

# African

SUMMER 2022

# HARVEST



*"God is so faithful in standing beside us:"*

## How you're helping to bring AE Founder Michael Cassidy's vision to reality

For decades, Michael Cassidy has been a giant of the Christian faith. Born in South Africa, he is the founder and CEO of African Enterprise. Thanks to Michael's vision, friends like you have been helping to evangelise the cities of Africa in Word and Deed for over 60 years now!

As a young man in seminary, Michael had a great sense that his mission to share the Good News would take him all over Africa.

*"I began praying systematically for each African country. I prayed that one day I would have the opportunity of ministering in those countries," Michael said.*

During a trip to Liberia in 1961, Michael wrote the words 'Claimed for Jesus Christ' in the sand. Those words captured what he truly believed about the continent – that God had claimed Africa – but they set an enormous challenge. On that day, Michael asked God for 50 years of ministry in Africa, one year for every state on the continent.

South Africa's racial tension was a deep source of heartache for Michael, as it was for many in that nation and across the world. He believed that the transforming love of Jesus

Christ would be the solution. But for that to happen, people would have to be won to Christ. So he redoubled his efforts to become a powerful and effective evangelist for Jesus.

Michael had to overcome a paralysing fear of public speaking to begin city evangelism in Africa. He felt completely inadequate for the task. But at a Billy Graham crusade in 1957, Michael had heard the voice of the Lord distinctively. He had learnt that God could use ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things on Earth.

And you may not know this, but in 1994, Michael played a significant role in the elections to end apartheid in his nation.

*Story continues on page 2 ►*

## *In this anniversary issue*

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## “14,000 men responded”:

*Michael Cassidy shares his favourite stories of your impact through A£*

**Michael Cassidy has seen God move in amazing ways through your support over the years. It was a 1962 mission trip to Pietermaritzburg that was the making of African Enterprise. The extraordinary success of that mission was largely due to the fact that with no prior experience, the team was completely dependent on the grace of God.**

When Festo Kivengere joined AE as co-leader with Michael in 1970, it was a moment of transformation as the work became truly Pan-African. Festo and Michael began preaching as a duo, and this led to a powerful testimony to the importance of reconciliation.

For Michael, The Promise Keepers Rally in Chicago 1996 was his personal preaching highlight. The rally was attended by over 70,000 people, and Michael discovered that very few Caucasian Americans grasped the depth of pain inflicted on fellow African Americans by racial discrimination and injustice.

*"I shared the South African experience, and there was tremendous emotion when I gave the appeal," says Michael. "Some 14,000 men responded, rushing to the front and falling on their faces. Nobody had ever seen anything like it. To God be the glory."*

AE's involvement behind the scenes in the 1994 First Democratic and Non-Racial Elections also contributed to



the historic breakthrough for peaceful elections. "If ever AE South Africa had a finest moment," says Michael, "the SA 1994 election was probably it."

◀ *Captured in the documentary:*  
The Threatened Miracle of South  
Africa's Democracy.

Michael has also published numerous books, two of which he mentions in particular: ***The Church Jesus Prayed For*** and his memoir, ***Footprints in the African Sand***. “These stand as highlights for me because of the message each book brings,” he says.

**As he looks to the future, Michael sees a powerful future as the ministry follows the will of God under the godly leadership of a new generation, fuelled by the generosity and prayer of the AE family, including you.**

***"My heart is blessed with a deep peace as I witness this development and know that God has His hand on it all. Praise His name!"***

*Your support is empowering*  
**local teams to preach the Gospel in East Africa!**

**Thank you for empowering local AE teams to overcome many hurdles to reach more people for Christ, even in the grip of a global pandemic. You're helping to show God's love to people at every level of African society.**

# Tanzania

Mrs Amosi, a mother of four, worshipped false gods and idols all her life. When the AE Tanzania team came to her door and told her about Christ, she was humbled and asked Christ to intervene in her life. She told AE Tanzania to burn her idols and everything she used to worship the gods.



# Kenya

In Birikani, Mombasa, roadblocks had been put up to prevent our team from preaching. But this did not deter us as we went back the following day with the power of God. ***People were hungry and eager for the Word and over 70 people gave their lives to Christ!***

The Wazee, who did not want the team to preach, returned as our team was leaving. Surprisingly, they welcomed us and invited us back again – which goes to show that we serve a mighty God and Saviour.





Thank you for helping bring  
this vision to reality

*"God is so faithful in standing besides us"... continued from page 1*

African Enterprise hosted a prayer meeting that was attended by over 25,000 people, including President Zuma, Prince Buthelezi and Dani Schutte, the man in charge of the election process. In that meeting, a deal was brokered that allowed a way forward for South Africa. The elections took place over the next three days, and they were the most peaceful days in the country's history.

The world witnessed an authentic miracle in history. When Nelson Mandela became president, there was a spirit of reconciliation in the country. The new South Africa was being born.

Decades later, Michael can look back and see God's steady hand of guidance on his own life and on the ministry. Thousands of friends like you from around the world have joined the mission that God placed in his heart years ago.

*"God is so faithful in standing beside us," Michael said. "He equips and enables us to do what He calls us to do."*

*So thank you for your support  
and constant prayer to bring to life the vision of  
seeing all of Africa reached in Word and Deed!*



## Thank you for fuelling Festo's

**The impact of Festo Kivengere's ministry throughout the world is still felt today. A bishop, pastor, aid worker and refugee who touched the lives of millions, Festo was one of the most well-known and effective evangelists that Africa has ever seen.**

At the age of 19, Festo was a qualified teacher and an agnostic. Africa was being swept by the East African Revival, but Festo believed it was nothing more than fanaticism.

But his niece's declaration that Festo would come to the Lord changed everything.

Festo later described that moment as "heaven opening, and in front of me was Jesus." Following his conversion, Festo shared his testimony everywhere he went. He met

his wife Mera, a fellow teacher, and they began their life in ministry together.

In 1972, Festo was asked to co-lead African Enterprise with Founder Michael Cassidy. In his time at AE, he introduced a school feeding program, water well projects, ministries for widows and orphans, and free immunisations for vulnerable children ... **all made possible through the generosity and prayer of friends like you.**



# **"I regularly draw upon my experience in AE when evangelising in Australia"**

**My name is Simba Musvamhiri.**

**I was born in Zimbabwe but now call Australia home. I heard the Gospel explained by an old African pastor in a packed church hall in 1998. From that day, I was set on fire for Jesus.**

I was introduced to African Enterprise by my pastor in Zimbabwe. I'm a Foxfire alumnus in Zimbabwe and in Kenya. I've gone on many city-wide missions and led some. It's been a unique privilege to be part of such a powerful Gospel vision.

After serving in AE, I trained for Christian ministry in Namibia and completed further studies at Trinity Theological College (Perth). I'm now an ordained Anglican minister in regional Victoria.

I regularly draw upon my experience in AE when evangelising in Australia. Different cultures, yes, but the same universal problem – sin.



*Thank you for helping to support evangelists like Simba*

I recently reconnected with African Enterprise and became an AE ambassador, speaking in churches about the work of African Enterprise. As we come out of this world crisis, Gospel opportunities abound.

Every time I read the *African Harvest* newsletter, my heart is filled with joy to see people coming to know Jesus during a pandemic and believers proclaiming Christ in very challenging environments.

*God is certainly answering prayers – so please, keep praying for more across Africa to come to know Jesus!*

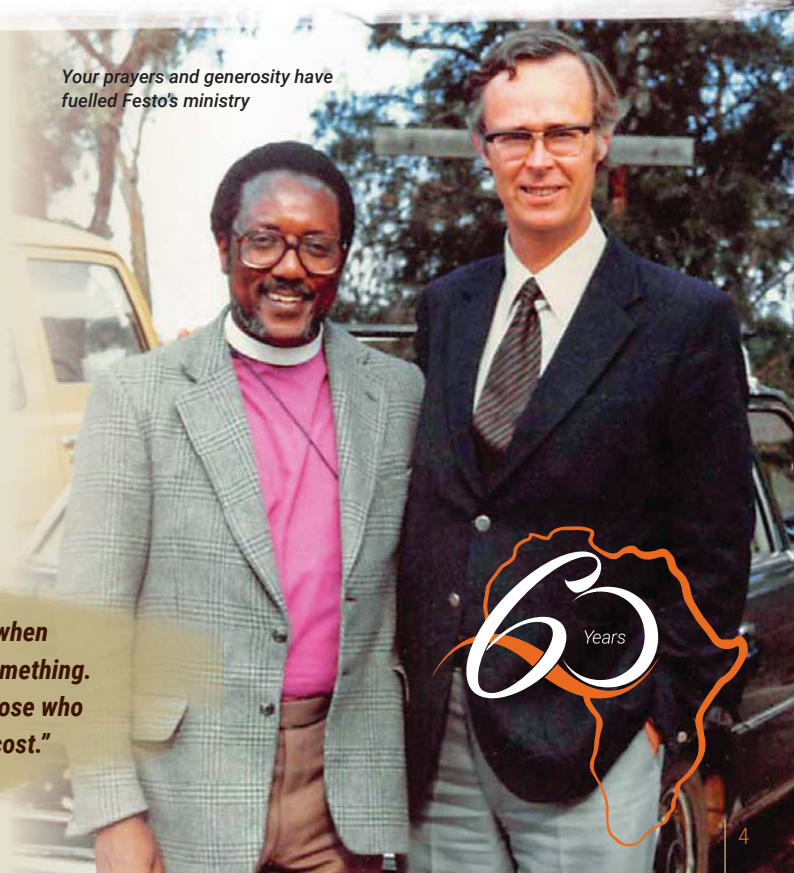
## **life-changing ministry!**

In 1973, Festo was instrumental in bringing the Durban Congress together, with church leaders coming from all over South Africa. This event triggered the first major breakthrough in weakening the armour of the former apartheid system.

When a dear friend of Festo's was assassinated by Idi Amin in 1977, Festo himself was forced into exile. During that time, he confronted his bitterness towards his persecutors and found peace and forgiveness in the reconciling work of Jesus Christ. He said:

***"Peace is not automatic. It's a gift by the grace of God. It comes when hearts are exposed to the love of Christ. But this always costs something. For the love of Christ was demonstrated through suffering and those who experience that love can never put it into practice without some cost."***

*Your prayers and generosity have fuelled Festo's ministry*







*God is certainly answering prayers – so please, keep praying for more across Africa to come to know Jesus!*

## A new generation of leaders is rising in South Africa ...

*thanks to your support!*



Your support is raising up new leaders in Africa

**Last year, with your support and partnership, the African Enterprise Leadership Institute launched two nationally accredited qualification programs in South Africa!**

The Leadership and Ministry Development Program qualifies students to earn a certificate as a Christian Religious Practitioner or a Christian Religious Professional.

The 18- and 24-month courses teach skills such as sharing the Gospel context with a specific audience, building relationships, running ministries, leading congregations, visional leadership, and developing missional practices.

Thank you for your prayers to enable the new training programs to continue despite COVID lockdowns!

Most students have completed three live modules and one online module of the seven required to finish the course.

Many say the training is the best they've had and are keen to put into practice what they have learnt. The future leaders are becoming more self-aware, examining the attitudes and motivations required to lead themselves and others better.

One student said the AE training sessions always hold the class's interest. *"The facilitator conducts the training with enormous energy and enthusiasm. His belief and conviction are being imparted to us!"*



**It's so encouraging to witness what God is already doing through these courses. Thank you for your part in raising a future generation of Christian leaders!**



## DRC MISSION *summary*

The 2021 Mission to Kinshasa South, Mont Amba in the DRC saw more than 10% of those reached with the Gospel committing their lives to Christ. Leonard Kiswangi, AE DRC Team Leader, reports:

*"We thank God for our prayer partners! Even after heavy rain, Kinshasa Mont Amba Mission brought a heavy harvest in prisons, orphanages and on the streets. Food, school stationery and the love of Christ were all joyfully shared to the glory of the Lord!"*

## *A letter from* **Stephen Mbogo and Ben Campbell**

Dear AE Family Friend,

**The crucible of Fuller Seminary and influence of Billy Graham birthed the calling of Michael Cassidy to evangelise the cities of Africa in Word and Deed, in partnership with the Church.**

God paved the way for him to evangelise the leaders of Africa in 1961 and overcome significant apartheid hurdles in South Africa with his first major mission in Pietermaritzburg in 1962.

The theme of celebrating African Enterprise's 60th anniversary is **'Holding True, Pressing On'**, which is a summary of Michael's call to stay true to the Gospel and keep moving forward in pursuit of the vision of more Africans coming to know Christ.

The outworkings of the ministry are transformed lives across Africa, as local teams boldly proclaim the Gospel in partnership with the Church, touching the lives of many millions with the love of Jesus.

We hope you enjoy the stories and messages of hope in this edition of African Harvest. It's through your generosity and prayer that these stories – and hundreds of thousands more – are made possible every year.

**So thank you for your part in the mission – and be encouraged by the way that God works to achieve His good purpose through your support for AE.**

**Stephen Mbogo**

African Enterprise International  
Team Leader/CEO

**Ben Campbell**

African Enterprise Australasia  
CEO

PEOPLE  
REACHED

**10,474**

PEOPLE  
SAVED

**1,544**

PARTNER  
CHURCHES

**20**

MISSIONERS  
ON MISSION

**99**

Mission activities included street evangelism, march for Jesus, market evangelism, church service, schools ministry, social actions and COVID-19 response.



### AUSTRALIA

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