

Website

Does your church have a website? A recent addition to the AICM website (www.aicm.org.uk) is a list of supporter churches.

One of the main methods that search engines use to rank websites is to score them by the number of other sites that link to them. Hence we can do each other a favour here. If you get your church to add a link to the AICM website and tell me your URL so that I can do the same for your church, then it improves the score of both sites. This makes it more likely that they will appear higher up the list on Google etc and so increase their visibility. I can also send you a few descriptive words to use on your website to amplify the link to AICM. Matthew Clements (treasurer@aicm.org).

INCOME TAX REPAYMENT?

Each year, some people are fortunate enough to benefit from a repayment of income tax from the Inland Revenue. Often this sort of sum is only a few pounds and they may send a cheque or adjust the person's tax code. This year they have introduced a scheme whereby this can be paid directly to a charity of the tax-payer's choice, provided the charity has registered.

The Friends of AICM have registered for this scheme - all you have to do is to enter our specific code "WAB46MG" on your self-assessment form and any rebate will come straight to us. More details are available of the Inland Revenue website.

If you would like to make a donation to the work of AICM, please complete and send the following to:

**The Treasurer, Friends of AICM, Matthew Clements
97 New Caledonian Wharf, Odessa Street, London. SE16 7TW.**

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"I enclose a cheque/charity cheque for £100 £50 £25 Other (specify)
For general funds/specific purpose (specify).....

Name
Address

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

Supporting African International Christian Ministry in south-west Uganda
Website - www.aicm.org.uk



Friends of AICM

Newsletter

December 2005

*Christmas Greetings
from the Chairman of AICM*

Christmas fast approaches and with it the end of another busy year for AICM and its Friends. I won't repeat what is reported elsewhere in the newsletter except to mention two things that stand out: first, the AGM at Holy Trinity, Folkestone, where John Tapper and his parishioners made us all very welcome – many thanks to all of you! Secondly, on a sadder note, our long serving treasurer, Matthew Clements, has announced that he will be resigning in 2006. Matthew has fulfilled his role with efficiency and rigour. His no-nonsense approach has not only kept our finances in very good order, but has helped the AICM accountants and auditors in Uganda to achieve greater efficiency and clarity. We offer Matthew our sincere thanks and wish him well in the various other activities that he is taking on in London. You will realise that this means we will need to appoint a new treasurer and someone (the same or someone else) to manage the web page. Volunteers or suggestions please!

It's been disturbing to hear in the last few days of riots in Kampala and of political tensions building up. We need to keep Uganda in our prayers, and to pray especially for Enoch Kayeeye and AICM, that through their Christian witness, the Christmas message of peace and good will may be widely heard.

May I extend my thanks to all who are supporting AICM in different ways and wish you all a very joyful Christmas and every blessing for the new year!

Trevor Williams

On behalf of the rest of the Trustees, may I add to Trevor's comments and wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



The AGM weekend was a memorable one for all who attended, with a range of interests and experiences for everyone. Here we have a selection of comments from a number of people as we progressed through that weekend.

Saturday – African Day

Wow! What a day! What music! What a feast!

Members of the AICM committee and many Friends celebrated in true African style at our AGM at Holy Trinity Church in Folkestone. The celebrations really began in the kitchen during the morning when several wonderful ladies from Holy Trinity started peeling, scraping, cutting and cooking. Great smells issued forth! Then the early arrivals shared a great bring and share lunch. It never ceases to amaze me how splendid this kind of meal often is.

After lunch, several more friends from far and wide appeared and we shared the business side of things, hearing the encouraging news of progress in many directions from Uganda, especially the recent purchase of a truck, more of which in a separate article. We also heard of the safe state of our finances from our treasurer, Matthew Clements, although more funds is always our constant aim.

During our meeting, excitement mounted as our musician friends led by Ugandan, Vicky Rennie prepared to entertain us with a musical event. The collective group known as "Sweet Vicky" produced a great wealth of music for worship and dancing – it was quite amazing! Our thanks went to all of them.

Then the feast appeared; and what a feast! Chicken stew, posho, rice, cassava, sweet potato, green banana, Irish potato, white cabbage and tomato with ground nut sauce was wonderful followed by pineapple, banana and mango

Your AICM Trustees – 2

Sue Matthew

Sue is a retired headteacher living in Oxford. She writes: "I was fortunate to do a post graduate teaching diploma at Makerere University in Kampala in the 1960's and to teach at Gayeza Secondary School and then at Machmae Secondary School in Tanzania. It was a privilege to teach such committed students and to live in East Africa. When I returned to England, I carried on teaching at St Barnabas School in Jericho, Oxford and as Headteacher at St Ebbes School in South Oxford. Trevor Williams, whom I had known since my time in Uganda, asked me if I would be happy to help with the Friends of AICM. Although I am fairly new to AICM, I have met a lovely group of people and am looking forward to visiting Uganda again some day to see first hand the excellent work of the projects that AICM is sponsoring."



Enoch's Christmas Message

It is twenty-two years since AICM was founded. Much work has been done and AICM is a recognised ministry not only in Uganda, but Africa. The mission of reaching, mobilising and empowering rural communities and marginalized groups is steadily being realised. Examples are the Batwa, whose problems are being solved; three functional health centres; roads to Ihunga, Murubindi and Rwamahano nearing completion; 5000 newly skilled people from the VTC deployed over a large area; 500 orphans now being cared for and finally the training of Christian Leaders, one of whom is now a Bishop in Sudan.

Since the formation of the Friends of AICM in the UK in 1982, members have increasingly continued to support, advise, visit and to participate in various activities and to pray for AICM for these many years. We want to give them an endless THANK YOU and wish them numerous God's blessings.

As we approach the end of 2005, I pray to God Almighty to protect us, to strengthen our faith and assure us of the future.

I intend to visit the UK in April for a month hopefully, and want to meet as many people and supporters as possible.

God bless you all.

Enoch

7

age of 24, shortly after Idi Amin rose to power. Unwilling to condemn innocent prisoners, at great risk, he acted against Amin's wishes and in 1974 had to flee the country to save his life.

Coming to Britain, he studied for a Doctorate in Theology in Ridley Hall, Cambridge and was ordained priest in 1979. He served as assistant chaplain at Selwyn College, Cambridge and then, after serving as a chaplain at a remand centre and holding a series of parish appointments, he became Bishop of Stepney (suffragan in the Diocese of London). During this time he served as advisor to the Stephen Lawrence Judicial Enquiry and in 2002 chaired the Damilola Taylor review. That same year, he was appointed Bishop of Birmingham. On 17th June 2005, the Prime Minister's office announced his translation to York. We join in congratulating John on his appointment and pray for God's blessing on his ministry.

Trevor Williams

Trinity Churches in Folkestone support AICM

We first heard about AICM when Tom and Brenda Broderick went there to help in 1998. They came back with lots of stories, photos and videos, and enthused us to collect for things they wanted to buy on their next visit. Four of us went to the celebrations in 2003 and at Enoch's suggestion, have since arranged for people in our churches to sponsor students at Ihunga Secondary School and the Vocational Training College. This has been popular because of the direct contact. Sponsors are given the name of their student and many have received letters and photos from them and have written back. This year, twenty people in our churches sponsored a student at a cost of £60 each for a year's education.

In addition, we had a Garden Safari in the summer which raised £682. Ten church members opened their gardens and some served afternoon tea in the sunshine. Entrance was by an Itinerary costing £5 for all the gardens, or £1 for each. It was amazing how varied the gardens were, ranging from tiny ones packed with interest, to gardens with sweeping sea views. Everyone enjoyed the weekend and lots of new friendships were formed. The day after the AGM we had a beautiful concert given by the tenor Ramon Ramedios which raised £771 and nearly raised the roof too. Together with some donations, we have been able to send The Friends £2088 this year and certainly in return we have been greatly blessed by AICM.

Liz Tapper

Rev John Tapper and his wife,
Liz together with many from the



Sunday – Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival Sunday of our AICM weekend in Folkestone was a wonderful Ugandan experience. Even the sun shone, though not quite as brightly as we had enjoyed in Kabale in 2003!

The service started with some traditional British harvest hymns. We were then invited, with the help of the children, to learn from their drama about harvest, and the plentiful supply of food consumed every day of the year by many of us fortunate folk in Britain. The whole of these children's day was portrayed as a succession of main meals plus snacks and extra goodies! The drama then switched to the Ugandan scene with a bowl of typical local food, such as we had all enjoyed the day before. Here we had one serving, often without the stew, and many, many children, most of whom went hungry. This was a stark contrast which impressed both the children and we well fed adults in the congregation.

We were fortunate in having Alice Alesi with us. Although from Uganda, Alice now works in London and is one of AICM's Trustees, and was interviewed by John during the service to share some basic facts about Uganda including its diet, geography, problems and great potential. After church, most of us enjoyed a shared harvest meal in the Church Hall. For me it was particularly special as I had never been to a Harvest Lunch before and as a visitor to Holy Trinity, I was really impressed how welcome I was made. The delicious shepherd's pie and vegetables were very suitable for harvest, and a mouth-watering choice of deserts followed. There was time to chat, reminisce and make new friends. Eventually though, it was also time for home and for me at least, Folkestone seemed rather more sedate than when I had arrived, and Uganda definitely closer.

Verity Smith

Sunday – The Concert

For those of us who stayed in Folkestone for the whole of the African Weekend, the final treat after a wonderful Harvest Lunch, provided by the good ladies of Holy Trinity Church, was a concert given in the church by the tenor, Ramon Ramedios, accompanied by David Snell. Both of these well known musicians gave their services free, in order that the whole of the proceeds of the concert could be given to AICM. A large audience greeted the soloists enthusiastically and were richly rewarded. The program consisted of a variety of English folk songs and other popular songs and some spirituals delightfully arranged by David Snell. David also gave us a piano solo as did Molly Parsons, a talented young member of the church congregation. It was a lovely afternoon's entertainment and we are all grateful to the church for organising such a superb event and for Ramon and the two pianists for their time and effort. It was a great end to a fantastic weekend.

Sue Townsend

NewsFlash

Trevor Williams received the following message from Enoch on 5th December.

“Christian greetings! This is to inform you that the Diocese of North Kivu and the House of Bishops in the Democratic Republic of Congo have elected me Bishop to be assistant to Bishop Munzenda of North Kivu Diocese. Consecration will be on 30th July 2006”

Trevor has replied congratulating Enoch on behalf of the Friends and in case of general concern, confirms that he will remain Chairman of AICM.

News Updates

New Truck for AICM

Thanks to a very generous legacy from the late David Grey, Enoch has been able to purchase a truck for use on the AICM site in Kabale. This has been something that they have needed for a long time and they are all very excited and grateful for its provision. Enoch writes “It will help us to run some activities like carrying firewood for the VTC kitchen,



taking students for their industrial training and transporting building materials for community work. We thank God for this achievement”. With so much of the work of AICM concerned with rural communities, the vehicle, together with the motorbike purchased earlier with help from the Friends, will improve access greatly, although maintenance of the vehicles is a major consideration and one which the Friends in the UK will need to take on board.

Batwa News

AICM have recently presented papers to the Ugandan government concerning adult literacy and universal primary education for the Batwa, to try to elicit help from the government in rescuing them. AICM have recently appointed a field assistant to help in coordinating its work with the community development associations formed in the Batwa communities. Enoch writes “The process of resettling the Batwa still remains a challenge and is ongoing, though there are not enough funds.”

VTC News

The enrolment of students has increased to 451. This is a large increase. It brings with it an increase in the need for staff, equipment, furniture and text books. Two more members of staff have recently been appointed. Meeting the need for staff salaries is an ongoing problem and recent fuel prices have placed extra constraints on these salaries. The Friends have always made it a primary concern to assist in payment of salaries as this is how the organisation will keep quality staff. Please remember this need as you pray for AICM and consider your giving. The VTC is also looking to employ its own nurse as this will cut costs at present incurred seeking help from external medical centres. Earlier in the college year, 183 students sat UNEB exams at the college as it had the honour of being an examination centre for Kabale District Area.

John Sentamu – Archbishop of York

The Friends of AICM were very honoured and delighted to have as their first patron, Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury. We are now equally honoured and delighted to have as our patron, John Sentamu, inaugurated recently in York Minster as Archbishop of York. John Sentamu was born in 1949 in a village near Kampala, Uganda, the sixth of thirteen children. He studied Law at Makerere University and after practising as an advocate, was appointed as a High Court Judge at the