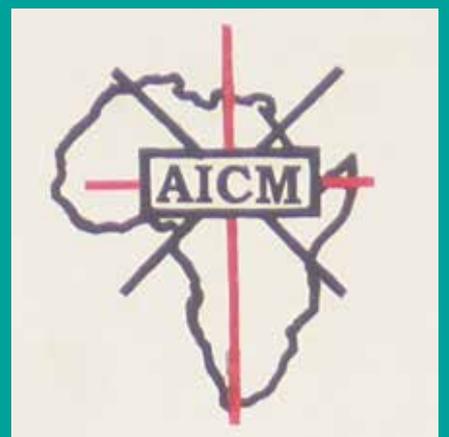




Annual Report 2020

*Changing hearts, lives
and communities*

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



A message from our chairman

“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain”.

1 Corinthians 15 verse 58.

2020 has been a year of frustration for all of us. It has been particularly difficult for us not being able to visit our friends in Uganda. More than ever we have had to rely on the staff at AICM to deliver the love and care we would wish to lavish upon the needy people of Kabale and Rubanda district. I am overwhelmed by the work they have done in the midst of danger – especially Covid. You will see in this report, the love and faith of the AICM staff. I honour them. Thank you too for all the generous support from so many in UK. By the end of the year Murubindi school was built, ready for the reopening of all Ugandan schools in April 2021. A magnificent achievement.

This year our patron Rt. Revd. John Sentamu, Archbishop of York retired. We thank him for his patronage. We are pleased to welcome as our new patron an old friend of AICM, Rt. Revd. Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham.

A moment of sadness came in November when we said a last farewell to Gordon Ogilvie, our previous chairman. I was one of just thirty people allowed by Covid regulations to attend his funeral. It was actually a happy time, remembering Gordon’s abilities and achievements and his sense of fun. We will miss him but he will be enjoying the company of our Lord and Saviour.

Colin Townsend



Continued Bible teaching to Batwa



Building second classroom block



Grateful primary school children



2020-a year of emergency relief



Covid care

God's Timing – a visit to AICM in January by two trustees

Little did Colin Townsend (our Chairman) and Mike Peachey (Trustee) know in January 2020, as they boarded a flight for Kigali, that this was the last chance for anyone to visit AICM for many months to come. It was a blessing from God that this visit happened just before Covid and lock down ended international travel. The main purpose of their visit was to see the AICM primary school at Murubindi where the first phase of the new school build was ready for inspection. Colin and Mike together with Denis from AICM, were able to meet Peter the builder and his team at the site and were very pleased with the first two classroom block, the four stance latrine and a new rainwater harvest tank. They also discussed the second phase of the development but more about this later.

They visited Rwamahano Primary School to see the solar panel installation, and to meet Marion the head teacher and deliver various gifts. The encouragement for staff at both schools from having trustees visit, especially given the year that was to follow, without the usual visits from the UK, was invaluable. The schools were in session for the first three months of 2020 but since then have remained closed due to lock down measures. Colin and Mike also shared fellowship with other AICM staff in their morning bible sharing times and joined the AICM college for morning worship.



Colin & Mike with the team at Murubindi



Marion, head teacher at Rwamahano delighted to receive a gift from Colin

Lent Appeal

Together with Stanton Harcourt Primary School, near Witney, we ran a Lenten appeal during the first three months of the year with a goal of raising sufficient funds for the FAICM Batwa fund, from which AICM are able to feed the children at the two primary schools throughout the year. Colin and Sue Townsend also held a successful Lenten Lunch and Bring and Buy sale at their home just before lock down measures came into force. We estimate that £23 is the approximate daily cost of feeding these children and it is an ongoing need.



Food supplies for Murubindi and Rwamahano being received by staff and children

We give thanks that over £4000 was sent over the year to enable AICM to meet these needs. Although Covid lock down measures closed schools by the end of March for the whole year, these children still needed to be fed and this fund enabled AICM to make food relief provision for many children and their families throughout the year.

Murubindi Primary School

In last years Annual Report we mentioned that work had begun on a new two classroom block with head teachers office and a four stall latrine.

In January 2020 Colin Townsend, Chairman and Mike Peachey, Trustee visited Uganda to inspect the completed buildings and 'sign off' the final payment to the contractor.

During this visit, discussions were held with the contractor regarding a second 2 classroom block to replace the old classrooms, and a new girls latrine block and washroom. Negotiations went well and after discussions with the other trustees on their return to the UK, it was agreed we should proceed, and contracts were prepared and subsequently signed in late January 2020.

All FAICM had to do now was to raise sufficient money to complete these works. This was where our fantastic supporters, to whom we, and all our friends in Uganda are extremely grateful, stepped in once again.

The works on site commenced with the demolition of the old classroom block and soon the new building was happening and progressing well.



Completion of phase 1

Then Covid-19 hit the world and progress on the building was slowed but luckily not stopped.

In February 2021, after several delays due to Covid-19 and material supplies the building works were completed.

We are now looking forward to returning to Uganda, when safe, for the official opening.

This is not the end of the story as we are now looking to raise more funds to construct basic 2 room houses for the head teacher and lay reader.



Completion of phase 2

Covid Interventions

As our chairman indicated in his opening message, throughout most of this year FAICM has needed to stand by and support our friends at AICM in the midst of the challenges and immense needs caused by the Covid pandemic and lock down measures.

An emergency fund was established which raised

just over £7,500, and this fund is still running.

An important thing to notice is that thanks to FAICM regular remittances all AICM staff, including teachers and extension workers continued to be paid throughout the year, for which they are all extremely grateful.

www.give.net/aicm_coronavirus_appeal

Sponsored students

These students have been unable to attend secondary or tertiary institutions from March 2020 until February 2021. FAICM gave permission for sponsored students fees to be utilised for the help and relief of all these students and their families.

Relief has included Covid protection, such as supplies of masks, soap, and explaining social distancing measures. Also provision of basic food stuffs. Stephen, and later in the year, Marion, AICM evangelists, as well as extension workers, have kept in constant touch with all students, visiting families, checking on their health and general needs.

Funds were used to help several students establish rabbit rearing at their homes, as a means of both food provision and income generation. The students have been equipped with necessary education materials to enable home study, and radios were also purchased and distributed to allow students to access national education programmes.



Distributing radios



Rabbit rearing

Primary Schools

As already mentioned, the Batwa food fund was used throughout the year to ensure, as far as possible, that the children and families from Murubindi and Rwamahano communities were fed. Staff at the two schools, extension workers and AICM evangelist have all been active in seeking to maintain pastoral oversight of these children. Provisions of masks and soap have been made along with food relief. Thanks to a fund raising

initiative from Stanton Harcourt School near Witney, home learning packs were distributed to as many children as possible during the Autumn. There have also been health initiatives such as interventions to treat eye infections and jiggers. Teachers have visited children, have met with small groups to encourage home learning and have manned the two schools regularly for children to come for correction of work.



Children receive home learning materials



Marion making a home visit



Batwa receive seed packs for Autumn planting

Batwa communities

Throughout the year AICM have sought to reach out to their needy Batwa communities who have suffered much under lock down. Early in the year AICM gained permission to access these communities with basic Covid protection such as masks and soap and also deliveries of relief food items, and necessary health prevention measures have been carried out. In early autumn funding enabled delivery of seed packs, with help and encouragement in planting and growing.

Our prayer was for a good harvest which would provide a good extra food supply. We thank God that there has been a good harvest in the early part of 2021.



Batwa receive sheep



Mattress for blind Batwa lady



Distributing relief to Batwa

AICM College

The college has had a difficult year as it has remained closed until late autumn and still can only admit final examination students. Some of our sponsored students attend the college and AICM has been looking after them along with other secondary school students. A group of students who found themselves stranded at the college after lockdown was imposed, and unable to return home, were provided for by AICM. In November some FAICM funding enabled the college to hold an excellent open day in order to advertise its courses in an effort to attract new students. We are praying for a more successful year in 2021.



Demonstrations at the AICM College open day

Alternative Giving

We are thankful that just over £3000 was given during 2020 via our Alternative Gift scheme. These gifts were hugely important in making a significant difference to many in need during this difficult year. In addition to contributing to food, clothing, health and educational needs amongst students, gifts of livestock, shoes,

girls underwear, mattresses and blankets were joyfully given and received. Also we were able to give Rukiga Bibles to leaders and pastors in rural communities.

The gift scheme is a valuable way to make a difference to many. Do please consider using it.

How FAICM supported AICM through the generosity of their supporters during 2020

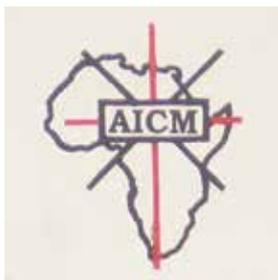
AICM Uganda office costs	£4,626
Coronavirus-19 emergency funding	£7,590
Alternative Gifts.....	£3,187
School meals and educational materials for the Batwa Primary Children	£4,278
Sponsored students.....	£7,042
New Buildings at Murubindi Primary School.....	£48,000
Teachers, Evangelist, Field & Office workers salaries	£42,856
TOTAL £117,579	

NOTE: All figures as at 31 December 2020

A full statement of FAICM accounts for the year ending 2020 can be found on the Charity Commission website.



Thank you Friends of AICM for your help during a challenging year



African International Christian Ministry (AICM)

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

John 10:10

Patron:

Rt. Revd Paul Butler,
Bishop of Durham

Trustees:

Colin Townsend (Chairman)
Sue Townsend (Secretary)
Mick Lloyd (Treasurer)
Mike and Helen Peachey
Mike and Gill Henderson
Kate Potter
Revd. Roger Smith
Betsy Glasgow
Esther Byrom

Friends of AICM Contact details:

Email: faicm.secretary@gmail.com
www.aicm.org.uk
Facebook: AICM-UK Friends

Treasurer:

Mr M. Lloyd, Greenleas, Orchard Way,
Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3LN

We would be so grateful for donations.

To make a donation by bank transfer:

Account: Friends of African International Christian Ministry

Account Number: 00011431 **Sort Code:** 40-52-40

To commit to regular giving please contact the treasurer on **01580 712161** or email mwlloyd123@btinternet.com

or visit: www.give.net/20036722