

ANNUAL MISSION SUMMARY 2023





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International CEO's Report



Dear Friends,

As we welcome the dawn of a new year 2024, we express gratitude for the mercies and grace that the Lord has granted us. Looking back on 2023, it stands out as a significant chapter in the story of AE, marked by continuous growth and dedication to our mission. We are excited to highlight key milestones that have shaped our journey and celebrate the collective impact we've achieved.

Our commitment to spreading the love of Christ reached new heights last year. Through the collaborative efforts of our team and the support of our partners, we reached over 4,738,508 people, with 194,962 making the decision to follow Christ. Each testimony bears witness to the transformative power of God's redeeming love.

As we step into a new year, our prayer is that the Lord guides and equips us for the task of sharing His Good News. May AE continue serving as a beacon of hope, love, and compassion for generations to come, glorifying our Lord through both word and deed.

And to each one of you, may the God of wisdom direct your steps, may your faith remain strong, your hope unwavering, and your love abound more and more throughout the year. Amen.

Every blessing,

Stephen Mbogo CEO / International Team Leader, African Enterprise





Mission Impact

4,738,508

People reached

in 2023





194,962







To follow Jesus!



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A Historic first for AEE South Sudan

African Enterprise South Sudan carried out it's first ever mission on 19th November 2023. The mission, like all African Enterprise evangelical missions, ran for a whole week until the 26th of November. The mission was carried out in the Equatorial region of South Sudan in the city of Terekeka.

There were 50 missionaries involved in the week long exercise, whole efforts backed by the Holy Spirit yielded a harvest of 5159 decisions to follow Jesus and a total reach of 12,810 people. The mission also broke the yoke of disunity in the city area as 3 different denominations and 8 different churches came together to collaborate in sharing the gospel.

Visit AEI YouTube Channel to watch a mission recap by team leader of AE South Sudan, Alex Bilal.



"I am coming back to Jesus Christ!"

While sharing the gospel using the one-on-one model, the evangelists came across a lady, Mama Erina. She was in her compound and upon seeing the evangelists come towards her, she eagerly welcomed them to hear what they had to say. Mama Erina later decided to rededicate her life to Jesus!



"I am 42 years old, I am an Anglican Christian, and I have accepted Jesus in my life. In the last four years, the devil dragged me out of the church and of the love of God.

I have been living a life where I have had no interest in going to church. I joined a carnal lifestyle of drunkenness and smoking. I spent most of my time drinking alcohol in my house with my friends. I have never been to church for three years.

Yesterday by surprise, mission evangelist Taban entered my compound and found me seated in my bed, and started to share with me the message of the salvation of God.

From yesterday I took a decision to accept Jesus Christ and come back to him again. From now onward, I will leave smoking, drinking and follow Jesus Christ!!"

That was the testimony of Mama Erina, and a testament to how God is bringing back to the heart of worship, the people of Terekeka, a city whose name means forgotten but God is reminding everyone there of His love for them!

Love Nairobi Mission

In September (7th -17th) 2023, African Enterprise partnered with the Luis Palau Association, to execute one of the biggest evangelical movements in Kenya; The Love Nairobi Festival Mission. Over 500 laborers in the Lord's vineyard availed themselves from all over the world, to share the gospel on the streets, in churches, in door-to-door missions, in prisons, in schools and anywhere that the Lord availed. The result of this obedience was a reach to 320,968 people with the gospel message of Christ and a harvest of 78,593 decisions to follow Christ.



The Love Nairobi Mission culminated with a three-day festival at the University of Nairobi Sports grounds where the Luis Palau Association together with other partners ran several activites such as extreme sports, children's play areas and famous local and international gospel artistes such as Pompi from Zambia, Don Moen from the USA and Evelyn Wanjiru from Kenya. Andrew Palau shared the gospel on all three days to the great multitudes that showed up at the grounds. The Luis Palau Association shares similar goals with African Enterprise in working towards a united church, proclaiming the gospel message of Christ and evangelizing cities.

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BOLE MISSION

Bole, a vibrant and majorly afluent city located in the Oromia region of Ethiopia was the target city for AEE Ethiopia's annual mission. The Bole Ethiopia mission was the last mission on the AE Calendar for 2023, as it was scheduled to run from December from 18th – 24th.

The preparation phase leading up to the Mission involved training of local missionaries on how to share the gospel to nonbelievers and people of different faiths.

Two different types of tracts were skillfully used during the program. The first tract artfully elaborated on the profound concepts of life and death, while the second tract ardently emphasized the great commission bestowed upon believers and those who accept the message from the Bible.

Koye Mulu was one of the locations that the missionaries gathered together to plan, pray, and praise God. On 30thDecember 2023, the closing rally was held and God ministered to all who were present.

There is no more bondage for Bekele!



Andarge Bekele, was an individual entrapped in bondage, enduring the loss of consciousness and purpose in life on the streets of Bole. Bekele had been on the streets for over 5 years, away from the warmth and belonging of family.

When the missionaries approached him warmly, he was so receptive of the teachings of the gospel of Jesus and he made a decision to follow Christ.

Bekele returned with the team of missionaries to the church where he was prayed over and he was delivered from the demonic bondage that had enslaved his being for more than a decade and had caused him to live on the streets for 5 years.

For Bekele, Jesus took the shackles off of his feet and there is no more bondage in his life.

Bole Mission, an indelible mark!

The mission engagement held at Koye Mulu Wengele stands as a testament to its resounding success and profound impact on the lives of attendees. The thoughtfully designed orientations provided invaluable insights into effectively communicating the profound message of the Bible to unbelievers. The strategic division of participants into smaller groups, along with the efficient announcement system, ensured seamless organization and optimal engagement. The remarkable attendance from diverse locations highlighted the extensive influence of this program, and the provision of transportation support showcased a spirit of compassion and generosity. In summary, the Saturday 30 program at Koye Mulu Wengele exceeded expectations, leaving an indelible mark on participants and the community at large.



A Three-Part Mission Strategy Lessons from the Durban Mission

Evangelism is the heartbeat of African Enterprise and every year, each national office does a city-wide mission, reaching out to the last, the least, and the lost using a unique method called Stratified Evangelism. This year, a total of 4,738,508 people were reached with the saving message of the gospel of Jesus Christ across the 14 missions that were held by the various African Enterprise offices. 42,973 of these were as a result of AE South Africa's model of a three-part mission strategy, as opposed to the conventional 10-day mission strategy.

The AE South Africa 2023 Mission to Durban was a unique roll-out of THREE separate weeks over the course of the year.

The FIRST week (15th – 21st March) spread ministry across the Durban outlying areas of Phoenix, Inanda, Ntuzuma, and KwaMashu (PINKU area), with a focus on reconciliation.

The SECOND week (24th - 30th July) focused ministry on Durban's city center and Pinetown (which forms part of the Duban municipality, 16km outside the city) and was coined 'From Point to Pinetown'. Here the emphasis was on social action.

The THIRD week (16th - 22nd October) was once again in the PINKU area and concentrated on stratified evangelism.

Mission volunteers from far and wide (including some international missioners) joined our Team for Durban Mission 2023. Stratified evangelism included door-todoor, open-airs, drive-thru prayer, schools, marketplaces, businesses, factories, taxi ranks, Police Services, government offices, and at Westville Prison where 20 inmates received Jesus as their









Firstly, we thank God for every donor, prayer partner and volunteer missioner who made this Durban mission possible.

We opted for this 3-prong approach to Durban to maximize our reach and impact. This was possible as Durban is the neighbouring city to our base in Pietermaritzburg, making it more easily accessible for the setup travels and so-doing allowing for repeated visits and the multiple mission weeks. We also wanted to have the opportunity to revisit an area as we often get asked when we are coming back, but as our mandate is national, this often can't happen for many years. Then, we wanted to spread the financial burden of the mission over the course of the year. I believe these positives were achieved.

In addition, we thought it may also spread the workload for our relatively small team, however, it probably multiplied the workload...so any team considering a multiple-week mission to a city, over the course of a year, should consider their calendar and manpower resources very carefully!

Institute of Evangelism

Through we Institute of Evangelism, African Enterprise trains evangelists, pastors and church leaders on formal methods of disciple making, effective evangelism methods, and effective mission, both locally and globally. In 2023, the African Enterprise International Institute of Evangelism graduated over 400 pastors and evangelists in 10 African countries. Here are testimonies from the trainings that were done in African Enterprise Southern Africa Region (AESAR) which is made up of Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi.

SAMSON CHITSEKO: A YOUTH IMPACTING THE LOCAL CHURCH THROUGH EVANGELISM

"After I and my church mate attended the first training session in May 2023, we quickly realized that we would not be able to cover a lot of ground alone. We engaged our senior pastor and asked if we could facilitate training at church so we equip the congregation with the tools that we learned from the training, we were given permission and we undertook a month-long training with the congregation and only began to evangelize

in July. For the next two months, we were able to reach out to over one hundred people, and not less than thirty people dedicated their lives to Christ and joined the congregation.

We have seen the effectiveness of having a system and clear model of reaching out to people, it is effective regardless of people's ages.", Samson said.

Samson Chitseko is one of two youth members from Pentecostal Evangelistic Fellowship of Africa who are part of African Enterprise International Institute of Evangelism's 40 on 4 books training that was facilitated by African Enterprise Malawi between the 2nd to 4th of August, 2023 in Lilongwe. His fervor in evangelizing together with his fellow youth, has catalyzed the numerical growth of the church from an average membership of 90 to 130 people.



Samson is a youth leader in his local church, he envisages a youth that will lead exemplary lives that will be modeled by the generation that follows them. He believes that the most effective way to actualize this vision is by allowing the full gospel to take eminence in the lives of the youth in his church. Through the knowledge he continues to gain from the training, he committed to inching towards that vision.

"in two months, we reached out to more than 100 people and not less than thirty people dedicated theri lives to Christ"



The Impact of Stratified Evangelism Training on my life: Linda Charis Dhliwayo

My name is Linda Charis Dhliwayo, a pastor in Others International Church (OIC). I came in through the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe where I am part of the leadership at provincial and national level. God bless the whole team at African Enterprise, Zimbabwe, especially Dr Mugwidi who was the main facilitator.

The first workshop in March grossly challenged me towards evangelism. My heart had grown cold towards the lost sheep, but my desire to really do evangelism was reawakened through the training. I had been a pastor in charge of a congregation of up to about 100 people, but it shrank to less than 10 after the Covid-19 pandemic. Even though the vision of our denomination is soul winning and church planting, it is very possible that I never went out to win souls in the streets like the way I used to do before the Covid-19 era. Besides that, I hardly followed up on those who had stopped coming to church.

In the month of May, at my church front, I decided to take one young man with me to go out and do street evangelism in Glen Norah where he stays. In about 2 hours we had spoken to about 20 people one on one,



and others in groups of 2 or more. We did not move around much, but it was just in a radius of 2 small streets. From that list, half of them are now established members in my church and I organize transport for them to go to church every Sunday. I have also experienced divine provisions to sponsor the transportation to church. The young man I started with had not been in church for long, but now he is a cell group leader, and another girl that we evangelized to on that day is also heading a cell group. Both of them are now on a pastoral training program and they regularly go for outreaches to evangelize more young people like them. I attribute this fruit to the Stratified evangelism training that I received.

The training on Stratified Evangelism is powerful and needful to be continued in the cities of Africa. The content of it is very high and valid, not commonly found and it is very possible that many people were hearing some of these truths for the first time ever, in spite of having been ministers of the gospel for several years. The interactions and discussions during the workshops were also another source of knowledge as we learn from each other's experiences. The networks developed with AE staff and among participants have enhanced my life and I believe that I am indeed at a higher level in my life and ministry than I was before this training. I am most grateful also for the resources made available to us because we can continue to study on our own as we put the knowledge of evangelism into day to day practice.

"The training on Stratified Evangelism is powerful and needful to be continued in the cities of Africa."

Discipleship Impact

In Ethiopia

Discipleship is part of African Enterprise's Stratified Evangelism approach where the different needs of different people are met via various forms of engagement. Effective Discipleship is a necessity for creating sustainable and vibrant faith communities, cities, and nations at large.

African Enterprise Ethiopia is the flag bearer for discipleship thanks to its extensive reach and engagement with communities and churches all over the country.

The Discipleship program in 2023 was spread out over 100 cities and churches. The program, which is carried out when schools have closed for the long vacation, reaches all age groups from children to teens, and university-going students. In the areas where the churches are supportive, the discipleship program is offered throughout the year as found fitting according to the church leaders.

The photo below shows discipleship students in Gulele FGB Church; one of the churches in Addis where the discipleship program is being conducted. In this local church, more than 200 students are taking discipleship courses.



The program has been contributing to the spiritual growth of children and youth over the years with noticeable changes in the lifestyle of students especially the growth of the students' interest in reading the Bible. Children and youth have also shown increased interest in coming to church. The assessment made by local church leaders on the effectiveness of the Discipleship Program confirms that God has blessed the program and that many are growing in their spiritual lives and have a deeper understanding of the Bible. Discipleship should shape the whole person such that the disciple can one day become a discipler. This journey involves creating an understanding of the basics of the faith.

Bereket Dawit, a 2nd year discipleship trainee, and also a grade 10 student has attended the discipleship program for 6 years in her church and greatly values the benefits she has reaped from the program.

Bereket says "Because of this program I have a better grasp of the Christian faith. As a Bible-believing Christian though I accepted that God is one in three persons I was not able to explain it until I studied in the discipleship class. Now I can explain what I believe."

Bereket is one example of many who are now empowered with a clear understanding of the basic principles of Christianity, young people who are now boldly being ambassadors of a faith that they can not only explain but even defend and share.

Bereket also says "It has shaped my life positively. Got answers to the spiritual challenges I faced in school. In fact, there were times when my friends in school challenged me but because I was able to defend the faith some of my classmates have started to come to our Christian fellowship club, this is the beginning of evangelism.

Please continue with this important and helpful program, especially to the youth such as me who are tossed back and forth with new globalization ideas and worldviews."



Bereket Dawit, discipleship trainee

Discipleship Impact

When enter the Prince of

Peace

Bizunesh Alemu is married and is a mother of 2 children. She grew up as an orphan and became a maid worker. Things took a dark turn when her husband dedicated their 2nd son to Amenchia, a type of evil worship. The child became restless and the family was in havoc.

She says, "I was in chaos and life was terrible. One day I walked by the church and a missioner told me about Christ. That was really good news to me. I accepted Christ and received internal peace. My son who was ceaselessly crying was prayed for and he stopped crying. Now I am followed up by the church pastor, being discipled and my life is being changed. Now we have peace at home. My children are growing. I will continue to follow Jesus and no turning back.



AEE ETHIOPIA DISCIPLESHIP TRAINEES









JESUS. ALL ABOUT LIFE

In conjunction with the Bible Society of Australia, AE carried out the Jesus. All About Life (JAAL) campaign in Rwanda and Kenya. This initiative raised awareness of Jesus and the relevance of His teachings in today's modern world. The project mobilized churches to take up the evangelism mandate and move beyond their normal congregants to reach others within their communities.

In Rwanda, the goal was to reach people living in Kigali City as well as the cities of Muhanga and Huye (Southern Province), Rusizi and Rubavu (Western Province), Rwamagana and Nyagatare (Eastern Province), Musanze in the Northern Province, and the satellite cities (Kirehe and Kayonza). AEE Rwanda facilitated the translation of the JAAL materials into the local language – Kinyarwanda. Materials and Bibles were distributed to Pastors, evangelists, Sunday school teachers and facilitators so that they could use them during the JAAL activities, and thereafter.

The campaign mobilized Christians within the churches to re-engage with their local community and sharetheir faith. Although Rwanda is made up of majority Christians, many are quiet about their faith. The campaign stirred up and motivated these believers to boldly share their faith in their neighbourhoods and workplaces, changing the practice and perception of evangelism as an event-based activity to a lifestyle practiced by every Christian.





Emmanuel Twizerimana, a student at the Centre for Champion School, was one of the people impacted by the JAAL campaign. Emmanuel was born into a family of two children. His parents divorced when he was two years old, and his sister was just a year and six months. Following the separation, their grandmother took on the responsibility of raising them, but she struggled with financial instability, and the family faced many hardships in life.

"Despite the challenges, I persevered and continued my studies, even though I was on the verge of dropping out of school. In secondary school, I found ways to earn money to support myself. Our father remarried, and our mother was unable to provide for us, which meant that we were largely on our own." Emmanuel said.

By the time he reached Senior 3, he had fallen in with a bad crowd and had become addicted to drugs. However, by the grace of God, Emmanuel managed to pass his exams and was accepted into the Centre for Champion School. It was here that Emmanuel began to see the importance of prayer, and he experienced the God who had watched over and kept him and his little sister when no one else could. Emmanuel embraced the teachings of the Christian faith.

"As I learned more about the word of God, my heart was conquered, and I surrendered my life to Christ. I joined the discipleship class and was baptized, and now I am committed to living a life that will serve as an inspiration to my children and the people around me." he said, with a huge smile on his face.

COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

From malnutrition to abundant life, and health

Uwimana Godelive, lives in Bwimiyange Village, Gasagara Cell. Before the introduction of Church and Community Transoformation Program, she was lonely and her child could not move or play like other normal children because the child was suffering from malnutrition. It was painful for Godelive as a mother to see her child suffer yet she could not do anything about the situation. She felt helpless.



One day, she heard about a training at her local church on the Church and Community Transformation Program and upon showing interest, she was encouraged to join a Self Help Group.

shared her experience and testimony with the Church and Community Transformation program. Godelive joined the Jyanumucyo (Send the light) Self-Help-Group where she met a community that was eager to do life together, journeying with her through the highs and lows. From the weekly savings of 200 Rwandese Franks made in the Self-Help-Group, Godelive bought a rabbit which quickly multiplied to 10 rabbits. God had provided a rich protein source for the family like he did for the children of Israel with quail while in the desert! Later, the Self Help Group helped Godelive to get a chicken and which now lays eggs for domestic use and createsmanure for the garden. Godelive took on vegetable farming too, such that her household now enjoys a balanced diet.

"My child who used to have malnutrition is currently fine since he can take eggs, vegetables and enough food items for his health. The child now walks to school without anyone having to carry him. As I conclude, I want to express my sincere gratitude to Tearfund Rwanda, AEE Rwanda and the local church that introduced and facilitated the implementation of CCT program."

Godelive is just one of many people who have greatly benefitted and had their lives transformed for the better through the CCT program.

Kilinesi Kamwendo is a beneficiary of sustained transformation from AE's vocational skills school. She attended and graduated from the school in 2017. Kamwendo is among the women whose tailoring businesses are doing well from which she is able to serve her family and transform her life.

"Before I did the tailoring school, I was just a stayat-home mother and wife with no economic activity. As time passed, I could see my fellow women working on a sewing machine and making their lives better. This sparked a desire in me. It became clear to me that I also wanted to have a chance to learn the skills that could enable me to become a helping hand to my husband who runs a small grocery shop". She explained.

Transformed lives in Christ through an empowered Church

From that year up to date, I have been able to generate income through the tailoring business. This enables me to meet the family's basic needs like food and clothes and I can contribute toward church activities. All this is because of the skills which I

acquired from African Enterprise which has brought evident change in my life.

Kilinesi's great achievement is that she has managed to raise income for some time with which she has bought two sewing machines. She is planning to employ some individuals to be using these machines in order to boost her tailoring business.



COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

There is Water in Amsterdam!

On Monday 23 October 2023, Amsterdam, a high-density township 20km SouthEast of Harare, was filled with sounds of celebration and merry-making when African Enterprise fulfilled her promise to drill a high-yielding borehole to supply 4,200 households with potable water. For ten years Amsterdam had no clean water for the 21000 residents as there is no water reticulation system installed by the city of Harare. Following a mission in that settlement in 2015, African Enterprise drilled the city's first borehole which did not last long most probably because it was overwhelmed. This time around through support from the Australian Aid and Development funding a bigger and better project was birthed.

Following a a hydrogeological survey which was conducted on Saturday 21 October 2023, the contractor moved quickly to begin a risk search for the precious liquid which had eluded government contractors who had several dry holes in August. For months the community had been scavenging for water in the graveyard and a few still relied on contaminated water from their shallow wells dug next to the pit latrines. It was a relief when at 57 meters below the earth's surface, water gushed out, and the community which anxiously followed proceedings whistled and ullulated, celebrating a milestone.

During the six hours of capacity testing, women and children queued for four hours to collect as much water as they could. Although the water was still muddy, residents felt it was much safer than that which they got from the graveyard abstraction.

In a rare occurrence, the borehole produced a capacity of 1.6 liters per second translating to 90 liters per minute and 5,400 litres per hour. By any standard, that was a prolific yield which can produce over 30,000 litres per day in 6 hours.





YOUTH EMPOWEREMENT **Foxfire Programs**

Foxfires are the youth arm of African Enterprise's evangelical and mission activities. Every year, a cohort is taken up by different national teams, for a period ranging from 6 to 9 months for training in ministry and life skills. The young people pour out their energies to serving God through different activities such as school outreaches, visiting children's homes, street evangelism among others. They employ different methods such as dancing, singing, acting and drama, youth camps and trainings to reach out to their fellow young people. These are some of the foxfire activities that happened across the year.

Uttah Team takes Foxfire through Career guidance.

AEE Kenya hosted guests from Mount Olympus Presbyterian Church, Utah team. The team was received by Rev. Benson Omondi CEO/Team Leader of AEE Kenya The team had a career talk with AEE Kenya Foxfires, some of the areas covered were; Arts, Music, Engineering, Medicine as well as career guidance. It was an incredible opportunity for them to learn how to be Christ ambassadors in their fields of pursuit.

"I believe we all get fueled by some sort of passion. For me I have always wanted to do medicine especially nursing under public health. Giving care to the sick and finding ways in which they can get better sparks my enthusiasm. I guess because I have spent time with my ailing grandmother seeing how she gets helpless while in pain and wondering how take that away.

When I heard that a team from Uttah was going to have a career talk with Foxfire. I was super excited. We were placed in small groups according to our preferences. I joined the medicine team. I knew this was the beginning of a journey to venture in what I have always loved, My aim! To care for people especially my grandmother.

I had a chance to interact with the team and had discussions on how the medical field/education looks like here and what it looks like in the states. I got to learn that there are different nurses working in different sectors. It was quite insightful to learn how the ICU operates and the joy it brings when a patient gets better. " Purity Foxfire Kenya.



have for passion architecture and a Entrepreneurship. I am glad I met Jesse Allan who studied architectural technology. I told him that I wanted to start my own business immediately after campus and he advised me that I must work for some years to be able to get the license to start my own company then visit a bank that supports small businesses to get some capital since they are in a better place to finance it. However, he said that the bank must earn a percentage from the company. I think this was quite an eye opener. I am grateful we had this session, I see self- employment differently even as I wait to start my course." Emmanuel Wanjau Foxfire.





Reached	\longrightarrow	106,991
Decisions	\longrightarrow	26,334

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Peace Building and Reconciliation

Trauma Healing

One of the biggest project that AE South Sudan works on is the Trauma Healing program. AE South Sudan is the youngest among the national offices and it is located in a nation that has experienced war and political instability in the recent past.

The realities of war and violence, death and loss, poverty and displacement from family, sexual abuse among many other traumatic situations are too common for comfort. These sets of circumstances present an opportunity for ministry through the Trauma Healing program, which is executed in schools and in the local community



AEE Rwanda also carries out Trauma healing programs within the local communities. These programs aim at confronting the challenges of gender based violence in homesteads, and continuing reconciliation initiatives within the communities. In June 2023, AEE Rwanda ran a healing and reconciliation seminar and workshop to 170 students peer leaders in Kayonza Secondary school in the project of improved literacy.



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT African Enterprise International Trainings

African Enterprise International arranged and ran a 3-day capacity development training on Aid and Development in Nairobi, Kenya. The training started on Thursday 31st August and went on till Saturday 2nd September 2023. In attendance and participation in the training were members from across the partnership.

Simba Musvamhiri, the CEO of African Enterprise Australasia together with Bernice Sarpong, the Vice Chair of African Enterprise Australia, were the main facilitators of the Aid and Development Training.

The training covered topics such as Selfcare, Faith in Aid and Development, Broken & Imbalanced Relationships, and on the technical side, the Aid and Development training covered several areas ranging from policies on Safeguarding and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH), how to write good proposals and how to capture and report stories of impact.

The last day of the Aid and development training included a trip to Kibera for a practical implementation of all the theory that had been shared during the training. Three groups were formed, and each set out to interact with the people in Kibera, to identify a problem, develop an objective tree, do a risk assessment and capture impact stories.

The training was climaxed by the awarding of certificates to all who had participated in and had completed the training successfully.



Who We Are

Vision

Transformed lives through an empowered church

Mission

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

How poverty and injustice affect the reach of the gospel on the African continent

By Kepha Nyandegal, Faith and Development Advisor, World Vision Kenya

Africa is today the most Christian filled continent in the world. Out of the world's 2.2billion, Africa has 30% of the world's evangelicals, 20% of the world's Pentecostals and charismatics, and 15% of the world's Roman Catholics[1]. By 2050, African Christian population will be more than the total sum of the second (Asia) and third (Latin America) largest Christian population[2].

While this is a cause for celebration, the impact of African Christianity is dismal. Africa remains the poorest continent in GDP terms and yet the richest in natural resource terms, thanks to poor leadership influenced by more powerful nations. The consequence is incessant conflicts and 'negative peace'. There is a soaring socio economic disparity and injustice, with 'a top 10% population sharing 54% of Africa's wealth and a bottom 50% sharing 10%'[3].

Poverty and injustice derail penetration of the gospel in Africa and beyond. Poverty is more than just a deficit of basic needs. Poverty is about broken relationships in an individual with themselves, with their community and others, with the environment and with God[4]. The result is a marred identity; a case of low self-esteem and distorted vocations for self-determination.

Most churches in Africa are patronized by the community's poor who have limited influence. Their aggregate giving hardly meets the pastors' meager incomes, let alone support missions. Unfortunately, many 'wealthy' urban churches spend more on own programs than missions. The 'injustice' in the missions in Africa is that the most gospel-needy areas receive the minimal number of missionaries.



In addition, only '5% of the evangelical pastors in Africa have a degree in theology'[5]. Small wonder that Africa will only be contributing to 10% of the world missionaries by 2050[6]!

Why is this happening? Perbi and Ngugi (2022) blames it on the African Church's wrong mindset, an inward-looking attitude, shallow discipleship, church brands and personality cult and undeveloped mission infrastructure.

I call it inadequate gospel messaging. Africa, like the rest of the world needs the 'whole gospel' message. Jesus declared that he came that we might have abundant life[7]. He unpacked his mission as 'to proclaim good news to the poor.... proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor'[8]. Myers sums this thus, 'the Gospel is an inseparable mix of life, deed, word and sign. We are to be with Jesus (life), so that we can preach the good news (word), heal the sick (deed) and cast out demons (sign)'[9].

Poverty is more than just a deficit of basic needs! Poverty is about broken relationships...

^[1] Africa Study Bible. Oasis International, 2016.

Perbi Yaw and Ngugi Sam, 2022: Africa to the Rest: From Mission Field to Mission Force (Again).
Income Inequality in Africa, 1990- 2017 by Lucas Chancel, et al. in WID.world Issue Brief 2019/6

accessed on 20/12/2023 from <u>By Kepha Nyandegal</u>

 ^[4] Myers Bryant L. 2000: Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practice of Transformational Development.
[5] <u>By Kepha Nyandegal</u>

^[6] Perbi Yaw and Ngugi Sam, 2022: Africa to the Rest: From Mission Field to Mission Force (Again).

^[7] John 10:10 [8] Luke 4:18-19

^[9] Myers Bryant L. 2000: Walking with the Poor: Principles and Practice of Transformational Development

Jesus the Leader Par Excellence

Jonathan L. Addison, Former Board Chair, AE International.

As Christians, we look to Jesus as a leader par excellence. He was prepared to think beyond the conventions of His day and step forward for His Mission. Jesus maintained that He came not to invalidate the Law of Moses, but to accomplish it. He complained about the hypocrisy and excessive regulations and rites of imposed by the Pharisees. To begin I refer to these short passages of scripture:

Matthew 23:1-12 (New International Version) and Mark 7:5-8

The passage from Mark's Gospel above and also in Matthew 23 have been seen, in the past by some, as an attack on the Jews of His day, however if we look closely, it is more an attack on the Scribes and Pharisees, after all Jesus was a Jew, indeed of the line of David, Great David's Greater Son. Nobody pays much attention to the anger of a badtempered person. But when a person who is characteristically meek and lowly, gentle and loving, suddenly erupts into anger, even the most thoughtless person is shocked into taking thought. That is why the anger of Jesus is so awe-inspiring a sight.

It is seldom in literature that we find so unsparing and sustained an indictment as we find in these words when the wrath of Jesus is directed against the Scribes and Pharisees.

The Jews are a people of The Law, The Book. Indeed, they had a saying, "Moses received the Law and delivered it to Joshua; and Joshua to the elders; and the elders to the prophets; and the prophets to the men of the Great Synagogue."

Jesus said he did not come to set aside the law. On the cross with his arms outstretched for all of us. He cried out "It is accomplished" he had fulfilled the Law and the Prophets for all humankind[1].

The Pharisaical outlook on religion had one fundamental effect. It made it a thing of thousands upon thousands of rules and regulations; and therefore, it made it an intolerable burden.

In more modern times The Reformation railed against the popery of the then Church. Leaders such as John Wesley and George Fox were concerned about the excessive rites and regulations of The Church of England. They sought a Church that presented a loving, forgiving saviour for all humankind. They believed in word and action.

Perhaps we should look at Jesus' leadership and contemplate how in our generation we should model His leadership.

"Servanthood and humility are the attributes of true ministry!"

Various attempts have been made to pin down the differences between leadership and management. Managers, according to an influential article by Abraham Zaleznik in the Harvard Business Review in 1977, value order; leaders are tolerant of chaos. A later article in the same publication, by John Kotter, described management as a problemsolving discipline, in which planning and budgeting creates predictability. Leadership, in contrast, is about the embrace of change and inspiring people to brave the unknown.

Warren Bennis, an American academic who made leadership studies respectable, reckoned that a manager administers, and a leader innovates. This is not to denigrate good management and governance, they are essential. Good leaders are usually supported by good skilled, and trusted managers and experts.

Jesus the Leader Par Excellence

Jesus innovated and sought to lead us to a new Jesus retreated to a quiet place on occasion. dispensation, a new way of thinking. He dealt with all of humankind's transgressions and on that dreaded day in the Garden He accepted the cup presented by God with the words "Thy will be done". He then proceeded to the cross of salvation. Then with His arms outstretched he embraced all humankind and paid the price for all transgressions of all time. Then He could cry out "It is accomplished".

Followers of Jesus should put God first, and we should use our intellectual and spiritual resources in the service of others:God first, others second, and self last. Jesus is the true leader and successor of Moses. His followers, including us, are of equal standing before Him. Servanthood and humility are the attributes of true ministry. Jesus was cross because many of the Sadducees and Pharisees failed to grasp this.

Leaders in government the corporate world, the church, and agencies should look at this. In my professional life I was variously described as: eccentric, a maverick, or even, an absent-minded professor. At a conference one of the delegates approached me after a talk and said, "ah...I see you are an endogenous economist. sometimes we do need to step aside from conventional wisdom and take a wider look at what is the best way forward.

However, a leader must be accompanied by expert and trusted followers. The work of good governance and adherence to legal structures is guided by managers who can at times encourage the leader to go forward, or, at times, pull them back.We need technical experts who can guide as to what is possible. A good leader needs time and space to read think and consult. Importantly he/she must have a clear idea as to the ultimate mission or goal. I would encourage all leaders set time aside to read, contemplate, and pray. Maybe take half a day or a full day out of your diary?

Notice that Jesus selected 12 disciples who he could teach encourage and sometimes chastise. Jesus sought to put substances over form, not like some of the church, including the Pharisees who put form above substance.

The disciples seemed to me an eclectic bunch not well qualified for the task ahead. However, Jesus always pointed to the task ahead, He was prepared to put aside conventional wisdom and focus on the ministry. It is well said that God does not necessarily call the qualified but qualifies the called.

My question to all of us is" When we are faced with visibly impossible decisions or are guite lost for direction, our intellect and advice is exhausted do we seek God's word and are then prepared to take that first step in faith? Are we prepared to be a leader and deal with the chaos all around and to embrace change and take that first step into the unknown?"









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AE Ghana

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