AFRICA’S HOPE

Quick Facts

In Africa, there are more than 71,000 Assemblies of God churches and preaching points! But many of the pastors leading them have never been to Bible school. Africa’s Hope was started to provide Bible training for the pastors. The Africa’s Hope team provides:

• Funds for Bible schools, including tuition, schoolbooks, teachers, and computers.
• Bible school training materials for nearly 80 Bible schools and over 170 extension schools. This teaches pastors how to preach and lead Bible studies for the people in their churches.
• Assistance to the Pan-Africa Theological Seminary (PATHS), a doctoral-level school for Assemblies of God leaders from countries all over Africa.
• Missions training. Special meetings called Eleventh-Hour Institutes teach church leaders how important it is to reach the WHOLE world and how they can send or be missionaries.

The Assemblies of God in Africa

• Many people don’t have even a bicycle and have to walk everywhere they go, so they need a church close by. Assemblies of God churches start new churches so that more people can hear about Jesus.
• The Assemblies of God has more than 71,000 churches all over Africa, but only about 36,000 trained pastors. Many pastors lead four or five churches!
• Twenty years ago, there were fewer than 3 million people in Assemblies of God churches in Africa. Today there are more than 17 million.
• Twenty years ago there were about 7,000 students in Bible training programs. Today there are more than 14,000.

Lesson 4: AFRICA’S HOPE

Kossi

What if you were learning to solve math problems—but your teacher didn’t know how to do them? What if your English teacher barely spoke English and mixed it up with another language? You wouldn’t learn to do math or speak English properly.

What if you went to church, and the pastor or your teacher didn’t know much at all about God or the Bible? In many churches in Africa, this happens. Lots of people are hearing about Jesus, and they want to live for Him. These same people may mix up what they know about the Bible with what their old religions taught them. They need a pastor who has studied God’s Word and who can teach them to live right.

Kossi has recently graduated from an African Bible school, thanks to Africa’s Hope and BGMC. Now he can teach others about the Bible and lead many to Jesus.

Bible Schools

There are 80 Assemblies of God Bible schools in Africa. Some have library books and textbooks. In others, only the teacher has a book, and students take notes on everything he says. Africa’s Hope helps schools in a lot of different ways.

• **The Discovery Series Bible courses:** These courses are in English, French, and Portuguese. Schools can translate them into other languages if they need to. They can buy the books at a low price or print them themselves.

• **School improvement:** Africa’s Hope sends teams to visit Bible schools. They work with the school staff to see how they can make the school and classes better.

• **Scholarships:** A scholarship is money given to a student to pay for his classes. Many students are very poor and can’t afford to go. Because of people who give, Africa’s Hope can help them get the Bible training they need.

• **Professors:** Some of the Bible schools give college degrees, and a few give a higher degree, called a Master of Arts. Africa’s Hope sometimes sends professors to teach in these schools.

Bible-Teaching Materials

Not all Bible training happens in classrooms in Bible schools. Some people attend training programs where classes last just a week or two. There are over 170 programs like this, called “extension Bible schools,” around Africa. They are training over 5,000 people to do God’s work!

Africa’s Hope helps many schools and pastors by providing Bible-study materials. Here are some examples:

• **Study Bibles:** The Full Life Study Bible, also called the “Fire Bible,” has all kinds of notes and articles to help people understand the Bible and the Holy Spirit. The Fire Bible is in French and Portuguese too, which many Africans speak.

• **Roots of Faith Bible-study textbooks:** In the country of Angola, most of the pastors have never been to Bible school. The *Roots of Faith* books are being used to train hundreds of pastors. These pastors will then take more books and go to other parts of the country to train more pastors.

• **MegaVoice recordings:** In the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, it’s hard to get Bibles and textbooks, and some people can’t read. For pastors there, Africa’s Hope is sending MegaVoice players. These are little machines powered by the sun, with the New Testament recorded on them in the Lingala language. MegaVoice units are also being sent to other countries in Africa.
BGMC has been a big blessing to Africa's Hope by providing the needed funds to buy library books and textbooks for all the Bible schools all over Africa. These books help future pastors to learn more about Jesus and the Bible.

The churches in Africa are experiencing tremendous growth. As more churches are started, more pastors are needed. Pastors need to be trained in God's Word, yet many cannot afford to go to Bible school. Many also cannot afford to buy their own Bible or Bible study books. BGMC is helping by paying for pastors to go to Bible school and providing them with Bibles and study books.

Thank you, boys and girls, for giving to BGMC so Africa’s Hope can help pastors and our Bible schools all over Africa!

Libraries
Do you have a library in your school? Libraries collect books, CDs, videos—all kinds of things to help you find out all kinds of facts and ideas. But many Bible schools in Africa have only a few books. The Africa Library Services Office (ALSO) team helps schools to get books and other materials at low prices. They help schools decide which books are the most important to have, so they can start with those. They teach them how to set up a library properly. ALSO helps schools get computer equipment and software to help students, teachers, and office workers at the schools.

Missions Training
In the Bible, the eleventh hour was the last hour before midnight—the very end of the day. If you want to get something done that day, and it's the eleventh hour, it means you had better hurry because there's not much time left!

Many people around the world need to hear about Jesus—and we don’t know how much time there is before Jesus comes! That’s why Africa’s Hope calls its missions-training program the “Eleventh-Hour Institute.” At these meetings, African pastors and missionaries come together and study what the Bible says about missions. They learn how they can send missionaries and be good missionaries. Many Assemblies of God churches in Africa are sending missionaries to other countries!
Africa’s Need & Africa’s Hope: Bible Training!

John Ikoni was the first in his village in Nigeria to go to school. He loved learning, and he wanted other kids to have the same chance. So when he finished primary school, he opened the first school in his village and became the principal. He was just 12 years old!

As an adult, John Ikoni continued to learn. He studied hard in college and earned a doctoral degree (the highest degree). He loved to help others learn, especially the Bible. He taught in an Assemblies of God Bible school in Nigeria and helped a missionary start a new Bible school there.

Today, Dr. Ikoni is like a principal again. He is the president of Pan Africa Theological Seminary, helping church leaders earn their doctoral degrees!

For almost 100 years, Assemblies of God missionaries in Africa have worked to teach the Bible. They set up Bible schools. They traveled to teach those who could not come to a school. These students then taught the people in their churches about God and His Word.

In 1989, African Assemblies of God leaders set goals to help the churches grow in the 1990s. One goal was to train lots more pastors so the new churches would have good leaders. By 1990, there were 50 Assemblies of God training programs around Africa.

Pastors and Bible schools need Bibles and books. Two missionaries wanted to help them get these at a low cost. In 1993, they set up the Africa Library Services Office (ALSO). They search for the best deals on books and other library equipment, keep them in their warehouse, and send them to schools.

In 2004, ATTS and ALSO became Africa’s Hope. Why? Because they believe that churches need trained pastors who know the Bible. They can help their people grow strong in their faith. These leaders are “Africa’s Hope.”

BGMC has been a big help to Africa’s Hope, providing the needed funds for this organization to operate. Every month Africa’s Hope receives BGMC funds so that books for Bible school libraries and textbooks can be purchased for Bible schools all over Africa. BGMC even pays to get the books shipped to Africa.

BGMC helps with other needs that the various Bible schools have. Since many pastors cannot afford to go to Bible school, BGMC provides the scholarship money and travel money for pastors to attend. Many pastors cannot afford to buy their own Bibles or study books for preparing sermons. BGMC helps to buy these things for pastors all over Africa. BGMC also helps the Bible schools with computers, desks, chairs, tables, and other needed equipment.

Many people in Africa cannot read, so they cannot read the Bible. BGMC is supplying “MegaVoice” units to pastors and churches all over Africa. These are small solar-powered units that have the Bible recorded in the language of the people. All you do is press a button and listen to the Bible. When the power runs out, you put it in the sun to recharge the batteries.

Thank you for giving to BGMC!

LET’S PRAY…

• for students in the Bible schools, and for the thousands of pastors who need training but have not yet been able to attend Bible school.

• for Bible school teachers to have the books, equipment, and training they need to teach well.

• that God would call more African believers to be missionaries to other nations.

• for the safety of Africa’s Hope team members as they travel to teach and help Bible schools.