’ve had a lot of time to grow roots back here in Canada. But we still often find ourselves reflecting on our MK (Missionary Kid) experience and the ways in which it has shaped us. One of the most important impacts any TCK can have throughout their life revolves around the less glamorous or exotic chapters of their journey. Every TCK needs to determine how they will channel the experiences God has given them, and those of their peers, into their new roles back in their home country or wherever their paths lead.

While our experiences as MKs in Kenya developed our worldview and influenced our vocations, we have found that some of the most important outlets where we can apply our



unique experiences have been found outside academia or the workplace. Events of recent years have forced us to consider the work that we have been equipped to do, and the responsibility we have to apply eyes of compassion, ears that are willing to listen, and hearts that seek justice which our time in Kenya nurtured within us.

One of the most important lessons we learned at RVA was how to value people who are different from us. While the dozens of cultures and nationalities represented at RVA formed a unique third culture, the distinctions and nuances of each culture were clearly visible. Friends from Korea, Kenya, the UK, and the United States all brought something different to our community. For the two of us, years of growing up being steeped in this environment helped us develop a strong empathy for people we didn't fully understand. This has provided us with a desire to engage in conversations about social issues here in Canada.

Canada has not been home for us for most of our lives. When we arrived back in Canada to raise support every few years, people always asked us how it felt to be home. And our parents always referred to Canada as our home. However, from the mo-

ment the Kijabe wind first hit our faces, Canada was no longer where we belonged. Since returning to Canada we have been learning about what it means to be Canadian. And for us, that means actively advocating for and working to create a Canada that we are proud to call home. We are learning to listen when people speak, and to amplify the voices of those who have too long been silenced. We are learning to acknowledge the privilege that is afforded us because of the colour of our skin and the language we speak. And we are learning how best to seek justice for everyone who calls Canada home.

When reflecting on our MK experience as a whole we can't help but feel immense gratitude and privilege. We are grateful that our parents had the belief, obedience, and courage to pack up our family and follow God to a place full of so many unknowns. We are grateful for the lessons we learned along the way that would never have been possible in Canada. We are grateful for the people that being MKs has made us. This identity is an undeniable piece of who each of us is, and we eagerly anticipate seeing how God will continue to use us, and other Third Culture Kids, to further his kaleidoscopic kingdom.



My time at Benton Street Baptist Church started with an internship I needed, to fill a requirement for my degree at Heritage Bible College & Seminary. Benton quickly became so much more, and I've now been in ministry here since 2014. I am forever grateful that God's will is higher than my own, because I never could have imagined myself as an office administrator at a church. People often refer to my role as 'being in the middle of it all' or 'keeping everything running at the church,' and there's no where else I'd rather be. I have no idea how long I'll be serving in this role, or what God has in store for me next. But something I learned from my time at RVA is the importance of getting plugged in, connecting deeply, and giving God my best, regardless of where I am, or how long I'll be there.



The 2007 post-election conflict in Kenya was a pivotal moment in my childhood that would point me down the path I am still journeying today. I wouldn't have been able to articulate it back then but I look back and see it as what planted a desire to pursue justice and peace for those on the margins.

Like many MKs can attest to, my adjustment back into life in southwestern Ontario was full of turbulence. Thankfully, early friendships enabled me to gradually adjust and navigate my new role



of post-secondary student. Over the next few years I would go on to complete undergraduate and graduate degrees, both specializing in the study of peace and conflict.

My masters degree in Waterloo led me to the non-profit organization I still work for today. International Teams Canada is a Christian international development organization that partners with local leaders and churches around the world who are already doing transformational work in their own communities. What began as an internship spent largely in Romania, led to a permanent role in donor care. In this role I am chiefly responsible for strengthening the relationships we have with our donors. As we strive to take donor interactions beyond the transactional, we've begun to unlock the potential of connecting with donors on a deeper level. While my teenage self back in RVA would have never seen myself working in donor stewardship, I have come to learn over the years both how critical and rewarding it is.

RUTH EWERT – Faithful Servant of the King

"I believe she will be very fitted to missionary service because of her adaptability, her love for the Lord, and her excellent nursing ability. She is willing and eager to learn new things and is open to new ideas. She is a very hard worker. She would be able to handle whatever situation she is faced with mainly because she has had a 'cool' walk with the Lord."

(Excerpt from a reference in Ruth's Application for Membership to AIM Canada)

Almost fifty years later, these character traits and principles are still guiding the life of Ruth Ewert, a nurse, a Christian sister, a prayer warrior, a church leader, and a humble servant, who resides in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Ruth's journey into mission ministry began in 1971, immediately after graduating as a registered nurse. It was always her desire to use nursing in the foreign field somewhere since this was perceived as a practical and obvious way to be used by her Lord. So her first step was to attend Bible school, as she "wanted and needed to know more about God." She chose New Tribes Bible Institute in Wisconsin, USA and described her classroom experience there as, "God teaching me lots of stuff about Himself." She found that in every day it was "a real pleasure to walk with Him."

Having become a member of Africa Inland Mission, nurse Ruth was on an airplane bound for Kenya, East Africa to serve in community health, just eleven days after graduating from Bible college. Her swift departure from Canada was no easy feat since it involved raising prayer and financial resources to maintain her

during her assignment. Her friends, family, and Mennonite church family embraced her ministry and rallied around her calling. This served as confirmation, boosting her confidence as she acted in faith upon her perceived will of God for her life. She served in Kenya, Sudan and Uganda for a total of 14 years. Much of her time was spent creating start-up health facilities, training health workers, and providing much-needed support for fellow mission workers involved in church planting.

Ruth returned from Africa to Toronto, Canada in 1987 to convalesce after being afflicted with bouts of tropical diseases. God had new plans for her—driven in no small measure by the fact that she was still "willing and eager to learn new things, and open to new ideas." He opened the door for her to serve with Yonge Street Mission in Toronto. Ruth sensed a need to assist in providing care for the health of the many underprivileged, street-involved youth in the downtown area who frequented the mission—thus, Evergreen Health Centre was birthed. She spent three years raising \$250,000 to create and support this initiative. She

supervised the demolition and total renovation of the space needed to house the facility. Room was also added to the health-care facility to serve street-involved mothers and their babies.

After 27 years serving in Toronto, Ruth returned to Manitoba to provide support to her mom who was in the waning years of life. After her mother's passing, Ruth again asked for divine direction. "I am available—please use me!" In response, she has spent the last five years redoubling her efforts to be useful in the work of the Lord. She is now a "foster mom" in her home province, looking after drug and alcohol-affected babies as part of an emergency program providing care until they are ready for a permanent home. Presently there are over 11,000 children in foster care in Manitoba.

Recently, the AIM Toronto team had the opportunity to visit with Ruth at its Scarborough national office. She shared with us: "Even though I am not able to serve in cross-cultural ministry in Africa, my initial dream has not faded. God's harvest field includes Canada, and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to be of service to Him. My friends, family, supporters, and church family, continue to embrace and bathe my vision with much-needed prayer, encouragement and financial resources. This has been invaluable in sustaining my work for the Lord. It is such a privilege to be associated



with Africa Inland Mission, and to pass on God's rich blessings to the organization and its work wherever needed. I love the Lord with all of my heart, and rejoice in the fact that His love, the love of His people, and their prayers have sustained me over these many years. All praise and glory be to His matchless name!"



Marion Eleftheriadis

Memorial

This Fall 2021 issue of *God@work* is dedicated to our dear friend and colleague, Marion Eleftheriadis who passed into eternity on Wednesday, September 22. Marion was the co-producer of *God@work*, and worked tirelessly on every edition. She also singlehandedly prepared and distributed AIM's monthly *Intercessor's Guide*. She is survived by her husband Steven, mother Willy, and a host of friends and well-wishers, including her AIM family across Canada, Africa and the world. Please keep us all in your prayers.

It was with a deep sense of sadness and loss that we bid farewell to our sister in Christ, Marion Eleftheriadis. Marion was born in The Hague, Netherlands, and moved to Canada with her parents in April 1967, at the age of two. She was employed as a cashier at Highland Farms super-market, and then as a store manager at various locations of Smith Books, including downtown Toronto.

Marion joined the Africa Inland Mission Canada team in January 2002. She quickly endeared herself to everyone as a resourceful team player, with a strong desire to do whatever she could to advance the Gospel. Officially, Marion was the receptionist and office administrator, but she provided support for every department, particularly Finance and Personnel. Our daily tasks often appeared to emanate from her desk. She was best known for her warm, cheerful voice answering the AIM main telephone line. She was loved by our members, their supporters and everyone who came in contact with her, whether in person or via telephone or email. She was such a blessing to all!

In 2018, Marion embraced technology in a new way. She became proficient in using Zoom and several other programs. When the COVID-19 pandemic came, she was so ready to facilitate Zoom meetings, including our daily staff devotional time at the start of each work day. We praise God that she ex-

plored new challenges and then shared her many talents and gifts with us all. We shall miss her daily prayers for others and her total dedication to the service of our King.



Marion fulfilled the role of hostess for AIM's social events in an exemplary fashion. Be it events on the office's annual calendar, such as the Annual General Meeting, Christmas Banquet, and Provincial Mobilizer's Forum, or impromptu gatherings, like a summer staff barbecue, a quick get-together to

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (NIV)

celebrate the return of a mission worker to Canada on home assignment, and a birthday celebration, she was always ready! The team counted on her organizational

process that her name is memorialized on documents as witness to the transactions. We thank God for her vision and passion as we continue to enjoy our new headquarters.

We miss Marion dearly, but we do not mourn as those who have no hope. She loved Jesus and made her final calling and election sure by putting her trust in Him. She was true and faithful, and is now resting in our Father's loving arms. Today we wait with much anticipation for that moment when we will be reunited with her in eternity.

AIM is grateful to Marion's immediate family who requested that in lieu of floral tributes, donations be made to AIM Canada's "Legacy Fund." This fund was created in 2018 to honour Canadian missionaries who have served faithfully in Africa for over 30 years. The goal is to extend their service by supporting the work of missionaries today as they walk in the footsteps of these AIM pioneers.

*GONE TOO SOON
forever in our hearts!*

skills and her ability to prepare and deliver countless appetizing dishes.

Marion was instrumental in working with AIM Canada's director, Dr. Dan Baetz, and his team, in executing the sale of 1641 Victoria Park Avenue and then the purchasing of 25 Faulkland Road. She was so integral to the

Further information regarding the opportunity to donate to this worthy cause is available on our website at: cagiving.aimint.org/legacy-fund
Or, call our office at:
416-751-6077 or 1-877-407-6077.

Preparing for God's Purpose

by Shelley Burry



We were a small family full of questions and expectations that winter of 2001. It was just my husband Tom and I, and our soon-to-be-born son, Willem. Our missionary journey began with a plan to join church planters in Tanzania but that plan changed when we attended Urbana 2000 and AIM asked us to join a team on the predominantly Muslim island of Mayotte, off the coast of East Africa.

We had so many questions before we gave a positive response.

Would I need to cover my head and wear skirts down to my ankles?

How many languages would we need to learn?

How will we learn how to do outreach amongst Muslims?

Little did we know that God was preparing us for ten years of church planting in Mayotte, eight years of supporting church planters in Tanzania, and our current role of mobilizing others for missions all across Africa and the diaspora regions! We can see now that all along His plan was unfolding and preparing us each step of the way for what was next. We joined the church-planting team in 2002 with a four-month-old son. Three years later we were blessed with another son just before going to Quebec to study French, and after four years, Clara was born in Mayotte. What an exciting journey it has

Tom and Shelly Burry serve as AIM's Provincial Mobilizers in Ontario

been to go from church planting, to supporting church planters, to mobilizing others to share the truth of the Gospel!

During our first two years of ministry in Africa we were part of a TIMO team. TIMO stands for "Training in Ministry Outreach" and trains its members in language learning, cultural adaptation, spiritual warfare, outreach, church planting, discipleship and so much more. The unique part of TIMO is that the individual participants are trained while they are on the field, putting into practice what they are studying. It is an intense two years of learning, making mistakes, and growing, but it is a great way to start one's missionary career. Our team leaders, Robert and Miriam, facilitated the curriculum, exemplified what it meant to live alongside of our community, and demonstrated godly leadership. After seven years of living in Mayotte we became TIMO team leaders and welcomed a team of nine adults to share Christ with the Shibushi people. We then moved to Tanzania where we supported AIM personnel through logistics, language-learning facilitation, a guesthouse, and the coaching and mentoring of team leaders. We could not have done the job of supporting church planters in Tanzania if we had not been church planters ourselves in Mayotte!



When we were living on the island of Mayotte we faced so many challenges that helped prepare us to walk alongside others preparing for missions. I remember on arrival in Africa not being sure where the next meal would come from because there wasn't a market, and I didn't have fields where I could plant crops. But I prayed that God would show us a way. Promptly, a neighbour brought over a gift of green leafy vegetables and showed me how to cook them. I remember how much I struggled to learn Kibushi, a language without an alphabet. At that time there were no language schools, books or paid language helpers. God gave us strength, neighbours to teach us, and team leaders to guide us.

When we eventually moved to Tanzania, I received training in coaching techniques for language learners through evidence-based methods, and started a language centre. God used language-learning struggles from our early days as motivation to help others in their life-long language-learning journey. The verse



God gave Tom and I during language learning was, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9 NIV). We did not need to depend on our own strength but we could rest in God's grace and the power that He gives us. Our neighbour would often say to us: "Your head sure is as hard as a coconut when it comes to learning Kibushi but there is something different about you, your marriage and the way you interact as a team." "What is it?" she asked. This dear neighbour, who we eventually called "Mama," was a witch doctor in her community. We shared much of our time with her, preparing meals, harvesting in the fields, learning language and culture and more. We prayed for her daily and explained

the Gospel whenever we could. It wasn't until she moved out of our village and I was able to visit once a week, that she joined me in reading through the stories of the Bible. Eventually we left the island, unsure of her understanding or commitment to God. A few years after our departure, we heard that she had made a commitment to follow Jesus and that she was meeting regularly with other believers. What seemed like the impossible, God had accomplished!

When we made the decision to become church planters in Mayotte we didn't know what to expect or what our struggles or joys would be. Tom had been on short-term missions to Africa before, but I had not and was unsure as to how we would handle



the transition. Our advice now for those who are considering or preparing for missions is:

Make "abiding in Christ" your greatest priority. Do not neglect being in the Word each day, and make it a habit to pray for African people groups to accept Christ as lord of their lives. While living in Africa you often plan your day but rarely does it happen as you plan. Get into the habit of asking God each morning what He wants for you and be ready to follow His leading in the small things. This will help you to follow in the larger areas where He calls you in the future.

Be sure of your calling so that when times get difficult on the field you can remember that, "He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:24 ESV). Ask your pastor, your family and friends, and other missionaries to pray with you, speak directly into your life and affirm whether they also sense that God is calling you to missions. The "Perspectives" course is a very helpful tool to inform you about missions and get you prepared for future ministry in Africa. Spend time with missionaries, asking questions and setting your expectations of what ministry abroad is really like. But most of all pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in your life.

*For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus
to do good works,
which God prepared in
advance for us to do.*
(Ephesians 2:10 NIV)

Throughout the past 20 years, when things have looked their worst and when things have looked their best, God has been faithful to prepare us for what He has called us to do. Serving as mobilizers in Ontario means that we can do exciting work preparing people to serve Him in various capacities in Africa.

God is looking for people who want to partner with Africa Inland Mission in what He is already doing amongst Africans. We would be happy to speak with you!

- Perhaps you want to reach out to Africans in diaspora regions like Toronto, Ottawa or Halifax.
- Perhaps you are sensing that God is calling you to reach an unreached people group in Africa through teaching, medicine, business, community development or another gift that God has given you.
- Perhaps God is calling you to stay and pray and give and encourage those who go.

How has God been preparing you for future service in His kingdom?

How will you respond?

For opportunities to serve please visit:
aimint.org/ca/serve/



Prayer

Dita smiled with delight to hear these words from the pastor of People's Church of Montreal. As AIM Canada's provincial mobilizer for Quebec, part of her work is connecting with pastors, mission committees and believers who are interested to learn about God's work through Africa Inland Mission and to pray for Africa and our missionaries.

In 2015, Dita stepped into Rosemary Walker's big shoes—a difficult task, considering Rosemary's tremendous energy and networking skills. As Quebec mobilizer for many years, Rosemary had the vision to rally Christian leaders in Montreal and start the Friends of Africa gatherings to support her in the ministry. Many friends and pastors from French and English-speaking churches rallied behind her to create two committees and lead the Les Amis de l'Afrique and Friends of Africa meetings. The first French prayer fellowship was held in December 2008, and the first

English prayer fellowship followed later, in January 2014.

Since then, several French and English churches have opened their doors for our meetings, matinees, rallies and picnics. Our main goals through Friends of Africa are to support, encourage, and pray for Africa Inland Mission missionaries, and to highlight mission opportunities. We usually meet every month to pray, and occasionally hear and meet missionary speakers. About four times a year we have special bilingual events where both groups meet together. During the pandemic lockdowns, we switched to Zoom online meetings, which worked well for meeting missionaries both on the field and on home assignment, despite lockdowns or travel restrictions.

One of our members, Melanie, recently wrote as to why she attends these meetings. "I enjoy the monthly fellowship with people who have a common interest. We all care about

"Friends of Africa has helped me keep the flame for Africa burning, keep the vision expanding, and keep the prayers rising. I also rejoice to see our own people involved at rallies and regular monthly meetings."

this vast continent of Africa and the devoted missionaries working in the field. I very much enjoy the presentations and stories of the missionaries, their work for the Lord, their joys, and their struggles, thereby enabling me to know how to pray for them and for the people to whom they are ministering. I am grateful to Friends of Africa for the opportunity to continue hearing about the vital work happening not only overseas but also, increasingly, here at home. Thank you for the ways in which Friends of Africa enriches my life."

We thank God for the many pastors, faithful friends, and people on mission

committees who were there for AIM, and many who still walk with us. They are such an encouragement to us, and we are so thankful! They have prayed, guided, and helped to make Friends of Africa a blessing to many. Also, a very special thanks to Dr. Dan Baetz, Rosemary, and to the French and English committee members who were the backbone—we could not have survived without them!

If you would like to join us for our monthly meetings, either in person or on Zoom, contact Dita at dita.poenaru@aimint.org



“How do you do it?”

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

Those five words made all the work of Gatineau Camp Rhino incredibly worth it. Since COVID had closed our southern Ontario camp, we filled a van with Syrian and Afghan kids in Toronto and drove them all the way to a cottage in Quebec. Besides campfires, tubing, and hours of swimming, we had a chapel series on how the Old Testament prophets all pointed to the need for a Rescuer. It was in our last chapel talk about our need to trust Jesus for salvation that 14-year-old Abbas* asked that key question: “How do you do it?” What a joy that morning to explain the Gospel to Abbas! (*not his real name)

And through the month of August we answered that question to five more campfire circles of MAC campers!

Summer 2021 was our busiest camp season yet. Through July and early August in downtown Montreal, we held weekly Saturday day camps that averaged over 30 North African children. They gathered for afternoons of bouncy castles, cotton

candy, and Gospel videos produced just for them. On the last afternoon six Muslim parents joined with their children to view the drama of Calvary and the empty tomb.

Starting July 29, we joined up with partner mission Coldwater Canada for an eight-day canoe expedition in Northern Ontario for 15 mostly African and Muslim teens. Besides learning leadership and wilderness skills during 65 km of canoeing and portaging, each young person was challenged to live wholeheartedly for Christ.

From August 15-20 Camp Soar in Nova Scotia drew 39 campers from nine African nations. Leading morning devos through the Old Testament, an Acadia University student showed the young people how the heroes of faith exemplified the Christian character that God expects. Then, around the evening campfire, campers were spellbound by excerpts from C.S. Lewis’ *Narnia*—learning by allegory that King Jesus died for them and rose again.

MAC

MINISTRY TO AFRICANS IN CANADA





That same week we held our first MAC camp near Ottawa for 37 teens whose families had immigrated from all across Africa. The Spirit of God worked powerfully in many young lives, with more than half of the campers making professions of faith. Who could not be moved seeing a young lady from Morocco, memorizing Scripture, devouring the Bible in her free time, and then standing before all her fellow campers to say she now trusted Jesus—her “Middle Eastern Saviour”?

Finally, in the last week of August, MAC partnered with CAPRO Canada to lead our first Camp Rhino in Alberta. Not only did every camper come from an African family, but every staff member was also African Canadian (if we include our MAC

camp directors who have served in North Africa!). What fun to have a former Nigerian Shell Oil manager teach archery, a Nigerian pipeline executive monitor the zip line, and a Nigerian petroleum engineer as chapel speaker! Reflecting on the last campfire, that speaker said, “God indeed glorified Himself. Seven children raised their hands for salvation, and almost all the remaining children were led in a prayer of recommitment to Christ.”

Thank you for praying for our 2021 MAC Camps. God did amazing things! Now comes the fall and winter challenge of following up these tremendous young people.

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



Thank You!

- **To our members, and missionaries everywhere. God will reward you for responding to His call to serve Him, and to grow His Kingdom here on earth.**
- **To Canadian churches, for sending those called by God for cross-cultural ministry focused on the unreached.**
- **To parents, for releasing your children to go.**
- **To donors, for your financial support that enables our members to go, and empowers our office to serve them.**
- **Most of all – thank you for your prayers!**



Principles of a Generous Heart!

Dan MacKinnon, Mission - Church Liason

“Now about the collection for God’s people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”

1 Corinthians 16: 1-2 (NIV)

Practice Giving to Others as a Way of Giving to God

Trust God that your offering will be of value in achieving His purposes in building His kingdom. Allow Him to superintend its use. He will always bless your giving and direct it to where it can be a blessing to His servants.

Be a Giver, not a Hoarder

Giving is a trust action! It is evidence that you are resting in God’s provision and His providence. Giving has its roots in faith, while hoarding has its roots in fear.

Practice “Giving to Get, to Give Away Again”

Giving is a spiritual discipline. It should serve as a vehicle to keep your affections and appetites congruent with God’s plan for you. Giving serves as a reminder of your total dependence on God.

Be a Proportional Giver

Regular giving is a reflection of God’s generosity to you. Giving back in proportion to His providence reflects your gratitude and your faith that He will continue to meet your needs. Graduated tithing is a way of blessing others as He has blessed you.

Generosity In Action

It is with a deep sense of gratitude that we say thank you to the many donors and supporters of Africa Inland Mission who have given to the mission in 2021. A special “thank you” for giving to our two major initiatives – Wellspring Courtyard and AIM for Africa 2021.

As of October 21, 2021, the following sums have been raised for these projects:

Wellspring Courtyard	\$32,690
AIM for Africa 2021	\$37,500

Ongoing Needs

1. Prayer for our home staff and missionaries (see aimint.org/ca/pray/).
2. Finances to support our General Fund which is used for the daily operation of our office.
3. Love, care and support for our missionaries presently in Canada on home assignment.
4. Financial support for all of our missionaries. As supporters come and go, missionaries often slip into being under supported.

Giving

Ways to give: Cash donations on a monthly basis, or a one-time gift

 Stocks, bonds, life insurance, real estate

 Charitable Gift Annuity

 Naming AIM as a beneficiary in your will

How to Give

Visit <https://cagiving.aimint.org> for information on all our giving options:

- Online, using credit or debit card
- Interac e-Transfer
- Pre-authorized monthly withdrawal
- By cheque—payable to: Africa Inland Mission Canada

Please specify the project or missionary you wish to support.

Mail to: AIM Canada, 25 Faulkland Road, Scarborough, ON M1L 3S4

Or, if you’d rather talk to someone personally,
please call: 416-751-6077 or 1-877-407-6077

God is at work bringing Light & Hope to our world!





AFRICA INLAND MISSION

Christ-centered churches
among all African peoples

Africa Inland Mission (Canada)

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