



# PROFILE OF A MISSIONARY

Marlene van Tonder – Africa Inland Mission

## Inbound Team Leader Torit, South Sudan

My main responsibilities are leading the Inbound Team based in Torit. This consists of four team members from around the world. Inbound is a one-year programme that workers new to AIM complete to function well in their new placement and keep working there for a long time.

### Why is this important?

Well, missionaries come from all around the world and must learn the skills to learn a new language all on their own,



as well as cook and clean in places without microwaves, electrical ovens or washing machines. They also need to learn how to navigate the cultural differences they face each day. Cultures all around the world are different. People do and say things in different ways which can be tricky when those you work alongside all want to do things differently from what you are used to. There are some easy cultural tips to learn for daily

interactions in the communities where we work like; always shaking hands when you greet someone, NEVER eating with your left hand and what the proper greeting is at a funeral. But some things are more difficult and take time to learn. All this change can be very overwhelming when people first arrive and trying to do

much of it in a language you don't know can be very frustrating. It is my job to help new missionaries learn all of this in a way that helps them adapt, not run away and

hide!

I am also a teacher and I get to teach children who have not had a chance to go to school to read and write. When I lived in a small village I mainly led different Bible studies and helped at the local schools to teach, train teachers and encourage the community to send children to school so they can learn to read and eventually read the Bible for themselves.

One of the things I have learned in my time in South Sudan is that missionaries wear many hats!

While working in a remote village here are some of the hats I have had to wear:

### In the community:

- Teacher (Adults, children, Sunday school, etc)
- Teacher trainer
- School developer
- First Aid officer
- Nurse
- Ambulance Driver
- Bible Study Leader
- Ladies fellowship teacher
- Airstrip Engineer/maintenance

### In my own home:

- Vet
- Plumber
- Mechanic
- Solar Power technician
- Gardener
- Event Co-ordinator

