DISASTER RESPONSE Victims of Volcanic Eruption Receive Aid and Support from AE & TearFund UK Story on Page 7

**APR-JUN** 



**Rev. Dr. Steve Mbogo** International Team Leader

## **Ministry Through the Pandemic**

Dear Partners & Friends of African Enterprise, Greetings in the name of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ!

#### **AE's Integral Mission**

The ongoing pandemic has in so many ways brought certain realities into sharp focus and continues to present an opportunity for us to reexamine and innovative upon our basic mission approach.

Leveraging on technology has become of essence. This is evident on most of the planning meetings among staff and with church leaders being conducted online as opposed to the traditional face to face format. In the last quarter, one of the highlights was the Easter television broadcast program. With the help of my home crew consisting of my daughter and her friends I did a recording of a video entitled "The Great Exchange." In partnership with the Pulse (USA) Ministry,

this video was broadcast across many of the African nations. Largely due to that broadcast, by end of the first quarter we reached with the Gospel about 1,279,278 people with 2,423 making salvation commitments. It is interesting to note that the number of people reached by first quarter is roughly the number we would reach (before Covid) by the end of the year. Those coming to Christ is not as high as would be reached through our vast Stratified evangelism approach. We therefore long for the day when we can blend technology with our foot soldier approach – out where the people are which is percentage wise much more effective in leading many more to Christ.

Many lives have also continued to be touched and transformed through our social action programs across the countries that we serve. Teams have providing Covid food hampers and with basic healthcare programs (masks distribution and Covid protocols training bringing hope in these dire times of economy. In this **AfriCan** issue you will read testimonies from those reached with the word and in deed in this last quarter.

#### **Call for Prayer**

Too often we turn to prayer as a last resort in times of need as opposed to the Lord's charge for us to pray insistently. One of our recent prayer highlights was when we gathered on May 17th online from across the partnership for a Partnership joint time of prayer. Michael Cassidy our founder whom we rarely get to interact with was among those that admonished us and led in prayer. Our International Chairman Dr John Senyonyi was also present. It is my believe that you do continue to pray with us from the various locations around the globe. The Covid stats according to WHO point at over 167,000 confirmed cases of Covid-19, including 3,482907 deaths (WHO report, 26th May 2021). We are not as yet out of the Covid winter! Let's press on diligently in prayer.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us continue looking up to the Lord to make a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland (Isaiah 43:19). And let us press on in prayer and in sharing the good news, for God has promised to be with us always, to the very end of the age.

Psalm 24:8 - "Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle." (NIV). Praise His Holy name!



# Stratified Evangelism & Discipleship



## From Islam to Christ



I have had great joy and peace ever since I received Jesus in her heart.

#### The Story of Farida

arida, from a muslim background, is one of the people that received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior during last year Mission "Rubavu Mission for Jesus!".

This amazing change happened after she had listened to a radio message that the AE Team preached on how blind Bartimaeus in the Gospel of Mark 10:46–52, heard Jesus passing by, and he cried out to him for healing.

The speaker told the listeners that Jesus never ignores those that truly call on him. Bartimaeus ignored all discouraging voices and kept calling on Jesus until he was delivered from blindness. Jesus saves and heals!

At the end of the message, he prayed with people to receive Jesus in their hearts, but also gave a contact number, for people who wanted to get in touch with hin for special prayer. Farida was one of the first people to call, and said she wanted prayer to receive Jesus, despite her Islam background. The preacher prayed with her and she professed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of her life.

He kept in touch with her, and she later said that she has great joy and peace ever since She received Jesus in her heart. She also stelithly goes to pray with Christians, hiding from her moslem husband. Farida gave 2 requests: to pray for her husband to receive Jesus, and for them to get a child, as they have been married for three years now.

It is amazing how the Spirit of the Lord has continued to work in peoples' lives. Even when we are not present physically to preach, due to the Covid-19 challenges, the God who rules over times, is saving people using radio messages. Glory to His Name!





Stratified Evangelism & Discipleship

Through the training, as foundational as it is, I got grounded in the Christian faith.



#### **Transformative Discipleship Programs**

frican Enterprise Ethiopia has been running discipleship programs for the youth that have led to transformative impact. Here, we feature two young men who went through the programs and are now serving God actively in different capacities in the church.

"I can boldly say that I got anchored in the Christian faith because of the discipleship program. I was trained on how to study the Bible and leading Christian youth groups. I graduated from a university in social science and joined my church for ministry. Now I am the youth coordinator in my church. And this is because of the invaluable wealth of knowledge, and motivation I received from the program." - Bereket Habtamu

Bereket, a member of Nazereth Meserete Kristos Church, attended 3 rounds of the AEE led discipleship program and took a two-week residential leadership seminar. Impacted by the discipleship training, he has joined his church to

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work as a youth coordinator.

Sisayneh Fente is currently an evangelist at Bahir Dar Semen Meseret Kristos Church where he coordinates the youth. Some 8 years back, he was trained in the 2 rounds of the AEE run discipleship program while he was in Durbetie City, about 60 km west of Bahir Dar.

"I joined the training at a time when I was struggling to understand the basic tenets of faith and also have answers to the questions I was facing on Christian teachings especially about God. My questions were answered and I benefitted even more from the program. The training has shaped my way of thinking about youth ministry and through it, as foundational as it is, I got grounded in the Christian faith. I believe that the program has greatly equipped the church in Ethiopia. I will be able to say that I was moved by this program to join full-time ministry in a local church, and also become a youth minister." – Sisayneh Fente

Youth Empowerment

#### He saved Me, I will preach Him

B efore I was converted, I led a reckless life. I abused drugs and alcohol. I had no regards for spirituality and did not see the need for it because I was not struggling in any way. It was only when I critically fell ill that I started to seek help.

We visited several hospitals but all the doctors failed to diagnose my condition. My mother and I became so desperate and ended up visiting a witch doctor who offered us traditional medicine. In the bus on our way back home, we met a man who inquired from my mother concerning my condition and ended up offering Christ as a solution to my problems. That was the day I dedicated my life to Christ and my life was transformed since then - Prince Tsitsi

Prince is part of the 2021 Foxfire cohort and he expressed that he is excited to evangelize through the program because it is a platform that will enable him to reach out to many who are struggling with the same issues that he struggled with. He believes that by God's grace, many will come to Christ as he shares the gospel.

The 2021 recruits umderwent evangelism and discipleship training in preparation for intense evangelistic activities in Lilongwe, Malawi.



#### **Bridging the Rift Between Church Leaders**

AE Uganda hosted leaders from Pentecostal Churches and the Anglican Church last month in a forum to cover an existing rift. For the first time in a long while, the leaders from different denominations sat together to agree on how to foster unity in the body of Christ. Both the Anglican Clergy and Pentecostal pastors welcomed the idea of working together to have Jesus preached across Uganda.



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Youth Empowerment



Foxfires ministering through art in an earlier mission [File Photo]

#### **Interdenominational Youth Ministry in Tanzania**

hurches in Tanzania are now constantly engaging in active ministry to the youth following the formation of Youth Interdenominational Committee by AEE Tanzania, a team that brings together youth leaders from different denominations.

As a member of the committee, Agnes Kituta (right) has seen transformation in her church as there has been active engagement of the youth following established youth programs. Agnes is a Youth Leader in the Salvation Army.



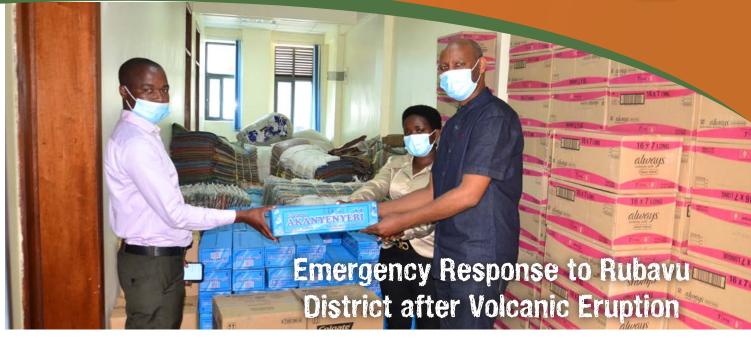


On another end, Vailet Monyo (left), a leader from the Lutheran Church acknowledges the need for youth leaders to come together and share thoughts on how to conduct effective ministry.

AEE Tanzania organized a seminar for youth leaders where they learnt different subjects that relate to youth ministry and also had a chance to exchange ideas on possible programs that the churches can run to minister effectively and engage the youth

## Community Transformation





Nyiragongo in Goma Democratic Republic of Congo, thousands of people were evacuated to different parts of Congo as per North Kivu authority and others were able to cross the border to Rwanda.

According to Rubavu District authorities, more than 16,000 people crossed the border to Rwanda though many of them returned home as of now.

Due to earthquake, lot of houses in Rubavu District were destroyed including AEE officess in Rubavu. After the eruption, many people fled to Musanze, Kigali and many were displaced in different refugees' settlements sites.

It is in this regard that AEE in partnership with Tearfund UK, intervened with emergency response to different refugees in collaboration with Rubavu District.

Following TF motto "Following Jesus where the need is greatest" and considering AEE mission "Evangelizing in Word and Deed", the response came to the right time. Pacifique Ishimwe, Vice Mayor in charge of Social Affairs said, "we thank AEE for its rapid intervention". Our people were in need of many items like latrines, food, hygienic stuffs to mention few she added.

As a matter of urgency, AEE with its partner

TEARFUND were able to respond to people's needs by providing Mobile toilets, Blankets, Sanitary pads, Soap, Body lotion, Mats and Colgate.

All the donations were handed over to Districts leaders to be distributed to both displaced people from Goma and Rubavu (Gisenyi).

It was estimated that more than 6,200 peoples will benefit from this emergency response.

Rubavu District were very happy and appreciated the donation that came to the opportune time. They promised to continue our good collaboration. An expert in Mobile toilet use said that one Mobile toilet can easily be used by 30 people per day. The Vice Mayor said, toilets were extremely needed. With 14 Mobile toilets, 420 people can access clean toilet per day.





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Stratified Evangelism



A family watching the Good Friday Broadcast in Ghana

#### **Good Friday Global Broadcast**

n response to the Great Commission, African Enterprise partnered with the Pulse Movement and others to broadcast the Good News about Jesus Christ to millions around the world through television (across Africa and the United Kingdom), Facebook and YouTube in a Good Friday online global evangelistic outreach.

The AE International Team Leader Dr. Stephen Mbogo delivered the first Good Friday message of the broadcast. His message, entitled "The Great Exchange", was based on Luke 23:13-25, Jesus vis-à-vis Barabbas.

"Jesus is The Great Exchange. He bore all our sins on the cross that in Him we may become the righteousness of God; He conquered death that we may receive the gift of eternal life; He became the scourge of men to cover our guilt and shame."

Viewers were provided on-screen with a telephone number for a call-centre and WhatsApp number to which they could text "Good News" should they wish to engage further. AE staff from our teams across Africa and other volunteers made themselves available to man the chat lines over the Easter weekend for conversation and prayer with those who responded to the broadcast by giving their life to Jesus or just needed prayer and guidance.

AE South Africa, for instance, had a team of fifty (50) responders available.

The Good Friday message was translated into 39 languages and broadcast in 186 countries and 24 territories as tens of thousands of churches and hundreds of missions agencies mobilized together to share the Good News. TBN Africa, Faith TV, Zee TV and GOD TV aired the programme in South Africa and across those African countries in partnership with their broadcasting network.

The number of responses in South Africa were in excess of 1.3 million.



Stratified Evangelism



#### **Reaching millions through broadcast**

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In Ghana, the Good Friday message was broadcasted in 3 TV stations namely Praise TV, TV3 and Joy Prime TV. Through the broadcast, 2.7 million, 440,000 and 48,900 people were reached through the 3 stations respectively. Ghana reported 15 people committed to follow Jesus after watching through one of the stations.

In Kenya, the broadcast was run on Nation Television (NTV) through which approximately 1,650,000 people were reached.

Jesus is being lifted high through the global body of Christ – the Church and we praise Him for this wonderful and exciting opportunity to continue sharing the Good News amidst all challenges of evangelism, especially the COVID pandemic.



**Overcoming Cultural Barriers with Faith** mmanuel Muila was a victim of the bloody killing militia known as Kawena Nsapu. He is from one of a trauma healing community in the Kasai area where many young people were victims of the militia. His wife Alphonsine had to flee with their 5 months old baby and sought refuge at her parents'. At the time, Emmanuel was at the Bible Institute at Kalonda.

Alphonsine could not take her baby to the hospital during those days, and Emmanuel's parents accused her for not being responsible



International Team Leader during the Broadcast

enough because she should not have sought refuge at her parents. According to the cultural practices, she should have gone to her in-laws. Failing to do so would mean she could not bear any more children unless they obeyed some practices.

Since they were not in agreement with this requirement, they had a couple of miscarriages to the point that they both were traumatized and ready for a divorce. But, when we had a trauma healing training session, they both participated and committed to seek God and pray rather than getting into the occult initiative.

God has honored their faith and gave them a beautiful girl (right). Emmanuel witnesses saying: "God has used my tough journey to witness his unconditional love and power to bless others." After his graduation, he went back to his village named Lunieka in Kasai where he has become a youth Pastor. He uses his testimony to draw many young people to Christ.



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ABOVE: Distribution of food parcels to poor families in Kotebe Area, Ethiopia. BELOW: Evangelistic outreach in Dzaleka, Malawi

