



**AFRICA
INLAND MISSION**
Christ-Centred Churches
Among all African Peoples

AFRICA
news
Apr-Sep 26
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AIM's Inbound program prepares missionaries to serve amongst unreached people groups.

EDITOR'S LETTER

It's not uncommon for Christians to ask, "Why are we still sending missionaries to Africa?". Indeed, is there really still a need for churches from the West to send missionaries anywhere?

In this issue we reflect on why we must continue sending missionaries around the globe and especially to those people who are still unreached with the gospel. We'll hear from Africans keen that we don't stop at just making disciples at home and consider how we can encourage and engage our home churches to play a greater part in making the Saviour's name known among all peoples.

We'll also hear from those on the front line who God is using to declare his praises to those who have not yet heard.

Finally, we'll meet AIM's new International Director, Liam Hudson, who took over from the much-loved Luke Herrin at the start of 2026.

Grab a coffee, or tea, and maybe a biscuit, and enjoy the read. And, if you know a church leader with a heart for reaching the nations, we've love you to share this edition with them.

Serving Him together,



Tim Matthews

Director, AIM Asia-Pacific




Africa Inland Mission
serves and partners with
churches to fulfil the Great
Commission and advance the
gospel among Africans who
have the least opportunity
to hear about Jesus

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A PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

ON THE GREAT

COMMISSION

Imagine being a disciple hearing Jesus' command to "Go and make disciples of all nations". Focus on the scope. Not some nations. Not even most nations, but all nations.

I can easily imagine confusion, shock, then a deep sense of need. It was far more than a group of Galilean fishermen could imagine, let alone achieve. Has any greater task ever been assigned to a group of humans in all of history? No wonder we call it the Great Commission.

The task is no less daunting today. Yes, the team of workers is bigger now. And there's agencies, strategies and technologies to assist. And yet the task remains huge. The disciples' only starting point is surely ours too.

In Psalm 2, God's king is invited to "Ask, and I'll make the nations your inheritance". Have you ever wondered why he isn't just given his

inheritance? Why the need to ask? I think it's drawing attention to Jesus' sonship. What father doesn't love to hear his son ask for things. Asking is a deep and fundamental expression of Christ's sonship.

So Jesus asks for the nations, and we, his followers, ask for the strength, patience and wisdom to go and disciple them. The great commission is an invitation to share in the sonship of Christ. As we feel the burden of the task, it's our rich blessing to ask. Our neediness is an opportunity to taste his nearness.

How wise is the Lord to give us a task so great we could never manage it alone. And how kind of



him to promise, 'I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

Roger Burgess was senior pastor of a NSW church for many years and is now the FIEC (Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches) Chaplain.

Africa Inland Mission is an evangelical Christian mission agency serving in over 20 African nations and around the world. Our passion is to see Christ-centred churches established and thriving among all of Africa's peoples.

DO WESTERN CHURCHES STILL NEED TO SEND MISSIONARIES TO AFRICA?



Jeremiah* and his wife, Diana*, are missionaries from Kenya. After completing a Training in Ministry Outreach (TIMO) Team in West Africa, they decided to continue serving among the same people group. Alongside their three children they are involved in discipleship, evangelism and running leadership training programs.

GOD'S GLORY

To answer this question, I believe it is important to start with the two biblical verses that have been a key foundation to our ministry outreach: Matthew 24:14 and Romans 15:20. In both Scriptures, God wants his glory to shine in all nations, and it is the work of the Church to shine this glory to all nations.

CAN'T DO IT ALONE

We are glad as a family that AIM partnered with our local church in Kenya to work among the unreached areas. For sure, if the task was left to our local church alone,

perhaps we could not have made it here. One way AIM assisted us was helping identify the unreached areas with a great urgency for the gospel, and collaborated with SIM International on how we could move from Kenya to a francophone West African country. Our church could not do it alone. We have prayed to see our local church support us, without the added support of AIM, but this has been impossible.

SERVING TOGETHER

On the other hand, I believe AIM Western missionaries still have a role to play in

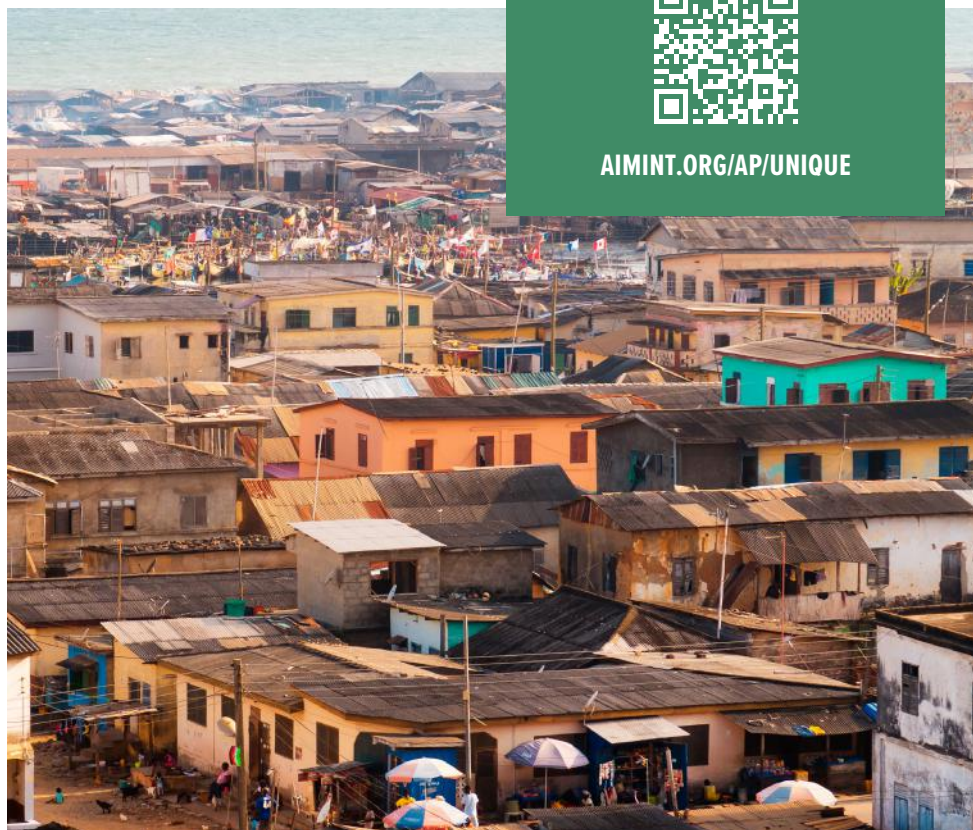
taking the gospel to unreached areas. First, the few local churches here in this West African country still believe the work of cross-cultural ministry is left in the hands of Western missionaries. The local churches believe their work is to send pastors to areas where Western missionaries have been serving. They have not yet understood the work of cross-cultural ministry. In my observation, AIM should take an initiative to serve alongside the local church leaders in order to help them catch the vision.

WHERE THE WEST CAN'T REACH

Nevertheless, the current political instabilities and insecurities can prevent organisations continuing their work. This

is a strategy of the enemy to stop them from fulfilling the Great Commission. However, I believe there is a great need to do things differently, and take advantage of any opportunities available, especially in areas where the gospel is yet to take root. One of these opportunities is to focus on equipping local believers as missionaries, to go where Western missionaries can't.

**Names changed for security reasons.*

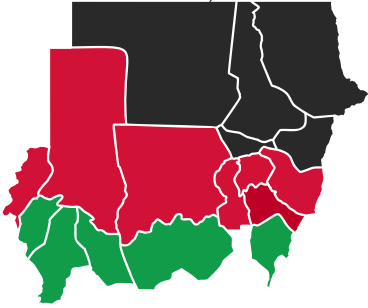


ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT YOUR PLACE
IN MISSION? WHY NOT DOWNLOAD OUR
DEVOTIONAL AND EXPLORE HOW GOD
MIGHT BE CALLING YOU:



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SUDAN



49.2 MILLION

Population

Capital

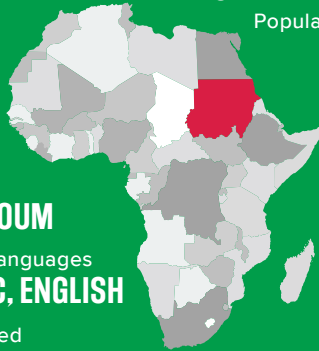
KHARTOUM

Official languages

ARABIC, ENGLISH

Unreached

46.7 MILLION 94.9%



RELIGIONS IN SUDAN

93.4% MUSLIM

2.3%
CHRISTIAN

4.3% ETHNIC
RELIGIONS

HIDDEN BY CONFLICT

This predominantly Muslim country has significant historical archaeological sites from the kingdom of Kush, as well as protected national parks boasting a wonderful array of wildlife. But this is overshadowed by civil wars that have plagued the country for 70 years. Sudan is now 5th on the Open Doors World Watch List for persecution of Christians.



DIVISIONS

Due to invasions from Egypt, Arab migration, and its position along the Nile, Sudan is a meeting point of African cultural traditions and those from the Mediterranean and the Arab worlds. There is a significant divide between those who identify themselves as “Arab” and those who don’t, despite both sides being ethnically mixed and for the most part physically indistinguishable from the other.

NEIGHBOURLY INFLUENCE

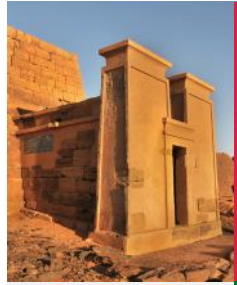
The history of Sudan is interwoven with that of its neighbour, Egypt, from the first invasions at the end of the 4th millennium BC, up until the end of the joint British and Egyptian rule in 1956 when Sudan became an independent republic. As new leaders emerged, so too did differing designs on Sudan, whether it was to occupy and control, or to simply take advantage of their weaker neighbour.

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

For a time in the 6th and 7th century, Sudan was a Christian nation. However, the arrival of Arabs brought this to an end as they gained political control through marriage. Missionary work reintroduced Christianity to Sudan in the mid 1800s, with various churches being established including the African Inland Church in 1949. Today, the majority of Christians are in southern Sudan, and face persecution, exacerbated by the ongoing conflict.

LIFE IN SUDAN

The tensions of the 20th century culminated in three civil wars in Sudan, the most recent of which is still ongoing. Initially the conflict was due to the divide between the north and south; the second civil war ended with the secession of the south in 2011 and the emergence of a new country: South Sudan. Despite this, internal conflict has continued, with lives lost, many people displaced and a struggling infrastructure and economy.

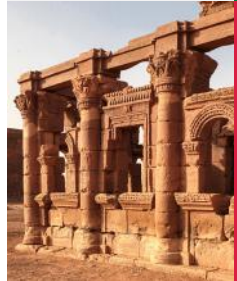


MORE PYRAMIDS THAN EGYPT

There are more than 200 pyramids in Sudan, which is nearly double the 118 in Egypt.

FROM 1ST TO 3RD

Sudan was the largest African country in size until 2011 when southern Sudan gained its independence

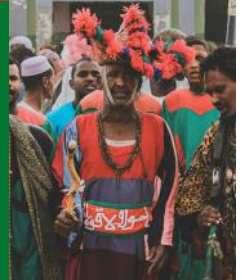


KUSH OF THE BIBLE

Emerging from circa 1070 BCE, this kingdom left a legacy of impressive pyramids and a culture that was influenced by Egypt.

CULTURALLY DIVERSE

Sudan boasts more than 500 distinct ethnic groups, including the Arab, Nubian, Fur and numerous others, and has over 400 languages.



MEETING OF TRIBUTARIES

The White Nile and the Blue Nile merge together in Sudan’s capital, Khartoum, to form the Nile River, which flows north towards Egypt.

KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON IN UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS

Resistance to the gospel in many unreached people groups (UPGs) is systemic. Communities often employ deliberate methods to hinder Christian witness, and one of the most effective strategies is the disruption of believers' continuous presence. This is achieved by denying them spaces to operate in and continuously sabotaging the activities of the gospel workers.

This is why **continuous presence** matters so deeply. In places where the gospel is spoken in whispers, presence becomes a powerful testimony. It challenges misconceptions about the Christian faith and allows believers to **earn the right to be heard**. It allows the believers to identify and utilise gospel entry points as they address the community's worldview and create space for genuine relationship.

GOSPEL IMPACTS HEARTS

Even amid resistance, God continues to work powerfully. We have witnessed Him transform hearts through simple faithfulness – workers who consistently show up, build trust, and serve with cultural humility. They engage with respect, address practical needs as an expression of Christ's love, and pursue the local heart language to truly understand those they serve.

And underpinning everything is extensive, intentional prayer – deep transformation is God's work. We have witnessed Muslims coming to faith through the ministry and platform of a community centre, for which they are now leading aspects of this work. There are even BMBs (Believers from a Muslim Background) who have transitioned from simply being the recipients of the gospel to being co-labourers in the Lord's vineyard.

We have seen a growing openness among individuals and families: Young Muslim married couples have sought us out for marriage counselling, valuing Christian wisdom and witnessing the peace it brings.

'Mama Sam' allowed her children to attend our centre, despite widespread fear that believers would "brainwash" them. Her bravery reshaped the narrative in the community. She publicly testified that her children's behaviour changed for the good because of the love they received. Her testimony softened other parents' concerns and gradually built trust where suspicion once ruled.



‘Mama Su’, a single mother with four children, who had doubts about our faith and was working at our community centre, was deeply moved by the team’s compassion. She said **“I saw Jesus through your life and your team”**. She eventually chose to follow Jesus and has found inner peace from him even though she still lives in hardship. She experiences Jesus’s love.

Her journey reflects the heart of incarnational ministry – walking with people through real life and suffering, being a bonded ‘belonger’ who embodies Christ’s compassion. In time, we are expecting the growth of a 2nd generation of BMBs.

We constantly receive neighbours wondering and telling us “We never before have people treat us like the way you and your team did to us” and “We have seen God’s love through your team”.

We have journeyed with many other women who discovered their worth in Jesus because they experienced dignity, care, and unconditional love. As they were seen and valued, they came to realise they were cherished by God Himself. We have also invited seekers into Bible studies, where several met Jesus personally through Scripture.

These testimonies remind us why gospel workers are still needed today. UPG communities remain places of spiritual hunger and deep need. The opposition is real, but the gospel is more powerful. These nations belong to Jesus. They need Jesus. And, by His grace, we are committed to **keeping the Lights ON**.

PW is working under the umbrella of an NGO in collaboration with AIM, which provides a platform for ministry within the East Africa coastal area.

CAN A CITY ON A HILL BE HIDDEN?



“A city on a hill cannot be hidden,” Jesus says in Matthew 5. Well, I thought I had found proof that He was wrong!

I was flying missionaries into a remote Lopit village in South Sudan. The Lopit are farmers and cattle herders who build their villages high on the hillside overlooking the valley below. These locations aren't chosen for the view, but for survival. From above, they can see cattle raiders approaching long before they arrive.

Each hut has only a small opening, always facing the hill, not the valley. At night, even though fires burn inside, the village is nearly invisible from below. To anyone scanning in the dark, the hillside looks empty. So, against expectations, the Lopit have managed to hide a town on a hill.

Missionaries have worked among the Lopit for many years. Progress has been slow, and there are only a handful of believers. As one missionary, Robert,

walked me through the village, we greeted everyone. Occasionally, Robert would quietly tell me, “That was one of the believers.”

They looked no different from their neighbours. They dressed the same, spoke the same...and yet something about them stood out. There was a joy, a hope, a quiet confidence. Eventually, I found myself saying to Robert, “That was a believer, wasn't it?” I could just tell.

So, I don't actually disagree with Jesus at all. The Lopit believers, few as they are, cannot hide the light of Christ shining through them.

This is why missionaries go, and why organisations like AIM exist - to support Christ-centred churches among all African people groups. Even when a city on a hill seems hidden, Christ's light within it still shines.

Phil is an Aussie pilot serving with AIM Air.

WALKING TOGETHER

I encountered a family of local believers living in the hills near my town. I began connecting with them. One sister, an elderly widow with four sons, shared that they felt spiritually neglected, lacking pastoral guidance, while also struggling with deep poverty.

After discussing this with my team leader, I decided to live among them for a time.

During the days, I helped build chicken coops. In the evenings, we gathered for Bible study and prayer.

Throughout this process, they came to see themselves like lost sheep in the wilderness. They realised that even in their remote home, God had not forgotten their family. And as we worked and lived together, I was able to guide the family in principles of faith, including tithing. Life has been very hard for them, and the idea of giving a



tenth felt impossible. We encouraged them to step out in faith.

Then one day the widow came down to meet us – bringing ten eggs. “This is my tithe,” she said. I was deeply moved. This was more than just hearing God’s Word; it was living it out.

Like the widow with her two mites, this was her offering to the Lord – an act of obedience. How amazing it is to see

someone, even in this remote region, bearing witness to God’s Word and putting it into practice.

Every step of growth and change is His doing – and the fruit of the faithful, persistent prayers of many. I am looking forward to witnessing all that the Lord will continue to do in the life of this community.

J is an AIM worker supporting a community of isolated believers in a remote North African region.

WAVE GOODBYE,

AND SAY HELLO

Luke Herrin, along with his wife Jenny, retired as AIM's International Director at the end of 2025 after a fruitful 12 years in the role. He guided AIM through some significant changes, not least a re-focusing on our priority to take the gospel to the unreached peoples of Africa. He will be missed. Thank you, Luke and Jenny, for your faithful service, characterised by active commitment to prayerful living and leadership.



Luke and Jenny Herrin

As we thank God for Luke and Jenny, we also thank God for our new International Director, Liam Hudson. Liam has spent the last 12 years working in North Africa among Muslims, with his wife Joy and their five children. Now based at our International Office in Bristol, we asked Liam some questions so you could get to know him a little...

HOW DID YOU COME TO FAITH IN JESUS?

I do not remember a day when I did not know Jesus as my Lord and Saviour. Like many who grew up in the faith, I cannot pinpoint the day or hour of my conversion; I simply grew up with Jesus.

That said, the most dramatic shift in my spiritual journey was arguably when I entered university. Up to that point I was strongly oriented toward duty and responsibility, including in my ambitions regarding proclamation. But God used a letter from my dad, the preaching of John Piper, and the African prophet to transform my motivations. I came to understand that my dad didn't just love me, he liked me. He enjoyed me. This meant everything to me, and it sent me exploring the Scriptures to see if the same could be true of God. Zephaniah 3:17 clinched it for me. (Zephaniah is the African prophet).

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL WEEK LOOK LIKE FOR YOU NOW?

I will tell you about a typical week once I have one! We were finding a pretty good rhythm in Bristol. I was going into the office five days a week. I like to bike in early and spend some time in our prayer room before others arrive. We meet as a team on Monday afternoons and every day at noon for time in the Word and in prayer. In addition, Joy tries to schedule two to three hours of meetings for me each day.

But I say we “were” finding a good rhythm because we are currently traveling. And I am finding that traveling in this role can make me inefficient and forgetful. Please keep this in mind when you pray!

WHAT HAS SURPRISED OR ENCOURAGED YOU SO FAR?

I am astounded by how many prayer initiatives, movements, groups, and updates are circulating among us. At first, I felt pressure to coordinate or organise all these initiatives. But more and more the Lord spoke to me about just how wonderful it all is. I hope to affirm and encourage where I can. I believe it was Oswald Chamber that said something like: “Prayer is not preparation for the work; it is the work.” This is without a doubt the most exciting and encouraging thing happening among us.

WHAT CHALLENGES ARE YOU FOCUSING ON?

AIM has a fantastic vision! “Christ-centred churches among all African peoples.” What we need (me included) is to make sure we really believe it and are aligned together. Do we all understand our “why” in the same way? May the Lord give us fresh wind and fresh fire as together we rally around our enduring vision and own it deeply.

WHAT DRIVES YOU PERSONALLY TO SERVE IN THIS CAPACITY?

“Missions exists because worship doesn’t. Worship is ultimate, not missions, because God is ultimate, not man. When this age is over and the countless millions of the redeemed fall on their faces before the throne of God, missions will be no more. It is a temporary necessity. But worship abides forever. Worship, therefore, is the fuel and goal of missions...” John Piper, Let the Nations Be Glad.

Those words never get old!

WHAT IMPACT CAN SUPPORTERS AT HOME HAVE ON THE WORK OF AIM?

Our constitution says that we exist to serve the church of Jesus Christ in its responsibility to make disciples of the peoples of Africa as stated in Matthew 28:18-20. Supporters, as representatives of local expressions of the Bride of Christ, are integral to our work and mission. We really cannot do what we do without them. I would encourage them to ask if the trajectory of their lives is toward the

Continued over page →



outsiders. I am referring to Colossians 4:5-6. In your going and sending, is the trajectory of your life to move toward outsiders, making the best use of the time, speaking graciously, so that you might know how to answer each person? When we are all moving toward outsiders together, then we are pulling together in a Kingdom direction – wherever we are in the world. When we all practice daily surrender to King Jesus, there is no limit to what He can do in and through us.

HOW CAN WE BE PRAYING FOR YOU?

You can ask that I would follow the example of DE Hoste, the little known second General Director of China Inland Mission, now OMF. When he passed away the Chinese said of him: “He lived to be forgotten that Christ might be remembered.” Pray that I would serve for the eyes of my Rewarder who is Himself the Reward.

A VISION FOR GROWTH AND PARTNERSHIP

“I have a dream!” ...well, it might not be as celebrated as Rev Martin Luther King Jr’s famous speech, but I’d like to share it with you.

My dream is to see AIM Asia-Pacific grow, as local churches pro-actively partner with us, because they long to send a new generation of workers to the African harvest field.

“Are they not already partnering with us?” you may ask. Well, to some extent. Most will support missionaries they know. But rather than churches partnering with agencies, at present we see churches sponsoring missionaries. In this model, agencies take the responsibility to envision, plan, and deliver

ministry, while churches send resources like people and finances, along with their prayers.

This can work, but it tends to reinforce an unhelpful separation between church and agency. Churches may feel disenfranchised from the mission task. And agencies end up taking the place that rightly belongs to the church.

So, how can we better partner together to speed the spread of the gospel?

Well, we are developing models that increase collaboration and share ownership of the missions task with churches.

One initiative is to gather together six or so churches,

who partner with AIM to reach an unreached people group in North Africa. The partnership shares ownership of the task and commits to prayerfully play its part to see new workers raised up, equipped and sent out, and then supported in their ministries long term.

As they pray and work together, my hope is that these churches will discover a more strategic view of the role of mission to unreached peoples, that will influence church life longer term. My dream and prayer is that this will see the next generation of missionaries sent to the unreached in Africa. Please join me in my prayers!

Tim Matthews
Director, AIM Asia-Pacific



TEACHING AS MISSION: ENABLING THE GOSPEL'S REACH ACROSS AFRICA

Steve and Heidi King are music teachers from Tasmania, Australia, now serving at Rift Valley Academy in Kijabe, Kenya. Steve also serves as High School Principal and Academic Team Lead, and they both contribute to the pastoral and spiritual development of their students.

In 1906, Charles Hurlburt faced an impossible choice: abandon his missionary calling or send his children to England for education. His innovative solution birthed the school where we now serve, Rift Valley Academy (RVA). Hurlburt's solution revealed a truth we live daily as "missionary teachers". We are not supporting cast members in the story of African missions; we are essential workers enabling the gospel's advance across the continent.

RVA's founder understood this reality viscerally. Without educators willing to teach his children, his missionary calling would have ended. Today, over a century later, we serve approximately 400 students from 30 nationalities, representing 80 mission organisations working across Africa. Each teacher at RVA multiplies missionary impact exponentially, investing in the next generation of gospel-bearers while ensuring hundreds of missionary



families can remain on the field serving Africa's unreached peoples.

Without RVA and schools like it, parents serving in remote, difficult regions would face Hurlburt's dilemma: choose between their children's education and their calling. Mission schools break this false choice. When we committed to serving as missionaries ourselves, we became part of enabling entire families to stay in ministry. Our faithfulness, alongside our colleagues, keeps hundreds of missionaries engaged in evangelism, church planting, medical work, and community development across the continent.

The call to teach at a mission school is a call to missionary service - full stop. It requires the same willingness to live cross-culturally, the same commitment to Christ's Great Commission that any missionary must embrace. We use our God-given abilities not as secular professionals who happen to work at



a Christian school, but as missionaries who understand that our teaching enables hundreds of others to serve effectively. Our backgrounds in music education and school administration are the very talents God is using to advance His kingdom. Every rehearsal we lead, every lesson we teach, every student we mentor represents kingdom investment rippling across Africa and beyond.

Teaching at a mission school is a willing commitment to students' spiritual, social, physical, and emotional wellbeing. We create safe, loving, nurturing

environments where students are disciplined and educated toward their potential in Christ.

We invest in students who will scatter across continents, carrying the gospel to unreached peoples. We shape young people who have witnessed their parents' sacrifice for the unreached and often carry deep passion for missions themselves. These students represent the next generation of missionaries, development workers, medical professionals, and church leaders who will serve Africa and beyond.

Charles Hurlburt's impossible choice became a catalyst for over a century of missionary education. We stand in that legacy today, using our skills and

calling to enable gospel proclamation across Africa's peoples. This is not merely teaching; this is mission at its finest.

As AIM continues its passion to see Christ-centred churches established among all African peoples, missionary teachers remain indispensable.

Today, we invite you to consider whether God might be calling you to join us in this vital work.

Learn more about Steve and Heidi's ministry at www.adventure-kings.net/kingsinkenya. For information about teaching opportunities at RVA, visit www.rva.org or get in touch with the AIM office in Gosford, NSW.



RETIREES

Jeremy & Felicity first left for South Sudan in 2016. At the end of January this year they retired from AIM service and have entered a new season of life. We thank God for their faithful gospel service.



REFLECTIONS OF A MISSIONARY: GOD IS GOOD!

In South Sudan, there's a chant we'd say to each other at church under the tree, "Abuna Nyekuchi" and the response, "Doe-kithi!... Doe-kithi" "Abuna Nyekuchi!" which means essentially "God is good, all the time; all the time, God is good!"

His goodness drew our family into the wilds of South Sudan, to tell the Laarim about Him! At times things felt incredibly tough. Our first six weeks were particularly difficult as we were without power and had almost no fresh food. Yet in His goodness He provided a great team for support, gave us good health, and watched over our precious boys.

The spiritual warfare we saw in South Sudan was intense. Village members were accused of witchcraft and put to death. Young men were killed during cattle raids. Outbreaks of disease caused death, fear and suspicion. Yet God's goodness shines even brighter against darkness. He offers hope of forgiveness, redemption, and eternal life that can never be taken away.

In Madagascar we served with the Good News Hospital. It looked like we might have to return to Australia due to lack of funds. Yet God raised up supporters who gave generously to get us there! He is so faithful!

His goodness inspires us to go, in His goodness He keeps us there, and His goodness follows us into the next chapter. May we all praise His Name and trust in His goodness!

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

– Psalm 23:6

Felicity (& Jeremy) Aitken

COULD YOUR CHURCH BE PART OF BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO AFRICA'S UNREACHED?

We invite your church to send a short-term team on mission to Northern Kenya, where an AIM indigenous outreach team is faithfully sharing Christ among those who have had little opportunity to hear the good news.

Your team will be welcomed as partners in ministry, working alongside local believers in community outreach. They will have the chance to get involved in activities such as school programs, youth ministries, sports, Bible teaching, and practical service.

More than simply serving, your team will have the privilege of encouraging and being encouraged by those on the frontlines of gospel work.

Over two weeks, participants will grow in their understanding of cross-cultural ministry, deepen their faith, and return better equipped to serve Christ in their own communities.

To find out how your church can be involved, visit aimint.org/ap/churchteams or call 02 4322 4777





‘How can they **PREACH** unless they are **SENT?**’

Getting the Good News of Jesus to Africa’s unreached starts right here.

We’re committed to working strategically with churches across the Asia-Pacific to raise up, equip, send, and support the next generation of missionaries.

We invite you to **partner with us** in this vital mission.

Your generosity helps sow seeds today that, by God’s grace, will grow into gospel witness where Christ is not yet known.

Together, we can look forward to lives changed, churches established, and God glorified among Africa’s unreached.

Give today:
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