



# Annual Report 2018

*Changing hearts, lives  
and communities*

**Friends of African International  
Christian Ministry (FAICM)  
Supporting AICM in S.W. Uganda**



## A message from our chairman



I am delighted once again to introduce an illustrated report for Friends of AICM for 2018 as we have continued to support the ministry of AICM amongst communities in south west Uganda.

There is much for which to give thanks to God, which I hope will become apparent as you read this report. I want to thank warmly my fellow trustees for their continued faithful support. I also want to thank our supporters for their regular prayer and financial support. You will observe that a large part of our giving goes regularly to salary the executive director, key staff, field workers and the primary school staff. These people form the foundation of the work of AICM and without them nothing would happen. Thank you so much.

Many have faithfully supported for a long time and over the last two years I am certain we are seeing the fruit of your faithfulness as God has definitely sustained and blessed the work of AICM. Two major highlights of the year were a large donation given for the purchase of solar powered audio bibles which has made a big impact on evangelism amongst the rural communities, especially the Batwa, and the official opening of the new buildings at Rwamahano Batwa Primary School, funded by FAICM. Other highlights included two wonderful and very different visits to AICM in Kabale, which were an opportunity for new groups of people to see first hand and contribute to the work we support. You will discover more about these as you read on and my prayer is that you will be encouraged, as I am, to hear how God is using FAICM to enable AICM in Uganda to transform hearts and lives and that you will want to pray for and support this work.

Colin Townsend



*The joy of giving and receiving*



*Happy children in a new class room*



*Listening to audio bible in own language*



*Food for hungry children*

## Official opening of Rwamahano School Buildings

On Friday 25th May 2018, our chairman and two other trustees with other friends from the UK were delighted to join the AICM chairman, director, AICM staff, many important local dignitaries, staff and children of both Rwamahano and Murubindi schools and a large crowd of friends for the official opening of the new buildings at Rwamahano school.



A major fund raising achievement during 2017 enabled us to construct the new class rooms, and another £5,000 was raised in the early part of 2018 to enable the construction of a four-stance pit latrine to complete the work. These children now have four good sized class rooms, all with new furniture, and in addition the head teacher has her own office and the staff a staff room. The visiting party was able to visit the school in session as well as

attend the opening ceremony and it was a joy to meet and interact with Marion, the head teacher, and her staff and see happy children enjoying lessons in their new surroundings.

There remain challenges and FAICM will encourage and pray for AICM in its management of the school and continue to support the school by funding staff salaries, daily food and provision of school equipment.

## Useful partnerships

Over the years both Friends of AICM and AICM in Uganda have been grateful for helpful partnerships and generous donors. FAICM has always looked to find support, especially for its ministry amongst needy children, from schools in the UK. We are thankful for some continuing old friends such as Stelling Minnis Primary School in Kent and Rydal Penrhos College in North Wales. During 2018 we gained the support and friendship of another primary school in Stanton Harcourt in Oxfordshire who have linked their pupils with pupils at the two AICM Batwa primary schools at Rwamahano and Murubindi.

As reported on page 5 two staff from the

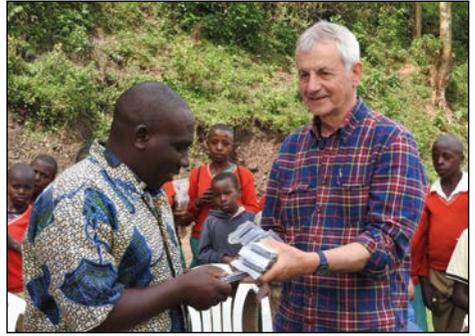
school were able to be part of the group who visited in May and this has made the link so much more real. The continuing friendship and support for both supporting schools in the UK and those in Uganda is of huge value to all involved. This year also saw a connection forged between Invicta Grammar School in Maidstone and their fund raising has contributed to the building fund FAICM have currently for new school buildings at Murubindi.

We are also thankful to the Grail Trust who have funded solar power for the AICM administrative offices in Kabale and the Clara Burgess Trust, the Grant Foundation and St James' Place Charitable Foundation for donations to the Murubindi building project.

## Own language solar powered audio bibles

Evangelism is at the heart of the ministry of AICM. Words of Jesus from John 10:10 “I am come that they may have life, and have it to the full” are what motivates the work. An extremely generous gift in 2017 enabled the purchase of over 200 solar powered audio New Testaments in the Runyankole language which is understood by all those in the communities served by AICM. All of these were transported to Kabale during the year and all have now been distributed among the communities, mostly to the Batwa. In both May and July visits trustees and friends were privileged to hand over some of these and to see the joyful reaction of the recipients. Ashley, one of the students visiting in the summer reports:

*‘But when we had the opportunity to distribute solar-powered audio Bibles in a local language and watch faces light up in delight as villagers realised they were hearing God’s Word in the words of their own language (or as we distributed Bibles at the Vocational Training College), I realised what a privilege I’ve always*



*Our generous donor hands over some audio bibles to an excited community leader*

*enjoyed. If ever I wanted a Bible, there has always been one in easy reach on my phone or in a pew at church or at my house. But that isn’t true for all Christians. My prayer now is that my own wonder in holding God’s Word in my hands grows and that many more Ugandans will be able to read the Bible for themselves, whenever, wherever, so that, through His Word, God continues to make us all more like Christ’*

The residue of funds after the purchase of audio bibles was used to support evangelism. Andrew, the AICM evangelist, Amos, senior field officer and the extension workers are able to encourage and teach using these bibles as they visit. In addition to these audio bibles FAICM has also funded Rukiga (local language) bibles and has given many English Bibles, mostly to students at the AICM college.



*Batwa family with AICM evangelist Andrew*

## How a visit can change the lives of both visitors and the visited

*"As many people as possible should experience this... it will change your views on what is important in life and is more humbling than I can ever put into words."*



*May visitors with friends at AICM*

This comment from one of the group of folk who visited Kabale in May of 2018 expresses what most people feel after the experience of visiting AICM in Kabale. Two groups of people were fortunate enough to visit in 2018.

The first group in May had, as a focus for their visit, the opening of the primary school at Rwamahano and contained primary school teachers from a supporting primary school in Stanton Harcourt in rural



*Getting to know you*

Oxfordshire, who were especially interested in partnering the two AICM Batwa primary schools. With them were three trustees including our chairman, the mother of Garance La Mache in whose memory one of the class room blocks is built, the donor of the solar audio bibles and Reverend Nick Wooldridge, a previous two time leader of a St Ebbes student team. Nick was able to teach each morning in the AICM college chapel, and the two teachers were able to support and encourage the staff at both Rwamahano and Murubindi schools and make their own school link so much more real and supportive. We were all able to bring many gifts and also participated in a distribution of FAICM Alternative gifts to several communities. We also had opportunities to meet and interact with several Batwa communities. The group were able to grasp the challenges of the AICM community based ministry and were overwhelmed by the commitment and love and friendship of all they met.

## How a visit can change the lives of both visitors and the visited

The second visiting group was in July when another student mission team from St Ebbes Church, Oxford spent two weeks with AICM. This was the seventh successive year of such a visit and one looked forward to by both the AICM communities and the student teams. The team was able to get to know students and staff at the AICM College of Science and Technology where they engaged in bible teaching each morning and also shared other activities,



*St.Ebbes team July 2018 sharing gift giving*



*Engaging with children at Murubindi School*

especially football in the afternoons. They also led class and games activities at both the AICM primary schools, and visited and interacted with many other of the local and AICM communities.

In the words of a team member. *'It was a privilege to get to partner with AICM on the front line of their various mission operations.'*

### Murubindi School

Our visits to this school this year have revealed its desperate need for new buildings. Simon and his staff have around 120 children who should be in four classes all confined to two class rooms in bad repair. There is nowhere for staff to meet and prepare, no head teachers room and nowhere for storage of any equipment or resources. FAICM trustees are resolved to remedy this situation with proper buildings



*New furniture for our classroom!*

for the class rooms and a teachers house and two sets of latrines.



Costs for this project are almost

*Converting community shelter into temporary class rooms*

£100,000 and we give thanks for £35,000 already received during this year. During 2018 funding was also sent for some very temporary improvements. Corrugated shuttering has protected and divided the community shelter to provide two extra class rooms, the existing classrooms have been improved, a storage shelter made and new furniture supplied. All this has improved morale greatly, but new buildings are very much needed. Our prayer is that we can begin this project during 2019.

## The continuing work of AICM

Throughout 2018 regular giving has enabled FAICM to support the continued ministry of AICM to its many communities by funding the monthly staff salaries of both Batwa primary schools. It also provides daily porridge and lunch for the children and water during the dry seasons. Funding from alternative gifts has provided school uniform, health care, school resources, and livestock including sheep.

Faith, the executive director, with Dennis and Amos, the two senior managers, have been involved in partnership with Self Help Africa in a project to improve the economic growth, increase employment, reduce poverty, improve nutrition and the sustainable management of the environment among the communities living around the Lake Bunyonyi basin.

The involvement in this Lake Bunyonyi Project is a tribute to the reputation of AICM in its work amongst needy communities, and is bringing the benefits of agricultural training in demonstration



*Batwa mudding his homestead*



*Children queuing for lunch*

fields, establishment of community nurseries and soil and water conservation.

AICM staff and extension workers benefit in that they can share these practices with other communities.

### How FAICM supported AICM through the generosity of their supporters in 2018

AICM Uganda office costs .....	£1,100
AICM Uganda Vehicle & Building Costs .....	£1,185
Alternative Gifts .....	£2,461
School meals and educational materials for the Batwa Primary Children .....	£2,400
Sponsored students .....	£5,298
Building Work at Rwamahano Primary School (Latrines).....	£5,420
Building Work at Murubindi (Temporary Works).....	£1,205
Teachers, Evangelist, Field & Office workers salaries .....	£44,236
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£63,305</b>

In addition: Funds raised towards new school buildings at Murubindi (to end Dec 2018) £35,708  
 (Total required for 2No. 2 classroom blocks, 2No. latrine blocks and Head Teachers House at Murubindi Primary School is £97,000)

NOTE: All figures as at 31 December 2018. A full statement of FAICM accounts for the year ending 2018 can be found on the Charity Commission website.



## African International Christian Ministry (AICM)

*"I am come that they may have life and have it to the full"*

John 10:10

### Patron:

Most Reverend John Sentamu,  
Archbishop of York

### Trustees:

Colin Townsend (Chairman)  
Sue Townsend (Secretary)  
Mick Lloyd (Treasurer)  
The Venerable Gordon Ogilvie  
Mike and Helen Peachey  
Mike and Gill Henderson  
Canon Trevor Williams  
Kate Potter  
Revd. Roger Smith  
Betsy Glasgow

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### Treasurer:

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Kent TN17 3LN

Registered Charity Number 1011451

### Donations:

[mydonate.bt.com/charities/friendsfaicm](http://mydonate.bt.com/charities/friendsfaicm)