

# The African

January - March 2025

**A HOLISTIC GOSPEL FOR  
A HOLISTIC TRANSFORMATION**



SETTING THE YOUTH ABLAZE  
FOR TOTAL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE

**AE** AFRICAN  
ENTERPRISE



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## International Team Leader's Foreword

Greetings Friends and Partners of African Enterprise,

We have stepped into 2025 with boldness, passion, and an unshakable resolve to make Christ known across our beloved continent! What a thrilling Q1 it has been—marked by courage, collaboration, and divine breakthroughs!

One of the most striking highlights was the Chinhoyi Citywide Mission in Zimbabwe. Despite the outbreak of violence in the early days, our dedicated missionaries pressed on fearlessly, going door to door with the Gospel. Their unwavering faith and commitment are a powerful testimony that no earthly resistance can stand against the power of God's love.

We also witnessed the incredible momentum building around the upcoming Africa Missions Association Conference, a ground-breaking collaboration between AE International and KEMA, set for September. With KEMA as the host and our CEO serving as chairman under ITL, preparations have been seamless and Spirit-led—evidence that unity in mission is a force to be reckoned with.

In Burundi, we were honoured to convene a powerful 3-day Mission Leadership workshop, gathering 30 church leaders and 30 government officials under one roof. The theme, "The Burundi God Wants", resonated deeply. Through times of teaching, reflection, and strategic discussion, participants left with renewed vision and a charge to shape a nation aligned with godly values and transformational leadership.

As we continue this year's journey, I urge every member of the AE family to think bigger, act bolder, and believe deeper. Africa is ripe for revival—and YOU are a key player in this great move of God.

We are pressing into greater youth mobilization, strategic partnerships, and continental transformation. There is no time to hold back—let us be a generation marked by obedience, action, and impact.

Final Encouragement

***"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."*** – Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

To our faithful partners, friends, and supporters: thank you. You are sowing into a vision that is changing destinies and disciplining nations. May God bless you richly as we continue to run this race—together.

In Christ's mission,  
Stephen Mbogo. (P.h.D)  
CEO, African Enterprise



## Bringing Hope to Murehwa

As the sun rose over Zimbabwe in early 2025, a new chapter of evangelism was unfolding. A spirit of revival was sweeping across the nation, and at the heart of it was Murehwa, a land ripe for the Gospel.

Through a dynamic partnership between African Evangelistic Enterprise Zimbabwe (AEEZ) and Harvest Global Ministries International, the Foxfire program was reignited, bringing a fresh wave of hope to the community.

Two passionate and dedicated Foxfires, young evangelists on fire for Christ, took to the streets, homes, and open spaces of Murehwa, carrying the life-changing message of salvation. The Gospel was proclaimed with power and conviction through door-to-door evangelism, open-air crusades, and intentional follow-ups. A total of 501 people were exposed to the Good News, and 117 individuals made the life-altering decision to receive Christ for the first time.

These were not just numbers, but lives transformed, families restored, and a community beginning to experience the true hope that only Jesus brings. This mission was not just an event, and it was a movement. A movement of transformation, unity, and hope. The hunger for God's Word was evident as people of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life opened their hearts to the message of love and redemption. Some heard the Gospel for the first time, while others were reignited in their faith. The streets of Murehwa became a sacred ground where prayers were lifted, testimonies were shared, and lives were forever changed.

But the work does not stop here. The excitement and willingness to orchestrate a massive discipleship movement are undeniable. Local church leaders are coming together to ensure these new believers are nurtured, disciplined, and firmly rooted in their faith. Plans are underway for small group Bible studies, mentorship programs, and continuous evangelism efforts to keep the fire burning.

As this journey continues, one soul at a time, one mission at a time, Murehwa is witnessing the undeniable impact of God's transforming power. The seeds of faith have been sown, and with prayer, commitment, and unity, a great harvest is on the horizon. The Gospel is alive in Murehwa, and this is just the beginning.



### Mukono Easter Mission with AEE Uganda

African Evangelistic Enterprise Uganda did an Easter Mission outreach in Mukono Town, targeting students and the local populace.

Through this mission, over 300,000 people were reached with the gospel message and more than 8,000 made the decision to commit their lives to Jesus!

The mission included various methods of outreach including One-on-One, door-to-door, school ministry, radio broadcast, Leadership dinner, street children ministry, proclamation crusades, and mobile rallies, among others.

Here is how the mission unfolded!

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April marked the official launch of the Mukono Easter Mission.

The day began with a powerful commissioning service at St. Luke Church of Uganda, where evangelists gathered in high spirits, ready to be sent out into the community. Rev. Canon Edward Balamaze, the Chairman of the Steering Committee offered words of encouragement and prayer, charging the team to go boldly and share the love of Christ.

"I'm excited to see so many young people answering the call to serve," he said. "The people you meet today can relate to you. Sometimes when an older person shares the gospel, they may be dismissed as someone who has already lived their life but you, you represent a generation they understand." He then blessed the evangelists and sent them off into their designated areas.



The mission launch also included a vibrant band march through Mukono town as hundreds of people joined in on the celebration and joyful marching, akin to the Biblical march around the walled city of Jericho.

With booming speakers and vibrant energy, the mobile rally team took the gospel to the streets of Seeta town. Through music, preaching, and testimonies, the team made over 14 stopovers in trading centers and public spaces, creating opportunities for spontaneous gospel encounters.





## Mukono Easter Mission with AEE Uganda

During the leadership dinner, 80 headteachers, deputy headteachers, chaplains, and Scripture Union patrons gathered at the event that was organized by African Evangelistic Enterprise Uganda (AEE-U) in partnership with the Diocese of Mukono.

The event was graced by The Rt. Rev. Enos Kitto Kagodo, who served as the Guest of Honor, alongside Rev. Can. Dr. John Ssenyonyi as the Guest Speaker, and Rev. Can. Paul Wasswa, who represented the AEE-U Board. Rev. Can. Dr. John Ssenyonyi serves as the Chairperson of the advisory committee of the African Enterprise International Institute of Evangelism.

In his address, Rev. Ssenyonyi reflected on the meaning of Easter through the lens of death, burial, and resurrection. He emphasized the foundational truth of the Gospel. "If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised." (1 Corinthians 15:12-13)

He underscored that Christ's burial is vital to the Gospel, stating that, "The message is not simply that Jesus rose. It's that He was raised from the dead. That distinction is essential because without the risen Christ, there is no Gospel. Sin causes death, and to save us from sin, Christ died for our sins. That's the good news."

**Door-to-door outreach**



**School Outreach**



**Street Children Outreach**



**Leadership Dinner**



**Mobile Rally**



## Partnering with the church in Malawi

On Thursday, January 23, 2025, a wave of excitement swept through three churches in Malawi as AE Malawi's Social Action Team introduced the Church and Community Transformation Groups (CCTGs) and the Women's Empowerment Program. Among those deeply inspired was Bishop Chapao, whose church is already actively working to uplift its members and the surrounding community. The social action team from African Enterprise took a step to visit three churches: Kawale Assemblies of God, Assemblies of God- Area 23 (Masambabise), and Diocese of Lake Malawi, St. Leonard Kamungu Anglican church.

Bishop Chapao's church is dedicated to seeing its members and the surrounding communities succeed in their everyday activities by lifting their living standards. The church introduced poultry farming as one way of improving the livelihood of church members. The church members are currently rearing chickens that are sold for profit once they are ready for the market. There are also plans to start practicing small-scale farming.

The coming in of the AE Malawi partnership has given them hope for improvement and has opened a new space of opportunities for the church members. Some will join and be part of the CTGs, and possibly some women will be recruited to be part of the tailoring program. This year, the church distributed maize to members who are less privileged as one way of ensuring that they also uplift the social wellbeing of the members. The vision that AE Malawi shared with Bishop Chapao has encouraged the church to embrace the different initiatives they are doing within and outside their church. "With the coming of AE, I see a partner! I see someone who will make us strong, someone who will make us secure, which is excellent for us," said Bishop Chapao.

Bishop Chapao went on to plead with different churches that partner with African Enterprise to be strong and resilient and never abuse the privilege of partnership of this nature. The church offered to fund one woman to be part of the first tailoring cohort for 2025, possibly funding another woman if resources allow. Both parties are looking to work hand in hand to see the lives of people improve holistically.



## RENEWED HOPE: A STORY OF SELINA

Selina is a single mother who joined the last cohort of the tailoring program at African Enterprise Malawi in 2024. After 6 months of training and supervision, she acquired tailoring skills, then graduated and received a tailoring machine as start-up capital for her new profession outside AE.

Before becoming part of AE Malawi, Selina faced many challenges as a single mother living on the outskirts of Lilongwe. She could not afford to take care of herself and her 5-year-old child, she struggled to buy herself basic needs, and her child was not going to school because of a lack of school fees. Her parents, who are not well-to-do, were the ones responsible for taking care of both her and her child; they made sure that they shared the limited resources that they had. After graduating from her tailoring school at AE Malawi, Selina thought it wise to put her newly acquired skills to better use. She started practicing more to perfect her designs so she would not lose touch with how the sewing machine feels.

Little by little people are starting to recognise her by profession and more customers are coming in, she has been able to move out her parents' house to her own house where she pays monthly after realising profit from her tailoring business, her child is also in school and she is the one responsible for her school fees. To ensure that her community benefits from her skills, Selina took a step to sew uniforms for three kids from less privileged families who couldn't afford to buy one. Being an upcoming business, she met different challenges, such as not meeting customers' satisfaction and customers opting for other designs while the final product had already been produced. However, this did not change her vision of growing big. It only fuelled her desire to learn more and ensure she understood what her different customers preferred.

Selina urged recruits for the new cohort coming up this year to always work hard and never look down on themselves. "AE Malawi helped boost my social welfare and reignited my spiritual life, for this I will always be thankful", said Selina.



## Securing Education: AE Malawi Steps In to Protect Pheleni Primary School



For years, Pheleni Primary School—one of African Enterprise Malawi’s long-standing partners—has faced an ongoing struggle: theft and vandalism. With broken doors and unsecured classrooms, the school became an easy target for intruders who routinely damaged property and disrupted the learning environment.

The issue wasn’t just an inconvenience—it was costly and discouraging. The desks were broken. Learning charts were stripped off the walls. Some individuals from nearby communities even went so far as to steal desks at night, using them as firewood for brewing kachasu, a locally made illicit beer.

Faced with the growing problem, the school was forced to employ two security guards. While their presence brought some relief, it wasn’t a complete solution—the guards only worked night shifts, leaving the school vulnerable during the day.

That’s when AE Malawi stepped in.

Recognizing the urgent need for improved security, AE Malawi donated brand-new rim locks to the school, equipping every classroom door with secure locking systems. It was a simple but powerful intervention, with a lasting impact.

“Our teaching charts and desks will now be safe because the doors can finally be locked,” said Mr. Donnex Phiri, the Assistant Head Teacher. “We’ve struggled with theft and destruction for too long. These new locks bring us real peace of mind.”

With the classrooms now secured around the clock, the school sees a new sense of protection and pride. Teachers and students alike can focus on learning, knowing their space and resources are safe.

“On behalf of the entire school administration, I would like to thank African Enterprise Malawi for the continuous support and meaningful developments they’ve brought to Pheleni Primary School,” Mr. Phiri added with heartfelt gratitude.

Because when classrooms are secure, education thrives!

Partner with AE Malawi and be part of practical, life-changing solutions for schools and communities in need.



Mr. Donnex Phiri showing some of the vandalised doors



## Soweto Kayole Clinic continuing to serve the community



Hanna, a long time friend of African Enterprise Kenya from Australia visited the Soweto Kayole clinic and expressed her happiness about the transformation it has undergone over the past six and a half years. "I am so impressed by the changes the clinic has made since my last visit with my church six and a half years ago".

"I am thrilled to see that the clinic has made significant progress, now featuring an authentic maternity wing. This is a response to the needs of the residents of Soweto, Kayole, with great anticipation and vision for AEEK to create a safe space for women. I am hopeful that many lives will be positively impacted through the maternity wing," Hanna expressed.

Hanna appealed for increased support from partners to ensure the clinic remains relevant. "We continue to pray for ongoing donations and sponsorships to support the clinic's operations as a health center. This will help us manage emergency situations, provide necessary medications, and ensure we have substantial assistance with drug supplies, staffing, and other essential resources," she pleaded.

Hannah also visited the Kibera Women Empowerment program. She had the opportunity to meet Mercy Lungahi, one of the women in the 2024 cohort. Mercy shared the significant impact the program has had on her financial situation.

"After our graduation, I spoke with our trainer and offered to assist in her tailoring shop. Just before the Christmas season, I noticed she had numerous dressmaking orders. I felt confident in my skills and could create various styles, including skirts, dresses, and blouses. Through this work, I earned 4,000 Kenyan shillings. I could have earned more if I hadn't fallen ill during that period. However, after recovering, I received three orders from friends, which brought me an additional 2,500 Kenyan shillings," she explained.

Hannah Mercy beamed excitedly over the formation of Community Transformation Groups, emphasizing the impact it will bring to the women and their households.



Hannah at her graduation from the women empowerment program

## Soweto Kayole Clinic Facing Service Disruption Due to USAID Funding Adjustments.

Judith Atieno has been working at the comprehensive care clinic at Soweto Kayole Primary Health Care for 14 years, placed there by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The USAID agency was defunded earlier this year, and hundreds of thousands of staff worldwide were left jobless. Judith, unfortunately, was also affected, and she shared her feelings of despair after being placed on unpaid leave, which has left her uncertain about her future. As a mother of four, she provides for her family.

"I feel deeply wounded and stressed by this new development, which has put me in a state of uncertainty about what lies ahead. Being sent on unpaid leave is a nightmare for me, given my responsibilities to support my children," Judith said. "I am a mother of four. My firstborn is at Kenyatta University and needs Kshs. 245,000; my second child is in secondary school and requires Kshs. 43,000, my third child is in Grade 8 and needs Kshs. 16,000, and my youngest in Grade 4 needs Kshs. 4,000. Although we were asked to return for one month, which is only for March, we were not paid in February. I am distressed because I am unsure what will happen after April," Judith lamented.

Victor, who also works in the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission program, expressed concern about the widespread fear regarding the future among patients. "The patients I attend to have been very open about their worries about what happens next. They are particularly concerned about whether they will continue to receive ARVs and other medications," Victor shared.



He is apprehensive about the possible effects of the unpaid leave announcement on patients who rely on the clinic. "I fear that if the donations cease, mothers may revert to traditional practices for prenatal care and delivery, which would increase the risk of mother-to-child transmission," he reflected. "I worry that we will lose clients due to limited follow-up. This could lead to higher transmission rates, as we previously ensured thorough follow-up for our clients to help them adhere to their medication and minimize the risk of transmission. Without pre-exposure prophylaxis, transmission rates will likely rise across Kenya, with the negative impacts being felt nationwide. I can attest to this decline because pre-exposure prophylaxis services have already diminished due to a lack of resources."

Despite these challenges, Victor remains hopeful. "I believe more can be done to restore hope and confidence among our clients. If a clarion call is made to the stakeholders, I am optimistic that a lasting solution can be found and that the hope and confidence of the patients will be restored," Victor suggested.

## Gearing up towards Nakuru City-Wide Mission!

LEVITICUS 6:12

# NAKURU

*Citywide Mission*

**IGNITING THE DIVINE FLAME**

**15 - 25**

**MAY**

visit

events

1307

2025

keep the fire burning

## A Shift in Vision: from Prayer Alone to Purposeful Action

Tuyishimire Diane lives in the village of Mubuga, located in the Mubuga Cell of Kibeho Sector, Nyaruguru District. She is married and currently serves as a community facilitator for the Church and Community Transformation (CCT) program, implemented by AEE-Rwanda. In 2024, she was selected by the Free Methodist Church of Rwanda to take on this role, marking the beginning of her partnership with AEE.



Before her training with AEE, Diane believed that her spiritual growth depended solely on prayer. She believed that with enough faith and prayer, God would provide all she needed, without fully acknowledging the importance of personal effort or practical engagement in daily life.

That perspective shifted dramatically when she was introduced to the CCT program. The training opened her eyes to a more holistic understanding of transformation, emphasizing the integration of three essential dimensions: spiritual, economic, and social. Diane realized many opportunities existed within her church community, but they often went unnoticed or underutilized.

Now, Diane is determined to lead change, helping her church embrace its full potential and become a vessel of godly impact in the broader community. She has taken on her role with renewed energy and purpose, inspired by the realization that faith and action go hand in hand.

"Meeting AEE has given me the confidence to help others experience holistic transformation," she shares. "I'm deeply grateful for the CCT program—it has changed how our church understands its mission. We now see the importance of growing not only spiritually, but also economically and socially. May the Holy Spirit continue to use AEE in this powerful work."

## "The SHG Changed My Family for the Better" – Christine's Story of Hope and Transformation

Christine, a mother of four from Rwanda's Bugesera District, remembers a time when her home was filled with chaos, not peace. Life before joining the Self-Help Group (SHG) in 2016 was marked by tension, conflict, and a growing sense of hopelessness.

She openly recalls her struggles: constant arguments with neighbors, harsh discipline toward her children, and late-night drinking that often left her kids alone at home. Her husband also drank heavily, and together their habits tore through the fabric of their family life. Poverty deepened, the children went hungry, and some even dropped out of school.

"There was so much conflict between my husband and me," Christine shared. "I didn't see any way out. I had no peace, and I thought I'd never experience salvation like the other women in my group."

But everything began to shift when she joined the SHG. Week after week, project staff attended their meetings—not just guiding them in savings and community initiatives, but also sharing the Word of God. At first, Christine didn't pay much attention. "I kept hearing the Gospel," she said, "but I felt it had nothing to do with me."

That changed in January 2025.

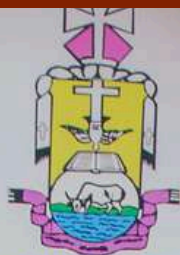
Moved by the consistent message of hope and transformation, Christine surrendered her life to Christ. "I confessed my sins and accepted Jesus as my Savior. That moment changed everything. I realized that without Christ, there is no eternal life."

Since then, the atmosphere in her home has changed dramatically. "Now, my husband and I attend church together every Sunday," she said. "He hasn't yet given his life to Christ, but we are united in a way we've never been before."

Gone are the days of reckless spending and constant fighting. Christine and her husband now make decisions together, support each other at home, and work hard as a team to care for their children. Peace and purpose have taken the place of despair.

"Joining the SHG didn't just help me save money," Christine said with a smile. "It saved my family."





# ANGLICAN CHURCH OF RWANDA GAHINI DIOCESE

P.O BOX 22 KIGALI · RWANDA

RECEPTION



CCT Training in Rwanda with Church Leaders

### Mobile shoe making - AE SA's solution to unemployment

NYAWONHLE (which means 'beautiful feet' in isiZulu) is AESA's community transformation project designed to empower unemployed men in indigent communities with a skill in shoe repair over a ten-day intensive training course. It is intended to empower them both economically (this newly learned skill enabling them to become employable and/or to start up a small business of their own) and spiritually (as we use every opportunity to minister to them through the sharing of the Gospel message and counselling should the need arise). The project is 'mobile' and easily set up in communities in various geographical locations.

Sixteen of our twenty-one students from this first class of 2025 are orphans. Some live with siblings in households where no one is employed; others live with relatives in challenging circumstances. Despite their respective circumstances, all twenty-one members of this promising group diligently applied themselves and are now well schooled in the skill of shoe repair, having recently graduated upon successful completion of the course.



### Broad Beans & Big Dreams: A Morning with Bonginkosi

In January, the AE South Africa team went out on a bumper trip to Sweetwaters with the ever-joyful Bonginkosi crew! The AE South Africa team had been looking forward to a lively skills session, where Barrie Lewis, one of our passionate AE Associates, was all set to lead a demo on broad bean cultivation. (Fun fact: broad beans are second only to soybeans in protein—and they taste way better!).

Unfortunately, however, Barrie wasn't feeling well and had to sit this one out. Still, he didn't let that stop him from making a difference. On the way to Sweetwaters, the team picked up five large buckets—yes, five 20-liter buckets—of nutritious maize meal that Barrie had milled himself and generously donated for the Bonginkosi community. Talk about dedication!

While the bean-growing demo had to be shelved, the spirit of empowerment was alive and kicking. AE South Africa is gearing up to launch community-run vegetable gardens, and two incredible Bonginkosi women have already stepped up as the chief gardeners. They'll lead the way, bringing others along to get their hands dirty (literally) and help things grow.

And just when everyone thought that was it, McDonald Seeds came through with a massive sack of green bean seeds. The excitement was real. These seeds will be grown in personal home gardens, and everyone is encouraged to show off their harvests when the time comes.

Of course, not everyone can grow at home—the goats are a real menace! So, plans for communal gardens near the local creche and school (which are fenced—thankfully!) are already underway.





After that, it was time for blessings in abundance: food parcels, toiletries, cozy blankets, and colorful beanies, thanks to the generosity of TWC Girls School. The knitters got a boost, too, receiving vibrant double-ply cotton and a fun dishcloth pattern. These handmade clothes are already a hit in the Western Cape, and now Bonginkosi is jumping in with high hopes!

And let's not forget the local talent—three Bonginkosi ladies are crafting gorgeous, reversible aprons with pockets that they're selling like hotcakes.

Lives are being touched. Skills are being nurtured. Communities are growing stronger. This is what transformation looks like—and you can be part of it.

Partner with AE South Africa and help change lives through practical programs that uplift and empower. Whether it's seeds, soap, or financial support, your contribution goes further than you think. Let's grow something beautiful—together.



## Hope Rejuvenated for Judith!



For Naikisa Judith, the coming of African evangelistic enterprise (AEE-Uganda) to Bulanga town council was a new dawn that brought rejuvenation and renewed hope to her life. Having lost her husband to a terminal illness, the mother of five (three girls and two boys) was left stranded about how to continue living her life and taking care of her children's school needs.

A peasant farmer by occupation, Judith complements this noble vocation with operating a small-scale household merchandise stall. This livelihood helped her to see her children through school, along with a few well-wishers from her family who offered the much-needed help, which was never enough.

When the African Evangelistic Enterprise program, supported by Norad, came into their area, she hastily joined the group, sighting financial benefits and improvement of her social status. After making savings of fifty thousand shillings (50,000), she qualified for a loan of one hundred thousand shillings (100,000) according to Tweekembe CMSG loaning bylaws. This money was used to boost her small stall of goods, mainly small household needs of her surrounding community.

This business existed before the emergence of our program activities. Still, it had been weakened by ever-increasing home needs, a lack of affordable loans to boost it, and a lack of security to access loans from commercial banks. She also had no access to knowledge of how to access a loan from any financial institution. Gaining access to this money helped her invest, boost her business, increase sales, and build a sound social reputation for having stock of almost every daily home supply.

Judith complements this business with peasant farming, producing sweet bananas and vegetables displayed for sale on her stall. She shares that this business is a strong source of weekly savings that have accumulated on her side, and the loan she took is currently 75% paid back to the group, clearing her hopes of acquiring a bigger sum of money on the next attempt.

Her long-term plan is to spread her wings by transforming her small business into a standard shop dealing in general merchandise, including grains and other commodities, such as sugar and soap, which she says have a good market at her location, and the growth potential is great.

Judith says that AEE should continue supporting other communities through providing financial management lessons, as received in their groups, to help more communities fight poverty and ignorance. 'It is God who brought AEE to our community; for that, I am so grateful,' says Judith.

Story Compiled by: Enock Kawalya, Program Assistant- Income & Job Creation





It is fascinating to hear the story of Julianne from last year's sewing training cohort. She came to the training center of our CTG, not knowing what transformation would look like for her. She could hear Mrs. Antoinette's statement being rerun in her mind:

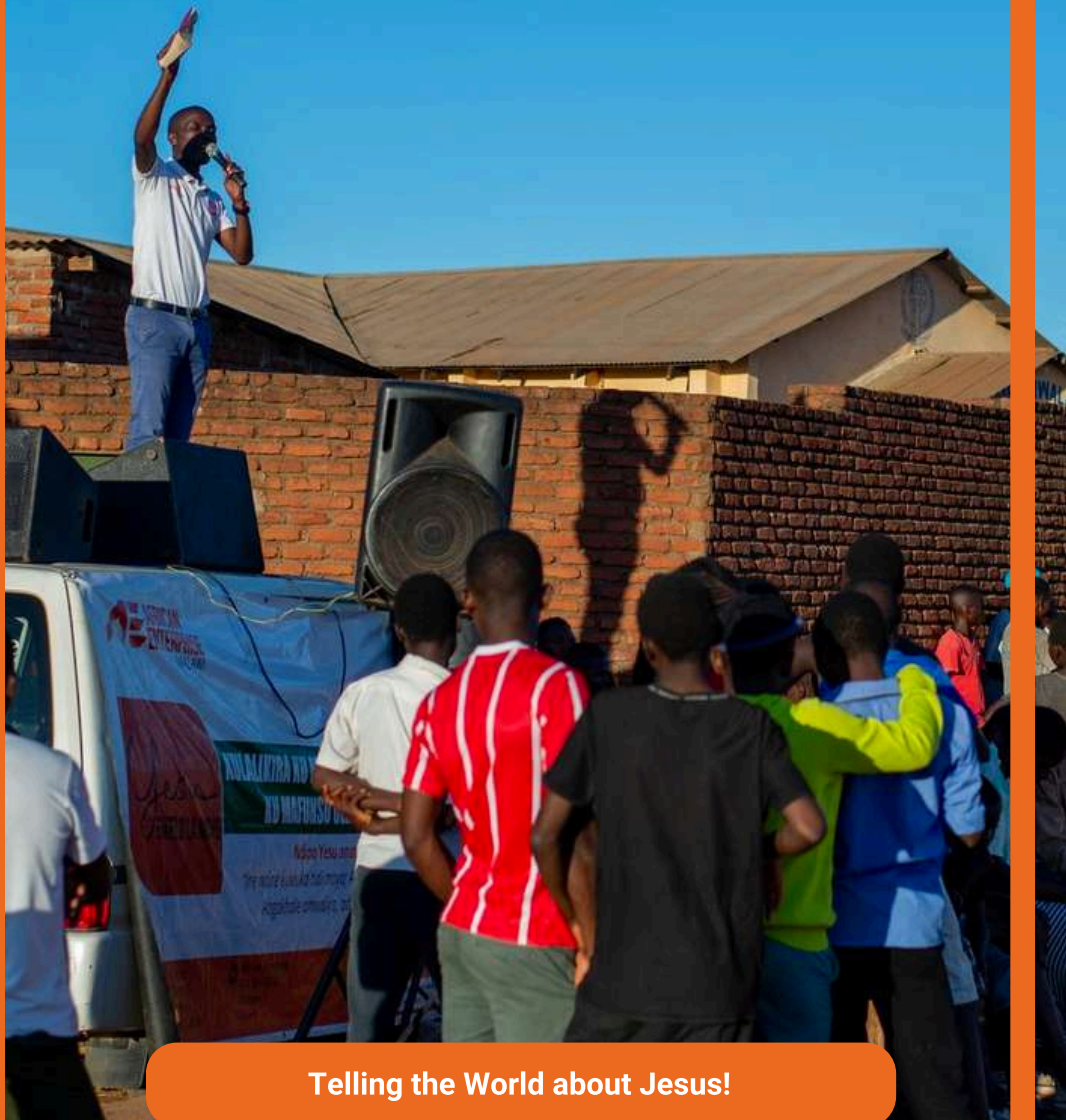
"You are worth more than what the world has said of you or done to you."

She used to convince herself that "transformation is a simple concept and, if anything, transformation is for other people but not for me." Julianne considered herself to be the outcast of the family, and nothing good could come from her. Fortunately, the training at the CEFM, the support and encouragement from the project manager and Mrs. Antoinette, and the fact that today she is respected in the family and the community, she gets customers who come to see her for their special attire. The money she makes is a blessing. So, Julianne concluded her sharing by declaring:

"Transformation is not someone else's story; it is my story, my life transformation story, thank God and thank AE." Then she burst into tears!

Thank God, thank you for your support

**Picture; Julianne sharing her testimony with her group in DRC**



Telling the World about Jesus!



## The Crux of the Easter Story - Michael Cassidy

Sometimes, it is on a necklace round the neck of a woman or young maiden, adding a gentle beauty and touch of spirituality to her appearance.

Sometimes, attached to the rear-view mirror of a taxi, it bobs up and down, telling the passenger wherein the taxi driver sees his safety. Occasionally, it stands at an isolated country roadside, saying a fatal accident took place here. I've even seen it round the neck of heavyweight boxer, Tyson Fury, saying that if he knocks you out cold in the first round, it is all done in Christian love!

Then when I went to a still-smoking Ground Zero in New York not long after 9/11, I learned of the two giant metal beams which had broken away in the shape of a cross and plunged multiple storeys down to embed themselves in the burning rubble below and point towards hope and life amidst all the death and mayhem, every one in New York understanding the universal symbol. Then it stands atop every church, and is central inside every church, saying the Cross is the Central Symbol of the Christian faith.

Yet, the Cross speaks of the heart, substance and kernel of the Christian faith, and is the Crux of the Easter story. Why? Because there, on that old rugged cross, as Christians believe, our salvation was wrought, when God in Christ "bore our sins in his own body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness", knowing that "by his wounds (we) were healed." (1 Peter 2:24).

### WHY WAS HE THERE?

It was, and is, I must admit, all very mysterious, and strange. It prompts questions galore, the chief perhaps being found in that old song, Why Did they Nail Him to Calvary's Tree? – Why, tell me why, was He there?"

And how come it came to be such a central symbol of the Christian faith, painted, engraved, carved and hung wherever Christians met.

Tertullian, a north African lawyer/theologian, who flourished about AD200, wrote: "At at every forward step and movement, at every going in and out, we put on our clothes and shoes...and all the ordinary actions of daily life, we trace upon the forehead the sign of the Cross."

And all the more extraordinary was this when we remember the horror with which the ancient world regarded Crucifixion, the most humiliating and cruel form of execution ever devised by man.

Said Cicero: "There is no word fitting that can describe so horrible a deed." Yet Jesus had anticipated this. Says Mark, the Gospel writer, "Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man (this was a Messianic title) must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that He must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this." (Mark 8:31-32)

Then he went on, admitting that "now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour," (John 12:27)

Then he added: "And I, when I am lifted up, will draw all men to myself." (John 12:32) Mysterious utterance indeed. Explains John, "He said this to show by what death He was to die." (John 12:33), namely the lifting up of crucifixion.

### THE DIVINE DILEMMA

But I guess this was all so mysterious to the disciples because they had not grasped what we might call the Divine Dilemma – which is this: how could a totally holy and just God simultaneously express his total holiness and his total justice and at the same time express his total love and total desire to pardon?

Only by avoiding the Law which says: "You sin, you pay", and embracing Grace which says "you sin, I pay". In other words, he would need in his justice to decree the penalty, and then in his love pay it himself.

One great British scholar of the last century put it this way: "God, because in his mercy he willed to forgive sinful people and, being truly merciful, willed to forgive them righteously, that is without in any way condoning their sin, purposed to direct against his own very self in the person of his Son the full weight of that righteous wrath which they deserved."



Think of it like this. You are driving along breaking the speed limit when you are pulled over by a traffic cop who happens to be a friend of your family. He knows you, loves you, thinks you are great. But you've broken the law, and he represents justice. So, he'd be a bad cop if he just forgave. This would compromise justice. So he must decree the penalty of R1000 for your speeding. But, yes, he loves you, so doesn't want you to pay. Being still in the era of cheque books, he writes out a cheque to the magistrate's court, and in his love, pays what he just decreed in his justice. All you have to do is gratefully receive what he has done and you are free.



*A digitally generated image depicting the steel cross that was recovered from the World Trade Centre site, with a superimposed abstract silhouette of Jesus Christ, and debris of the destroyed Twin Towers in the background.*

IMAGE: THE WITNESS| AI-GENERATED VISUAL REPRESENTATION

## REDEMPTION AND ADOPTION

Let's carry this sort of illustration further, and jump off from the Apostle Paul's amazing observation in Galatians 4:4, "When the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son...to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying 'Abba! (Hebrew for Daddy) Father.'"

Amazing! Two incredible things wrought for us that first Easter on the Cross of Calvary, namely redemption and adoption.

Now "redemption" in the ancient world was that sum of money which was paid by a benefactor to secure the freedom of a slave. On the Cross our freedom was purchased. All we have to do is reach out by faith and accept what is offered us.

But now there is something else. Once redeemed, we can be adopted back into the family of God as sons and daughters. And we become by adoption what we are not by nature – i.e. children of God. Previously we were "by nature, children of wrath". (Ephesians 2:3)

Now let's come to another illustration similar to the traffic cop. Imagine an orphan boy who is a rampant vandal who especially loves breaking glass – windows, glasses, spectacles, jewellery, whatever. Finally, he is arrested and brought before the village judge, a loving man but a just one. The judge can't just forgive the boy or he'd be a bad judge.

So in his justice he decrees the penalty on the orphan boy of R5000. But his compassionate heart decides he must pay the penalty himself. And so, yes again, like the traffic cop, he writes out a cheque to the court for R5000. The orphan boy just has to accept this and he is free.

But this judge is a man of extraordinary compassion. So he tells the orphan boy he is adopting him into his own family. Incredible! For sure.



However, we ask, does the young boy's nature change overnight? Not likely, not if he's like you or me! So one day, he's passing his father's study with its huge glass windows. And there in the garden is a beautiful brick. The chemistry is too much. We all know the feeling. So up with the brick, which is now hurled through the study window, shattering it to smithereens.

### THE BIG QUESTION

Now, the big question. Does the youth go back to the courthouse to face the judge? The answer of course is No. Why not? Because the judge is now his father. If he's a good father, some suitable discipline will now be administered. But there's no reappearance in the courthouse.

St. Paul celebrates this, saying "there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus". (Romans 8:1) This is glorious beyond all the telling.

In possibly the greatest song in all hymnody, Isaac Watts (1674-1748) responded to this saving work of that first Easter:

"When I survey the wondrous Cross On which the Prince of Glory died, My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the Cross of Christ my Lord; All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.

Another hymn sings it out this way:

"How great, how glorious, how complete,  
Redemption's grand design,  
Where justice, love and mercy meet In harmony divine,"

Of course the whole New Testament itself opens with this idea of sacrifice when as Jesus appears for the very first time, John the Baptist hails him, saying, "Behold, the Lamb of God." (John 1:36)

This at once linked Jesus and his life ministry to the whole Old Testament sacrificial system, especially to the sacrificial lamb slain as an atoning sacrifice for the sins of the people.

It also linked Jesus to the great prophetic scripture of Isaiah 53 where the prophet observes, "All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned every one to his own way, but the Lord has laid on Him (the suffering servant) the iniquity of us all" (vs 6).

Says St Peter: "You were ransomed with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without spot or blemish." (1 Peter 1:19)

### MYSTIFICATIONS TOO

It's a glorious story, and a true one, confirmed by Jesus' historical resurrection a few days later. Yes, on that Cross at that first Easter, he bore not only our "sins and transgressions" and our "griefs and sorrows" (Is 53:4-5), but also, most wonderfully, our mystifications and all our "Whys".

I am sure you have a few of your own. As do I. But when on the cross, in his humanity, at the moment he bore the separation from God we deserved, he cried out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34), and in that moment he picked up and bore all the whys that ever tumbled from the human breast, including yours and mine. Oh, how I am comforted by that. Aren't you?

So I bid you a Happy Easter, understanding, I hope, just a little more of the Crux of the Easter story, and grasping afresh that;

Love so amazing so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

### Michael Cassidy

The visionary founder of African Enterprise, a ministry that has ignited evangelism across Africa's cities for over five decades. This global influencer has walked alongside giants of the faith like Billy Graham and Desmond Tutu, leaving an indelible mark on Christian leadership and playing a pivotal role in South Africa's historic transition to democracy.

A man with glasses and a beard, wearing a white t-shirt, is speaking into a microphone. He is surrounded by a large crowd of people, including many children, in an outdoor setting. The background shows a street with buildings and a cloudy sky.

*Vision*

**Transformed lives in  
Christ through an  
empowered church**

*Mission*

**To Evangelise the  
Cities of Africa  
through **WORD** and  
**DEED** in partnership  
with the **CHURCH****

## Foxfire Resumption in Zimbabwe: Rekindling the Flame

The Foxfire program, long recognized as a youth-driven initiative for evangelism, discipleship, and community impact, is returning to Zimbabwe triumphantly! Known for its dynamic approach to spreading the gospel and addressing societal challenges, the Foxfire program had left an indelible mark in its earlier years. Its revival promises to reignite a passion for transformative ministry among the nation's youth.

As the program gears up, African Enterprise Zimbabwe spearheads efforts to ensure its successful resumption. The focus is on selecting and training young, passionate individuals from across the country, equipping them with skills to engage their peers and communities through music, drama, and other creative forms of ministry with already two young boys exploring the fields in Murehwa and interface with a former foxfire as they join hands in bringing Nhakiwa to Jesus.

Preparations include intensive discipleship training, leadership development, and community outreach strategies. Partnerships with local churches and organizations are being strengthened, ensuring a robust support system for the program. Efforts are underway to modernize the Foxfire approach, incorporating digital evangelism and social media to reach a wider audience.

The resumption of Foxfire is not just a program; it is a movement, a call to action for young Zimbabweans to rise and be agents of change. Through this revival, the vision is clear: to inspire a new generation of leaders who will impact their communities and beyond with the love of Christ.

This initiative signals hope, renewal, and a bright future for the mission of spreading the gospel in Zimbabwe.



**AE Zimbabwe Foxfires with Foxfire Alumni**



## Tailored for Success: Rosemary's Journey to Empowerment



Rosemary Quasnoo on her sewing machine

Rosemary's dream of becoming a fashion designer came alive through the transformative intervention of the African Enterprise Youth Empowerment Project. Rosemary learned about the program during a visit by AE representatives to her local church, where they shared their mission of empowering young individuals through education and training. This was good news for Rosemary, who had faced many roadblocks on her road to achieving her dreams in life, with the biggest barrier being a shortage of finances.

"After completing my senior high school education in 2022, I worked tirelessly, juggling multiple jobs to save enough money to enrol in a fashion school, but I just couldn't manage it," she explained, reflecting on her struggle. "No matter how hard I worked, I didn't make enough to turn my dreams into reality."

Her fortunes changed when she received a scholarship to a renowned fashion school through the Youth Empowerment Project by AE Ghana. With this opportunity, Rosemary has delved deeply into her training, mastering various skills, including dressmaking, beading, and garment design. Today, as Rosemary approaches the finish line of her program, she is hopeful for brighter days ahead.

"I have about two months left to complete my training, and I'm filled with hope. With the skills and knowledge I'm acquiring, I aspire to open my fashion school one day and give back to my community."

Her dedication has not gone unnoticed. Her tutor praised her commitment to learning, highlighting her willingness to stay extra hours to practice and perfect her techniques before heading home each day. "Rosemary's work ethic is exceptional; she is always eager to learn and improve," he remarked.

In a heartfelt conclusion, Rosemary said, "I thank AE Ghana and all the generous donors who made this dream come true for me. Your support has changed my life, and I pray that God blesses you abundantly."

## New Skills, Rekindled Hope!

Derrick completed his junior high school education in 2020 at Galilea M/A One Junior High School, completing his studies with aspirations of continuing to senior secondary school. However, financial difficulties loomed large, making it nearly impossible for him to pursue his dream of further education. In an effort to support himself, he turned to masonry, hoping that the income would allow him to fund his senior secondary education.

He reflected on his experience, stating, "I resorted to masonry to raise money for my education. Unfortunately, the physical demands of the labor took a severe toll on my health. I developed intense pain throughout my body due to the strenuous nature of the work. All the money I managed to save for school ended up being spent on healthcare expenses. It was a disheartening situation that left me feeling worried and hopeless."

Amidst this struggle, Derrick's fortunes began to change when he learned about the AE Youth Empowerment Programme from his boss, Master Selorm, who was also a church member. Intrigued by the opportunity, Derrick decided to enroll in the programme. He was elated to find that AE Ghana equipped him with all the essential resources and training needed to develop new skills.



Derrick (center) with other Tailoring students

Today, Derrick proudly shares, "Thanks to AE's Youth Empowerment Programme, I can sew for clients and earn an income. This opportunity has rekindled the hope I once thought was lost. I am immensely grateful to all the generous donors and AE for their support. You have truly made a difference in my life. I pray that God replenishes all that was invested in implementing this transformative project."

Through this journey, Derrick found a path to financial independence and regained his confidence and purpose.



## Fashioning a Future with Dorcas

Dorcas Kyereboah hails from a close-knit family of five, which includes her supportive parents and two siblings. From a young age, she discovered her passion for dressmaking, aware that furthering her education was not a viable option for her due to various challenges at home. The artistry of sewing and the creativity in designing outfits from scratch captivated her, driving her to pursue this skill wholeheartedly. Each evening after school, she would eagerly walk past a local tailor's shop, where she took every opportunity to practice her sewing techniques, honing her craft before heading home.

Dorcas recalled a pivotal moment when Master Selorm, a mentor in her community, informed her about the Youth Empowerment Programme organized by AE Ghana. Recognizing this as her chance to achieve her dream of becoming a successful fashion designer, she immediately enrolled in the program. With her parents' encouragement and support, Dorcas fully committed herself to the training.

Through daily, rigorous practice, she has mastered vital techniques, learning to stitch, cut, and sew precisely.



Dorcas in an outfit she made for herself

Proudly, she shared that she crafted the dress she was wearing herself, a testament to her growing skills and creativity. "I am so pleased with the progress I am making," she beamed, reflecting on her journey.

Dorcas expressed heartfelt gratitude to AE Ghana and its generous donors, recognizing their significant role in transforming her aspirations into reality. "God bless AE and all the donors for this wonderful programme; I am incredibly thankful," she said, her eyes shining with determination and hope for the future.

## From Streets to Strength

At first glance, Yvonne was just another young woman selling sachet water on the bustling streets of Kumasi. But behind her quiet determination was a story of heartbreak, hope, and unshakable grit.

Life took a hard turn after her parents divorced. As the eldest child, Yvonne stepped into responsibility far too early, joining her mother in street vending to keep the family afloat. She had a high school certificate in her hand and dreams in her heart, but reality was closing in fast. Then, with courage that only desperation can ignite, she made a bold move—leaving Kumasi for Accra in search of something better.

But Accra wasn't kind—not at first.

She moved in with her aunt, another single parent who was fighting her own battles. Things were tight. Money was scarce. And when her aunt remarried and moved out, Yvonne was left to figure life out on her own, again. That could've been the breaking point. But not for Yvonne.

She moved to Kasoa, started selling slippers, and learned the ropes of running a business alone. She didn't give up. She didn't slow down. She searched for a community to lean on—and found one in a local church. It was through that church that she discovered AE Ghana. And that's when everything began to change.

Yvonne enrolled in AE Ghana's youth empowerment programme and poured herself into the training. Business skills. Life skills. Confidence. Vision. Bit by bit, she started to rebuild her future from the ground up. Her progress was remarkable that her tutor believed she could complete the course even earlier than expected.

Now, Yvonne is looking forward—with excitement, not fear. She's got a plan. She's got purpose. And she knows that with God, she's not alone.

"I want to thank AE Ghana and all the generous donors who have supported me. Your contributions have made a real impact on my life. God bless you for empowering me."



## South Africa's New Foxfires

Greetings AE family

We are so excited that our 2025 Foxfire team has finally arrived! This year's arrival was a few days later than usual. As a result, shortly before we received them, our Foxfire manager (Zweli Sokhela), our coordinator (Siyanda Gumedé), and our former Foxfire (Kwanele Duma) led a mini mission in Empangeni.

Back to the recruits (which includes Team Swazi Foxfire)! They have all settled in and are currently undergoing training. Team Swazi Foxfire is our 'new kid on the block' as we launch a Foxfire team in Eswatini – the first in this country. This team comprises of three girls (Phoebe Abraham, Keturah Abraham, Lusanda Mbambo) and one boy (Samuel Abraham); the Eswatini Foxfire Coordinator is former AESA Foxfire, Jedidah Abraham.

They will be commissioned together with the South African team before they head back home to minister in Eswatini. Our South African team comprises three boys (Phakamani Mnqobo, Siphesihle Ndlovu, and Mthunzi Ngcobo) and two girls (Anita Mkhize and Hephzibah Abraham).

Please keep them all in prayer as they offer themselves in this area of amazing youth ministry.





# Upcoming Missions



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## **AEE Kenya**

**May 15 - 25, Nakuru Mission**

## **AE Zambia**

**July 4 -13, Kabwe Mission**

## **AE DRC**

**August 16 - 23, Kinshasa**

## **AE South Africa**

**July 30 - 3 August, Mthata Mission**

**September 18 - 28, Gaborone (Botswana)**

## **AEE Uganda**

**September 21 - 27, Lira Mission**

## **AE Malawi**

**October 24 - Nov 2, Mzuzu**

## **AE Ghana**

**October 24 - Nov 2, Greater Accra Mission**

## **AEE South Sudan**

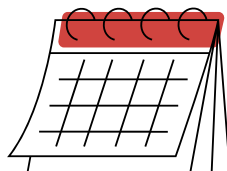
**November 21 - 30, Juba Mission**

## **AEE Tanzania**

**November 27 -7th Dec, Arusha Mission**

## **Ethiopia**

**December 20 - 28, Adama City**





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