



# Foxfires

Setting Africa's youth ablaze for Christ.



## What is Foxfires?

Africa has the youngest population in the world with a median age of just 19.7. The continent is home to over 1.2 billion people, and over 60% are below the age of 25. By 2055, the youth population (aged 15-24) is expected to be more than double what it was in 2015.\*

Youth are the future of Africa, and it is essential that effective youth discipleship and empowerment programs are part of our mission strategy.

Foxfire Teams are the youth arm of African Enterprise's Evangelistic and Mission activities. The program's name comes from Judges 15:3-5. In this passage, Samson catches 300 foxes, ties torches to their tails, sets the torches on fire and releases them into the fields of the Philistines. The vision of this ministry is to set youth ablaze with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and send them out into the world.

Each team of approximately ten young African Christians, give a year of their lives to the service. They have a passion for sharing the gospel with youth, regardless of their backgrounds. Many have gone through great personal difficulties and hardship. As a result, they can speak with great understanding to other young people who are experiencing similar situations.

Once a team is formed, their year begins with two months of intensive training that equips them with knowledge and a variety of skills. Foxfires then visit local schools, youth groups, churches, children's homes and colleges. They use energetic dance and engaging drama performances to share the gospel message. They also help to identify, train and develop younger leaders by equipping them with various life skills. This is done through programmes focused on issues such as peer pressure, drug abuse, crime, poverty, HIV/Aids and unemployment. Foxfires play an important role in promoting development in communities and teaching youth how to function effectively in society.

They play a vital role in AE city-wide and university missions each year. Their vibrancy and energy attract large crowds of school children and engages them deeply in the Gospel of Jesus, leading to further questions being addressed, and outreach for support.

## Future Plans

Our goal for this ministry is to impact approximately 300,000 youth and children per year. We also plan to see continued growth in the holistic empowerment and discipleship of African youth. We hope and pray that, as this ministry continues, we will see new generations of empowered leaders and significant changes in society.

Some of the things we hope to contribute to are:

- Reduction in substance abuse
- Churches that are motivated for mission
- Equipped youth groups
- Schools more open to the Gospel
- Growing youth on fire for Jesus!

## How to get involved

Young people are the future of Africa and you can help share the joy of knowing Jesus with them as they grow and mature. You're invited to take part in this vital ministry. You can get involved in the following ways:



### **Pray regularly for each of the Foxfire teams.**

There are currently four Foxfire teams across Africa discipling young people with the Good News of Jesus. See the following pages for more on these missions as you pray.



### **Write a message of encouragement to a young Foxfire evangelist.**

You can write a letter of encouragement to young evangelists like Alexis in Zimbabwe (whom you will read about in this brochure), so that he'll be spurred on to preach Christ in Word and Deed (refer to the back page for correspondence details).



### **Help equip Foxfire mission teams on an ongoing basis through your regular gift.**

Please visit our website (refer to the back page) for information and donations.

# Kenya Profile

COUNTRY FACTS#



## POPULATION



**51.4**  
MILLION

## MEDIAN AGE



**20.1**

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT



**18.5%**

## LITERACY RATE



**78.7%**

## RELIGION



**CHRISTIANITY  
&  
ISLAM**

## HIV & AIDS



**1.6 MILLION  
LIVING  
WITH HIV**

## CORRUPTION



**RANKED  
137/180**

## Testimony of a Foxfire

### Purity Wakena



Before giving her life to Christ, Purity was spending time with the wrong crowd.

Her friends were arrested for drugs, and Purity barely escaped. *"I was spared since I had been sent by the group to buy some snacks for them. I returned to find that they had been taken to a rehabilitation centre, even though I wasn't saved yet I thanked God for this."*

She came to Christ through a weekend challenge led by her school. The Pastor leading the challenge was speaking about the Holy Spirit, and this touched Purity's heart. Since coming to Christ, Purity has made some changes to her life, although they haven't been easy. *"I disconnected myself from the bad groups within school and in our community. I had a lot of negative influence around me. God gave me the courage to tell my old friends that I got saved and that they should follow the same path."*

*"I faced ridicule and rejection from them, but all in all, I was happy that I had told them about God."*

*"God also gave me the courage to join the Foxfires Youth Empowerment Program so that I can learn more about God and help the youth who might be in a similar situation that I was in or worse, to convert their lives to Christ."*

Purity is excited to be part of Foxfires so she can develop the strength to overcome all the challenges ahead of her.



# Zimbabwe Profile

COUNTRY FACTS\*



## POPULATION



**14.4**  
MILLION

## MEDIAN AGE



**18.7**

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT



**8.2%**

## LITERACY RATE



**88.7%**

## RELIGION



**CHRISTIANITY  
& ROMAN  
CATHOLICISM**

## HIV & AIDS



**1.3 MILLION  
LIVING  
WITH HIV**

## CORRUPTION



**RANKED  
158/180**

## Testimony of a Foxfire

### Alexis Gezani



At 15 years old, Alexis Gezani was a school bully. "I was a bad guy who took pleasure in bullying others at school and stubborn."

But one day, during a school assembly, this group of young men and women visited his school and told him about the God of love.

"I was brought up in a family that did not know Christ or ever talked about God. For me, the message of Christ's love for me, leading to the point of dying on the cross for my sake was amazing."

The group that came to his school was the AE Zimbabwe Foxfires – that day, Alexis joined a group of his schoolmates in committing his life to Christ. It was the first step on a new path in life.

"My parents were surprised to notice a change in my life and that I expressed interest in working for God. It was a new experience; I was embarking on a new journey that I had never travelled before."

Three years after that day when Alexis committed his life to Christ, he himself became an AE Foxfire at the age of 18. Today he is part of the AE Foxfire team and travels the country as an evangelist, reaching more young people with the good news of the Gospel.

"I have made a choice to serve God as His full-time servant. Once I complete my one-year Foxfire contract, I want to enrol in a Bible College full-time to prepare to be a pastor.

"It is my prayer that God by His grace will make it possible for me to be His servant. I look forward to going back to my people and preach to them the Good News of Jesus Christ!"



# South African Profile

## COUNTRY FACTS\*



### POPULATION



**57.8**  
MILLION

### MEDIAN AGE



**27.6**

### YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT



**52.9%**

### LITERACY RATE



**94.4%**

### RELIGION



**CHRISTIANITY  
& ATHEIST/  
AGNOSTIC**

### HIV & AIDS



**7.7 MILLION  
LIVING  
WITH HIV**

### CORRUPTION



**RANKED  
70/180**

## Testimony from an AE Foxfire to a lifetime of ministry

Pastor David Perumal has been doing fulltime ministry in South Africa for almost 40 years and shares that zeal for ministry with his wife and their two sons. As a family, they have a Gospel-spreading legacy!

This legacy started decades ago when David was just a teenager and attended his first African Enterprise mission.

*"I will never forget that mission in Feather Market Hall in Port Elizabeth in the early 90s," David said. "Michael Cassidy was the speaker, and I saw the passion and vision that he had and still continues to have for Africa and for God's people."*

Inspired by all he saw and heard, at the age of 20, David joined the AE South Africa Foxfires, the youth ministry arm of AE, and felt the call of God on his life.

*"My experiences on the Foxfire team and AE missions were the foundation of my ministry," he said. "I am eternally thankful to AE for this."*

Today, David leads a congregation of 800 people in Pietermaritzburg and continues to be a strong supporter of African Enterprise.

*"With AE coming alongside churches to aid in evangelism outreaches and market place ministry, local churches can thrust out and really do what we are mandated to do for the great commission," he said. "We need AE to encourage, motivate and resource the local church to perform at its full potential."*

David was full of praise for the work of African Enterprise.

*"We owe it to African Enterprise to support them and to encourage this ministry in going forward and never stopping."*

May the legacy and ministry of evangelism that was started so many years ago by Michael Cassidy, continue to change lives and bring the people of Africa's cities to Christ!



David is pictured here with Danica Naidoo, of AESA.

# Malawi Profile

COUNTRY FACTS\*



## POPULATION



**18.1**  
MILLION

## MEDIAN AGE



**18.1**

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT



**7.2%**

## LITERACY RATE



**62.1%**

## RELIGION



**CHRISTIANITY,  
ISLAM & ROMAN  
CATHOLICISM**

## HIV & AIDS



**1.0 MILLION  
LIVING  
WITH HIV**

## CORRUPTION



**RANKED  
123/180**



## Testimony of a Foxfire Christopher Richie

Christopher grew up in a family of mixed religion; his father is a Muslim and his mother, a dedicated Christian.

*"As a young man, I wanted to do my own thing, and I ended up joining Islam – going to the mosque near our home and being influenced by my Muslim friends."*

Christopher and his friends lived a rebellious life – seeing girls, drinking and smoking. *"My life was completely lost."*

His mother and grandmother sometimes had church prayer groups over to their house, and at one point, Christopher's grandmother convinced him to sit and pray with them.

*"She wanted me to be changed – but nothing happened."*

His grandmother invited him to church with her and he decided to go along to appease her.

*"The pastor was preaching and was pointing at me, and I felt something inside me because of my sins. I went to the front when he invited people forward to give their lives to Jesus Christ."*

To grow in his faith, Christopher joined the discipleship group at church and has discovered a joy for preaching, and a desire to share the Gospel with other young people.

*"I have the passion to preach about Jesus to people who are being taught false doctrines."*

Through joining the AE Foxfires, he now has that chance.

#Statistics from:

<http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-index-hdi>

<https://www.transparency.org/>

<https://www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-around-world>

# You can:



**Pray regularly for each of the Foxfire teams.**



**Write a message of encouragement to a young Foxfire evangelist.**

Letters can be emailed to [ae@aeint.org](mailto:ae@aeint.org).  
We will respond to your email within two working days  
and forward your letter to the respective.



**Help equip Foxfire mission teams on an ongoing basis through your regular gift.**

**Visit our website to find our more:**

**Australia**

[www.africanenterprise.com.au/foxfires](http://www.africanenterprise.com.au/foxfires)

**New Zealand**

[www.africanenterprise.co.nz/foxfires](http://www.africanenterprise.co.nz/foxfires)



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