

AFRICA INLAND MISSION

africa NEWSLETTER August 2018 connection



CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCHES AMONG ALL AFRICAN PEOPLES





Watching the World Cup soccer in July grabbed the nations together. What came, as a surprise though, was the new look French team that won the world cup. People in South Africa joked that an African team won the world cup! Comparing the victorious French sides of 1987 and then again 2018, one cannot help to ask why this shift in the ethnic makeup of the French team.

Angola, Zambia, Senegal, Nigeria, Mali, Algeria, etc. and thus share deep African roots. I am not only trying hard to earn some bragging rights also pointing out that something is shifting in

Here in Cape Town it is not unfamiliar to see the emergence of Ethopian churches in Belville, or Congolese churches in Brackenfell or Zimbabwean Churches in Maitland, Thousands of Somali people are establishing themselves in Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town. It is not uncommon to find a church planter from Malawi working in Franschoek. These Diaspora churches, are also reaching out to unchurched South Africans in the cities.

In this global migration of people, whether it is opportunities to bring the Gospel to the nations. Will our churches wake up to the challenge? It is not surprising that many of our enquiries that we receive to join AIM to be send as missionaries,

JUST BRIEFLY

The past months have been busy and very active with changes constantly happening. In the month of June, we said good bye to our book keeper Louise as she starts a new journey in life, it was bittersweet but life is full of surprises and change is one of them. Louise wrote a lovely farewell message for all those she has connected with whilst at AIM.

"I am so grateful to all of you out there who have supported me in prayer and for your words of encouragement over the last five years in my role as bookkeeper at AIM ZA. You will never know how much it meant to me and I wish you every blessing that God has in store for you all.

As some of you may be aware the time has come for me to fully walk through the open door of business that God has opened for me several years ago already. He was just busy preparing me for a time such as this. I remember before working at AIM five years ago, I had a question mulling in my head and that I actually asked God "Lord what is the importance of a mission agency/organisation if the church can send the missionaries themselves as they profess". I had no idea that God would literally lead me to work at AIM ZA office to show me the answer to this question.

While working at AIM ZA office I discovered that the answer is actually very simple, in that the church (body of Christ) may have the people to send but not all churches have the resources or have the full detail or understanding as to what it entails to send a missionary. There is a lot more involved from the time a person receives the call from God to serve him as missionary up to the time that the individuals are actually sent out. I believe that this is what God wanted to show me by allowing me to work at AIM ZA office, that the mission agency/organisation is an arm of God that stretches forth to the church to help them work through and help them fill the gaps that the church may have to fully assist the missionary work

get a glimpse of how AIM is involved in Diaspora ministry. I believe we will see more and more local ministries among churches and missionaries to reach out to the unreached peoples of Africa,

As far back as in the first century AD, it wa Philip the Evangelist, who was told by an ange to go to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza, and through the process from being called by God and actually being sent out.

This partnership between a mission agency/ organisation and the church itself is absolutely vital if we are going to make a far reaching impact for God in his Kingdom. Yes, the one can possibly work without the other, but can achieve so much more together since we are working towards the same goal and that is reaching the lost at any cost.

It was an honour to have trained the new bookkeeper Kirsten Overmeyer who took over from me and I am very blessed to know that she is very capable and intelligent and ready for her new journey at AIM ZA as God will lead her to walk in the footsteps that He set out for her to take her to her next level in Him."



With Louise leaving we had a few weeks to find someone to fill her role. After spending time in prayer and going through applications as well as interviews we went back to someone we had met before,

Kirsten Overmeyer. She is a fresh graduate from UCT who also took part in our last KAIROS course at the Calvin Protesant Church in Athlone.

Brian and Kathy de Smidt gladly entered the ranks of those who are officially "retired" on 01 July 2018. They have been connecting with some of their supporters and are still hoping to visit their other supporters in the next few months. They were able to share at their home church Plumstead Baptist which marked as a milestone for them. As they go forward from here their commitment to God's great missions will be no less than before, they will just work it out in different ways



Luke and Lucy Proffit have been back in the from July and praise God for their baby boy, Jedidiah Sthembiso Proffit born on 11 July 2018.

We are also happy to report that the Gauteng office is up and running. Tshepang and Queen Basupi are our mobilisers operating from the Gauteng office.

THE KAIROS EXPERIENCE

BY SANDRA AND SELWYN BENIAMIN

Robert J. Morgan wrote in: "On This Day In Christian History' of William Carey that insisted that the Great Commission was binding on all Christians and not only the original apostles. Hence, according to the Kairos Course it has a direct impact on the church, to make this injunction possible before the second coming of Christ. The church is responsible for the execution and the finance of this humongous commission.

This enormous assignment explicitly states that according to Matthew 28:19 to take the church to the world and not the world to the church. Hence the emphasis is placed on GO and not COME make disciples of all nations. The church for ages expected the world to come to the church, no wonder there is a decline in the discipleship. The church must GO out and convert unbelievers and the unreached to Christ. The Kairos experience furthermore, explained to become a Great Commission church; we first need to do the following:

Catch The Vision

The World Christians that grasp Jesus vision and have a passion to enforce the rule of the Kingdom of God.

- Keep The Vision
- We must stand on the Word and act according to God's will.
- Obey The Vision

We must perpetually take the Great Commission to task, without fail, in order to evangelize the unreached - irrespective of culture.

Churches are operating in isolation. We need to collaborate with other organizations in order to make the Commission a reality. The need for communal prayer and support structures to obey the vision of Christ, are paramount. The range of vision was enlightened by the intake of information and we found it befitting to complete the Kairos Facilitator Course as well so that we could effectively empower people through prayer to identify their gifts, talents, interests and possible ministries, in order to become World Christians.

The Kairos Course made our hearts perceptive to this Command, renewed our minds and enlightened our views as World Christians. The Kairos course participants had the opportunity to further learn and be equipped by doing the discovery bible study with Discipling Nations. As a church, we have also decided to form an accountability group where the mission is to keep each other accountable in terms of involvement in ministry as well as amongst the unreached.We would recommend the Kairos Course to anyone, who wants to serve Christ with a passion.

HARVEST TEAM

BY TSHEPANG BASUPI

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." Matthew 9 vs 37-38

As a mission organisation, our job is to pray, mobilise, go and send workers among the harvest that is plentiful and ready for harvesting. We know that the seemingly overwhelming number of the unreached people groups are not overwhelming to God as he has prepared many to reap the harvest.

In the month of May, we were privileged to send out a team of 7 men from Lesotho and Botswana to a least reached people in Tanzania. We call them the Harvest Team. For many of them it is the first time being amongst a people who have a different language and culture, yet these young men have taken a risk because they have read the Word that every language, people and nation will stand before the throne of God (Rev 7:9).

The focus of this outreach team is slightly different from the usual Short term outreaches. Instead of being just an outreach that may end up as "Mission tourism", the Harvest team is centred on training. Not only do these harvesters get an opportunity to live in a cross cultural setting long enough to get to experience how other people do things differently they also receive basic training in Missions.

With our immediate constituency being people who do not often travel and live in different contexts, this outreach plays a huge part in building a more holistic worldview in them. The hope is that after going through this program they will play a key role in bringing the much needed Missional shift in their local churches. The Harvest teams are open to people willing to leave their Nation for at-least 8 weeks and be part of what God is doing across Africa. Our hope is that at the end of their 3 months in Tanzania some of them will commit to go for a much longer period.

Feel free to contact our personnel office if you are interested in going for the next Harvest team. Pray for the team and consider sponsoring a harvester.

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REP (REPURPOSING BUSINESS) & THE PRE-VENTURE TO MADAGASCAR

The BAM Café has continued to host the REP course in Tokai. The participants have completed four of the five modules for the 20-week REP consultant's training course. It's been challenging keeping up with the assignments but it has been well worth it. Some gems from the training:

"Many companies can hire leaders; relatively few can grow them" ¹

"God cannot repurpose a business if He doesn't repurpose the owner first"

"First establish presence with God before you can establish presence with man" (Marketing)

"Business is an instrument of God's redemptive impact"

We are learning principles that we want to apply in our organisations we lead and places of work. Application of knowledge leads to wisdom.

The Venture program has been developed by The Institute (I4 Center) to do just that; apply what has been learnt in the REP course with other organisations and businesses in another cross-cultural context. Business people connect with business people irrespective of context and language. Brett Johnson sees business people as a unique people group. The Karana-Gujarati people of Madagascar are largely business people, unengaged and unreached.

Is God calling us to invest in Madagascar for the next ten years working with 10 businesses every year, reach the Karana-Gujarati people through the Venture trips and play a part in the transformation of the Malagasy society? From 13-19 September 2018, we are undertaking a pre-Venture trip to Madagascar to explore whether this is a God-directed and God-given strategy to see a Christ-Centred church planted among the Karana-Gujarati people of Madagascar.

Your prayers are greatly appreciated as we venture through this new open door.

I. LEMON Leadership by Brett Johnson 2010 INDABA



THE DIASPORA OF AFRICA

BY PETER OYUGI, UNIT LEADER, UK DIASPORA REGION

The Diaspora Region's (DRs) ministry in that these churches have a significant role Europe is propelled by the vision of seeing to play in reaching new migrants arriving a viable gospel witness among the least in Europe especially from countries where reached people of African origin finding they had little or no access to the gospel. their way into Europe. As the DR ministry They also stand to be a blessing to their expands within Europe, we are seeking to be contextually relevant in each and every country we serve in. Our strategies are urgently need to be reached afresh with being rolled out in four main operational areas. The first is equipping the local churches in the host countries to engage intentionally with those arriving at their doorstep. In the UK we are promoting Church Based Outreach Teams which a curriculum-based training programme for ordinary church members in the teams in Spain and Malta and hope to marketplace. The idea is to equip them to be able to intentionally share the gospel as they go about their life and work. The DR personnel are ready to provide training and mentoring to individuals and churches seeking to reach out to African migrants through such intentional means. There are numerous individuals already engaged in reaching unreached people groups around them and we seek to affirm and encourage these efforts.

The second approach is that of engagement. Already in the UK, France and Spain we have workers who have relocated to strategic locations to work alongside partner organisations in projects and churches to welcome those arriving in Europe and proclaim and demonstrate the gospel to them. In some of these places people are working with refugees in particular, many of whom have heart-breaking stories about their journeys to Europe. Some activities that add value to diaspora peoples are language classes, mother and toddler groups and offering welcome packs that help diaspora people settle down.

The third approach is envisioning of diaspora churches in Europe themselves to welcome the new arrivals. This has been much slower so far but we are in the process of collaborating with like-minded organisations to provide informal training for leaders of diaspora churches who may lack resources and theological and missiological training that would enhance their cross-cultural ministry capacity. Some of the fastest growing churches across Europe are diaspora churches whether from Africa, Asia or Latin America. We believe

host nations where many in Europe have succumbed to secular worldviews and the gospel of Christ.

Fourthly, we are seeking to provide individuals and churches with opportunities to experience what it means to reach diaspora peoples in Europe. To this end, we are running short-term summer outreach expand this to other European countries. This allows individuals to get some training on reaching unreached people groups from Muslim backgrounds in particular, be

equipped with at least one methodology for doing outreach, and gain experience in doing street evangelism alongside local believers.

Diaspora outreach is exciting but requires believers who in the first instance have a heart for people culturally different from themselves. Secondly, to be effective, one needs to be flexible to adapt to fast changing contexts. Thirdly, one must have the vision to recognise that this is a special moment in history where many people groups who previously had no access to the gospel are finding themselves in Europe due to war, economic hardships and political turmoil and God is using such tragic human experiences to allow them to know the greatest news of all – that Christ has come that they may have life, and have it to the full (|ohn 10:10b).



DIASPORA SHORT-TERM DREAM TEAM

will be African born. Our short-term mission African migrants wherever they may be with the Gospel of lesus.

The team I was a part of went to Malta. The Maltese are immensely friendly people by nature yet the migrants on the island have challenged this attitude. Due to this, many migrants are treated with suspicion and animosity; the migrants are suspicious of the Maltese people as well. The migrants coming to Europe has opened up people groups that are located in parts of the globe that have not heard the Gospel. Many migrants come from a Muslim background and we had opportunities to share the Gospel with people literally coming of the boat into a new country. We started going on jogs late in the afternoon and casually stopping midway through our run to engage with people at a bench, bus stop or café. This was such a great way to reach out. Most days we spent walking around and doing one on one talks with migrants. Three days after our arrival, the botel we staved at in lerez received a boat hotel we stayed at in erez received a boat full of incoming migrants the Red Cross had just processed. God had literally sent these people we were going to minister to, to our hostel. Two weeks later another boat arrived reading the testimonies of the teams from Ceuta and Jerez while we were ministering

ministering to the refugees and migrants Although the migrants coming into Europe from different African nations, we not only get to minister the Gospel of Jesus to people from sub-Saharan Africa, but these people venture further into Europe. If we could see their lives being totally transformed by the Gospel, not only will Africa be reached but we volume with a solution with a solution of the solution of t



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God. Being part of the Diaspora ST team was such a blessing. I went, not knowing what to expect and with little to give, but God, as He promises in His word, used an imperfect but willing heart to be part of something we could never dream of.

all with the same purpose: to know God By doing 'ordinary things' together with the people of the community, we had numerous opportunities to love and serve them. Opportunities while playing sports together, building a playground, talking to people, unconditional love while some faced a lot of challenges in the unknown, and introducing of all the uncertainty and brokenness.

God provided in endless ways. On our 2nd day, a bus with refugees, mostly men and some women arrived at our hostel. We did not have to go and look for some of them. Until that very morning, nobody had planned anything like that. After a few days they had to leave but shortly after that God sent a bus full of ladies and they left the day before our team left. God's perfect timing. The time were put in our hearts, hearing their stories, sharing Truth and praying that the seeds may grow. They were so hungry for love and acceptance and even the smallest act of kindness broke a lot of walls. Like a local said, they are people with stories, not numbers

God taught me

...to look at people through His eyes and love them unconditionally, like He loved us

imagine, ...and to live fully in the abundant joy of

God's grace.

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BELLVILLE CBD-URBAN MISSION

BY LEON

Walking around Bellville in Cape Town it's not hard to see that it is different to most shopping zones in the city. Here you see a lot of the Somali refugee community, ladies dressed in their distinctive traditional dress moving around their shops and men bustling around with their merchandise having a good laugh with their neighbor. This is a scene that was not very common in the city of Cape Town just a few years ago. The world is changing and because of wars and bad economical climates people are migrating to other places for better opportunities. People worldwide are migrating to the mother city and Bellville is the place where many Somalian people have settled. According to research 99.50% percent of these Somalians are Muslims, Upon arrival they are met with resistance from some locals who sometimes think Somalis are taking over in terms of space as well as opportunities. Fortunately, they are some locals who see this as an opportunity to reach out to them and share the love and knowledge of Christ.

Here is the story of one of the workers sharing his heart.

"As I prepare to share regarding the work that God is doing in the Bellville CBD, among Somali diaspora specifically, I do so rooted in the conviction that the Church of Christ, both locally and universally, have as its core mandate, the charge to be a means of sanctification and transformation within the geographical areas where they are located, but also to meaningfully engage in the Mission of God, to reach all peoples of the world with the Gospel of Christ, through intentional missions activity.

Considering my above statement, it is with great joy and thanksgiving that I can report that a wonderful urban, cross-cultural, mission's ministry initiative, functioning within the sphere of a partnership between Discipling Nations (a missions mobilisation and training organisation) and various local churches have been established to share the glory of Christ among Somali diaspora. This is nothing short of miracle, being able to present the Gospel to our Somali friends, who are 99.5% Muslim, through contextualised evangelism, the public reading of Scripture in their native language and the establishment of relationships of friendship and trust, remembering that Somalia is a country closed to Christian workers and is currently ranked third worldwide in terms of Church persecution.

In closing, it is hoped that awareness about the corporate responsibility of the Church of Christ, to be spiritually attuned to the plan of God, to reach the diaspora of nations which are unreached with the Gospel and closed to Christian workers has been created and that the great opportunity available to local churches and individual believers, to meaningfully engage in the eternal purposes of God, through a Biblical perspective on the phenomena world migration and urbanisation has been unveiled (Acts 17:26-27)."

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

SHORT-TERM

DR Diaspora Ministry Worker – Toronto DR Diaspora Ministry Worker – Montreal DR Philadelphia Ministry Team Member DR Jerez, Spain Ministry Team Worker DR Diaspora Ministry Worker – South America (The above short-term positions are commencing from June – August 2019 and open for application August 2018 – April 2019)

English teacher – Home school Support

January 15th, 2019 - April 14th, 2019 and open for application August 2018 – December 2018. The place of assignment is Toledo town in Paraná State (South Brazil)

FULL-TERM

Torit TIMO Team Members South Sudan Start Date: | November 2019 Ministry Focus: Disciple-making among unreached Openings: 8



MISSION THUMA MINA

the church. He talks about it being a miracle and the power of God operating in both the preacher and the church. In it he also talks about to respond to even Christ thee Messiah, the Saviour. He preaches about the working of the Holy Spirit in a person that is being saved and how often at times the preacher never gets to see the miracle of the person saved through the the area of leadership where Africa has had preachers' preaching.

I've been serving among the S-people for three years with OM. And I've been blessed to witness the miracles of our Lord lesus among our brothers and sisters from S. At times a missionary labours for many years before he can see any fruit of his/her ministry especially if the people group they're bringing the gospel to are considered to be extremely closed to the gospel. It has been very difficult and at times dangerous, but with the birth of an under-ground church and being part of 9 baptisms, we have always been able to stay encouraged because of the miracles

John Piper once preached on the miracle that we have witnessed and also how intentional takes place between a preacher preaching to God is in reaching the S-people. We truly believe that the Lord of the harvest has brought the S-people in our country primarily to receive the gospel. Where we cannot freely share the gospel how a natural person is unable to respond to and it's considered to be extremely dangerous the spiritual things of God including being unable to do so, He has brought the mission field to our doorstep, the Church, His bride.

> One of the greatest assets God has blessed the African Church with is leadership. Ironically, it's

most if its challenges. Through the church, lies Africa's best catalyst to realise its truest potential. This ideal I'm willing to die for!

Thuma Mina is aimed at mobilising the African Church for missions. Through the Church for the church ,partnering with like-minded institutions. God has placed it in our hearts to reach out to believers, particularly students from township churches to ignite them for the great commission.

names have been changed



SERVING AMONGST THE S PEOPLE

BY LOUISE

I am now living in a town that is predominately filled with S people which is in the NE of Kenya and its two hours away from the Dadaab Refugee Camp. When God called me in 2011, he showed the malnourished children and me this camp and I was ready to leave my job and come and help this camp. However, after discovering that they are an Islamic group of people and that I needed to understand their culture and their religion, allowed me to get involved in Muslim evangelism in Cape Town from 2012-2015. My journey is still ongoing and I am yet to bring an S person into the kingdom but my desire has grown substantially to love this people group and my understanding of Christ has changed. I now understand that I serve a King, and that it is all about His kingdom. If my Heavenly father is the King of the universe, and I am his daughter, whom should I fear?

So here, I find myself struggling to adapt to the heat because we live in a desert kind of place, the insects are freaking me out and I have had two asthma attacks. I am now getting a small taste of those first missionaries who came to Africa and had to experience those hardships in a foreign place. I do not think I can compare myself to them, but I understand that mission work is not for the fainthearted, but for the faithful. You have to believe that God has called you to a specific place, or you will struggle continuously, I am staying, and am confident that I will see the goodness of the Lord in this people group. Let's pray for a transformed town of believers. Let's pray for our protection against the devil's schemes. Let's pray that God will empower this people group with power of the Holy Spirit and that the body of Christ will grow like the church in Acts 2.

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OPPORTUNITY TO



As an individual your support through finance and prayer is crucial in helping us achieve our mission to With your help, we are able to continue equipping African Peoples and expanding God's Kingdom.

Not all of us are able to serve but we can play our part by assisting those on the field. Your financial contribution assist us in Engaging Unreached People groups, see the unreached become reached, building teams to go to the African Diaspora, mobilising new African workers to engage the unreached. We need your support to help us equip 4000 African Church leaders to strengthen

"The harvest comes in if workers go out in the field."

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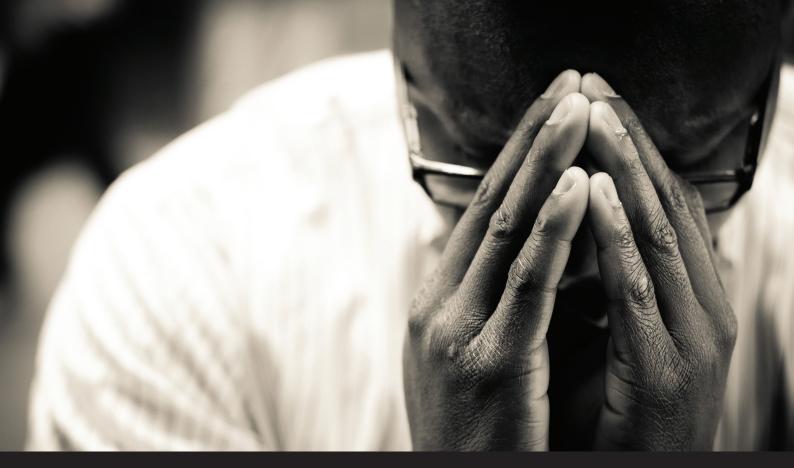
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If you are making a new contribution towards the mission or missionaries, kindly contact Louise Samuels by phone, email or fax, giving your name and address and state clearly who the amount is for. If you do not do this it will go towards General Funds as an anonymous donation. It is difficult and costs to get depositor's details directly from the bank.



PARTNER IN PRAYER FOR THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

POPULATION:

It is estimated that nearly 200 million Africans live off the continent of Africa. These men, women, and children are the African Diaspora, some of whom are probably your near neighbors. About 39 Million African Diaspora live in North America, 113 million in Latin America, 13.6 million in the Caribbean, and another 6 million live in Europe.

LOCATION AND BACKGROUND:

The African Diaspora live around the globe, and their histories and reasons for leaving the continent are diverse. Some are refugees, asylum seekers, economic migrants, students and professionals, undocumented immigrants, and tragically, others are victims of human trafficking.

HISTORY, CULTURE, AND RELIGION:

Because the African Diaspora come from Africa's 54 individual countries as well as many of the continent's outlying islands, each group's history, culture and religion varies widely.

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY:

Many of the African Diaspora come from nations that are closed to missionary outreach, so their presence in places like Europe, Australia, and the Americas presents a unique opportunity to share the Good News with men and women who may have never heard it in their homelands, and who may one day to return their nation of origin transformed by Christ and eager to share their new hope with their friends and family.

HOW TO PRAY SPECIFICALLY AND WITH INSIGHT?: Prayafrica.org

You can impact eternity too! Subscribe PrayAfrica.org via your electronic device. You can impact eternity by starting a prayer group in your area or joining an existing one!

Please let us know if you are interested in starting a prayer group in your area by contacting Yvette November on 021 761 5919 or admin.za@aimint.org.



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