

Friends of AICM Newsletter

January 2012

In that knowledge and that spirit, I invite you to renew your commitment to our partnership in the Gospel in 2012, remembering that at the heart of F-A-I-C-M stands not the "I" of self, but the "I" of International. And on January 25, once you have celebrated the Conversion of St Paul in the church calendar, spare a thought for us Scots marking the 253rd anniversary of the birth of our national poet, Robert Burns. In a famous poem, which I paraphrase from the Scots dialect, he longed for the day when, all over the world, men would be brothers. Somebody should have told him that it is already true in the international family of Christ's Church.

With love in the Lord

Gordon

Gordon Ogilvie : Chairman, Friends of AICM

Membership, Newsletter and Sponsorship;

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To make a donation to the work of AICM, please complete this form and send it with your name, address and cheque to:

**The Treasurer, Friends of AICM, Canon John Tapper,
Mill Cottage, Mill Lane, Sissinghurst, Kent, TN17 2HX.**

I enclose a cheque for £.....

For general funds/specific purpose (specify).....

I am a UK taxpayer and under the Gift Aid scheme, I would like AICM to claim back tax on all donations until further notice.

Signed

Date



Our dear brothers and sisters in our Lord Jesus Christ,
We thank God for all your prayers, generosity and support towards the work of AICM throughout 2011.

Through the two-way ministry and support from Friends of AICM-UK, AICM was able to carry on with the work of touching and transforming lives. Many lost hopes were restored and lives transformed, to the honour and glory of God.

In 2012, we hope to continue in this most noble work and

ministry, especially in the quest of reaching to the unreached communities, including the minority and marginalized ones.

We hope that through AICM, many people will come to accept and acknowledge Our Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. This, we know, will enable them to be transformed in all spheres of life, in addition to fostering a personal relationship with God. As we celebrate this Christmas, we need to reflect on the work of AICM, and indeed on roles played by each and everyone of us. Let us always be mindful of the need to witness for Christ in order to draw many to salvation.

Since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Hebrews 12:1,2

On behalf of the AICM Management and Staff, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous 2012!!!

Mukama Abarinde! (May God keep you safe!)

May God richly bless you and your families during this Christmas and beyond.

Timothy



... and a Happy New Year!

That greeting is warmly and sincerely meant and sent – to all Friends of AICM and on behalf of my co-Trustees. In the UK, it is added to Christmas greetings. My daily paper recently printed a piece from 31 December 1878 which began: *It is true that the leading winter's holiday in Scotland is not Christmas but New Year's Day.* I don't remember 1878(!), but I recognise that that was true of my Glasgow childhood in the 1950s. The balance between the two ends of what is now often one long holiday shifted during my 40 years' ministry in England, where much more is now made of New Year. While in retirement in Scotland, I see more emphasis now on Christmas, in its commercial aspects but also in extra church services. My wife and I send about 130 Christmas cards each year, about 15 of them to friends overseas. Some live in places where the culture does not send cards – and I am not complaining about that!

Last January, when three Trustees visited Kabale, one of us had a birthday and we surprised him with a cake. It was produced at our request by our hosts who clearly but politely found it strange that we then sang a song to the birthday boy! In 28 years of mutual support between the UK (all four of its nations!) and Uganda, we have learned about cultural differences: about naturally and legitimately different ways of seeing and doing things, but all in the name of Jesus and for the growth of his Kingdom. The diversity is part of the richness, as we experience it and as we find the church depicted in the New Testament. When St Paul writes that *there is neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female*, he does not mean that there were no Jews, Greeks, men or women in the church. Rather is it that such differences no longer matter within the family of God's people. We do not treat each other with love, respect and service as if we were sisters and brothers but because we are! To be Ugandan or British (or whatever) matters to each of us; but to be *citizens of heaven* is even more significant.

BREAKING NEWS

Over the last few months Mike Peachey has been developing a relationship with the Abingdon & Witney College (A & W C) with a view to forming a link with the Vocational Training Centre in Kabale.

A & W C have already generously given several boxes of books from weeding their library, which are due to arrive in Kabale in January.

The A & W C is a vocational college with 2000 16-18 year old students and about 5000 students over 19 that offers a range of courses over 5 sites in Oxfordshire, awarding qualifications including A levels, BTECs, City & Guilds and full higher education degrees in partnership with Oxford Brookes University.



Although the A & W C is much bigger than the VTC, a number of the subjects taught, and type of qualifications gained, are similar and a link such as this presents a massive opportunity for both colleges to work together and exchange ideas to the benefit of both staff and students. Another similarity is that both colleges

have female Principals which is as uncommon in Uganda as it is in England, and both Principals believe they have a lot to offer each other, both educationally and culturally, which is seen as an exciting prospect for both.

Although it's early days, we are looking at a small group of staff visiting the VTC later this year to meet with staff and students and work alongside them. This will provide knowledge and experience to both and it is hoped that this will be followed by a further visit the following year from a group of students and then, who knows? Watch this space or the website for further updates.

St. Nicholas School "GOAT FACTOR"

An annual autumn term event at St. Nicholas Primary School, Marston, Oxford is their "Goat Factor" talent contest. Children enter heats throughout the term and a grand finale of heat winners takes place in the final week of the Christmas term.



The idea is to raise funds to send to Kabale, through FAICM, for provision of goats for the rural communities. Staff, children and parents have great fun, and this term have just raised over £300. A big "THANK YOU" to all of them!

Alternative Gifts

We'd like to thank those of you who have purchased some of our alternative gifts this Christmas. The Batwa schools, rural communities and VTC will benefit greatly from your generosity. Please continue to use these gifts throughout the year, and pass leaflets on to friends. It can also be found on the website. We have noticed that many folk are using the list of gifts as a means of their own specific giving. Reading the information about the gifts does give a good picture of much of the work of AICM, and giving via one of the gifts is an excellent way to donate, where you will know how your money will be used. However, please do also remember that FAICM needs regular donations to its general fund, as this is what ring fences essential salaries and other general or emergency needs.

Please will you give
"A Gift that Makes a Difference"

Friends of
AICM
African International
Christian Ministry



invite you to choose a gift from this catalogue and make a difference to the poor and marginalised in South West Uganda.



Witney “Book Initiative”

On their way to Kampala at the moment are books destined for the Vocational Training College library at AICM. This is an initiative of Friends in the Witney area. A huge variety of books collected from friends, school, and a large number from Witney and Abingdon Technical Colleges, were part of a cubic metre packed by the charity, Tools With A



Mission (TWAM). They have a depot in Ipswich, well worth visiting, where they collect and recycle a vast amount of equipment to send to the third world. As our container was not full, TWAM generously filled it for us with sewing machines and fabric, which will be such an additional welcome gift for the VTC.



Associate Trustees

It was decided at the July Trustees’ meeting to introduce an Associate Trustee position, which could be a member of a church, a group, someone with a particular skill, or who just had time to help. The first two of these were Roger Smith of Holy Trinity Church in Folkestone, and Kate Potter of Oadby, near Leicester. Roger, who attended the last Trustees’ meeting “wants to record my appreciation of the welcome and support I have received from the FAICM and that I am enjoying promoting us 'this end' - as it were - of Kent!

Trevor Williams, the Friends’ previous Chairman, would like to record the fact that “Undergraduates at Trinity College Oxford raised over £100 for AICM at an end of term whip round”

And remember **Easyfundraising** at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>. With a few extra clicks, you can raise money for FAICM!

Wilberforce Johnson Tirwomwe

Arriving from Care International in March 2011, Wilberforce joined the AICM as Projects/ Programme Coordinator, and as such heads planning, proposal development, monitoring, and technical oversight of all ongoing projects and/or programmes including a human rights awareness and education project, vocational training, facilitation and supervision of two Batwa infant primary schools; and support to Batwa health, water and sanitation, and resettlement.



A community development specialist, Wilberforce has over 10 years’ experience with core competencies in fostering food security initiatives, social service utilization, community mobilization, community-based needs assessments, monitoring & evaluation, personnel administration, records management, facilitation and communication skills; planning and rural appraisal; research-based natural resource management; working in partnership; and advanced process documentation and information management. A significant portion of his past job experience was spent working with international non-government organisations. He has a passion for improving the livelihoods, human rights, health and lifestyles of vulnerable rural communities.

Over time, he has attained performance-enhancing skills in cross cutting issues, such as mainstreaming gender, HIV/AIDS, climate change adaptation, peace building and conflict resolution; and in development work. Gender mainstreaming is a focal commitment in his day-to-day project activities. To that effect, he has attained performance-enhancing skills in facilitating gender-focused development and applying gender analysis tools.

Most of his work experience has been with projects that exposed him to working in cross cultural environments, premised on a cosmopolitan approach. He has travelled extensively in the region; and also ventured overseas, to Australia, as one example, where he participated in the International Landcare Conference.

He holds a Diploma in Business Studies and Bachelor of Arts –(Social Sciences) Hons.Degree in Community Based Development.

Space permitting, further personal resumes of key AICM staff will be included in future editions.