



AFRICA INLAND MISSION Canada

2020 Annual Report

the Art of the Pivot

Dr. Dan Baetz

In the game of basketball, a key offensive movement is called a 'pivot' – defined as “a movement in which the player holding the ball may move in any direction with one foot, while keeping the other (the pivot foot) in contact with the floor.” The 'pivot' movement is an apt metaphor for A.I.M. Canada in 2020! We have no comparison in recent memory of a pandemic such as COVID-19 and its global effects necessitating a 'pivot' in response. With one foot firmly planted on assisting our churches to fulfill the Great Commission – by facilitating sending, praying and giving to Africa and the Diaspora and supporting our on-field personnel as we have in the past, we have had to pivot in different directions grappling with the following challenges:

Ministry Personnel: Dealing with the effects of COVID both personally and in their communities and their ministries has been monumental. Travel, visas, government restrictions, community unrest, and in some cases persecution have occurred. Some ministries have been curtailed.

Recruiting: After specialized preparation, often taking years, it is heartbreaking to see several applicants and appointees 'on hold'. Family concerns and outright fear is increasingly a factor hindering people to serve.

Staff: Home office staff are labouring under a 'third lockdown', while still providing personnel and financial support for our missionaries. Provincial Mobilizers travel and ability to meet with churches and individuals has been greatly curtailed. Transition and retirement of key staff has added to the challenge!

As in the game of basketball, when you have to pivot, your way forward is blocked. One is forced to look for other opportunities to move the ball closer to the goal. In our case, we know that God is at work in the midst of this pandemic. We have seen new opportunities, new pathways for God to demonstrate his faithfulness - all the while assisting our Canadian churches to fulfill the Great Commission. God's plan is to see the nations of the world transformed, by the power of the Gospel!

This 2020 Annual Report is a window at the many ways Africa Inland Mission continues to serve the while pivoting to face pandemic challenges. I am proud of our personnel that are going 'above and beyond' in these unprecedented times, serving with distinction. I offer my personal and heartfelt commendation of our Mission to you as one worthy of your prayers, support, and service.





VIRTUAL 125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

CÉLÉBRATION VIRTUELLE DU 125^{ÈME} ANNIVERSAIRE



In 2020, Africa Inland Mission celebrated 125 years since its founding. In October 1895, Peter Cameron Scott and his band set out to preach the Gospel inland from Mombasa, Kenya to Lake Victoria in Central Africa where many of Africa's people remained untouched by the message of the Gospel.

2020 also marked the end of Vision 2020 – an AIM five year strategy initiative which aimed to reach the unreached African peoples wherever they may live. This calling was similar to that of Scott and his colleagues except that 'inland' today reaches not only Africans within Africa but in all the countries of Europe and the Western world.

The anniversary was marked by AIM Canada with two 'virtual' 125th Anniversary Celebrations. The first was held on 19 September for the Francophone audience in Quebec. This was followed by a similar celebration on November 14th from AIM's headquarters at 25 Faulkland Road. AIM members and friends were 'in attendance' at both events from ministry locations across Africa and Canada. They listened to the presenters, and many participated in the Q&A and open sessions that followed.

The key note speaker was Dr. Luke Herrin, International Director, who provided a comprehensive presentation on AIM's achievements, particularly through Vision 2020. He indicated that AIM's success is coming from primarily two areas:

- Engagement with unreached peoples who follow traditional African religions.
- The work with African partners resulting in the multiplication of the effectiveness of AIM ministries.

He also acknowledged remarkable successes in AIM pioneer ministries with Muslims. "I give glory to the Lord for what He has done over the last years, especially in the period of Vision 2020", said Dr. Luke.

AIM Canada joined AIM's international team in celebrating what God has done for more than a century in achieving our global "ends" with priority for unreached people groups to build Christ-centered churches among all African peoples. A 24 hour virtual Concert of Prayer on November 28 was held to celebrate all that the Lord has done through AIM and to pray for future ministry breakthroughs. Different AIM offices, beginning in Australia and moving around the globe, hosted a 1 or 2 hour segment. This event was broadcast live on YouTube so that people everywhere could join in.

The Canadian segment was hosted by Rachel McCordic and Paul & Angie Evans. They were joined by two prayer teams, one Anglophone and the other francophone, to reflect the bilingual nature of Canada. Several of our Canadian AIM missionaries also joined to share stories and prayer requests about ministry among UPGs. It was a very encouraging to hear all that the Lord has done, and is continuing to do through the efforts of the various ministries in AIM.



2020 – A Year of Transitions *by Monte Strong | Personnel Chaplain*

As the calendar flipped from 2019 to 2020, it all started off so well. We'd just finished a Home Based Orientation at the office at 1641 Victoria Park Avenue. We had a brand new batch of Short-Termers heading out to Africa in January. We had more in the pipeline for later in the year. Full-termers, like Daniel and Carol were gearing up to go to North Africa in the coming year as were Garry and Joy after seeing their newborn twins work their way through some medical issues. On the 25th of January, we took possession of our new office at 25 Faulkland and prayed and celebrated when Dr. Dan came with the key. We still needed to sell 1641, but there was a strong potential buyer in mind and there could be no denying that the Lord had plans for us in the new office. We were excited for what the rest of 2020 would hold and we felt like we could see the future.

With March came Covid-19 and the unparalleled world-wide events that we all had to adjust to. Airports shut down with little or no warning all over the world. Very suddenly, we had to make decisions about our Short-Term personnel. Weather the storm? Hunker down? Or get back to Canada while they still could? IF they still could! The Prime Minister asking all who can, to return to Canada. Repatriation flights becoming a BIG thing after airports closed. Would there be another one? When will airports open up again? People were pulling themselves out of ministries they were deeply involved in to be on a plane a day or two later. In the end, all of our short-termers were pulled back to Canada, save one, as Destiny was planning on staying until late in the year and decided to weather the storm.

All of our Full-Termers were significantly impacted - but we determined that no less than 25 of our full term personnel were very negatively impacted financially by the added costs and upheaval to their lives brought on by Covid. Whether emergency flights, unplanned trips, major adjustments to, or complete scrapping of home assignments, there was enough craziness to go around. But people responded to the Covid Relief Fund project and there was at least some financial help for many of our folks as a result.

But with craziness comes transition. The full-termers who were able to stay in their ministry locations (and they were many) transitioned to new ways of doing ministry that could still work for sharing the gospel and discipling. Here in Canada, we moved office and were blessed by a donor with a video conferencing system that allows us to conference call in a way we never could before and we have changed the way we do Orientations, office prayer times, and staying in touch as a staff. Some of these changes, brought on by necessity, will stay with us long after Covid as they are improvements to the old way. Even our website got a major facelift as Ron Shaw led the charge toward a more beautiful and functional web experience for our members, friends, and donors.

Some of the biggest transition was with our well-established long-term personnel. No less than 11 full-term families and one single either changed, or started to change their long-term ministry assignment in 2020. This was an unprecedented level of upheaval for so many of our full-term personnel. Only three new full-termers started in 2020, but the level of transition for our full-term personnel has been unbelievable.

Yet, through it all, the Lord has been faithful, of course, like He always is. The old office eventually sold, donors and churches have continued to be faithful. As we watch personnel settle into their new ministries, watch as enquiries and applications continue to come in, and we beef up our mobilizing and media efforts to tell the great stories of God's work in Africa, it feels like we are being positioned for great things to come. And, if we are, may all glory be His.

In Service with Africa Inland Mission – Statistics As of May 25, 2021

Currently serving in Canada

Full Term Workers in Canada	23
Diaspora Workers	12
Office Staff	9
Retirees	42
Home Assignment/Study Leave	12

Currently serving in Africa

ABS/RVA	5
Central Region	14
Eastern Region	7
Southern Region	1
Northern Region/CX	8

Full Term Appointees	6
Short Term Appointees	10

Special Ministries	3
Third Culture Kids (Children of missionaries)	69

AIM Headquarters



Phase I

Ribbon cutting at 25 Faulkland Rd.

Phase II

Wellspring Garden Project Ongoing - \$12,915 raised to date

AIM on the Web

AIM and technology – The value of technology, particularly Zoom, cannot be overstated in relation to AIM's Ability to function in 2020 amidst the COVID pandemic. Further, dynamic conversations about missions are happening online, and AIM has increased its social media footprint led by Sally Han. We are now living in the world of Facebook marketing strategies, social influencers and Twitter accounts. These platforms allow us to reach a very mobile generation that is seeking to be globally connected at every moment in time. They are seeking information and opportunities to serve God in a cross-cultural context. It is now fairly common for our members to interact with their friends, family and supporters through WhatsApp, Skype and Blogs.

If you haven't already, make sure to follow AIM Canada on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. If you're a faithful follower already, invite someone you know to follow us. You never know who you may be influencing to fulfill God's calling in their lives to pray, give or go.



@aimcanada



africanlandmission



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AIM Canada is working in collaboration with AIM USA, and has been successful in improving its website. This initiative has been led by Ron Shaw. It has also resulted in vast improvements in our application and membership process. Our updated website is now more appealing, has an easier to navigate structure in our efforts to meet the needs of those seeking an opportunity to serve with AIM.

A new online giving platform that is user friendly has also been introduced. We anticipate that these improvements will provide greater opportunities to donate to our members and their personal projects.

We invite our members to visit aimint.org/ca to visit our website regularly to read updates through our blogs and announcements.



Ride For Refuge 2020 - \$14000 was raised to support the building of a medical clinic in DRC. An additional \$6,000 is required to complete the project and will be part of AIM's 2021 fundraising efforts.

AIM Canada Income & Expenses

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

2019 total expenses \$4,506,239

2019 total income \$4,455,751

2020 total expenses \$4,227,788

2020 total income \$4,563,215 *

*excludes disposal of capital assets



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