



**AFRICA
INLAND MISSION**

africa connection

SHORT TERM

**HOW MANY CAMELS
WOULD IT TAKE?**

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Isaiah 52:7

**COME TASTE
AND SEE**

**SHORT TERM
OPPORTUNITIES**

CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCHES AMONG ALL AFRICAN PEOPLES



JUST BRIEFLY...

PJ Holmertz, AIM International Short-Term Director, joined us for a couple of days towards the end of March to have meetings with our ZA Mobilisers, Personnel Officer and Director where they spent time fellowshiping, strategizing and praying.

Cammie Swatz facilitated our office staff's team evaluations (PATH) at the beginning of April where we discovered more about our team dynamics.

A few months ago, **Brian & Kathy de Smidt** took over from Ian and Barbara McDonald in running the Plumstead AIM prayer meeting they held in their home for over fifty years. The meeting is still being held in the McDonalds home but under "new management". The Mitchells Plain AIM prayer meeting continues to be hosted by the Vollenhoven's in Woodlands, Mitchells Plain with the assistance of **Natasha Simons**.

Lillian, one of our workers on the Indian Ocean Islands popped in for a surprise visit whilst in Cape Town. She had profitable time when she was meeting with consultants regarding the translation work.

We had another lovely surprise when **Miriam Butcher** brought us delicious doughnuts for tea the day before the Easter weekend.

Lucky Mogakane (Applicant to AIMZA) a graduate from Bible Institute is doing his internship at Connect Church, Meadowridge, whilst proceeding with the application process.

Amos Petersen left for his internship in Italy! He is our very first South African serving in Diaspora. He is heading to Catania and after that, he will serve in Jerez and Malta for 9 months!

We are expecting a brief visit from **Zeka & Anita Tjiwana** for 2 days in May to complete some important paperwork in preparation for their home assignment. Looking forward to that...

Missionaries on Home Assignment:

Jinx & Dawn Reyneke
– May 2019 to January 2020

Matilda Ntukela
– August 2019 to March 2020

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear friends of AIM, the new year came with a whirlwind of activity and so many comings and goings and happenings.

In some areas, the whirlwinds were actual cyclones, as Idai has swept through several villages in Mozambique. It was hugely encouraging to see how South African churches contributed financially to a situation that is still very desperate and how AIM's missionaries were bravely stepping into supporting the Mozambicans with so much compassion.

Our mobilisers have been busy with training churches in Athlone, a three-day coaching workshop in Wynberg for emerging and experienced church and mission leaders, training in missions in Gauteng. In Lesotho, several short termers from across the continent and the globe gathered for training in farming and discipleship, in a 3-week farm Quest during March.

Another exciting and emerging leg of equipping the believers is happening in the market place in Southern Africa. Yes, we want to see business people embracing the missional vision as well!

We also look forward with much excitement to the rest of 2019: Our very first Diaspora

worker in Europe, Amos Petersen, a young graduate from Stellenbosch, will, by the time you read this, be ministering in the South of Spain to Muslim immigrants, while the young Priscilla Andrianarijaona and her husband from the USA, are on their way from Madagascar to the Islands.

Ten Short-term missionaries from Southern and Eastern Africa will be sent out to North Africa, Mozambique and Kenya from June/ July respectively. Please continue to pray for more workers. Yes, pray, pray and pray. And when you can, also give from your heart.

To accomplish all of this takes a lot of healthy teamwork, focus, resilience, wise stewardship of resources and grace and prayer of course!

Please continue to pray with and for the work of the Gospel among Africa's unreached. In this issue, we share with you the starting point of a missionary's journey: short-term experience.

MEET DR GORDON & LESLEY RUSSELL

What a blessing it was to spend time with this veteran mission mobiliser!

It was a memorable day meeting a man who heard about the need for missionaries in West Africa as a teenager and specifically prayed to the Lord to enable him to train as a Medical doctor. He was ready to go! By a string of miraculous events, the Lord enabled and provided for his medical training and also provided a wife in the process! He spent significant time in his medical career as part of a pioneer missionary team in guess where? Nigeria!

Today, Dr Gordon & Lesley Russell are back home in South Africa in active retirement! Together, they faithfully coordinate prayers in South Africa for missions and particularly for the ERCC Church of Nigeria where they laboured for many years. The ERCC church reportedly has over a million members currently!

May the Lord raise up many more teenagers who will be ready to go and take advantage of the many short term mission opportunities in Africa and Europe. May there be many more who will respond to the calling to Pray, Send & Go!



KAIROS

Praise God, the Calvyn Protestant Church (CPC) Athlone successfully completed the Kairos course, for the second year. This year God has sent 24 new people to be impacted by this course. Perspectives are shifting, a greater sensitivity to the unreached around us is growing, and hearts were broken with the realisation that victims of the New Zealand massacre died without possibly hearing the Gospel in a reached nation. CPC Athlone is thankful for the partnership with AIM, Discipling Nations and Simply Mobilizing.

A follow-up Discovery Bible Study training followed by a Practical Outreach, in a predominantly Muslim community, took place from 3-5 May. This will lead up to an outreach to Mossel Bay from 8-11 August. We are trusting that these events will be life-transforming for all involved: the participants, the CPC Mossel Bay church who will receive us and the people of Mossel Bay who are waiting to have an opportunity to respond to the Gospel.

CREATIVE ACCESS MOBILISING

Repurposing Business (rēp) Course

Business, professionals, artisans and university students have a wonderful opportunity to go into Creative Access locations where traditional missionaries are not able to go. For our second year, we are hosting the rēp course in Tokai. We are about to begin this 2019 rēp journey with a continued prayer focus on the Gujarati-Karana of Madagascar. I believe that God is calling for the "ministry of all believers" especially in the marketplace to be a blessing to those whom God has placed around them. We will be praying for an increased impact of followers of Jesus in the marketplace especially in South Africa and in Madagascar for now. We would like to have more participants. We value your prayers for us.

CREATIVE ACCESS S-TERM

God has answered prayers. I am excited. Our first Short Termer, S, is going to the North Region (NR) in June to be part of a seven-week English Teaching internship program. What an amazing opportunity to engage with young North Africans; to bless them with her skills and her love for God. This is an annual program, which includes language learning, a homestay and tutoring students. We trust that we will be able to send interns annually on this internship program.

For more information, please contact, cxmobiliser.za@aimint.org

Short
Term
Rural

Venture Trips: 2 weeks
Farming Quest (Lesotho): 3 weeks • Harvest Teams (Southern Africa): 2-3 months
FUEL Teams (Uganda): 2-3 months • TIMO Track 1: In a rural village

Short
Term
Urban

Venture Trips: 2 weeks • Dream Teams (Spain): 3 weeks
GO North (North Africa): 2 months
TIMO Track 2: Join a 2 year Team in a city

Boot
Camp

Join a Harvest Team for 3 months (Southern Africa):
Harvest Teams endure suffering, live a simple lifestyle and serve relationally together
FUEL+:
1 year short term in Kampala, Uganda

THE SHORT TERM PATH WAY

DISCOVER YOUR "WHY?" - CONTACT US
Jacob Igba (mobilize.za@aimint.org) • Tshepang (tshepang.basupi@aimint.org)
Queen Basupi (queen.basupi@aimint.org)



HOW MANY CAMELS WOULD IT TAKE?

How valuable can one short-termer be to a group of people?
What is the worth of a friendship, of ongoing discipleship?

Worth is measured in different ways in different cultures. One short-termer's worth was recently measured in camels.

In northern Kenya, among the Rendille people, the most valuable thing they have are camels. The camels are so precious that we instruct short-termers that they **MUST NOT** even take photos of camels unless they receive permission from a local person. In the desert environment, where nothing grows and money is hard to come by, camels are the surest way to measure your net worth.

Leo, an AIM short-termer serving with the Rendille in Korr, connected really well with the group of young warriors he had been discipling. As he was leaving, these young men gathered together to figure out how to help him return to Korr. They calculated the cost in terms of camels. They sat together to figure out, "How many camels would it take to fly him back to us from his home in Paraguay?"

AIM has a long history of utilizing short-term ministry support. In 1968, John Gration, associate home director of AIM,

said the following about the work of short-term in AIM, "Yes, (Peter Cameron) Scott, AIM's founder, was a short-termer; but he didn't plan it that way. God called him home as he was just beginning his missionary career. It was God who chose to launch AIM through a short-term missionary. Does this maybe tell us that in missions God is more concerned with the commitment of a life than even the commitment for a lifetime?" From this foundation AIM has grown to what it is today and the short-term aspect of that ministry has always played an important role.

Since the time of Peter Cameron Scott we have given many unreached people groups and many full time workers the gift of short-term workers. We send the gift of friendship and encouragement to new believers in unreached area. We send the gift of help and respite to a stressed out mom trying to home school her kids, learn language, do ministry and keep up with all of the housework. We send the gift of teachers and dorm parents to schools just trying to keep up with constant change. We send the gift of doctors, nurses and

vets to give aid in challenging locations. We send the gift of the gospel, Jesus and his Word, wrapped up in insecure, inexperienced but eager messengers.

So, in the dry and weary spiritual deserts that we find our AIM members working, we don't measure our worth in camels, we measure it in short-termers. They are the gift we have to give. They are worth more than camels to the people they touch.



By PJ Holmertz

COME, TASTE AND SEE

I often connect with people who are seeking the path of missions as the next career option. I listen to their unique stories and journey with them in discovering God's call on their lives.

These conversations excite me when I hear people say: "I am considering taking a gap year...I always wanted to go on a missions trip to feel what it's like...I wonder what a life of significance looks like...I would love to experience another culture... I think God is calling me to live in a foreign culture and share the message of the Gospel...I want to expose my church more to cross-cultural work and relationships...I really want to go and taste it first, but how much will it cost?" This is often an opportunity to explore with others what "taste and see" possibilities could potentially open up for them as we discuss missions as an option.

Something as simple as having a meal foreign to your culture, could lead to a life-changing encounter, as the apostle Peter experienced! After receiving the vision of

the unclean animals, Peter had to let go of his Jewish tradition and prejudice about whom and how God loves and bring the Good news to the Italians in a way that portrays God's true nature!

After spending time with Cornelius the, Peter exclaimed: *"God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean...I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right."* Acts 10:27, 34-35.

Just as God challenged Peter to step into the culture of Cornelius, God challenges us through short-term missions to step out of our comfort zone to "taste and see" of His love and true nature. Experiencing culture shock and stepping into service alongside a missionary or local church, we allow others to become our teachers. We come to see God's unique work amongst every nation and find our place as His humble servants.

There are critics of short-term mission, with some valid objections. Some of the common criticisms have been that it plays into our modern idols of speed and achievement; projects have become more important than people; or the need to count the number of the "saved" for success is not healthy; or the individual has become more important than relationships. I also want add to this list, a "wanderlust" – a desire to escape from a current reality.

However, what could be a true, authentic short-term mission experience? It is a way to learn, grow, and experience what God is doing in the world in rural and urban settings. By living, learning and serving alongside an experienced missionary and the local church, reaching out to an unreached people group, YOU CAN BE A PART OF IT! Yes, this could be a life-changing encounter; the start of something entirely new as a partner in God's Kingdom.

By Gerhard Pietersen



GOING THE DISTANCE: The Story of Jack Pienaar

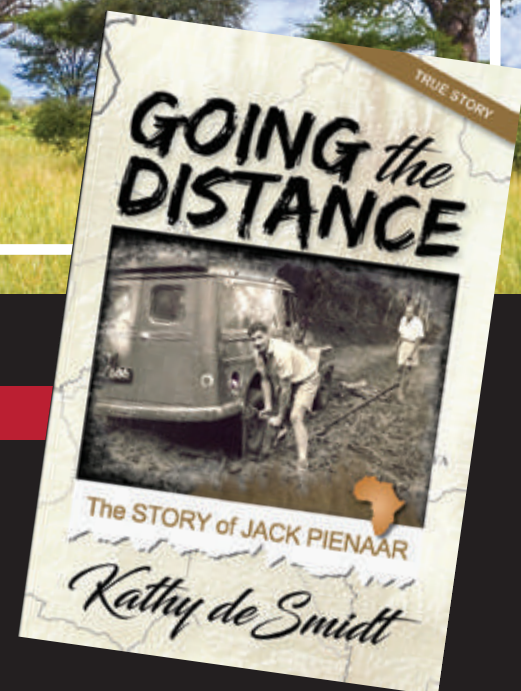
Available on Amazon (Kindle eBook & Paperback) and paperback in RSA from Burbles.co.za

Imagine a voyage that not only takes you to new places and provides fascinating vistas, but also changes your perspective and your way of being. What was it like for a South African living in Kenya as the country moved from colony to Republic?

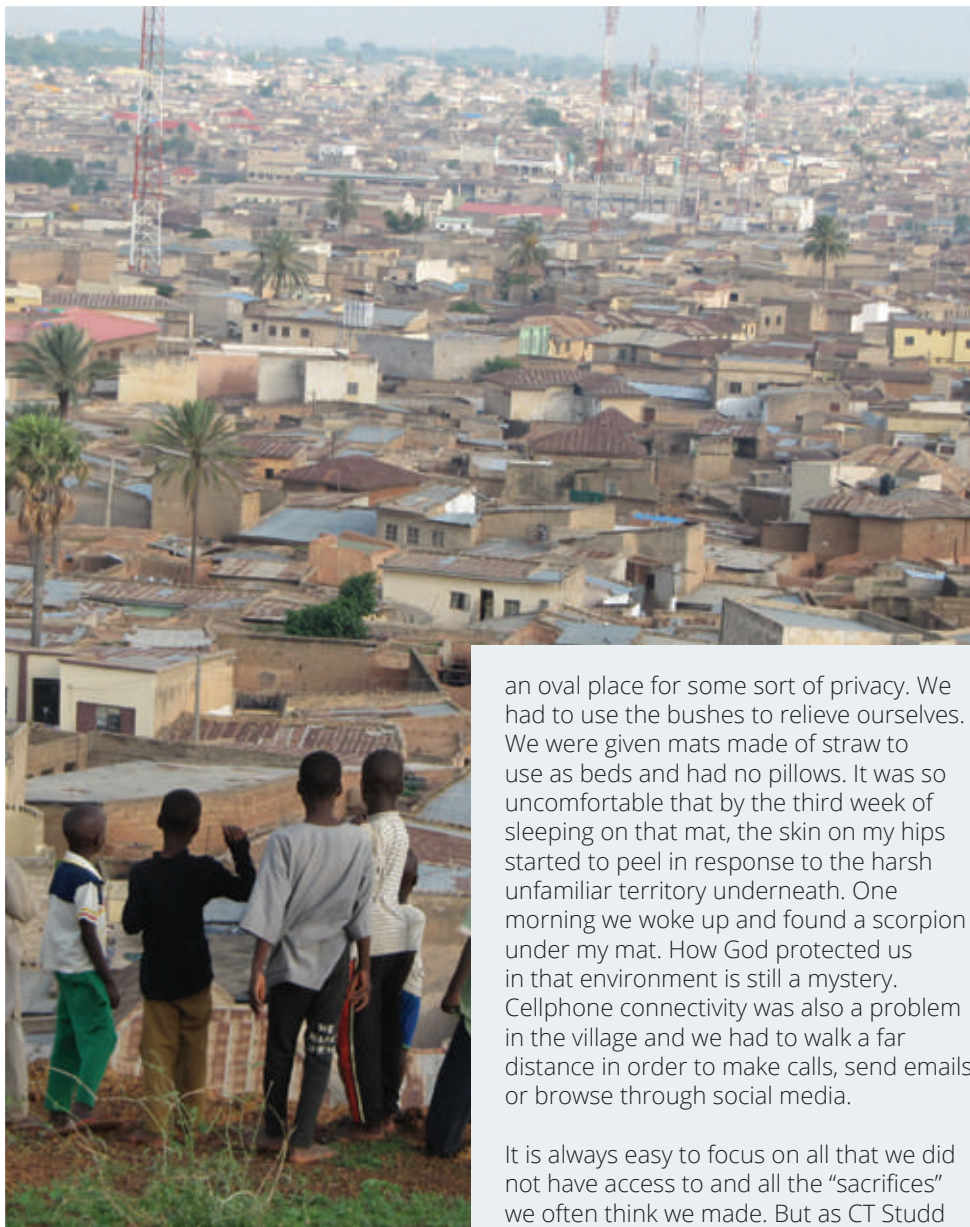
In the turbulent 1970's, would Jack be able to recruit new personnel from South Africa for cross-cultural ministry in Africa as 'simple servants' and not insist on leading roles? Then, as Namibia thrashed out its own independence, how would he lead

a team towards fruitful ministry? Would someone without a great pension plan be able to retire well and cope with the indignities of old age? In this book, you will venture with Jack, who, with his young bride, began their journey with Africa Inland Mission in 1951 and kept going for forty years through thick and thin.

The author, as Jack's daughter, grew up loving the smells, sounds and sights of the Kalenjin speaking part of Kenya. With access to a significant array of primary



source materials, her account bears the mark of authenticity and appreciation for a life enriched by the people of Africa. Buy this book for a heart-warming glimpse of mission work in Africa.



TINY SACRIFICES

My journey to North West Nigeria was eye opening and a growth experience.

After a very uncomfortable trip to our destination we were warmly welcomed with our first taste of culture shock, a bowl full of Pap and some black slippery soup. This delicious food was actually accompanied by fried maggots. Our resident hosts, sat and looked at our reactions as we feasted.

Our new home had no running water and we had to fetch water from the nearby well. The house had no bathroom and we had to take our buckets to a nearby bush to take a shower. These showers were accompanied by prayers that no snake or scorpion would bite us during that time.

The first thing we did was set up a bathroom. We used sticks and created

an oval place for some sort of privacy. We had to use the bushes to relieve ourselves. We were given mats made of straw to use as beds and had no pillows. It was so uncomfortable that by the third week of sleeping on that mat, the skin on my hips started to peel in response to the harsh unfamiliar territory underneath. One morning we woke up and found a scorpion under my mat. How God protected us in that environment is still a mystery. Cellphone connectivity was also a problem in the village and we had to walk a far distance in order to make calls, send emails or browse through social media.

It is always easy to focus on all that we did not have access to and all the "sacrifices" we often think we made. But as CT Studd said, "If Jesus Christ be God and died for me then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him". No amount of hard floors with scorpions, lack of nice food or toilet facilities, not-so-clean water or cellphone network can amount to the huge sacrifice that Christ paid for these people we came to engage.

Jesus loves the Kemberi people so much although they were lost and cut off from the gospel. Almost 60% of the community were Muslims and less than 5% were Christians. They did not know Christ died for them. We visited people in the surrounding villages. We worked with the younger men on their farms so that they finished their daily duties quickly and we had time to engage in Gospel conversations with them. What a joy it was as they asked questions and began to understand the Christ we proclaimed. My time in this community was life transforming as I saw first-hand the effects of sin in the life of people that Christ went to the cross for. At the end of my journey I sat down and made a commitment that, I will live the rest of my life reaching out to such with the Gospel.

By Tshepang Basupi



THE SHORT TERM OPPORTUNITIES

PLACE	PROGAM
Maphutseng – Lesotho	Farming Quest hosted by Growing Nations.
Nosy be – Madagascar	FUEL Team (men only).
North Africa	Summer Teaching Internship (June-July).
North Africa	Football (Soccer) Ministry Team.
North Africa	Urgent need for lead teachers / camp counsellors to lead outdoor activities (March – June).
Nakuru – Kenya	Child Care Support for ABO – Assist with children's program as needed.
Kejabi – Kenya	Rift Valley Academy Teacher - Upper Elementary – If you are open to teach higher than foundation phase, you can let me know.
Korr – Kenya	Media Personnel to join the Korr (an existing team) who can help in publicity of their work through photography and documentary.
Kwale – Kenya	Home school teacher (family has a curriculum in place so they can give guidance as to how to implement it Middle age group (8 – 11 year olds) and (11 – 13 year olds).
N'Djamena – Chad	Wellspring Academy teacher.
Dourbali – Chad	Teaching opportunity - Middle age group (8 – 11 year olds) and (11 – 13 year olds).
Kigali – Rwanda	Youth Ministry Intern.
Kampala – Uganda	FUEL +, 1 year youth program.
Laarim – South Sudan	children's ministry worker. (Help support the needs of young children on the Laarim team. Teaching experience for primary and/or preschool ages).
Diaspora <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spain, Malta Belgium and Italy 	Dream Team outreach summer ministry team members. Assist in building relationships with immigrant/refugee populations.
Belgium TIMO Track 2, starting Jan. 2020	TIMO Team Member.

YOUR CHANCE TO GIVE

Globally Missions organisations are facing challenges to survive or thrive. What we expect to see in the next couple of decades are more missionaries being sent from the Global South countries.

These are turbulent times and it directly influences our finances therefore wisdom is needed in our stewardship, while at the same time not to allow fear to burden and block the journey forward.

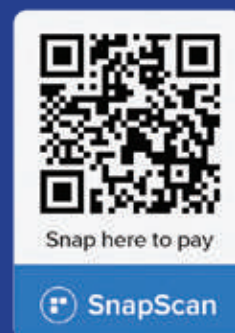
Your personal contribution makes it possible for us to support our missionaries with a well equipped office staff and raise awareness to attract prospective church planters. We are praying that the Lord would give us the wisdom to increase our financial support with at least 300 donors. These are committed Christians like you, who share our passion to reach the unreached.

We thank our supporters for standing behind us in prayer and finances. Please invite your family and friends to partner with us in this mission...

You can partner with us financially by doing a direct EFT

Africa Inland Mission
Standard Bank
Account no: 071778845
Branch: 025309

By using Snapscan:



If you are making a new contribution towards the mission or missionaries, kindly contact Kirsten Overmeyer 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.

PRAY FOR MOZAMBIQUE

The recent cyclone Idai that hit Mozambique left many devastated with loss of lives, homes as well as infrastructure.

The storm made landfall near the port city of Beira on Thursday 14th March 2019. A UN aid worker told the BBC that every building in Beira – home to half a million people – had been damaged.

Gerald Bourke, from the UN's World Food Programme, said: "No building was left untouched and there was no power". More than 1,500 people were injured by falling trees and debris from buildings including zinc roofing, officials in the capital Maputo told the BBC.

Whilst still recovering from the aftershock of Idai, Mozambique takes another pounding after Cyclone Kenneth, a Category Three storm on the hurricane scale, made landfall in Mozambique's Cabo

Delgado province late Thursday 25 April after swiping the Comoros islands.

Our Missionaries

All of our people have been accounted for in Beira, Chimoio, Espungabera, and Lamego and they are all safe and have been assisting those who have been affected by the storms.

Jinx and Dawn Reyneke have been working in Espungabera, Mozambique among the Ndau people last 16 years. Jinx and Dawn have actively been involved in distributing food in various areas as many crops were destroyed and people have no access to food due to the cyclone. Reports have come in that some people have not eaten for weeks and desperately need food.

Due to the total destruction of roads and bridges, their first distributions were done by air. They were able to distribute to the following areas:- Makumba, Muchinedzi, Zimowane, Chitende, Sambanje, Dombe, Muchiyoyo, Bunga, Mashaquare, Mave, Siyabuzana, Chitsamma, Mupengo and Bundwa. The reality is that food will need to be distributed until early next year when they can harvest their crops which will be planted towards the end of the year.

To date there is still no electricity and they have been informed that it could be up to 5 months now before they are connected again. The country's electricity department has a huge task to repair the damage caused by Idai and now Kenneth.



PRAY


- For food. Stocks are very low.
- For medical workers, both nationals and those from relief agencies that they would be able to reach those in most need.
- For the church in Mozambique. Pray that in this time of crisis that Christians and church leaders would be able to bring practical and spiritual care whilst in the midst of suffering themselves.
- For AIM leadership as they liaise with missionaries on the ground. Pray that we would be able to support them even remotely.
- For volunteers to assist in rebuilding all areas.
- For finances to help Mozambicans.

GIVE

Mozambique Crisis Relief Fund: Reference IO-130 (See bank details on pg. 6)



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