

African

HARVEST

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Faith under fire

When faced with extreme criticism, isolation and even violence, many people would do anything to eliminate their pain... even give up their beliefs. But not the early Christians – and not our brothers and sisters in Africa today.

The book of Acts records the spreading of the Gospel from Jerusalem to the ends of the known world after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. The Gospel message does not die out even after persecution breaks out in Acts chapter 8 and continues through to the end of the book. Luke, the writer, gives us a vivid account of how the disciples of Jesus steadfastly proclaim the lifegiving message of Jesus in a very challenging environment.

Today we also face challenges, in Australia and across the world. We may not be living under persecution in our communities but there are incredible challenges affecting many of our lives, with increased cost of living, high inflation, insecurity in housing, mental health struggles and chronic physical health issues.

In other parts of the world, a 24-hour news cycle shows us endless footage of conflicts, violence, political unrest, displaced people, famine, drought, flood and disease. The world may have changed in many ways since the 'end' of the COVID-19 pandemic but many people are struggling. In such challenging environments, we still see our AE Teams in Africa proclaiming the Gospel steadfastly. Even more astoundingly, their faith is increasing! They are on their knees in prayer and determined to reach more people with the Gospel in every strata of society.

In Acts 27:18-20 we read a captivating account of Paul going through incredible hardship as a prisoner being taken to Rome:



"We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved."

Yet, despite the hardship, God was with Paul throughout the many months of trials. We rejoice when we read in the final phrase of the book of Acts of the Gospel being proclaimed "with all boldness and without hindrance!"

Be encouraged dear friends, for despite the trials and challenges we each face, the glorious Gospel message continues to spread in Africa and to the ends of the earth – it's faith under fire.

Simba Musvamhiri,
CEO, African Enterprise Australasia

In this issue

- | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| <p>2 Sacrifice comes alive – the University of Ghana Mission (March 2023)</p> | <p>3 Foxfires program turns 30!</p> | <p>4 Start, stop, start ... but nothing stops God at work in Mutare, Zimbabwe!</p> | <p>5 Ignorant zeal: the desperate need for training and discipleship</p> | <p>6 Introducing Jenny: a long-time AE supporter Be involved!</p> | <p>6 Your support transforms communities in Africa Mission dates</p> |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|



Sacrifice comes alive

– the University of Ghana Mission (March 2023)

After the success of the Atakpame Mission, the AE Ghana team focused their attention on a mission at the University of Ghana. This was a true international partnership between AE, Studentenmission in Deutschland (SMD), Ghana Fellowship of Evangelical Students (GHAFES), University Christian Fellowship (UCF), Legon Interdenominational Church (LIC), Bible League and the Institute of Christian Apologetics Studies (ICAS)!



At the end of the week-long proclamation of the Gospel, over 67,000 people (students and non-students) were reached, of whom 1,250 people decided to follow Jesus for the first time or recommit themselves to the Gospel.

At the heart of this mission was the very first African production of The Mark Drama. This is a re-enactment in 90 minutes of the whole Gospel of Mark. Directed by Svenja Perl, the cast was made up of Ghanaian and German nationals. The first two productions at the Legon Interdenominational Church saw an average attendance of about 200 per day. But the euphoria for the Gospel acted out could barely be contained when The Mark Drama made its way to the City Campus of the University of Ghana for its third night.

Participant Hannah shared:

"I had read the book of Mark before but could not grasp it as vividly as I did today. The language was simple for understanding and everything was so real to me."



The part that really hit me the most is when the actor playing Jesus was praying and groaning with tears knowing what suffering was ahead of Him. I thought to myself that, if I were in His shoes, I would be asking God if the people I am dying for are truly worth it. At that point I was struck by the reality of the love of Christ for us and His willingness to do the will of the Father, even though the price to pay was so great, as well as Him knowing how wicked the people He was paying that price for were!

The Mark Drama has painted the real picture of how Jesus lived and died for me."

Please pray ...



Praise God for the impact of The Mark Drama, and pray that many who were reached during the University of Ghana Mission would accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour and keep following Him.

Foxfires program turns 30!

This year, the Foxfire ministry turns 30 in South Africa!

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.

The one-year program teaches young people to become ministers of the Word, so they can evangelise in a relatable and engaging way to fellow young people.

It also empowers them to become leaders in their communities and beyond when they graduate from the program, and equips them to empower other young people through ministry, counselling, life-skills training and sharing godly values.

Foxfire Teams are trained to share the Gospel creatively, using dance, drama, personal testimonies and poetry. They use these skills in ministry in schools, church outreaches, holiday clubs and youth camps.

God has been faithful for 30 years and has used the Foxfire Teams to impact lives in South Africa, and in different parts of the world.

We pray for the program to continue, and expand, to positively influence young people for many years to come.



Start, stop, start ...

but nothing stops God at work in Mutare, Zimbabwe!

In May this year, all Southern African region roads led to Mutare City in Zimbabwe – a city bordered by green hills. Missioners from within and outside Zimbabwe streamed along these roads and poured into the city during the early hours of the morning for the official opening of the Mutare Mission. International missioners from Zambia, Malawi and Kenya joined their Zimbabwean brothers and sisters for the harvest.

The mission started well, with large events and the team serving the city through cleaning the bus station and surrounding areas. The team began to meet people like Douglas, who resides in Sakubva bus terminus in Mutare. Douglas also works at the station, helping people who are arriving and departing with their luggage.

Douglas was abandoned by his family because of his drinking habits and this left him feeling lost, unloved and deserted, leaving him no choice but to start squatting at the bus station. When he met the missioners, he was very receptive to their sharing of the Gospel. They shared with him how Christ came to seek and save those who were lost and how much Jesus cares and loves him in spite of all the bad things he has done. The missioners shared with Douglas that all his sins can be forgiven.

After hearing this Good News, Douglas was so excited and blissful that he could not stop smiling and shouting "Amen!" to the Gospel. He immediately gave his life to Christ.

Afterwards, Douglas was encouraged that he does not need to worry about not being supported by his biological family because God loves him so much. He was encouraged to

The team meets Douglas, who is very receptive to the Gospel



give up drinking and to start going to church and read his Bible to build a relationship with the Lord Jesus. Douglas is so excited about going to church and meeting and having a whole new family.

Through this and so many other incredible stories of transformation, it was clear that God was doing amazing things in Mutare.

Stop! But as so often happens when the Holy Spirit is working powerfully, forces rose up against God.

AE leaders from around the world received this update via a WhatsApp group late one evening:

"Yesterday morning, the police in plain clothes followed us to ask about the mission and African Enterprise, information they already have. At 09:30am Brian and the Steering Committee were summoned to the Permanent Secretary's office. It seems the government is a little bit edgy because there are Zambians on the team and we may be emissaries of President Hakainde Hichilema who is a friend of Chimense the opposition leader.

At the end of the meeting, the Steering Committee was instructed to halt all mission activities. The Mutare Mission is under threat because of politics with elections just around the corner. We are praying that God reverses this decision. Please join us in prayer."

Unable to continue their formal activities, the mission team nonetheless were committed to sharing Jesus. They split off into different zones, and many groups held hours-long prayer meetings to ask God to intercede.

Waiting but active. While awaiting the go-ahead to continue the formal mission, the missioners were certainly not missing any opportunity to speak about their Lord.

In one zone, just as they concluded an intercessory prayer meeting, the group saw a man who was selling ice cream from a small cart. They saw this as an opportunity to share the Gospel with this gentleman. As the missioners each bought ice cream from the gentleman, they preached the Gospel to him and he received Christ as his personal Lord and Saviour.

... story continues on next page >>

Ignorant zeal: **the desperate need for training and discipleship**



An important message from Stephen Mbogo, AE's International Team Leader

Kenya has recently had the spotlight for the worst of reasons. A 'church' which ought to be salt and light in the coastal city of Malindi has been involved in the deaths of over 240 of its members.

Paul Mackenzie, the self-identified 'preacher', is accused of having encouraged members of his Good News Ministries International group to fast to death. This abstinence from food was enforced even on children. Mackenzie, now called a cult leader, is said to have based his teachings on the Jewish book of 1 Maccabees 2.32-38 to enforce "resisting to death". However, unlike the Jews, he has not had any political reasons to resist. His teaching has been simply to fast to death to meet your Saviour.

As a preacher, I am very saddened by this case. Around the world there are many such self-made preachers misleading many – and Africa has its share of them. This current case only emphasises the reasons behind our commitment at African Enterprise to train African evangelists and ministers of God's Word whose ministries are sound and Bible based. We are thankful to resources like the Moore College PTC courses that we have used to train many pastors in Africa for many decades. In addition to that, our African Institute of Evangelism, launched last year as part of our 60th anniversary celebrations, seeks to do exactly that. Following this cultic saga the Government of Kenya has formed a Commission

whose aim is to ensure preachers will be licensed based on having attained some formal accredited theological education.

The seriousness of this saga has also revealed the need for the African Church to engage in serious discipleship of immature believers. We must, more than ever before, commit to discipling the fast growing African Church.

As Hosea 4:6 says, "My people perish for lack of knowledge". Zeal with ignorance can only have disastrous outcomes! While the Bible encourages fasting for spiritual renewal, it does not at all – ever – encourage Christians to fast to the point of death.

The world will look at the Paul Mackenzie saga and possibly express frustration with Africa and the African Church, just as Jonah in the biblical account had reached such a place when he gave up on Nineveh. But I appeal that we see the opportunity here – the need to train faithful preachers, and disciple the many in Africa who are desperate to meet their Saviour, so that they may understand the long, faithful path that must be walked to this glorious day.

Thank you for your support to help strengthen the African Church against such evils.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mbogo'.

The new convert expressed joy and gratitude for the compassion that the missionaries showed by sharing about God's love with him.

Mission resumed. After much prayer and a number of meetings with key officials, some parts of the mission were allowed to resume.

Despite the challenges faced by this mission – a reminder of just how turbulent the political landscape in Africa can be – thousands did hear the Gospel preached, and missionaries grew deeply in their faith as they relied on God's provision in all circumstances. Thank you for partnering in prayer with us to see faith grow and shared even under fire!



A new convert

Please pray...

Thank God that even though this mission faced challenges, the teams were bold in sharing the Gospel wherever they could.

Praise God for His power on display, which cannot be stopped by worldly forces.

Pray that God would smooth the way for future missions in this region, without interruption or pushback from local authorities.

Introducing Jenny: a long-time AE supporter



This edition, we'd like to introduce you to one of your fellow AE supporters, Jenny Harris.

Jenny shares: "I have been involved with African Enterprise and like many, have been a supporter for many decades. I found Michael and Carol to be a very godly couple who inspired me through their life and ministry with AE.

I recently caught up with Simba, the new CEO, in Mona Vale over coffee. I was able to hear first-hand stories from the mission field in Africa. AE does such great outreach work, pastorally and in its social action.

I am rejoicing and feeling well connected after hearing personal stories about AE's work in Africa. It really made a difference to me. There is a big difference in receiving information in the mail than sitting together and hearing firsthand. I would encourage anyone to reach out so you can hear more because there's so much that God is doing.

Governance and transparency are important to me. I am really encouraged by the diversity and composition of the AE Australia board. It is good to see such a competent and well qualified group of Christians, including some amazing African women. My prayer is that the ministry of AE will continue to grow and that many will come to know Jesus in Africa."

Thank you for your support and prayers, Jenny, and thank you to all those who generously give to AE and fervently pray for our ministry.

Your support transforms communities in Africa

We are extremely grateful to God for His provision and to AE Australasia supporters for responding to the needs of people in Africa. Your donations have a huge impact on the lives of many people through Aid & Development programs. We are specifically thankful for the substantial funding support that you gave towards the implementation of the following projects this year:

- **Ghana:** Street children apprenticeship project
- **Ethiopia:** Rehabilitation of firewood collecting women
- **South Africa:** Women's skills project and shoe repair empowerment project
- **Kenya:** Soweto Kayole community healthcare clinic and Mathare rehabilitation of women through skills training
- **Uganda:** SRAY (Safe Resilient Adolescents and Youth) project
- **Tanzania:** Youth empowerment project
- **Rwanda:** Market sanitation project
- **Zambia:** Women's skills project
- **Zimbabwe:** Water and sanitation project
- **Malawi:** Women's skills project
- **South Sudan:** Trauma healing project in schools

The Team Leaders from the various country offices thank you deeply for the support you have given.

Be involved!

We want to stay in touch with you and keep you updated. Here are a few ways to stay connected:



Pray for all our Teams that God may give them wisdom, joy and strength as they proclaim Christ.



Talk to us about joining us on a short-term mission to Africa.



Talk to us about going to see what we are doing in Africa.



Please partner with us by giving to the work that we are doing. Visit our website to donate.



Pray for

UPCOMING 2023 MISSIONS

Your prayers and support are requested for the upcoming missions across Africa ...

Citywide Missions

25-31 July	Durban, South Africa
16-23 August	Dar es Salaam (Temeke and Kigamboni), Tanzania
7-17 September	Nairobi, Kenya
15-24 September	Fort Portal, Uganda
7-14 October	Kinshasa – Funa District, DRC
18-24 October	Durban, South Africa
21-29 October	Lilongwe, Malawi
18-24 December	Bole, Ethiopia

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