

# EMPOWERED CHURCH, TRANSFORMED COMMUNITIES

 **AFRICAN  
ENTERPRISE**

*The African*

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## AE Ghana partners with the sports ministry to spread the gospel!

The nation of Ghana hosted the 13th African Games in Accra from 8th March to 23rd March 2024. The mega sporting event brought together athletes and sports enthusiasts from across the continent to compete in various disciplines and showcase their skills.

The Ghana Sports Ministry, in collaboration with some selected Churches and Parachurch organizations, saw the event as an opportunity to share the gospel with the participants and the local community. To this end, an outreach program called '**Much More Than Gold**' was launched, which aimed to reach out to people with the message of hope and salvation and African Enterprise Ghana was tasked with leading the street evangelism campaign.

The AE Ghana Team Leader, Rev. Bernard Owusu Sachie trained about 500 volunteers, both in-person and virtually, on street evangelism and follow-up, equipping them with the necessary tools and skills to share the gospel effectively. The outreach program was a great success, with about 15,000 people reached with the gospel message during the two-week event.



The volunteers engaged with people from all walks of life, including athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators, spreading the message of hope and salvation. As a direct result of the outreach program, 915 people made either a first-time commitment or rededication of their lives to God. The Ghana Sports Ministry has since expressed interest in collaborating with African Enterprise Ghana on future evangelism initiatives, recognizing the impact of the 'Much More Than Gold' outreach program.



## Geared up for Tema City-wide Mission

AE Ghana's city-wide mission this year will be to the coastal city of Tema which is located some 25 kilometers from the capital, Accra. In preparation for the mission, AE Ghana held engagements with church leaders in Tema to make ready and gear up the various teams and churches that shall be participating in the upcoming city-wide Mission.

"We have so far been able to put together some important working teams including Prayer, Media, Stratified evangelism, and discipleship, to mention but a few. The denominational heads meeting was held on the 25 June 2024. This was to bring together some of the key Church Fathers so that they could buy into the proposed mission. At the denominational heads meeting, we requested that they serve on the advisory committee of the mission. They also agreed to encourage other colleagues to join the committees. The vice chairperson of African Enterprise Ghana in the person of Mrs. Afia Darkwa-Amanor was in attendance to grace the meeting." AE Ghana Team Leader, Rev. Benard Sachie reported.

Apostle Jude Hama, the former country Director for Scripture Union, Ghana and the first Board Chairman of AE Ghana, encouraged the Church leaders to buy into the Tema Mission. Apostle Jude emphasized on the three major challenges that confront the church in Tema, listing them as follows;

1. Spiritual challenge because it is a harbour city, and it has people from different parts of the globe infiltrating their religion.
2. Economic challenge. Everybody is on the move in Tema looking for economic empowerment
3. Moral issues, the city is flooded with prostitution and other forms of immorality.

Apostle Juma stressed that AE Ghana was coming to Tema to partner with the Church so that in unity, positive change could be realized in the city.



Denominational Leaders of Tema in a meeting



Apostle Juma addressing denominational leaders in Tema





## Bakery Project in Ghana

AE Ghana has been running a bakery project as one of the social action programs the office operates to equip and impact the community. However, the bakery project in Ghana faced logistical challenges last year and was resultantly postponed to 2024, but this did not stop it from making a significant impact. The program provided five ladies with valuable training in the production of liquid soap, other detergents, bakery, and local drinks production.

AE Australia provided the funds for the cost of the training including provision of food and transport allowance for the ladies daily. Each lady was provided a gas oven, cylinder, gas regulator, cake mixer, kitchen scale, and seed money as start-up capital to enable them to start their small businesses.

While eagerly anticipating their graduation, some of the ladies took the initiative to start producing liquid soap for sale in their communities. Janet, one of the graduates, proudly presented her handmade products at the AE Office and her face lit up with a smile as she expressed her deep gratitude to AE Australia for helping her improve her economic situation through the skills and opportunities provided.

During the memorable graduation ceremony, the atmosphere was filled with joy and gratitude as the ladies expressed their heartfelt thanks to AE for positively transforming their lives. They sang songs of praise to God, acknowledging the impact of AE's support. Lorrina took the opportunity to extend her sincere appreciation to the generous AE donors, recognizing their pivotal role in enabling the ladies to acquire valuable vocational skills that would shape their futures. It was a touching moment when Lorrina, representing her colleagues, graciously accepted the items from the esteemed Board Chairman, Apostle Samuel Osei Asante, symbolizing the tangible support they had received.

Lorrina, one of the beneficiaries, could not contain her excitement and gratitude. With the skills and knowledge acquired from the program, Lorrina is now capable of supporting her family and helping other women in her community.

Her story gives us hope that the program is making a real difference in the lives of women in the community. The success of the program is evident in the fact that some of the beneficiaries have already started earning an income from their products.

This is a testament to the effectiveness of the program and its potential to transform the lives of women in the community.



We believe that empowering women is crucial to the development of any community. This program speaks volumes about our commitment to creating opportunities for women to learn, grow, and thrive. We are proud of the progress made by the beneficiaries and look forward to seeing their businesses grow and thrive in the future.



AE Ghana Bakery Project Graduates

A starter pack gift for the graduates

Lorrina receives items from Apostle Asante



## In it to win it - Malawi's Community Transformation Groups

A group of 20 villagers from Mwadenje village at Mchezi, Lilongwe embarked on the journey to change their lives for the better. After a successful Community Transformation Group training, the villagers who formed a group by the name of Tikondane Club are on the ground, making sure they put their acquired skills to good use. Tikondane Club started irrigation farming, and they are now one of the leading suppliers of mustard vegetables in their area.

After having their first training, the club decided to raise funds by having each member contribute some amount of money. These funds were channelled to renting an arable piece of land that has since been used for vegetable farming. The club has been selling these vegetables to the villagers and those outside their area at a good and affordable price that is also profitable to them.

Tikondane Club has used some of the profits to buy fertilizer and pesticides for their next vegetable planting and also to rent another piece of land for maize farming. They have chosen tomatoes as the next type of vegetables they should plant. So far, the club has a vision of starting a community nursery school. This school will help little children access education easily since there is no nursery school in the area. Tikondane Club also wants to help other villagers establish their own clubs so that their area can develop.

Their main goal is to eradicate poverty and hunger in their community. Each member of the village should equally benefit from the club by accessing the products of the club. Tikondane Club wants to help people from the neighbouring villages establish their own clubs.

Chipililo Zambia, the chairman of the club has thanked African enterprise Malawi for their efforts made to train and equip them with knowledge. He has acknowledged the great amount of resources that are readily available within their (the group's) surroundings, and he is willing to go the extra mile in exploring the other possible ways of making the lives of the members of the group, and the people in the community, better.



One of the farms belonging to the Tikondane Club

## How a culture of saving is transforming the community of Ching'ombe

Anne Kwenda, a mother and a wife from the suburbs of Lilongwe appreciates the introduction of community transformation groups in her area, Ching'ombe. Leading her group known as "Tithandizane Club", they have so far been able to start a program that focuses on contributing money and saving it for a specific purpose as per the group's desire.

In the beginning, she relied on a small business of selling juice packed in small plastic bags locally known as "flizesi" to the locals which yielded little to no return in her business. But with the introduction of CTGs she has now learned how to save money and re-invest the money into profitable activities that will benefit her family and community at large. She wants the fruits of her group to help the elderly people, the orphans, the community primary school and other vulnerable groups of people in her community.

The CTG training has helped sharpen her mind and given her the necessary tools to tackle different challenges she has been facing in her community. Mrs Kwenda seeks more CTG training to help them advance in the modern world. She acknowledges that the challenges they face may not come to an end but at least with the training they are attaining, they will be able to solve most of them.

Anne Kwenda appreciated the efforts made by African Enterprise Malawi to make the CTG training available in her community and hopes that their group will be monitored every now and then so that they should always be on course of their collective mission.

For Anne and many others in the Community Transformation Groups, the lessons and principles learned from the trainings are life-changing.



Anne Kwenda





## “Do we have the same urgency for follow-up and preservation?”

The Easter period was a busy time for AE Malawi as they ran the Jesus. All About Life campaign. The ‘Jesus. All About Life’ campaign, which aims to provide practical Bible resources to equip and empower churches to bring Easter’s life-giving message to their local community, is usually ran every Easter season in partnership with the Bible Society. As part of the mission steps of African Enterprise’s stratified evangelism approach, AE Malawi trained on preservation (follow-up) of those who gave their lives during the campaign.

Elder Seleman, the clerk of board/ secretary at the Presbyterian Church of Malawi, and the entire congregation underwent the preservation training on the 16th of June, 2023. The training was a warmly welcomed development by the entire leadership of the church.

The church made efforts to evangelize different areas through Gospel crusades in the city and beyond. They spent most of their investment in preparing and proclaiming the gospel while putting less effort in the preservation stage. This made the impact of the Gospel crusades give out little results than expected. Now, after going through the training, the church has been reminded about one of the most important part of evangelism. Preserving these new converts will help them grow in the faith and mature in spirit.

The Presbyterian Church of Malawi is excited because they will also benefit in a way that the church will grow in number. Now, after the training every member was given a task to assess themselves and see how they are planning to advance their approach to evangelizing their communities.

Elder Seleman later appealed to all Christians to remember our duty as Christians. “Reach out to people of different strata and share the love that we have experienced in Christ”, he said.

“Do we have the same urgency for follow-up and preservation?”, asked Pastor Constantine Kanise. Pastor Constantine Kanise is the leader of Grace for all ministries, a fellowship that is always running up and down through the city of Lilongwe with the Gospel.

Pastor Constantine assessed the evangelistic efforts of her fellowship as great considering how much work they do every week. As a ministry they make sure that they reach out to communities with the gospel regularly. This exercise has been met with challenges, of course, with planning being one of the key difficulties. Grace for all ministries has most of the time struggled with implementing the preservation phase during their outreaches. This made the ministry to be unsure about how much impact they brought to the communities after their outreaches.

The ministry knew about the importance of preserving new converts, but they found it difficult to do so. After the post-proclamation preservation training, the leadership of the ministry said that they would have the same urgency to preserve the new converts as they had during the proclamation phase. They will make sure that new disciples grow in faith under their watch so that they do not go back to their sinful ways. From now on, “We will plan better than before”, said Pastor Constantine.



Pastor Constantine



“Reach out to people of different strata and share the love that we have experienced in Christ,” Elder Seleman.



Jesus. All About Life







**Making sure that everyone hears the gospel message of Christ, regardless of age, class, sex or status**





## HIV, Prison, and finally Freedom in Christ - Christine's story!

Soweto Kayole Clinic ran, by AEE Kenya, has served the people of Kayole since 1991, providing 33 years of service to the community. A community that has grown to love and appreciate the essential services offered within the clinic, services that they can afford. One of the key ministries the clinic offers is the HIV-positive support groups. These were started to provide a safe space for those affected in one way or another. A space where stigma can be destigmatized, hard questions can be answered, fears shared, and stories told without fear of condemnation.

As of this year, the clinic handles 872 HIV-positive patients a month. All these men, women, and children have different dates for their support groups. They are divided into groups based on the year they were infected. Many of them have been attending for over a decade and find strength and comfort within their respective groups. One of the ladies graciously agreed to tell her story:

"My name is Christine Mbone, born and raised in Vihiga County. I am 38 years old and a mother of three children. I am HIV Positive. It took me years to come to terms with the fact that I am HIV Positive.

It all started with marriage many years ago. I met a man and fell in love with him. We were married for 11 years. For most of the marriage, he did not disclose to me his HIV status. A couple of years into the marriage, I felt really sick, upon visiting the hospital, the tests done revealed my status. I was crestfallen. When I told my husband, he refused to get tested as well. He was in denial. Unfortunately, he passed away in 2016.

Around that time, things started getting really tough. His family shunned me and treated me with resentment and bitterness. They chased me and my children from my home, and they grabbed the land my husband left me. My children did not understand why all this was happening. It was during this season that I relocated to Nairobi. Kayole to be exact. Life was not easy; I rented a small shack that was meant to be a shop. That is where my children and I would sleep at night. We lacked food and water to drink. I tried getting a job selling 'Omena' (Silver cyprinid). But that was not really paying as some days the boss would pay us with the same Omena at the end of the day. That is when I got into the business of selling my body in the streets of Nairobi. I knew about my status, and it bothered me because I knew I would end up infecting others, but the desire to feed my children was greater than that fear. Two years into that, I was arrested along with some other women, and remanded to Langata Women's Prison. I was there for two years. It was in prison that I received Christ.

When I was released, I came back determined to do better. Keep in mind, in all these, my children were not aware of my status. I used to hide my drugs whenever I was home. Even the visits to the hospital were hidden from them. When I joined the support group, I shared my fears with my friends, and one of them gave me an idea. So, I disclosed my story and status to my closest friend. She was shocked, but came to terms with the news and vowed to walk with me. It was through that interaction that I asked her to help me break the news to my children. She sought out my eldest child and broke the news to her on my behalf. She did not take it well at first out of fear that I might have infected them, but when they were tested and the results came back negative, that is when they now started rebuilding a relationship with me, being fully aware of my status and struggles.

It is also through the community that I have built up the courage and strength to face life anew. I also helped build a local church in my community. It has been a journey of ups and downs, but within the groups, we help each other through our problems. I play an active role in walking with those who have been recently affected and are struggling with how to pick up the pieces. Our facilitators are also very patient with us, and strict when it comes to monitoring how we take our ARVs. They also monitor our viral loads which is essential to our quality of life. Through the support groups, we also visit the homes of those who are positive and unable to support themselves, and help bring them food, help them with their house chores, and just counsel them.

The journey has been tough. But I am grateful to God and the staff here at the clinic for the efforts they put in to ensure that we live a better quality of life."



“ ———  
*It was in prison that I received Christ*  
————— ”





## Arise and Shine, Amalo Rieny!

After a long period of planning, meetings, and mobilization, it all finally brought us to the start of the Kisumu City Wide Mission with the theme 'A malo Rieny,' which is Luo for Arise and Shine drawn from Isaiah 60:1-3. The local churches and evangelists were looking forward to the shining of the glory of God over and in the city of Kisumu.

Despite the political temperatures in Kenya being at an all-time high due to the demonstrations at the time over various issues affecting citizens across the country, our evangelists were rearing to go, excited at the prospect of harvesting souls for the Kingdom of God.

AEE Kenya's mission to the city of Kisumu was the second on the AE calendar, coming just a month after AEE Rwanda did their Students Mission to the city of Kigali.

The Kisumu City-wide mission yielded a total reach of **62,754** people and a harvest of **11,228** souls. Through the use of stratified evangelism, an outreach strategy where the gospel message is taken to everyone, everywhere, regardless of social or economic class, the gospel of Jesus was shared throughout the lakeside city of Kisumu from the streets kids to the city leaders.

Here is a look at some of the activities that took place during the mission:

### SERVE THE CITY

Moi Stadium, a five-minute drive from the heart of Kisumu city, sits next to a former dump site that served the city and its environs. About a decade ago, the city decided to relocate the dump site elsewhere, and over the years, the land lay desolate. However, shortly before the AEE Kenya mission, the county government of Kisumu decided to rehabilitate it into an arboretum. This was the earmarked activity for Serve the City, a ministry and global movement of volunteers showing kindness in personal and actionable ways to people in need, this time, through a city clean up!



### KIBOS PRISON MINISTRY



G.K Kibos Maximum Security prison houses 855 inmates, with 322 wardens watching over them and helping rehabilitate them as well. The inmates housed within are those sentenced to more than 20 years and those on life sentences as well. Most of them do not come there straight from court, but rather are brought in from smaller or medium prisons.

AEE Kenya visited the prison and shared the gospel with the inmates during the Kisumu Mission.

### SPORTS EVANGELISM



Sports is one of the most effective ways to get young people together. In Kenya, almost every town has a patch of grass or even bare ground that is used for playing sports, the most common one being football. AEE Kenya arranged a football tournament that brought together hundreds of young people as they came to either play, watch or cheer on others. After the games, many gave their lives to Christ as the gospel was shared before the awarding of trophies took place.

### STREET EVANGELISM





## Thousands of Students reached in Kigali with the Gospel

In May 2024, African Evangelistic Enterprise Rwanda, in partnership with AEE Kenya Foxfires, and One Hope Ministries, ran the Kigali Students Mission, whose aim was to inspire the students in Kigali to put their hope and trust in Jesus by surrendering their lives to Him. The theme of the mission was “Redefine your future in Jesus” with the scriptural focus found in Ecclesiastes 11:9-10. The mission ran from the 20th to the 26th of May, and over **30,000** students were reached, and over **5,383** decided to follow Christ.

The mission covered 3 districts of Kigali (Kicukiro, Nyarugenge and Gasobo). Out of 40 schools targeted, 33 of them were successful mission sites, with no part left out. Their students were reached by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The mission was conducted by 66 missionaries (20 local and 46 international missionaries). The internationals comprised Foxfires Kenya team, One Hope Team of Kenya, and Tanzania. AEE Rwanda decided to reach only High school students in Kigali with a target of 35,000 students, after having focused on Universities during the Easter season through the Jesus. All About Life campaign.



## Student Testimonies

“Claudine is my name, a student in Senior 2. The message shared through this evangelism outreach was very helpful for me; I have to express that I was not a prayerful girl nor was I saved.

Thanks to the message shared, I have decided to get saved and turn from all my evil ways following the message concerning the total surrender of my life to Jesus. I look forward to a better and transformed life as a result of receiving Jesus Christ in my life.”



“I am Delphine a student in senior six History-Economy and Geography at GS Camp Kanombe. I had a difficult background.

Brought up in a family with conflicts among my parents that led to separation, I always felt the need to live a changed life but could not. On different occasions, I tried to commit my life to Jesus but ended up failing. It is after attending the current evangelism outreach today at School that I was convicted to make a purposeful decision for a total surrender of my life to Jesus with the aim of bearing a new perspective for my future. Now I can confidently and faithfully express my new endeavor to walk with Jesus Christ throughout my future life. I am thankful to God, who has touched my life through this evangelism outreach. Beyond that, I need people who are mature to help me grow in Christ.”







## God is using AEE to save sinners like me!

"I was a prostitute and a drunkard to the extent that spending a night without a man felt like a punishment to me. One man was not enough for me. My children were starving because the money was spent on alcohol. When I spent a few days without having an affair with a man and drinking too much alcohol, those days meant losing sleep because I was thinking about where I would find a man to sleep with," a reflective Chantal testified.

Chantal, 37, is a single mother with three children living in Bugesera District. In 2023, she decided to accept Jesus as her King and Savior. This decision came during a special mission organized by AEE Bugesera branch that took place in the Musenyi sector. Chantal spent time listening to the word of God, and when the preacher called for those who wanted to receive Jesus in their lives, she boldly took the first step, went to the front, repented of her sins, and accepted Jesus Christ.

"After receiving Jesus Christ, my life changed. I stopped drinking alcohol and having affairs with men. I now have peace, not because of men or alcohol, but because of Christ. My children get food and school fees because I no longer spend lots of money on alcohol. Instead, I save for buying food and school materials for my children."

Upon becoming born again, Chantal was then connected with local churches to choose where she could attend services and grow in the Holy Spirit. Staff from the AEE visited Chantal to encourage her to attend church services and check if she had been baptized. During their visit, Chantal shared her testimony of her journey to Jesus, the challenges she faced, and how she is coping.

"Even though I have changed, the devil kept attacking me through the men I used to have affairs with. But because I learned to pray, I prayed for strength and protection from God, and now they have stopped requesting affairs with me. I pray for others who were like me before receiving Jesus Christ because not having Jesus in your life is a big loss. Many thanks to the AEE because God is using them to save sinners like me!."



“  
I no longer spend lots of money on alcohol. Instead, I save for buying food and school materials for my children  
”



## South Africa's School of Evangelism

Evangelism is the key focus for African Enterprise. The African Enterprise School of Evangelism has been designed to identify emerging evangelists and activate them in their calling as the key to reaching a lost and broken world. Evangelists have a vital role in serving, equipping and mobilizing the local church that they are a part of.

Just imagine visiting churches and noticing there were no Pastors in any congregations. There would instantly be the awareness that those churches would lack the vital grace God intended to give them through that gift. In the South African context, this scenario is true where Evangelists are concerned. They are virtually missing from the day-to-day life of the church. Restoring the gift of the Evangelist to the life of the local church should be a top priority for every leader who wants to have a missional congregation that impacts their community with the gospel – this is our goal and mission that drives the AE School of Evangelism

As part of our preparation for the Johannesburg Mission that is taking place from 5-15 September, The African Enterprise team ran the School of Evangelism with 17 participants from various churches from around Johannesburg and the Vaal Region at The Lifehouse Church in Fourways, Johannesburg serving as the host venue. Mornings were spent covering four key themes:

1. City Mission
2. The Evangelist Heart & Message
3. Local Church
4. Gospel Theology

AE South Africa runs the School of Evangelism alongside the African Enterprise International Institute of Evangelism training program known as 40 on 4, where 40 key church leaders and evangelists are equipped with critical evangelism skills for effectively sharing the gospel.

### Testimony from a Participant

#### Chase Da Costa

"The African Enterprise School of Evangelism course was one of the most eye-opening experiences for me. Originally, I was not too keen on it when offered the opportunity, however, when I made the final decision to partake in the course, I did not regret a moment of it! The knowledge I learned and consumed, along with the amazing people I met, was just amazing. We had the privilege of meeting the founder of African Enterprise and their current leaders, as well as many other people who have a huge impact not just in South Africa alone, but globally!

Overall, it was a fantastic course; my knowledge grew exponentially, and the team of people whom I had the privilege of learning and working alongside were amazing! Lifelong connections were made.



AE SA School of Evangelism participants pose for a picture with Team Leader Teuns Pauw





## The power to change your life is in your hands.

The Ngezandla Zethu Sewing Project in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, was established in 2018 and exists to equip every member of the community, irrespective of age, gender, and race with skills that will empower each one spiritually, physically, emotionally, and mentally. This project provides care and guidance to vulnerable children, young people, adults, and the aged.

“The 2024 class is doing amazing work, the progress I am seeing looking at how they were in January when they came is huge. I have been noticing that even those who are fast learners are very quick to help others without even being asked to, the spirit of oneness in the class is amazing.

Our daily program includes prayer, measurements of garments, cutting of fabric, sewing, drawing and designing garments, working on different types of machines, and hand sewing.

All of these are easy when you speak about them but actually very difficult when it’s time for your hands to work.” Ntombifuthi Dladla (program Administrator and Facilitator).

Ntozakhe Mkhize, one of the participants in the project, commented on the handwork saying, “It is now the end of the first term, and indeed our hands have been working hard between measuring garments, cutting fabric and using the machines which to some of us is very new and exciting. I have never handled a sewing machine before, and I have never even thought I would, but when my neighbor who has done the course before suggested to me that I join this year’s class, it sounded very interesting. When she showed me her work and told me she learnt all that at Ngezandla Zethu I had to join and do the course myself. I am now very confident; I have learned so much and I am already saving up to buy myself the machine so that I can practice when I get home. Come graduation, you will see my collection!”



## The African Church and its Global Significance

Africa is the cradle of humanity. Not only is Africa the second largest continent, but it is also the second most populous continent globally. With almost 1.5 billion people living in Africa, it represents 17.89% of the global population.[1] The potential of Africa has never been in doubt. Being the home to the earliest civilization and having bountiful resources, Africa stands privileged and blessed.

Christianity in Africa dates back two millennia. The early Christian movement spread from Jerusalem to every direction, taking on local cultural expressions throughout the ancient world, starting barely 10 days after Jesus' ascension. In fact, Egypt was home to many of the earliest Biblical manuscripts and had an organized ecclesiastical hierarchy no later than the late second century. Equally, Ethiopia was a predominantly Christian nation in the fourth century.[2] By God's design, Africa has participated in shaping Christianity through the ages in significant ways.

A significant shift has occurred globally concerning the growth of Christianity. For the first time in history, Africa has recorded more Christians than any other continent in the world, with over 667 million Christians. [3] Equally, evangelicalism is experiencing spectacular growth on the African continent. This is baffling given that in the early 1900s, Africa was considered a dark continent and a burial ground for missionaries. The Church in Africa has significantly offered authentic expressions of itself that have impacted the global church. Through the use of creative arts, such as song and dance, the gospel African songs resound across the world. In addition, the African Church has grown in actively sending local and global missionaries to work among unevangelised people groups. The number of missionaries being sent from countries in the Global South is rising, with 203,000 (47 percent of the total) in 2021, up from 31,000 (12 percent of the total) in 1970.[4]

The rise of African congregations globally is a key contribution to the global church. By 2025, there will be 55,000 denominations globally, signifying an 11,000 growth within a decade, coming out of Africa and the rest of the majority world.[5] Realizing the internal trend concerning Christianity in Africa, we can anticipate the specific spiritual impact that Africa will have on the world.

## The African Church's Context and Challenges

The Church has a moral force in society that is unequal to any other institution. A renowned African author once said that since Christianity is not a religion but a way of life, the Church cannot limit its involvement to preaching, praying, and singing hymns if it is to fulfill its mission on this side of the Great Divide.[6] While we are all children of God and must treat each other as such, the Christian delineation of children of God by common grace and children of grace by saving grace provides a strong dynamic for Christian engagement. [7] Therefore, the church has to be involved socially and politically and has a duty to be involved in managing human affairs as part of Christ's proclaimed mission.

The landscape of Africa is rapidly changing as it continues to have the fastest urban growth in the world. The last three decades have seen a doubling of the number of African cities from 3300 to 7600 and an increased cumulative population growth of 500 million people. Additionally, the projected population growth in African cities by 2050 is a further 900 million, welcoming two-thirds of Africa's population.[8] This urban growth has the side effect of slums. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 62% of its urban population resides in slums compared with 35% in Southern Asia and 24% in Latin America.[9] Given its vast presence, the Sub-Saharan church must be part of the solution to this challenge. Addressing this prepares it to be more significant and authentic in its entry into the global stage.

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[1] <https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/africa-population/>

[2] Perbi, Y. & Ngugi, S. (2022). *Africa to the rest*. Xulon Press.

[3] <https://www.worldchristianitydatabase.org/>

[4] Zurlo, G. A., Johnson, T. M., & Crossing, P. F. (2021). World Christianity and Mission 2021: Questions about the Future. *International Bulletin of Mission Research*, 45(1), 15-25.

[5] Perbi, Y. & Ngugi, S. (2022). *Africa to the rest*. Xulon Press.

[6] Gana, A. "The African Political Crisis and the Church in Africa". (1997). *Vision for a bright Africa* edited by George Kinoti & Peter Kimuyu. IFES.

[7] Obasanjo, Olusegun. "Africa Arise." 25 Jul. 2006. *Religion & Government in Africa: A Christian Response*, edited by Delanyo Adadevoh, ILF Publishers, 2009.

[8] African Development Bank Group, 2022. (<https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/african-urbanisation-dynamics-2022-economic-power-african-cities>)

[9] Amegah AK. Slum decay in Sub-Saharan Africa: Context, environmental pollution challenges, and impact on dweller's health. *Environ Epidemiol*. 2021 May 20;5(3):e158. doi: 10.1097/EE9.000000000000158. PMID: 34131619; PMCID: PMC8196122.



Further analysis of Africa's current population reveals that almost half are under 25, and approximately 75 percent are under 35. Thus, by 2050, Africa will account for 29 percent of all people aged 15 to 24. This is about 348 million of the total 1.2 billion persons globally.[10] Africa is expected to be the hope of the future for Global Mission. Additionally, by 2050, it's projected that half of the evangelicals globally will be from Africa,[11] and nearly four in ten of the world's Christians (38%) are expected to be living in sub-Saharan Africa.[12]

This rapid urbanization, increased population, and significant increase of younger generations in Africa have great opportunities and significant challenges for the African Church to engage in world evangelization. The African media-savvy youth is a huge human resource that should be leveled on by the global church as a means of evangelizing the rest of the global youth now and into the future.

Additional challenges the African church has to contend with in its hour of opportunity include a leadership crisis revealed through extreme poverty, high unemployment rates, wars, famine, corruption, degradation of living standards, and poor governance structures, among others. In his passionate plea during the African Forum on Religion and Government (AFREG 1), former Nigerian President Obasanjo remarked, "The healing is overdue. We must now pull into the depths of our souls and find a meaningful response to the disorientation that screams at us every day, everywhere. We must find that kind of strengths that only the abused and the victimized can recognize. Is there no balm in Gilead? Has the Lord not spoken that Africa is part of His divine economy? What is holding us back when Jesus himself has already liberated the continent?"[13]

Interestingly, the African Church is uniquely flourishing in the face of confounding challenges. Today's central question for African evangelicals is what kind of Christianity the African church will bequeath to the world by 2050. The external trends concerning the youth population in Africa, urbanization, and rapid growth will catapult Africa to the center stage of global influence in a matter of 1 to 2 generations. These trends are happening regardless of the church's actions and will place Africa at the center of global influence.[14]

Against this background, the opportunities for the African Church shine through. African Christians must cease to be spectators in the economic, political, and social scenes. Instead, they must actively participate in the struggle to replace poverty with prosperity, disease with health, ignorance with knowledge, oppression with freedom, war with peace, and injustice with justice. Indeed, they must become leaders in that struggle.[15]

## Lausanne Movement in Africa

Africa is a diverse continent with 54 nations and multiple language groups. The Lausanne Movement has thus developed three regional blocks, namely Francophone Africa (for French-speaking Africa), MENA (for mostly Arabic speaking, covers the Middle East and North Africa), and EPSA (for English, Portuguese, and Spanish-speaking Africa). In 2023, leaders from these regions gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, under the auspices of Lausanne for the Africa and Middle East Leadership Forum (AMLF) - whose focus was Africa's evangelization and leadership development. It was the first time the 3 regions were holding a joint congress.

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[10] [https://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01259/WEB/0\\_\\_C-107.HTM](https://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01259/WEB/0__C-107.HTM)

[11] Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary (2020) <https://www.gordonconwell.edu/blog/evangelicals-worldwide/>

[12] Pew Research study (2015) <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/04/07/christianity-is-poised-to-continue-its-southward-march/>

[13] Obasanjo, Olusegun. "Africa Arise." 25 Jul. 2006. Religion & Government in Africa: A Christian Response, edited by Delanyo Adadevoh, ILF Publishers, 2009.

[14] Call2All Summit East Africa, One Hope

[15] Kinoti, G. & Kimuyu, P. (1997). Vision for a bright Africa. IFES.

Out of this forum, there was a commitment to mentor Africa's next generation of leaders and a commitment to increased collaboration among the regions through the various ministries that partnered to make the forum a success. The vision of AMLF is focused on equipping and networking African leaders to contribute to discussions and growth of perspectives towards the faith challenges of our current times and build sustainable partnerships that will enable Africa to play a role in Global Mission strongly.

Among the emerging discussion areas was the need for collaborative action among the regions toward the advancement of Africa. As Former Burundi President Pierre Nkurunziza put it: "The problem of Africa is the problem of humanity. How can we overcome evil? How can we overcome this egocentricity that is tying us down and making things difficult for our people?"[16] Indeed, if Africa is to overcome the present crisis and achieve peace and prosperity, African Christians must become more active participants in the economic, political, and social development of their nations. The challenge is for African Christians to become active at every level of the development process.[17]

Therefore, the African and Middle East Leadership Forum has embarked on a transformative journey with strategic planning, sustained engagement, and a commitment to mentorship. This joint initiative is well poised as a catalyst for positive change in leadership across Africa and, potentially, to the Middle East.

Authors

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[16] Nkurunziza, Pierre. "Good Governance." 25 Jul. 2006. Religion & Government in Africa: A Christian Response, edited by Delanyo Adadevoh, ILF Publishers, 2009.

[17] Kinoti, G. & Kimuyu, P. (1997). Vision for a bright Africa. IFES.





**Transforming the lives of people in communities by  
empowering the local church!**





## How AE's 40 on 4 program has impacted my life for the better - Gloria Makanga

Evangelism is the greatest assignment Christ commanded us to do before His ascent into heaven. For African Enterprise to step in and partner with the churches to equip believers with skills and strategies on how to win souls to the Lord, and for me personally, offered us an opportunity to learn how to approach people when out in the field, for the sake of Christ. For instance, learned how to conduct Children's Ministry by making interesting and engaging lessons relevant to children. Christ came to seek and save what was lost.

During one of our mission visits to Meanwood Ndeke, a suburb east of Lusaka and near the KK International Airport, we ministered to a lady who initially believed she had already given her life to Christ. However, as we engaged in a deeper conversation with her about the true meaning of salvation, it became clear that she had misconceptions about her faith journey. Intrigued by our discussion, she invited her husband to join the conversation. Together, they listened intently as we shared the message of salvation, explaining the significance of accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Moved by the Holy Spirit, this couple agreed to pray with us. In that moment of sincere prayer and repentance, they each gave their lives to Christ. Witnessing the transformation and joy on their faces as they embraced their newfound faith was truly inspiring. This encounter reaffirmed our mission and the power of the Gospel to change lives. It was a profound reminder that salvation is not merely an assumption but a conscious, heartfelt decision to follow Jesus.



“It was a profound reminder that salvation is not merely an assumption but a conscious, heartfelt decision to follow Jesus.”

## An empowered church, and a people filled with compassion

Another exciting journey starts for AE Zambia as they start a second cohort in vocational skills training. In 2023, 20 vulnerable women were trained in fashion and design and this has brought about so much transformation in the communities of Lusaka.

Community Transformation Groups are on the move and have become stronger, promoting an empowered community through the Spiritual, Social and Economic pillars training. Community transformation groups are slowly becoming a movement of women in Lusaka who will end at nothing until they see a transformed neighborhood, a changed community and a city of women of influence.

With 20 women benefiting from the first cohort in vocational skills training and empowered with a sewing machine, this year, AE Zambia, in partnership with the church, has appreciated the strength of an empowered community through community transformation groups, and the impact has spread to other communities.

From the 4 (four) communities reached in 2023, this year 2024, Community Transformation Groups have increased to 10 communities. A movement of trained women who are not only economically empowered, but members in a transformed church ready to take responsibility for the community by evangelizing, sharing the LOVE OF CHRIST, and attending to the social concerns of the people.

With support from the international community, this year, 2024, AE Zambia is administering another group of 24 vulnerable women to be trained in fashion and design, a group of women who are members of an empowered church and impacting communities.

In some communities, it has been about empowerment and also emotional healing to some abused mothers and marginalized girls who have found a reason to smile again. Poverty has been a cancer in most of the African cities, making young girls go into early marriages and abusive relationships. Filled with shame, it has not been easy for many affected women to come out in the open and seek help. But being members of these Community Transformation Groups, a number of women have gone through counseling with help from AE Zambia Social Action and other cases referred to responsible authorities. Leaving no one behind, every life is being touched and transformed into a testimony of change. An empowered church with a people filled with love and compassion.





## Can two walk together unless they agree?

AE DRC will be running its annual mission in the City of Kinshasa this year. While preparing for the Kinshasa-West mission in the Funa district, by reaching out to different church leaders, it became obvious that there was a need for a “Nehemiah” among the Fathers of the Church.

“To address this, we reached out to a senior leader from the Assemblies of God (AOG), Reverend Pastor Miracle Bwango. He immediately expressed the urgent need to organize a trauma-healing session for AOG members nationwide. He shared that the national executive committee of the AOG in the DRC was seeking a trustworthy organization to lead this initiative, especially as they were experiencing a painful division crisis. The government had requested that they reconcile before organizing elections for new leadership, which would allow them to receive a legal decree to operate within the country.” Leonard Kiswangi, AE DRC Team Leader.

Pastor Bwango was thrilled that the Lord had opened the door for African Enterprise as a reconciliation and trauma-healing specialist. The following day, he brought Reverend Ilunga, the National Legal Representative and first Deputy in charge of pastoral matters for AOG DRC, to the AE DRC office to reinforce the request for assistance.

“From that moment, we informed the AOG leadership that we were planning a stratified evangelism outreach in September and needed their support. They committed to helping us, acknowledging their need for healing, which we could provide. We agreed to collaborate on this healing initiative, with the assistance of Emmanuel Kopwe, a senior AE leader from Tanzania, who offered his support for this joint effort between AE DRC and the AOG DRC Executive Committee. This collaboration culminated in a four-day seminar on the healing process for the Church, scheduled for July 1st to 4th, 2024. The Lord has indeed opened the door to this crucial aspect of the Body of Christ, particularly significant for the Funa mission.”

During the four-day workshop, 165 senior pastors and other church leaders from the AOG actively participated, experiencing the healing process as a refreshing encounter with the Lord. The several pastors who attended extended invitations to AE DRC and its partners to run the same workshops in their local congregations. God be praised for the favor and the open doors of ministry opportunities.



165 Church leaders and senior pastors attended the reconciliation workshop by AE DRC. The initiative was also attended by the National Board Vice Chairperson, Bishop, Prof Mpereboye (in the middle, in yellow shirt).



## Looking beyond Harare Back to God: Equipping evangelists for missions to come

The month of May 2024 saw an escalation of preparatory meetings for the Harare Back to God mission scheduled for September 20-29.

113 evangelists were equipped for the Harare mission and beyond. The facilitators were conscious of the needs of the local church and, therefore, structured the training in such a way that evangelists were equipped to lead their own local church outreach activities. The sessions covered a broad range of topics, from evangelism strategies to logistical planning. As the preparations gained momentum, the presentations became more engaging as participants developed interest in their own local church programs.

Participants actively engaged in discussions, eagerly asking questions, and enthusiastically participated in role-playing exercises designed to simulate real-life scenarios they might encounter during the mission. This high level of engagement not only made the training sessions dynamic and interactive but also fostered a sense of camaraderie and teamwork among the participants.

Participants feedback brought several positive elements during the training because it attracted a diverse group of participants, including youth leaders, pastors, community organizers, and volunteers from various backgrounds. This diversity enriched the learning experience, as participants shared different perspectives and insights.

It also fostered a collaborative environment where participants felt comfortable sharing their thoughts and experiences. This open exchange of ideas helped to build a strong sense of community and mutual support.

The training emphasized practical skills and real-world application. Participants appreciated the focus on actionable strategies and felt more confident in their ability to implement what they had learned. Beyond the practical skills, the training also facilitated spiritual growth. Many participants reported feeling spiritually refreshed and inspired, ready to take on the challenges of the mission with renewed vigor.

However, the training was particularly relevant given the context and timing. The Harare provides the missionaries with space to apply their new found skills and experience the benefits of the stratified model of evangelism. Participants noted that the training addressed current challenges facing the community and provided them with innovative approaches to evangelism and community outreach.

The focus on contemporary issues ensured that the training content was not only relevant but also highly impactful.

## A promise fulfilled; the starter packs released!

Thursday, the 4th of April 2024, was a special day for the five Community Transformation Groups in Amsterdam, Harare. Their usual monthly meetings became a celebration moment, when Mr Mpsa, the Finance and Administration officer, and Rev Dr. Mugwidi announced the good news of the timely disbursement of \$600 to boost each group's efforts.

143 members, comprising 138 women and girls as well as 5 men, gathered to share notes on how to run their businesses and inspire each other through testimonies and success stories. There was singing and dancing as each group celebrated this milestone, as the disbursement was conditional. To qualify for disbursement, each group had to demonstrate good management of the locally raised funds from members and record keeping, among other ethical practices. The groups had raised an average of \$500 each, which was already being borrowed by members to support the entrepreneurial activities at household level.

Members of the Ebenezer Group celebrate the most as they had already raised \$900 amongst themselves and their members had the most success stories. While most women ventured into detergent making, the men are into fresh fish vending and shoe making.



Representatives of the groups pose with Mr. Million Mpsa the AE Finance and Administration Officer (extreme left seated holding a folder).



Evangelism Training in preparation for Harare mission, and beyond





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**September 5-15, Johannesburg Mission**

## **AEE DRC**

**September 14-21, Kinshasa West**

## **AE Zimbabwe**

**September 20-29, Harare Mission**

## **AEE Uganda**

**September 21-29, Soroti Mission**

## **AE South Sudan**

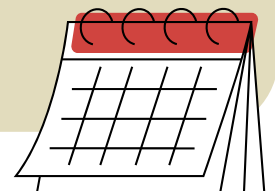
**October 24 - November 3, Juba West**

## **AE Ghana**

**October 25-November 3, Tema Mission**

## **AE Tanzania**

**November 17-24, Dodoma Mission**







## Empowering Children with Disabilities through Athletics

African Evangelistic Enterprise Uganda carried out a special sporting event for special children.

22 children with disability who are supported by AEE participated in the Primary Schools National Kids Athletics and Special Needs Learners' (SNE) Championship games in Kitgum district. The athletes with different impairments from Mayuge district underwent a special training sessions to fully participate in the games. The games ranged from track and field events, adapted to meet the needs of the participants to but not limited to short-put.

The children demonstrated remarkable courage and determination. For many of the children, it was their first time competing in such an event. The smiles on their faces as they crossed the finish line, the cheers from the audience, and the sense of accomplishment were profound. It was a celebration of ability, not disability. Many of the participants achieved personal bests, breaking barriers they never thought were possible.

Participating in this event was made possible because of the combined efforts from teachers, parents, Mayuge Education Department, and AEE with support from Stromme Foundation.



## AE Australia CEO Visits Uganda

Rev. Simba Musvamhiri, the CEO of AE Australasia, and Dr. Peter Slay were in Uganda to witness the impact of AE Australia's partnership with AEE-U.

The pair visited Milne Medical Centre, where the AEE Uganda team took them on a tour of the facility and later interacted with community groups under SRAY (Safe and Resilient Adolescents and Youth) Project. In his words, Simba was amazed at what he saw on the grounds.

"My role is helping Christians to engage in God's work in Africa, and it's a privilege to be travelling in Kampala Uganda to see our partnership with AEE-U. The partnership that I'm seeing with the local church is amazing. The testimonies from impacted real people living in their communities. People that are not expecting handouts but people that are empowered. New pathways to their lives and families transformed, communities transformed, and really the gospel at the center of all the social action programs", said Simba.

Simba was also struck by the resilience and hospitality of the Ugandan people. He saw how their faith in the Lord Jesus was central to their lives, and he was challenged to deepen his own faith.

"I'm challenged myself, so I take away the fact that Ugandans are strong people, and that strength is really coming from the Lord Jesus", he added.

Dr. Peter was amazed at how the groups he visited were vibrant and hardworking people who were interested in each other's well-being.





## If at first you do not succeed, try again!

While walking through the Shinyanga Region, the AEE TZ team came across various businesses that would be found in any small town. From small 'hotels' to street food stalls, from clothes shops to fruit kiosks. However, one of the kiosks caught the attention of the team, and by the prompting of the Holy Spirit, the team veered into 'Mama Lishe's' kiosk for some food. While eating, they engaged Tilingona, the lady who owned and ran Mama Lishe kiosk, in conversation and soon asked her if she had given her life to Christ, to which she responded in the negative. Tilingona became visibly irritated and outrightly mentioned that she was not ready to give her life to Christ. The team from African Enterprise Tanzania then continued with their meal, and soon left, headed back to their routines.

On the last day of the stay at Shinyanga however, the team intentionally paid Mama Lishe one last visit before heading back to Dar es Salaam. The intention was to return and ask Tilingona if she was finally ready to receive Christ. Since it was the last day at Shinyanga region and the team was not sure when next God would take them back there, they felt it urgent that they go to see this lady, one more time, despite the outcome of the previous encounter.

Upon arriving, the team went straight to the point and shared why they had returned yet again, consequently asking her if, this time, she was ready to give her live to Christ. With a surrendered smile, Tilingona accepted to receive Christ, and not just her but her lovely daughter Bernice too!

The team from AEE TZ was filled with great joy for the salvation of the two souls. It all seemed to emphasize a lesson that some times in life, when faced by challenges (as we often will be), it does not always mean that it is a dead end. If at first you do not succeed, try again.



Mshomi praying with Tilingona and her daughter  
Beatrice





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