



AFRICA INLAND MISSION Canada

2021 Annual Report

Executive Director's Report

"How do you lead in times of 'non revival?'" I recently asked my mentor.

*He quickly retorted: **"Lead by the Book!"***

Succinct and to the point. Like the three-word conclusion of one of Winston Churchill's most famous speeches: ". . . never give in, never give in. . . !" Three short words that have inspired generations ever since, and have remained in my consciousness for all of my adult years.

"The Book" records Jesus as saying: "I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not stand against it." The only plan of Jesus for the redemption of our world is through His work on the cross and the active role of the church. The church throughout history has experienced its share of, not only triumph and growth, but also of "warts," blights and embarrassments. I vividly recall the saga of PTL's founders Jimmy and Tammy Bakker—their scandals of some years back led to the recent release of at least two movies to amuse current generations. However, it was no laughing matter for me at that time as pastor of my local prairie church. The negative publicity from this and other scandals, even though originating thousands of kilometers away, adversely affected our church, and people's perception of me as its spiritual leader. Similarly, as we progressed through 2021, the body of Christ experienced the double whammy of scandals to add to the extraordinary challenges brought on by the COVID 2019 pandemic. Internal strife and divisions took up more bandwidth leaving less space for cross-cultural missions.

Leading by the Book however, continues to affirm the centrality of the local church in the purposes of God. Africa Inland Mission has as its raison d'être: **"Christ-centered churches among all African peoples – with priority for the unreached."** The Africa Inland Church in Kenya and Tanzania bear witness to the centrality of the church in AIM's theological and practical emphasis. The "Three S's" of indigenous church movements are evident: "Self-Supporting, Self-Governing, Self-Propagating." It is an established fact that our African brothers and sisters are in charge, and AIM provides much-needed support. This is what we are seeking to replicate all over Africa and beyond.

The main purpose of AIM Canada's work is to assist the church in fulfilling the Great Commission. A major platform of our Strategic Plan is "Church Partnership and Connections." We are able to measure the connections or touch points AIM Staff have had with local churches across Canada. These include communications via phone conversations and emails with pastors, mission's committees, speaking in churches and similar types of engagements. In 2018/2019 – **308**, 2019/2020 – **940**, 2020/2021 – **974**. The participation of our missionary cadre has added greatly to this number.

The great hymn of the church, "The Church's One Foundation," reminds us that although we see many churches struggling — "sore oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed . . . mid toil and tribulation . . ." — we ultimately know that the body of Christ will be victorious! We will continue to **"Lead by the Book,"** mobilize and assist others to fulfill Jesus' Great Commission, regardless of prevailing cultural conditions.



God Uses AIM Canada to Meet Tangible Needs in Africa

While Christ-centered churches among all African peoples remains our focus as a mission, we are as conscious of the physical needs as we are of spiritual needs; and seek to alleviate suffering among unreached people groups wherever possible. In this regard, a newly-minted fundraiser, AIM for Africa, became a staple on AIM Canada's annual calendar of events in 2021. It provides an opportunity to financially support several initiatives in Africa as a means of sharing love in tangible, practical ways. Across Canada, team leaders and their members, ably helped by friends and supporters, gather donations to meet the needs of others. **\$38,547** was raised to assist three urgent needs in Northern Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Madagascar.

In **Northern Kenya** \$10,000 was provided to the Water for Life project. The donation was used to:

- Pay for the transport of water to numerous communities throughout Hurri Hills among the Gabbra people.
- 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 was saved for use in the future, as the possibility of drought is always a reality. As AIM meets the critical need of physical water, it also provides the opportunity in a practical way to present Jesus as the "living water."

The Clinic for Congo project in the Moku Region of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** began in 2020. The goal has been attained with the completion of a \$20,000 donation in total to assist in the building of a medical clinic in an area which lacked medical care. The planning and execution of its construction 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. People are excited and have become more connected with the church because of this project.

This project is so much more than simply medical care! The facility will be connected to the CECA church's 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 provides easy access to the neighborhood 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, it has also planted a church through this effort.

Over the last three years there has been little or no rain in the southern part of **Madagascar**, resulting in famine and drought. Many of the Bara people depend on their gardens to provide food for their families. This situation was made worse by the heavy rains from a cyclone in 2021. AIM Canada's More for Madagascar Food Relief gave a \$10,000 contribution to purchase food for famine relief. Words of gratitude have been received from the Project Manager:

"I have no words to thank you and the people who donated with such generosity. Thanks for the confidence in our ministry here, and for your kindness, great generosity and Kingdom heart actions. It allows us to show God's love."

Rice was given to 400 children who have had little to eat throughout the famine. In addition, 150 school children were provided with the only meal they eat daily. Through these efforts AIM Canada has contributed to the lives of the unreached people group, the Bara.

Starting in 2019, and continuing into 2021, we have been able to arrange funding from a Christian foundation to support two indigenous missions working in the southern, eastern, and western regions of **Ethiopia**. They work together with a focus on gospel proclamation and church planting, using the Jesus film as its primary tool. The funding procured supports a team of six coordinators, and thirty church planters, working amongst three people groups. AIM Canada's representative, who serves as a mobilizer, is a wonderful believer whose life has been completely changed through exposure to the gospel.

The testimonies in response to their efforts are numerous. A lady from a Somali people group was delivered from oppression through the power of prayer, after Islam failed to deliver her through their petitions to Allah. Many are reading Bibles, while others are requesting prayer for protection from the Islamist terrorist group, al-Shebab, who opposes the proclamation of the Good News. Despite the persecution, there is evidence of bridges being built between warring tribes who are meeting to resolve conflict and stop the threat of murder and raiding of each other's flock. Persecution of believers is a reality, and much prayer is needed for believers who are seeking unity.

AIM Canada, working in conjunction with AIM South Africa, has also brokered funding to support outreach ministries among unreached people groups in **Mozambique** and **Madagascar**. Despite the closing of Madagascar's borders in 2021 due to COVID, and terrorist activities in Mozambique, two projects funded by our support are now progressing.

We are grateful for our personnel on the ground, including medical professionals on the continent who minister in Jesus' name. As Jesus cared for others while He sojourned on earth, AIM seeks to show compassion and care. All of our efforts are centered on sharing the love of Jesus Christ and pointing the lost to Him.

2021 – A Full Year in Suspended Reality *by Monte Strong | Personnel Chaplain*

I still marvel, actually, at how much COVID has left its fingerprints all over. I don't know if it will be forever, but I'm thankful that the virus seems to have morphed into something at least somewhat less drastic (for most), and the response to it more measured. Now, as I write this, having moved through the first part of 2022, it seems that we are beginning to adjust to living with COVID on shared terms (COVID's and ours) – even if it insists on lingering yet longer.

But in 2021, there was really no such thing as coming to terms with COVID – it was a fight that society and governments were determined to win. Vaccines, mask wearing, social-distancing, and lockdowns became common place. Most impactful for us, were the travel restrictions that were implemented. The severity of these restrictions and the curtailing of flights between many countries had a severe effect on our personnel, both in Canada and overseas. 2021, therefore seemed to have been a full year of “suspended reality”. The result was a pattern of “holding on” until we were able to get back to our “normal” way of life, and the work of traveling, training, ministering, going, coming, being! Not the spirit of what we do, nor the prayer side, nor the support side—instead it severely impacted the mechanics and logistics of our operations.

There was so much adjustment in 2021 that it became extraordinarily unique. In 2021, we had:

- no Home Based Orientation IN PERSON for the entire calendar year. They were done completely by Zoom. Unprecedented.
- no time that I stepped foot on African soil. This was the first time in almost 30 years that I can remember a calendar month of no actual working IN Africa.
- people leave for Africa that we in the office ever met only virtually. Provincial Mobilizers sometimes saw them in person, but some of our new people have never stepped into our office. Unprecedented.
- very few home office visits by our intrepid full-termers willing to take on all of the COVID travel requirements and restrictions in order to try to do a Home Assignment.
- a LOT of our full-termers needing to consider their long-term ministry plans and many of them still working through the process of transition.
- relatively few short-termers willing to take on the COVID battle to get out to Africa.

But 2021 also allowed us to realize that we COULD do some things differently in a sustained way—not just temporarily—and it even gave us the room to think through some of those things. All challenges create opportunities, and 2021 was a strong case-in-point. Some opportunities that came out of 2021:

- Our morning prayer times as an office are WAY different from what they used to be – our people all across the country and, sometimes, even across the world, are able to join in through Zoom. We'll probably never go back to having only the “in-office” staff prayer meeting by ourselves.
- We are more consistently connected as a personnel group, and with our international colleagues, in ways we just under-utilized before because of “traditional ways” of doing things.
- We are now doing a hybrid of “online/virtual” and “in-person” orientation training for our new people - recently completing the largest orientation we've had in a long time.

We had time and space to consider how best to ramp up our capacity for recruitment, and also rethink HOW we connect with churches and provide member care—and where to position people with the right gifts to accomplish those things. Examples? One of our new Provincial Mobilizers has agreed to become our “resident” TCK (Third Culture Kid) support person—an area of tremendous member care potential that has been overdue for us. One of our other PMs has started doing professional counseling as well—further enhancing our capacity for member care. Four new PMs were added across Canada, and two PMs have officially switched to web and tech support, massively enhancing how we interact with our members, supporters, churches and the larger community—including our French-speaking countrymen.

The fact is, in 2021, we continued to gear up for great things to come, and we are already seeing the “suspension” of 2020 and 2021 crumbling. Enquiries, applications and interest are increasing for full-termers in numbers we have not seen since before COVID and even earlier. And short-termers are beginning to move again as well. Are we on the brink of a wave? It feels like it. If so, we feel blessed to be better positioned for it. But we will need to lean in to the Lord and all of HIS capacity to do all that HE wants us to do. Join us in praying for just that. May He get all the glory.



Wellspring Courtyard & HBO participants, May 2022

In Service with Africa Inland Mission – Statistics As of June 2022

Currently serving in Canada		Currently serving in Africa	
Full Term Workers in Canada	35	ABS/RVA	5
Diaspora Workers	12	Central Region	15
Office Staff	6	Eastern Region	8
Retirees	42	Southern Region	0
Home Assignment/Study Leave	8	Northern Region/CX	10
Full Term Appointees	4	Special Ministries	3
Short Term Appointees	8	Third Culture Kids (Children of missionaries)	73

AIM & Technology

Africa continues to benefit from the efforts of the hard work of Ron Shaw who provides web/tech support working often in collaboration with his counterparts at AIM-US. The improvements have been significant:

Our 'Giving' page has been totally transformed. Since the new platform went 'live' on February 12, 2021, the increased user-friendliness, on-line giving options and reliability have provided the confidence needed to increase the level of giving via this new platform on our website. Further, we are now able to feature each of our members and their projects. This has tremendous potential to enhance individual support raising efforts. As evidence of its effectiveness, \$597,258.44 came in through the website via 1228 donors in 2021.

- Our application process is now completely via online forms. This streamlined process has been well received by potential members to our organization. It results in greater efficiency, shorter turn-round time for the sharing of documents, greater ease in the review of submissions to our seven-member Review Committee.
- Ability to provide more featured stories to our audience, illustrating God at work through the power of prayer and the efforts of our workers serving in cross-cultural ministry.
- In early December 2021, AIM Canada's French website went 'live'. This enables us to feature up to date, dynamic content in both languages. We continue to pray that God will use this tool as part of the process of 'nudging' French speakers to serve with AIM Canada [https:// aimint.org/ca-fr/](https://aimint.org/ca-fr/)

AIM & Communication



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Sally Han continues to provide a consistent message featuring dynamic conversations about missions. These creative communication approaches – Facebook, Instagram, Twitter continue to grow a following through daily posts about topics related to the Gospel and the work that is being done in Africa and around the world in an effort to build community.

One important 'offshoot' of the Communication initiatives in 2021 was the introduction of a regular Pastor's Luncheon aimed at connecting with pastors across the GTA. These have been well received, creating fellowship/networking opportunities for leaders with the potential to create future partnerships.

AIM Canada Income & Expenses

From donations for missionary support AIM Canada allocates 12.5% for mobilization and services.

2020 total expenses \$4,227,788

2020 total income \$4,563,215*

*excludes disposal of capital assets

2021 total expenses \$4,640,832

2021 total income \$ 4,620,272



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