



AFRICA INLAND MISSION CANADA

Spring 2022

# God @ work

a publication prepared for the friends and supporters of AIM Canada



# Dear Friends,

God is indeed at work all over this vast world that He created! He has called all of His children to join Him in what He is doing. We are grateful for each one of you and the part that you play in the work God is doing through Africa Inland Mission (Canada). All glory goes to the Father!

Come walk with us through another edition of **God@work**, and:

- Find out what Ray Jealous did when his engine fell out of his truck on a trip across a desert in Kenya!
- Get to meet a North African woman who experienced Jesus' love in action—first, in a dream, and then, through her neighbour, Kristen.
- See what new things God is doing through Brett & Candace Loewen, following an abrupt and painful departure from their ministry in Africa.
- Listen as Colin & Rachel share about God's faithfulness to His servants in Chad.
- Journey with Helena Vis as she responds to God's unexpected call to full-term missions.
- Learn about a new "must read" - *Justy's Journals*. At age 92, AIM retiree, Justina Stoesz, tells her story!
- Hear how God wonderfully provided through many of you for the inaugural AIM for Africa fundraiser last year, and get excited to join A4A 2022 to raise funds for three compassion projects in Africa.

We do appreciate hearing from you. Please take a moment to drop us a note, and share with us how God has encouraged you through **God@work**.

Would you prefer to read **God@work** electronically?

Please let us know! Send us a note with your email address.

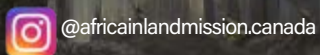
**Blessings!**

The AIM Editorial Team

call: 877-407-6077 or 416-751-6077

email: [general.ca@aimint.org](mailto:general.ca@aimint.org)

web: [aimint.org/ca](http://aimint.org/ca)



## First Fruits Generosity

Dan Baetz *Canadian Director*



After what seems like an arduous winter, spring is finally here! Now we can fully enjoy nature—creation at its best. For the ancient people of Israel who lived in an agrarian society, spring had particular significance—it was the time of the celebration of the Festival of First Fruits. In this one of the seven feasts, the people were commanded by God to take the first and best of the early harvest of barley and offer it to the Lord (Exodus 23:19). They were not to partake of the harvest until this was done, relying instead on last year's stores. This was an act of sacrifice, commemorating their gratitude and thankfulness for His provision. It was also a symbolic faith gesture in anticipation of their reliance on the Lord for a bountiful harvest.

The concept of the *first fruits* still holds spiritual significance for us today. The New Testament provides ample evidence of this, as it identifies God's indwelling Spirit as a partial deposit, or an interim measure—the power which acts like a seed bringing us to perfection. In addition, Christ's resurrection from the grave is "the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1Corinthians 15:20 NIV), preparing us for what awaits us because of the hope of His resurrection.

The spirit of generosity in faith by Canadians to Africa Inland Mission (AIM) has been evident over the past two years. Despite COVID 19, we have seen increased donations to all of our projects, enabling us to provide well-needed resources in Northern Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Madagascar. In addition,

we were able to complete the retro-fitting of our national headquarters and its premises in Toronto, and to help the summer camp programs of our Ministry to Africans in Canada (MAC). This is in addition to regular donations made to support our missionaries and their ministry efforts in Canada, Africa and around the world.

We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge your contributions, and the very positive impacts your financial giving, prayers, and words of support have had on our ability to achieve Kingdom goals. We are so grateful for your love and compassion.

Our statistics at the end of 2021 reflect why we send people to serve as part of AIM International.

- 11 additional Unreached People Groups (UPGs) engaged with the gospel
- 1,730 new disciples among UPGs
- 1,096 new baptisms
- 147 new churches planted
- 1,721 church leaders equipped to serve
- 4,071 Africans mobilized to serve

This is worth celebrating in every season!

In this issue of **God@work** we are sharing with you the numerous expressions of God's grace lavished on the ministry of AIM. We encourage you to rejoice with us. Our prayer is that as we work together in God's harvest field, Jehovah-Jireh will bless our combined efforts.

We count it a privilege to have all of you on our team!

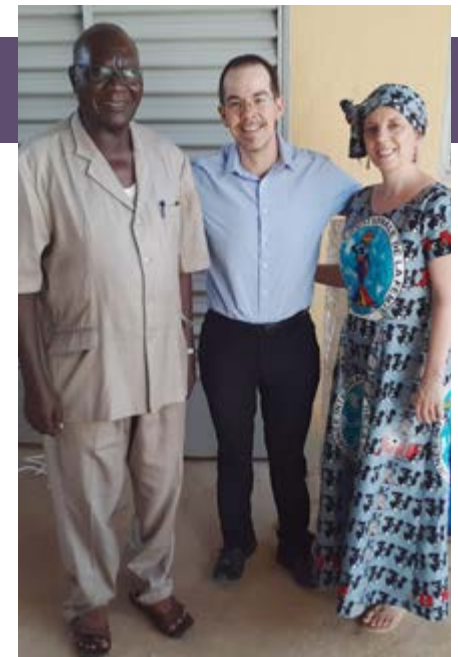


# Listening for God's Faithfulness

by Colin & Rachel



above: Rachel, Colin, and Garboubou.



above: Moise with Colin and Rachel.

left: The students and staff of AIM's Wellspring Academy in N'djamena, Chad.

Our alarm goes off at 5 a.m., and as we slowly shake off our sleepiness, we begin to hear the sounds of our city, N'djamena. Calls to prayer, tolling church bells, taxis honking, and roosters crowing. This could all seem like a clamour of noise, but if we listen carefully, there are sounds that reflect God's faithfulness.

Under the tree outside our window comes a steady scraping noise—one of the compound's guards is raking the leaves, as neem trees never have a shortage of foliage. Garboubou arrives early each morning to make sure the compound is neat and tidy before the students arrive for school. Garboubou has served AIM faithfully for nearly 30 years. Besides tidying up the compound, he makes sure every student gets in the gates safely, and keeps

an eye on all the comings and goings during the day.

This isn't a glamorous job, but Garboubou always has a huge smile on his face, as he knows he's joyfully serving the King through these small actions. When he's not busy taking care of us missionaries and children, he's sitting in the shade of the neem tree writing notes for his sermon for the coming Sunday. His heart is big enough that he wants to serve missionaries and his own church faithfully.

We visited another pastor recently. Pastor Moise's warm, grandfatherly smile will make you feel welcome right away. For several decades he has served multiple churches and positions in the EET, the denomination AIM works with in Chad. One challenge pastors here face is the

denominational leadership may decide a pastor is going to be posted to a new church and give only a few weeks' notice. Just days before our visit, Pastor Moise had been told that he will soon be moved to a new church, after serving for only six years at his current church. Some pastors might be angry or resentful with these constant changes. Not Moise. As he made the announcement of the change, he gently assured his flock of God's faithfulness and the importance of submission.

We read in the Bible that God is faithful, but sometimes in the day-to-day, we forget this truth. One of the best reminders is to pause and look at those around us. In the actions and attitudes of other believers, we see the faithfulness of God reflected in their lives.

Colin and Rachel work as teachers in the country of Chad—Colin at the English Learning Centre, an ESL hub for local Chadians, and Rachel at Wellspring Academy, an elementary day school for cross-cultural Christian workers. Both of these ministries have a great need for teachers—short-term and full-term. Please pray for God's provision. And consider being one of His answers to that prayer!

To learn more about serving at the English Learning Centre contact AIM at:  
<https://aimint.org/ca/connect/start-here/>

To learn more about Wellspring Academy visit:  
<https://aimint.org/wellspring/>

# SUPER SUCCESS STORY

AIM for Africa 2021

“...I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me.”

Matthew 25: 40 (NLT)



Africa Inland Mission is grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support received towards its AIM for Africa 2021 initiative.

“God did exceedingly abundantly above all I could ask or even think. And God did it through each one of you who participated, promoted and gave. You were vital in achieving this amazing accomplishment,” said Kim Lidstone, Project Manager, in a thank-you letter to supporters.

319 donors, in 3 countries, supported 12 teams, comprising 100 members who participated by hiking, cycling, walking, running, dancing, playing hockey, and reading—in small towns, and large metropolitan cities—in eight provinces across Canada. \$38,547 was raised to support three projects in Africa. AIM was able to fulfill a commitment to satisfy urgent needs in Northern Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Madagascar.

“By showing love and compassion to those in need, we are able to make Christ known among Africa’s unreached people. We were so happy to be able to host the newly-minted AIM for Africa, and I am expecting that it will become a staple on our organization’s annual calendar of events. There are so many opportunities for us to share love in Africa, and so, we have accepted the challenge, made easy by the fact that our friends and supporters are willing to stand with us in meeting these needs,” Dr. Dan Baetz, Executive Director, commented after the event was completed.



## Water for Life - Hurri Hills, Kenya

“We are thankful for the money raised through AIM for Africa to meet our urgent needs in Northern Kenya,” said Joanne in a recent communication with AIM. The funds have been used to:

- Pay for the transport of water to numerous communities throughout Hurri Hills.
- Purchase water collection tanks and guttering which allows water catchment in various communities.
- Purchase buckets for the storage of distilled water.
- Purchase water filtration systems.



“This is best described as providing the necessities for survival. It makes clean, safe drinking water available for domestic use, and prevents illnesses associated with drinking contaminated water. A portion of the funds has been saved for use in the future, as the possibility of drought is always a reality. When critical water is given to the needy, it also provides the opportunity in a practical way to present Jesus as the ‘living water.’ Through this initiative, Jason and Joanne share

audio Bibles and prayer support. As Jesus cared for others while He sojourned on earth, Africa Inland Mission seeks to show compassion and care by satisfying both physical and spiritual needs.

We praise God for small amounts of rain that are being experienced by the people in Hurri Hills. Please join us in prayer that God will provide a normal rainy season.

## Clinic for Congo - Moku Region, Democratic Republic of the Congo



This project began in 2020, with support raised through our involvement with Ride4Refuge, and extended into 2021. The goal was to donate \$20,000 to assist in the building of a medical clinic in an area which lacked medical care. AIM Canada member, Abbie, wrote in a recent update:

Thus far, the foundation is being built and 4,000 USD has been spent on building materials which must be imported, then transported to the site—this is no small feat! However, this project has brought together churches, medical workers, local government, tribal leaders, and business people. The supervisory

committee is made up of locals committed to seeing its success. Local people are excited and have become more connected with the church because of this project. We can’t wait to see what impact this access to medical care will have, and we thank God for the unity we’ve seen among stakeholders, even if it means that the project moves slowly.

But this project means so much more than simply medical care! While there are no doctors or access to medical care in this area, the facility will be connected to the CECA (Communaute Evangelique au Centre de l’Afrique) church network of doctors who function under the leadership of its medical work office. The clinic’s physical location on a main road is strategic, in that it will provide easy access to those in the neighbourhood and surrounding villages. The clinic will serve the under-reached Tengo (Mamvu) people, and provide an opportunity for the medical team to share the love of Christ with patients and their families. A new church congregation is already functioning on the building site. While AIM has contributed financially to a medical facility, in so doing, it is also planting churches.

Please pray with us for the continued growth in the missional attitude of the CECA church. Pray for future patients of the clinic, that they will have ears to listen to the Good News, and for the future staff who will provide comfort and care, along with sharing God’s Word.





### More for Madagascar – Food Relief

Over the last three years there has been little or no rain in the southern part of Madagascar, causing famine and drought. Many people depend on their gardens to provide food for their families—this has been greatly hindered by drought conditions. The situation was made worse by the heavy rains from a cyclone in 2021. Canadian AIM missionary, Georgina, who served faithfully in Madagascar for over 10 years, oversaw this relief project. She recently introduced AIM Canada to Fernando Basso, who manages AIM Canada's \$10,000 contribution to famine relief. He said, "I have no words to thank you and the people who donated with such great generosity. Thanks for the confidence in our ministry here, and for your kindness, great generosity and Kingdom heart actions. The good works that we do with these funds shows the Bara people God's love."

The donations have been used to:

- Provide rice for 400 children who have had little to eat throughout the famine.
- Feed 150 school children who come from very poor families—enabling the ongoing provision of the only daily meal the students will eat.

Through these efforts, AIM Canada has contributed to the lives of the unreached people group, the Bara. All of this good work is centered on the love of Jesus Christ, as His workers bring them the good news of the gospel while helping to meet the physical needs of their children.

Please join us in praying that our efforts in Madagascar will continue to bring glory to God.



## TESTIMONIALS – A4A 2021



### Maddison Meierhofer, Team Leader, Lethbridge, Alberta

When I was approached about fundraising for AIM for Africa, I asked the Lord what I should do. He instantly responded, "Do what you have already in your hand; have a dance-a-thon at the university." The university was more than happy to allow me to use their two studios for the day of the event. We ended up with 36 dancers, ages 7-19, who enjoyed six hours of ballet, jazz, acrobatics, flexibility and choreography. A local dance shop donated gift cards as prizes, which were BIG motivators for the kids. We posted AIM posters on our bulletin boards so parents could read about it. Little dancers knocked on doors in their neighborhood to ask for support.

Lots of parents expressed their appreciation for the chance to posture their children outside their normal sphere, and consider how they could support someone in need through doing something they loved. The Lord blessed our efforts as together we raised \$5,587. I'm so grateful I could use my position as head of the dance program, and my connections with my students, parents and teachers, to dance our way to helping Africa, and to be HIS hands and feet in this small way!



### Paul Evans, AIM Mobilizer, Western Canada, Atlantic Provinces

I really liked that the projects—physical needs in Africa—were easy to promote. People will participate and support again! I've been amazed each year how people get behind our teams. It usually turns out to be a very fun day together!!

This five-person team chose to walk in Newfoundland, with one additional member who ran across Prince Edward Island. This was our top team with \$7,765 raised.



### Ron Shaw, AIM Website and Tech Support

I hugely appreciated that the event—from start to finish—was all kept in-house. This enabled us to provide all the marketing and reporting information in one place on our own website.

This three-person team cycled in the beautiful Alberta Rocky Mountains and raised \$5,520.

BE a part of AIM for Africa 2022!

Visit our website:

<https://cagiving.aimint.org/aim-for-africa-2022/>

# AIM for Africa 2022



Get ready to be part of something amazing, beginning June 1, 2022!

Kim Lidstone, Project Manager at Africa Inland Mission (AIM), has announced the 2022 recipients of support to be raised through this year's AIM for Africa (A4A). This initiative seeks to raise funds through team activities that are wholesome, fun, competitive, healthy, and enjoyable, while forging camaraderie with others who have a heart for those in need in African countries where AIM members serve.

In speaking to the *God@work* editorial team, Kim indicated that she counts it a privilege to manage this project for the second consecutive year.

"We have a responsibility to share the love of Jesus Christ, not just in words, but also in deeds. We are privileged to live in countries with so many resources. We are happy to invite others to join us in raising \$40,000 for these endeavors. We are excited that in 2021, 12 teams ranging in size from 2 to 36 members, made up our Canada-wide team of 100, who together raised \$38,547 – 154% of the original \$25,000 goal! Thank you! You, our donors, are amazingly generous! I am certain that with thousands of AIM donors across Canada, as well as our many AIM friends around the world, you will help us achieve our \$40,000 goal this year. Nothing is impossible with our God."

## Hope for Hospitals – Ethiopia

This primary project will earmark the funds raised for hospital equipment in the Tigray area. Due to major con-



flict in the region over the past two years, thousands have died, more than 2 million Ethiopians have been displaced, and many who are left are suffering and in desperate need of care. There has been devastating destruction to hospitals which once were the best in the country.

*Because they need our help!*



## Field to Table – Lesotho

This initiative aims to purchase suitable round baling machines to harvest livestock fodder in the southern African country of Lesotho. Because this country receives so little rain,

any improvement in farming is precious, as it increases food production and greater self-sufficiency, which provide more food for their people. AIM partners with Growing Nations to assist the spiritual transformation of lives through sustainable agricultural practices.

*Because together we can make a difference!*

## Resources for Christian Leaders – Uganda

It is our desire to provide 100 church leaders with their own study Bible and guide. This will enable these new church leaders, who are graduating from theological institutes, to continue to grow in their faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ as they lead congregations in underserved areas. Most of these leaders have used a borrowed Bible during their training, which will need to be returned. The Bibles will be purchased in Uganda, and distributed through learning institutions that are committed to this partnership.

*Because we can equip leaders!*



## What part can you play in AIM for Africa 2022?



Today, join the growing A4A team. How? Be a team leader—join a team—give.

**Sign up** – on the A4A website: <https://cagiving.aimint.org/aim-for-africa-2022/>

**Recruit** – friends and family to sign up on the website

**Choose an Activity** – walking, hiking, cycling, sports, reading, or any other one you want

**Fundraise** – give and ask for donations for A4A projects

**Participate** – do your activity between June 1 – October 11, 2022

Kim Lidstone, A4A Project Manager, [kim.lidstone@aimint.org](mailto:kim.lidstone@aimint.org)

Contact Kim—she is happy to provide support to the AIM for Africa teams.



## Strategy & Operation Director for MAC Camps

Africa Inland Mission (AIM) Canada is pleased to welcome Sam Molloy of Windsor, Ontario, to the position of Director of Strategy and Operation for MAC Camps, effective May 1, 2022.

MAC (Ministry to Africans in Canada) reaches out to new immigrants in strategic communities where significant ethnic Africans live, sharing the hope of Christ in word and deed. In his new position, Sam will plan and oversee the implementation of Bible camps and retreats, with the primary purpose of seeing young people put their faith in Christ as Saviour, receive biblical instructions appropriate to their life situations, and become involved in a local church.

Sam graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Youth Ministry from Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Illinois. He has extensive experience in youth ministry in the United States and Canada. He is a sports



enthusiast who likes playing basketball, which he finds is a great entry into discipleship and evangelism. Sam also enjoys hip-hop rap music that encourages his faith. Other interests include competitive gaming, reading, and board games.

We pray God's richest blessing on Sam as he serves.



## Strategic Resourcing Director

Dr. Dan Baetz, Executive Director of Africa Inland Mission International (Canada) is pleased to announce the appointment of Gary Lidstone to the position of Strategic Resourcing Director for the Canadian mission organization. His appointment is effective May 1, 2022.

Gary has spent much of his life living out his passion for the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the work of God's kingdom. He graduated from Central Baptist Seminary in Toronto, and then pursued higher learning at Moody Bible Institute Graduate School in Chicago, Illinois. Together with his wife Kim, he started his full-time ministry as a church planter in Nova Scotia in 1983. Since then, he has served several pastorates in various roles, including associate, senior and lead pastor.

As a pastor, Gary was an enthusiastic cheerleader for missions in the churches where he worked, helping to raise prayer and financial support for many who sensed a calling on their lives to serve in God's harvest field. From 2005 to 2009, he worked as a cross-cultural worker in Mexico. Additionally, he enjoyed providing member care for a mission organization—throughout Canada and around the world.

Gary and Kim Lidstone are no strangers to AIM. They joined in August 2017, and served as Provincial Mobilizers for the province of Ontario for four years. They mobilized many of the organization's

members who are now working in Kenya and South Sudan. Gary is well prepared to assist AIM Canada in growing its resources of prayer and giving, and to promote the mission in any way he can.

Gary and Kim reside in Abbotsford, British Columbia, and have three adult children and seven grandchildren.

The entire Africa Inland Mission team welcomes Gary to his new position.



We welcome you to reach out to Gary. He may be contacted at [strategicresourcing.ca@aimint.org](mailto:strategicresourcing.ca@aimint.org)

# God's Word Speaks in Dire Circumstances

by Ray Jealouse



*“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might”*

*Ecclesiastes 9:10*

In 1969 I heard of an urgent need in Kalokol, at Ferguson's Gulf on Lake Turkana, about 300 miles away in the desert, amongst the Turkana nomads. At that time our family was living in Kijabe, Kenya.

The Lord had supplied us with a new 4X4 pickup, and I felt I had the ability to meet that need. However, we had three small children, one a newborn, and we felt that my wife should not be left alone with them. I decided to take Debbie, age nine, and Dan, age six, with me. We loaded the truck with supplies for this desert region and started on our journey. The track we travelled was across sand dunes in many places. Two weeks later the job was completed and we headed home.

About 75 miles into the trip, I heard a strange noise coming from the engine. On inspection—the fan was hitting the radiator! “Why?” Crawling underneath I saw the engine was falling out of the truck because the cross member at the rear of it had broken. Dan saw this and piped up, “Wat-cha gon-na do, Dad?” I answered, “I don't know son, but the Lord supplied this truck, and we have been serving Him, so I am sure that He will help us out.”

When I was a small child, my father taught me Ecclesiastes 9:10: “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might” (KJV). These words came

to mind as I pondered what I could do. Only a few vehicles traveled along this desert track; cellphones had not been invented yet; and the truck could not even be towed without causing a lot more damage.

The one thought I had was to jack the engine up to its proper position.

“But then what? I had nothing to use to make a support for it!”

Then another possibility struck me: “What if I used the 100-foot braided wire cable I carried for towing emergencies?”

“But how would I cut a half-inch cable...?”

“And how would I fasten it...?”

I had a hack saw and vice grips, but the cutting would be difficult, and if the vice grips failed, we would have even greater problems!

Again I remembered the scripture text from Ecclesiastes: “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, DO IT”!

With great effort, I managed to cut off a short piece of cable—and in doing so, totally ruined the hacksaw blade. I wrapped the cable around the chassis to make a sling to support the engine. “But how do I fasten it, since the vice grips are very risky?”

As I looked into my open tool box, I saw, to my surprise, two half-inch cable clamps. The perfect solution to

my many problems! I shouted, “Hallelujah! Hallelujah!” With the cable safely fastened in place with the proper clamps, I removed the jack and started the engine to see if it was safe to drive. Soon we were on our way home after what had been a stressful delay.

God's Word had guided us to a solution in the midst of a dire circumstance—a gentle reminder that God does not fail His children; we can always rest in His care!

---

---

Ray and Bev Jealouse retired from active service as AIM missionaries on September 30, 1996. Ray, or “Bwana Haraka” (Man-on-the-Run), as he was known to his African friends, together with his wife, was faithful in serving with Africa Inland Mission for 36 years. They always worked hard at anything that would help win people to Christ. Dr. John Brown, Director of MAC (Ministry to Africans in Canada), in his contribution to Ray's biography, *Desert Fever*, best describes his passion for the work of God as an “obsession to tell others about Jesus Christ. In a chain of wild adventures, he carried the gospel, first to his high-spirited friends in Vancouver, and then across the globe to Kenyan tribesmen and East Indian merchants.”

Ray and Bev returned to Canada in

1980, and Ray settled into a position at the Canadian home office of AIM, where he developed and managed projects aimed at helping to improve the lives of the people he loved in Africa. He was instrumental in initiating and executing many building and construction projects which were partly funded by CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) through its matching-grants program. Dispensaries and orphanages were built in remote areas, and wells drilled to provide clean drinking water in Tanzania, Zaire (now Democratic Republic of the Congo), Central African Republic and Sudan. Ray's industrious work ethic, great gift of organization, and aptitude for details, made his endeavors in this role very successful.

Ray did not rest even in retirement. He took the chaplaincy course at Oshawa General Hospital to prepare himself to serve in visitation in his home church, Calvary Baptist. He volunteered as a chaplain in the hospital, visiting patients in the rehabilitation ward or in their homes, as well as residents in a nearby nursing home. His encouraging, cheerful and positive attitude is a blessing; his life a living testimony as a child of God.

Ray and Bev reside in Oshawa, Ontario. You can read about their sojourns in Ray's biography, *Desert Fever*, penned by Ruth Alloway.



## Justy's Journals, 40 Years as a Missionary in Africa



Justina Stoesz has been with AIM since 1961. Recently she published a memoir of her life's work as a missionary in Africa. At the age of 92, she decided to tell her story!

*Justy's Journals* is a compilation of letters written to her supporters, prayer warriors and family, while serving in the country of Kenya. Justy describes her book as, "my album summing up my life experiences, a reflection on the past, in light of the



serenity and wisdom that comes with maturity." She continues, "My life is God's story; He knew from the beginning what He would do with me if I followed Him."

Feeling called by God to the mission field, Justy relied on the Lord to lead her step by step. After years of waiting to know where God would



## Book Review



call her to serve, she heard His voice through a doctor who shared the need for a lab technologist to train technicians in a new hospital at an AIM mission station. Justy tells of how her students were an inspiration, teaching her the African way of life and culture.

*Justy's Journals* is filled with memories and reflections of her time in Africa—an historical document of mission work, enriched with personal moments and varied adventures. Her experiences will be a trip down memory lane for some, and a fascinating revelation for others. You will enjoy reading about this inspiring and godly woman.

Justy served with Africa Inland Mission at the Kijabe mission station as a lab technologist, training students, and in the business office of the hospital, as well as at the AIM Interna-



tional Kenya Branch office in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. She retired in 2001, but returned to Kijabe as a volunteer for three terms until 2004.



You can get a copy of  
*Justy's Journals*  
by contacting  
Bev Dyck at [bjdyck267@outlook.com](mailto:bjdyck267@outlook.com)

### ***"I feel like I've gone through the rabbit hole whenever I come here!"***

she laughed as she stepped inside our home, the salon room already full of others. This particular evening it was some colleagues who had come up to Big City from their town of residence in the Sahara desert and a young entrepreneur she had met before at a community Christmas party we had hosted for our local neighbours and friends. "Amy" is not only our neighbour and a single mom, she is a professional journalist for a popular local news channel. As a well-educated woman, her references to classic, ancient and modern international literature are common—this time likening her experience coming into our home, as stepping into another world, just like in Alice in Wonderland. Adults are robustly discussing world-changing topics, and children are laughing and playing everywhere as she takes a place on the long, open couch that wraps around half the room. Simple traditional décor puts both the poor and the rich at ease. Amy is just in time for dessert. Tonight is an arabesque twist on something my mom used to make back in my Canadian prairie childhood—but loaded with extra nuts to give our precious Arab guests a royal treat. Our teenaged daughter is often in charge of filling the tiny, thimble-sized cups with steaming, hot mint tea, sweetened to

the local definition of perfection—almost like mint chewing gum in liquid form! I often ponder how beautiful it is to watch our taste buds change to accommodate and appreciate North African foods—always a sign of growth in our journey of belonging in a place that can initially feel so foreign. We cherish the food that is beloved by our hosts because it is important to them. I chuckle to think of my own children drowning Canadian favourites (like macaroni and cheese) in red-hot harissa pepper paste to make it more palatable! Amy jumps right into conversation—she knows her contributions are valued—and I can't help thinking about a few months ago when she visited . . .

The winter morning was cool, and we happened to meet on the street between our house and her apartment—garbage strewn everywhere, and families of street cats eternally scavenging for a bit of something to sustain them. Her two young girls had just moved in with their father in a rural town several hours away, and I knew she was struggling to adjust. We talked and started to catch up, but it was clear that she needed to come inside to have more heart-level conversation. She insisted she was heading to a psychiatrist's appointment, but I encouraged her to sit for a few minutes and get caffeinated. A simple cup of tea or coffee can go a long way in giving people value, honouring them as image-bearers of our Creator. As we sipped,



she shared many struggles of her personal life. As is usual, some of them were issues I could personally relate to, and others were ones I had no experience in. I shared with her that we are followers of the Messiah, and that when we have a lot of heavy stuff going on, we like to, and really must, pray about it. Where else could we turn? "May I pray for you?" I asked her. Most Muslims will not refuse prayer, and Amy was no exception. I held my hands together in front of me—my palms open and turned upwards in the Islamic posture of supplication—to be sure she understood this was a legitimate spiritual inquiry we were making here. But unlike official, prescribed Islamic prayers, which are done only in the classical Arabic of the Qu'ran, I prayed for her in the everyday dialect that is used in this country. I always keep my eyes closed tight so I am not distracted by the one being interceded for. There is really

no context for a prayer quite like this, so it's not uncommon for the other person to continue carrying on drinking their tea, taking a phone call or scolding a child—it can be quite comical actually! Yet we know that our Father delights to hear our voices and is blessed by our turning to Him with our needs, and our modelling to others to do the same . . . so we press on. As usual, I closed with "in the Name of Jesus the Messiah, Amine," and then drew her in close for a big hug. In that moment, it was as if she snapped to life, and out of her mouth tumbled the words, "I had a dream of Jesus the Messiah 12 years ago, and He hugged me just like that!" And now, twelve YEARS later, she has Christian neighbours—what grace! We continued on in excited conversation and when she left shortly thereafter, with her spirit much lighter, she decided not to go ahead with the psychiatrist appointment after all.



# Following God to the Ends of the Earth

by Helena Vis



***It was June 2019, and I was on a plane by myself, headed for Tanzania, Africa. I was beyond excited!***

Africa had always seemed to me like an incredible place to go, and now, not only was I headed there, but I would be living there for the next three months! I was excited for an opportunity to get involved in short-term missions, but if I'm being honest, I was even more excited to see the culture and the landscape. In my mind, this was the last opportunity I had to do some serious travelling before I needed to settle down, find a full-time job, and start "figuring out my life."

The plan was to spend the first eight weeks as a member of Africa Inland Mission's GO Program. With the GO Program, you are sent to a location for five weeks to live with and observe long-term missionaries, to get a taste of what full-time missions is like.

I remember coming away from those five weeks understanding a method for missions that I had never considered before: building relationships and simply living life with the people to whom you are ministering. Back then, I couldn't imagine doing missions without having tangible, obvious results. I had always thought of missions as something I could look back on and automatically see its evidence.

I came home from my time in Tanzania convinced that I wanted to return, and wondering if this was what God was calling me to do. Through the recommendations of others, I took the Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course, and was blown away by the things I learned. God opened this whole new world of missions to me, that was so much deeper than I had thought. I was shocked at how many people in the world had no access to the awesome

news about Jesus, and how the Bible actually had so much to say about going to share this news with others.

I felt God calling me to go, but I also felt so unequipped. I didn't have any Bible training. I had been on only one mission trip. I wanted to be prepared. AIM's TIMO (Training in Ministry Outreach) program sounded like the perfect fit. Not only would I be submerged in a village where the gospel had not yet been shared, but I would also be part of a program that would be training me in language learning, outreach, and discipleship while I was there. This would give me an opportunity to immediately apply what I was learning.

When I first went to Tanzania in 2019, I never imagined going back, or committing to full-time missions. God had other plans for my life though, and He used my time in Tanzania to show me His will: to see His name glorified among the nations.

Fast forward two-and-a-half years, and I am back in Tanzania, living in a village called Likawage, on a TIMO team. I am living among Swahili-speaking people who are followers of Islam, alongside their animistic and traditional beliefs. Many of them have not heard about Jesus, and if they have, they know very little about Him. Please pray for me, the rest of my team, and the people of Likawage. Pray that the gospel of Jesus Christ will break through the stronghold that the devil has on the lives of the people here, and that a transformation of hearts and lives, dedicated to Jesus, will come.



# God is Doing a New Thing

by Candace Loewen



MINISTRY TO AFRICANS IN CANADA

Brett & Candace Loewen  
serving with MAC Ministries  
in Winnipeg, Manitoba



*“See, I am doing a new thing!*

*Now it springs up; do you not  
perceive it?*

*I am making a way in the  
wilderness*

*and streams in the wasteland.”*

*Isaiah 43:19 (NIV)*



We arrived home from Africa in September 2018, the pain of leaving unexpectedly still fresh in our hearts and minds. Our family of five sleeping in one bedroom of our parents' basement—trying to figure out what in the world God was doing.

At that time, we didn't know that three members of our family had a genetic heart condition that we might never have discovered if we hadn't gone to Africa. No, at that moment, we felt like everything we had worked for, prayed about, and seen God provide, had just disappeared right before our eyes. A deep passion to reach the lost on African soil with the gospel still burned in our hearts, and yet, we were staring at what felt like a dead end.

Fast forward three years...

Tears fill her eyes as she shares a piece of her story—the anguish of losing both of her parents within months of each other; starting her new life in Winnipeg just as the pandemic hit; struggling with infertility; and feeling completely alone. She had come to my office to inquire about sponsoring her last remaining sister who was struggling in a refugee camp in Uganda, but the toils and heartaches she feels are piercing the conversation. *Candace, pray with her, and invite her to church.* I feel the familiar tug in my spirit as I sense the Lord speaking to me. She accepts my invitation to prayer. As we hold hands and lift up her sorrows to the Lord, I silently thank God for His direction in my life, and the small role I get to play in the Great Commission.



A few weeks later I run into her at Naomi House—she is joining the women's Bible study and has attended church each Sunday. Her smile is radiant and she hugs me as she enters the building. It still amazes me what hope can do for someone. Her circumstances have not changed, but hope has given her a different perspective.

I (Candace) am the Director of Sponsorship at Naomi House, a transitional home for refugees. We provide services like sewing classes, ESL lessons, trauma care, Bible study, and more. We have an agreement with the Canadian government to sponsor refugees, and I head up this program. I have the honour of assisting families and churches to bring refugees to Canada, and help in their resettlement.

The conversation I had earlier is not uncommon, and the Lord often speaks to me about the person sitting across from me.

When we left Chad, we didn't think we could feel passion for anything like we had felt for missions in Africa, and yet, here we are serving in cross-cultural missions right here in Winnipeg. My husband, Brett, agrees. He has been ministering to newcomer youth, and has seen the great need for support as they transition to a new culture. Last year, an opportunity came for him to teach

a young Somali man how to drive. The time behind the wheel opened up doors for deep conversations and requests for prayer. Now this year, he is taking a course on driving instruction, and will soon be certified. A car was unexpectedly donated to us just as we needed one. It felt like a confirmation of God's leading! There is such a huge practical need for someone with a car to teach refugee youth how to drive. How quickly friendship and trust are developed. We love the way God has used such a practical need to build a bridge to share the gospel and disciple youth.

Three years ago, we could never have imagined what God had in store for us. We now can see His faithfulness in leading us to Africa, and now, to ministry in Winnipeg.



If you would like to receive our newsletter, please email [candace.loewen@aimint.org](mailto:candace.loewen@aimint.org)



# The Cycle Of Faithfulness

Dan MacKinnon, Mission - Church Liason



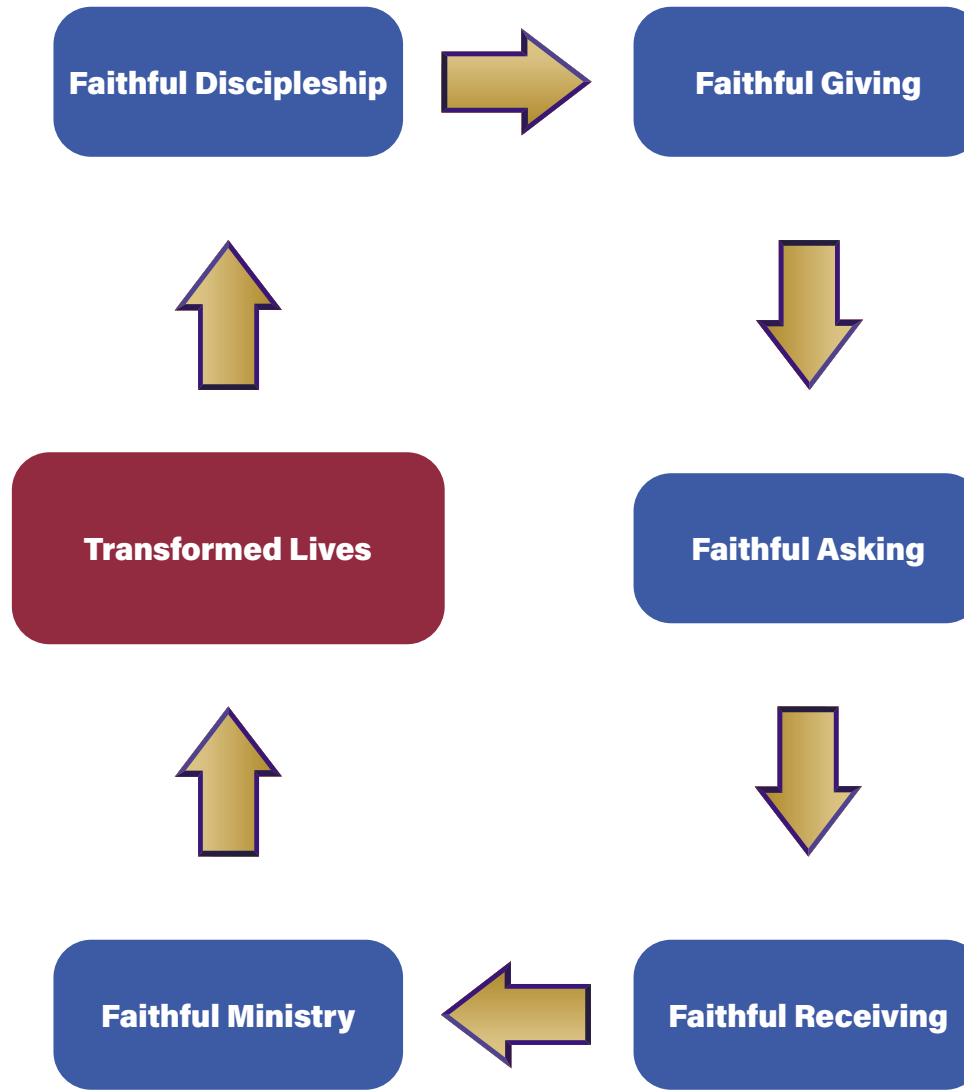
William Carey, as he was about to set sail for India in 1792, recruited his closest Christian friends to support him. He said to them, "I will descend into the pit, if you will hold tightly to the ropes."

Some of us are called to "descend into the pits" by exercising faith in obedience to God's missionary call; while others of us are called to "hold tightly to the ropes." Both are called to be faithful so that mission can take place. There is a cycle of faithfulness that reminds us that we are all part of the team, regardless of where or how we serve.

**Faithful Discipleship** has to do with the growth of believers in their relationship to Jesus Christ—learning what it means to be His follower and a witness for Him, while exercising our gifts for ministry wherever we are.

**Faithful Giving** is part of Faithful Discipleship—learning how to be good stewards of all that God has provided for us, and supporting those who are in the pits doing ministry, either in the local church, or in global mission. Faithful Giving should be the norm in the Christian life without someone asking, BUT Faithful Giving responds to

**Faithful Asking**—where those in the ministry or mission pits make known the needs of the hour, so that those whom God has blessed with resources, can be partners with them in Kingdom work. The giver and the



asker are partners together in mission. Faithful Asking (cf. James 4:2) opens the door to Faithful Receiving.

**Faithful Receiving** blesses the giver and the receiver, as both experience the joy of serving the purposes of God together. Faithful Receiving means wisely using the resources God provides, to meet the needs of ministries that touch lives and build the Church.

**Faithful Ministry** is facilitated by faithful stewardship of the resources God supplies through faithful disciples. It means those serving can continue to preach the gospel, serve with compassion, bring hope and open doors for people to hear, respond, and grow in faith in Jesus Christ.

The result, we pray, is **Transformed Lives**: people trusting in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord; learning to become Faithful Disciples; using their gifts, talents and resources for the glory of God.

**The Cycle of Faithfulness** is a reminder that we all have a part to play in God's mission to this lost, broken, and hurting world, whether we are serving in Africa, in diaspora ministry, or in our local churches and communities. Is the Lord inviting you today to be a part of His team, descending into the pits, or is He inviting you to hold tightly to the ropes for those who are? Whatever God is calling us to do, may we all be found FAITHFUL.



### Ongoing Needs

1. Prayer for our home staff and missionaries (see [aimint.org/ca/pray/](http://aimint.org/ca/pray/)).
2. Finances to support our General Fund which is used for the daily operation of our office, thereby enabling our missionaries to serve.
3. Love, care and support for our missionaries returning to Canada on home assignment in 2022.
4. Financial support for some of our missionaries who are presently under-supported.
5. Partnerships (team leaders/members/donors) for AIM for Africa 2022.

### Giving

- Ways to give:
- Cash donations on a monthly basis, or a one-time gift
  - Stocks, bonds, life insurance, real estate
  - Charitable Gift Annuity
  - Naming AIM as a beneficiary in your will

### How to Give

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

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



Please specify the project or missionary you wish to support.

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

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

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

# Thank You!

**Thank GOD! He deserves your thanks.**

**His love never quits.**

**Thank the God of all gods,**

**His love never quits.**

**Thank the Lord of all lords.**

**His love never quits.**

**Thank the miracle-working God,**

**His love never quits.**

Psalm 136: 1-4 (The Message)

- **To our members and missionaries everywhere. God will reward your faithfulness.**
- **To Canadian churches—for supporting those called by God for cross-cultural ministry.**
- **To parents—for releasing your children to God's service.**
- **To donors—for your financial support that enables our members to go, and empowers our office to serve to them.**
- **MOST OF ALL—THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS!**







# AFRICA INLAND MISSION

Christ-centered churches  
among all African peoples

Africa Inland Mission (Canada)

25 Faulkland Rd., Scarborough, Ontario, M1L 3S4

877-407-6077 or 416-751-6077

web: [aimint.org/ca](http://aimint.org/ca)

email: [general.ca@aimint.org](mailto:general.ca@aimint.org)



@aimcanada



@africanlandmission.canada



@AIMcan