



**AFRICA  
INLAND MISSION**

**africa** NEWSLETTER  
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**connection**

# REFLECTIONS

“Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ Tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” Joshua 4:5-7

The Israelites had just passed through the Jordan River on dry ground in the same manner they passed through the Red Sea. God then commanded Joshua to instruct them to set up twelve stones, representing the 12 tribes of Israel as memorial to serve as a reminder to them of His faithfulness, for all generations.

Why would God tell them to do this?  
It is easy to forget what God has done and reflecting on His faithfulness helps us to put things into perspective.

We remember what God has done...  
We are thankful for God sustaining the AIM South African office throughout this year. We are thankful for the financial support and the prayers that have sustained this office. There has been high and low points and through it all God has been faithful.

It's beneficial to help us renew personal commitment...  
Even with the odds against us, (financially, lack of resources & people as well as spiritual opposition) we forged ahead. Although we have these restraints, our hearts are burdened for the unreached of Africa and we are committed to reaching them with the Gospel one at a time.

It enables us to roll away old defeats...  
We have been challenged to change our approach and way of doing things... Mind-sets needed to be re-adjusted. After all, we are living in an ever-changing world where we are now understanding each other better, cross-culturally so the old methods have become less effective. It is a hard process but we are still learning.

“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.”  
Deuteronomy 7:9



ARTICLE BY: YVETTE NOVEMBER

CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCHES AMONG ALL AFRICAN PEOPLES

ARTICLES by: GERHARD PIETERSEN

## REFLECTIONS: WHAT DID WE LEARN, WHAT DO I SEE?

What did we learn, what do I see? In mid-October, on a late afternoon I was standing on the shore of Tuliar, Madagascar. A bit exhausted after facilitating a 3-day training course for church planters, I needed a break as I was on my way to pay visit to the AIM Madagascar team and their church partners in Antananarivo a week later.

romantic view of a huge golden sun, that you only read about in glossy magazines, ready to go to sleep and preparing for the moon to take over, provides a path of light to hundreds of little fisherman's boats, each one with its own sail, made from recycled rice bags, woven together by creative human hands. This moment provided the ideal space for me to reflect deeply on the year passed and the breakthrough of the Father's grace into our messy world. Just as the boats need the water to drift and the wind to sail, we as an organisation need the Lord to pull and push us forward and carry out the task He has called us to do.

Stepping onto the beach I had to watch my steps carefully, as the stretched area was cluttered with cow dung and plastic. A strong smell of burnt fat hung heavily over the city. Yet, despite the difficulty in adjusting to this messy scenery, the sun was setting beautifully, throwing its golden pathway across the ocean right at my feet. This



## VIEW FROM ABOVE: WHAT IS GOD UP TO?

The bigger picture across Africa is that, in spite of ongoing violence, unrest and corruption, the Lord is also raising up and multiplying His church in Africa. It is a season of deep training and rising up of new African church leaders.

The challenge is to shift towards a mission minded church. It all starts with training and equipping of the church in Africa. Many of these young churches and their leaders are far away from privileged theological training and welcome with an unsearchable hunger and thirst, teaching that is deep yet practical. How can we come alongside our brothers and sisters at a great time like this?

Following a mission minded church is discipleship. Sub-Saharan Africa is busy awakening from its sleep, and those who have started to move do so at a great pace. My recent experience with the young church in the South of Madagascar, where 700 new believers were baptised in 2018, 39 local church planters are also confirmed by partners working elsewhere on the continent. God is busy with a new season – bringing Africa to life but also sending them as His light in to the dark world.

The migration of nations (also known as the African Diaspora) also brings them onto the doorstep of local churches – the ideal voice and face of Jesus to reach out to these unreached groups on their doorsteps. The sign of a new season at work is the amount of hunger that exists among the church – something I have not experienced yet in our country. It's a hunger that says: "Teach me please. I am ready to surrender all, so that others are reached for Christ." Off course, another sign of the growing church is the positive forces at work: large numbers of radical Islam are migrating into Northern Mozambique.

In South Africa we are seeking partner churches with a heart for Africans in Diaspora. In Cape Town where our office has been for years, we are witnessing the growing presence of a large Muslim community from East Africa. We know of about 8 local missionaries and only 2 churches who are currently actively engaging

with this group. A unified Ethiopian church, consisting of Ethiopians and Eritreans, are currently relaying what next steps to take in reaching out to the local Islamic groups on their doorsteps. In Johannesburg we have come to know that 1 Baptist Church is actively working among Somali people.

However, what we don't realise is, that the gift

of Diaspora churches, who originated from a context of persecution, could potentially re-awaken the local church mission vision. South African missionaries are being sent to minister among the diaspora unreached in Europe.

In the Cape Town office, we are well aware of Africans across the continent who want

to be sent as missionaries. Financial realities of limited resources and being cut off from a network of sending churches are huge cargo challenges that we sit with.

How can we raise more sending churches?

How can we contribute to missional churches who become missionaries themselves?





## THE FUTURE OF REACHING THE UNREACHED IS IN PARTNERING TOGETHER

The face of missions is changing. It is not an isolated missionary who largely works on their own, or a mission organisation trying to recruit new missionaries on their own anymore.

It is seeing the potential in the local church as an emerging missional community of faithful believers with the potential to become and send missionaries themselves. It is doing life with the church as a mission organisation, loving the local church, challenging the body of Christ and equipping the believers to be the salt and the light of this world, especially among the unreached.



The traditional mission organisation is still standing as the Lord is still sending many missionaries from the USA and Europe to serve across the globe, but a more networking model is taking shape, allowing for churches, mission organisations and missionaries to all work together with one purpose. This will challenge western mission organisations as local missionaries might not always have the privilege and access to resources that their compatriots have. However, they do have the knowledge and

relational skills to build the local cross-cultural bridges in significant ways that the body of Christ so desperately needs. Teams on the field are becoming more diverse, different denominations, organisations, multi-cultural. Local believers are becoming the new norm. Mission training centres are now training various missionaries of different organisations and the challenge in South Africa will be in how we partner together by bringing the various strengths and gifts into one networking body.



A partnership conference of AIM and local partners) held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, October 2018



### AN EMERGING MISSIONAL MODEL

The Pioneer movement is an Umbrella movement of 39 local church planters in the province of Tuliar, Madagascar. The AOC church oversees this coordinated strategy and is made up of about 17 denominations. Most of these missionaries are self-supported and reaches out to the Mekea and Sakalava people groups.

Apart from the movement towards networking together, another promising but yet vulnerable movement is taking shape on the horizon. The local church in Africa becomes a missionary as a collective identity. Some are fully self-funded and are of the same culture as their unreached partners. They hardly need any organisation to guide them. Mission organisations have to learn to become partners in mission with these emerging churches, learn to listen patiently, equip these churches where it's really needed and not what we think is best for them. The challenge for these movement churches is theological training.

The so-called Prosperity Gospel is an easy escape route as well as the complex mix with syncretism.

Can our organisation sustain itself as Gospel centred and yet still be African?

What can mission organisations add or learn from this?

Each one brings their wood to the fire.



## 3 FACES OF MOBILIZATION



### FACE 1: SHIFTING THE LOCAL CHURCH TOWARDS MISSION VISION: TRAINING LOCAL CHURCHES, CHURCH LEADERS AND BELIEVERS IN THE MARKET PLACE

Training is part of our vision and this year the main courses we offered were Kairos, The Coach Model and Repurpose Your Business. Kairos forms the heart of our training, so does leadership development (Coach and Repurpose your Business. Our office has trained 632 believers in the past 2 years. Not only in South Africa, but also Tanzania, Madagascar, Swaziland and Namibia. Our missionaries are also doing intensive training in Mozambique and Lesotho.



### FACE 2: THE SEED PLANTERS: TRAINING THROUGH SHORT TERM MISSIONS

16 individuals have been sent out this year to Tanzania, Spain, Niger, Lesotho, Comoros, Zanzibar and Madagascar. Our Harvest Team is a new development that seeks to send African missionaries to unreached areas for 3 months. A couple recently returned from an 18 month TIMO experience in Uganda.

### FACE 3: THE SOIL NURTURER: THE EMERGENT MODEL

We recognize the need to train sending African Churches. The challenges are resources, old church paradigms, leadership power, etc. We want to see new missional churches and at least 1 new church being trained as a sending church for each new missionary. Through the Equip program, we are looking to raise up mentors for these up and coming missionaries.

## OUR GOAL AND FOCUS: IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE THAT GOD LOVES, BUT WHO DON'T KNOW HIM:



**NDAU HOUSE:  
A HOME WITHOUT VISITORS  
IS NOT A HOUSE YET**

Ndaou, Mozambique. Visiting our missionaries in Mozambique, I encountered the Ndaou people. And a church among these people. An AIM team of four, led by Jinx and Dawn Reyneke, are partnering with 12 local churches in training them, as well as in youth leadership and youth work. We sat and ate and spoke for nearly 3-4 hours. Here time is about the quality of your presence, not the hurried pressures to complete tasks.



IK, Uganda: Waking up on the Ridge with a mother singing to her children means your alarm clock is set to the way nature works: the cock crows, the sun dawns, a mother starts singing, children laughing louder and louder. The reality for these Ik children is that their tribe is being suppressed by another tribe, but it is among these that seems the weakest or the least of us that God is slowly building his new church. The TIMO team worked hard in getting children's Bible's translated.

Malagasy, Madagascar, (2 disciples in Tana): It was an amazing feeling to meet the disciples of one of our missionaries, Matilda, whom I have only read about in newsletters. They are so young and green on their new journey of faith and hungry to learn more. Other AIM missionaries from Holland are reaching out to the Tanala, where a mother of 5, home schools her children. Another missionary from the USA, came to me to pray for a very young believer in Christ (that the time he has to spend with this young guy will be enough to teach him ways of Christ, before he might find another job and

move on). Other missionaries testify of navigating a young girl from human trafficking, a new and young Christian, trying to escape the reality of economic poverty and exploitation. I also met Christian business people who felt called to reach out to Unreached Peoples in the market place. Through their businesses, God has given them the opportunity to reach out to others.

In Kenya, LH is working among an unreached group since 2016. One of our missionaries moved into new territories. Sometimes life is very unconventional and she hops on a bike or travels with a boat to preach at poverty.

Enlarge the place of your tent: Think differently, move out of your comfort zone.

The stories of our missionaries and how the context of mission is changing, this reminded me of Isaiah 54 that we prayed through in 2018.

So many other aspects of our ministry need to step out of our comfort zones, believing that the new generation of African missionaries will be able to raise support in difficult times, connecting with churches and believe in the growth of our people.

## THE HIDDEN LIGAMENTS OF THE BODY

Then there is the office staff at AIM who work hard behind the scenes to get our momentum going week in and week out. Three new staff members had to find their way into AIM. Seeing that each donor's support money is allocated for the right purposes, looking after our missionaries funds, providing an ear when they are struggling, rolling out programs for training, sometimes flying miles out of Cape Town to visit a prospective missionary and her sending church, who have never sent missionaries before, and spending time with the pastor – these are all the behind the scenes work that have been done this year.



## PRAYER: PARTNERING WITH THE LORD, KNOWING HE IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE AND EVEN OUR PRAYERS



Finally, looking back over 2018, every prayer we prayed for strategic purposes was answered. Our new strategic prayer points are on the back of this issue. We at AIM, would like to thank all of our prayer and financial partners, in assisting us to make this happen.

I noticed the familiar site of Ox trailers, pulled by 2 cows at a time, carrying heavy loads of rice bags to anchored sailboats – some as far as about 300m into the water, walking patiently and intentionally into the sea waters. Deeper and deeper they go until only their heads stick out and they reach the boats to off load huge bags of rice. After off-loading, the oxen return to the shore, ready to collect another load in town. You get the sense that in Tuliar everything is the same every day, but still it is unfinished business. People will always need to eat, so they will need another cargo of rice tomorrow. They will continue to repair and build new sailboats: some are very colourfully decorated using rice bags as sails. As the night sets in, there are other darker forces also at work - hundreds of young women are being sold as a commodity to hungry foreigners and local men. Somewhere through the night, a loud and terrible scream of a woman awakens you and your heart pumps faster, frozen by fear and the sudden interruption of

life behind the scenes. In this mundane economy, where the same old same old runs every day, and yet is interrupted by the loud scream of a darker reality, a voice is stirring up in saying "I am not done yet with this nation. It is unfinished business".

Maybe the church in Africa is like those little ox cargos, taking the good news to the sailboats to take the life giving nurturing food to others ready to sail out again. Sometimes we feel our heads are sticking out, barely having power to carry this heavy load.

However, as I have learned, when water takes over the weight becomes less heavy, everything is shifted to the water. Participative prayer does not deny the reality of the heavy load and the task at hand, but it fills the carrier with a lightness of being. Being far away from home, serving in a foreign language, trying to make inroads into a culture, discerning what God is trying to tell us, coping with yourself and culture shock, being poor and struggling, is indeed a heavy load to carry for missionaries. But being carried by the lightness of water, our eyes are being opened to the rays of the sun and following its direction, is how our prayer partners can lift us up in the reality of the Holy Spirit.

## YOUR CHANCE TO GIVE



Globally Missions organisations are facing challenge to survive or thrive. What we expect to see in the next couple of decades are more missionaries being sent from the third world 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 staff with an equipped office to support out missionaries and raise awareness to attract prospective missionaries. 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:  
Snap here to pay  
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 what the amount is for. If you do not do this it will go towards General Funds as an anonymous donation. It is difficult and costly to get depositor's details directly from the bank.

# CLOSE YOUR EYES AND IMPACT ETERNITY

pray with us as we wait upon the Lord

## MORE WORKERS:

Pray for more workers mobilized into the field, especially Madagascar, Diaspora and Mozambique.

## MORE SENDING CHURCHES:

Pray for identifying and training sending churches.

## TRAINING AND MOBILIZING AFRICAN CHURCHES:

LEVEL 1: CHURCHES/LEADERS

LEVEL 2: MISSIONARIES

LEVEL 3: SENDING CHURCHES

Pray for training more African churches, church leaders, missionaries, market place believers - in becoming missional and, mission minded.

## TRAINING FUTURE MISSIONARIES:

Pray for the new missionary training course to be established in JHB and the sending of a new Harvest Team.

Pray for a curriculum.

Pray for willing people to go.

Pray for implementation of a sound financial plan.

Pray for a Receiver, host and team leader.

## LOCAL DIASPORA:

Pray for Diaspora Ministry coordinator in ZA Pray that our new small prayer network in CPT will grow; Pray that strategic churches will join this new mission. Pray for a Diaspora Co-Ordinator.

## COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY:

Pray for how to communicate more effectively to variety of people Through social media, brochures and video's, engaging with the youth, informing more churches.

## FUNDING/FINANCES:

Pray for increase in donors, supporters and funds Raiser/fundraising/ support raising for our new missionaries and current existing missionaries who also struggles.

## ENLARGE PRAYER SUPPORTERS:

Pray for a new generation of prayer supporters.



## COLLABORATION IN THE OFFICE:

Pray for wisdom in how to guide the growing mobilizing office and team with our limited resources, for healthy relationships, openness and communication, how to grow into our new roles.

## BUSINESS AS MISSION:

Pray for the growth of our parallel structure to send more business workers through Creative access opportunities, pray for more intentional navigation to align BAM with UPG ministry.

## COUNCIL:

Pray for new Council members/trustees with a heart for mission and gifted in leadership.

"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful." - Hebrews 10:23



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