

April 15-21

MINISTRY FOCUS: SUPPORT



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Carrie Pither has recently taken on the role of AIM's Crisis Consultant, with Hiram Jobs.

We are based in Nairobi, Kenya, although our role provides a service across the whole organisation, including the mobilising and receiving regions. Our respective professional backgrounds in policing and law enforcement have given each of us a great foundation in security and risk management. We have spent the first months researching the main aspects that will underpin our roles and work, which has included the theology of risk and AIM's duty of care.

Many of the risks and challenges that missionaries today face are the same as those faced by our founder, Peter Cameron Scott, back in 1895, but much has changed in this landscape too. The countries in which AIM serves may be plagued by war, political turmoil, terrorism and

crime, therefore continual security awareness and practical preparation are essential. Our role is to support our missionaries in continuing their ministry and calling, wherever they serve. As Crisis Consultants, we have access to international, national and regional security networks, which are invaluable in enabling us to provide real time alerts, advice, and recommendations to our missionaries, teams and leaders.

PREPARED AND AWARE

Christian workers build resilience into gospel ministry through good security practices to ensure that both the voice and presence of the gospel will continue to advance in hard places. New missionaries are prepared prior to their departure to the mission field. They undergo training and orientation in security protocols,

contingencies and safety. Missionaries living and serving in their communities remain aware of their security through risk assessment and contingency plans.

AIM's policy states that "As Christ's disciples sent like 'sheep among wolves,' members shall be 'shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.' Therefore, when confronted with obvious dangers, it is imperative that members always seek wisdom from God to act in a manner consistent with his will and with wise stewardship."

Whilst our job description states our role in simple terms as, "to strengthen crisis awareness and preparedness of our members", we know that balancing the tension between the leading of the Holy Spirit, wise stewardship, and God's invitation to risk is complex. But AIM's mandate remains to be to fulfil the Great Commission. As missionaries continue in our founder's footsteps, though the dangers involved in reaching the unreached remain, we are called by a loving, caring and faithful God to be his witness to a world who hasn't yet heard his name. 🙏



SECURITY IN ACTION

Security in South Sudan is constantly changing, and for the team living with their families among the Laarim community, swift responses are necessary. One morning in April last year an armed group attacked a military outpost, killing fourteen military personnel. The AIM team woke up to hear heavy gunfire with occasional mortar blasts. Immediately, the team leaders began to implement the contingency plans and to consider evacuating the team. They formed a communication group so that everyone involved had all the information.

Due to the likely retaliation, the leadership decided that it would be best to evacuate the team to a location where they could easily assess the situation and where the team would not be in danger of being caught in the crossfire between community defenders and the military.

Jordan Scotland, the Unit Leader, said, "As soon as the green light was given by me, AIM AIR sprang into action and the team was pulled out of Kimatong within 45 minutes and were safely in Torit 30 minutes after that. It is a great comfort to have resources available to draw upon such as contingency plans, AIM AIR, Regional Directors and a Crisis Consultant to know that decisions are made with clarity and without emotion."

15 APRIL SUNDAY

Pray for our missionaries who serve in difficult places. Pray that they would have discernment when dealing with insecure situations, that they might balance complete trust in God with using their God-given wisdom to determine the right course of action.

16 APRIL MONDAY

Carrie and her colleague, Hiram Jobs, are in the early stages of delivering their risk management and security strategy. Pray they would work well together and would be willing to learn, to seek out wise counsel, and to begin successful implementation of the strategy.

17 APRIL TUESDAY

Before they begin ministry, new missionaries attend orientation both in their home countries and in Africa. Pray that during these times they would receive effective training and advice to build up their knowledge so that they understand the security plans.

WEEKLY FOCUS

Carrie Pither has just taken up a new role as AIM's Crisis Consultant. Pray that Carrie, her colleague, Hiram Jobs, and our missionaries would know God's sovereign hand in every aspect of their lives. May they look to him for their every need, including their safety and security.

18 APRIL WEDNESDAY

It is such a comfort that whatever our situation we can turn to God and know that he loves us. Give thanks for that truth and pray that our missionaries would grow in their understanding of these certainties: God is sovereign. Suffering is normal. Jesus is worth it.

19 APRIL THURSDAY

Carrie is currently on home assignment in the UK until July. Pray for Hiram as he continues in the International Crisis role. Pray too for Carrie's time at home, that she will be encouraged and refreshed and that she will know great joy in spending time with friends and family.

20 APRIL FRIDAY

Questions about risk and mission raise complex legal and theological issues. Pray we would submit ourselves to God and seek to follow him in faith. Pray for open communication between all parties, that we understand each other's reasoning and keep Christ at the centre.

21 APRIL SATURDAY

Pray that God would keep our missionaries safe and secure as they travel by road and by air. Pray that they would make wise decisions on when and how to travel. Give thanks for AIM AIR and other missionary mechanics who do so much to keep our missionaries secure.