



AFMIN

2000
SUMMER

Updates and news from AFMIN, Africa Ministries Network

News and Notes

Snapshot Mozambique



After almost 500 years as a Portuguese colony, Mozambique gained independence in 1975. Economic challenges, a prolonged civil war, and severe drought hindered their development. Since 1994, free elections and an end to civil strife has left the country with an optimistic future.

Population: 21,669,278

Median age: 17.4 years

Life expectancy: 41 years

Adults with HIV/AIDS: 12.5%

Literacy (those over 15 who can read/write): 47.8%

Religion: Catholic 23.8%, Muslim 17.8%, Protestant Christian 17.5%, other 17.8%, tribal religion 23.1%

How is it going?

"The teachers in AFMIN would probably not realize how much impact they have contributed to my teaching ministry. I am running a Bible school in Bukavu, East Congo and these teachings are being shared to our students. They are growing tremendously due to the teaching."

Rev. Malanda Ubonga
Director, Bukavu Bible Institute, D.R. Congo

Rwandan Leader Shares Story in America

Pastor Ernest Ruwenzi and Pastor Bunini, two of AFMIN's leaders in Rwanda visited the US this summer and were able to share their remarkable testimony of God's protection during the Genocide. Visiting the homes of AFMIN staff and friends, Ernest and Bunini, along with their wives,



Pastor Ernest (center) shares in a Colorado Springs home

shared with small gatherings of people. The intimate home gatherings provided an incredible opportunity to hear their amazing story. Pastor Ernest and Martha shared how, in the aftermath of their nation's tragedy, the AFMIN team that came was able to help bring reconciliation in a tangible way to the Rwandan church.

School's in session!

Students are returning to their classrooms and school is back in session! AFMIN's training is 'year-round,' but we're taking this opportunity to highlight some of the training that these pastors are receiving. We are often asked, "what do you actually teach these pastors?" It's a fair question. Our website has an overview of the many courses that are taught, but here's a look into a few of the courses that will be taught in the upcoming months throughout Africa.



History of the Church in Africa.

This is a newly developed course that will be taught in many of our training institutes in the next few months. As the pastors understand how God has moved through history, they can better understand their current circumstances in the light of God's Word. An understanding of church history (both the good and the bad!) gives a context for the importance of a clear Biblical message and a solid doctrinal basis for our faith.

Ministering to Muslims.

One of our most important 'contextualized' courses, the pastors are taught how to understand and reach Muslims with the message of Jesus. This is not theoretical for them, as Islam is growing exponentially in Africa!

Interpreting the Bible.

A pastor who knows how to "handle the Word of God" is vital to the health of a church! We teach a survey of the Old



and New Testament and focus on understanding the genre (or literary style) of the text, basic interpreting tools, and how to let God's Word speak into our current culture.

Law, Grace, and Righteousness.

One of the challenges of the African church is a strong tendency toward legalism. Primarily using the book of Galatians, this course teaches the doctrines of Grace and the Law, in the light of Jesus' death on the cross. In the past, when we have taught this course, we have seen real liberation take place as pastors begin to really understand the grace that is theirs!



Reaching the Unreachable

Last October, Bishop John Mutamba, one of our students from Goma, in the DR Congo, traveled to Uvira, a large remote city situated in a mountainous area in South East Congo and organized a pastors training school of 3 days.

He had 245 pastors in his training event. He sponsored the event, including meals, accommodations, and excellent teaching on Effective Church Leadership. This is a prime example of how the AFMIN training benefits pastors in remote areas where we normally would not be able to go ourselves. The majority of these pastors cannot attend AFMIN's events because of the ongoing civil unrest in their nation.

Refugee Camp News...

The team, led by Dr. Steven Todd, was gathered around the outside "stadium" constructed from mud, branches and the occasional UN tarp, while thousands of refugees were ready to celebrate the graduation of 45 men and women from their one year Bible program, and for the first time, 80 graduates from the vocational women's sewing school we started last year, the "Linda Centre!"

We saw how a request for sewing machines made to Linda Todd back in 2003 during her first trip to the camp has now provided training to women, hope for people with little else, and a sense of dignity to what was a desperate place. Our gift of 12 sewing machines last year made this possible!



The Linda Centre Vocational School



Dr. Steven Todd receives a garment made at the Linda Centre

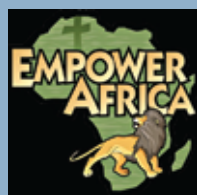
Steven commented on the trip, *"It was a time to see fruit from both development and spiritual 'seed' we have planted over these years. Linda and I had worked hard to raise money for the sewing machines we presented last year, and I saw the scores of women who have now learned a skill. They had displayed the many types of garments they have been making...what genuine joy!"*

Our monthly sponsorship program where friends like you can sponsor one African pastor for one year to receive training and ministry for only \$29 per month. You can sign up at www.afmin.org and click on the Empower Africa logo.

www.afmin.org



A higher standard.
A higher purpose.



Empower Africa

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AFMIN provides non-formal training for tens of thousands of African pastors and church leaders. Responding to the spiritual awakening and church growth on the African continent, AFMIN is training and equipping these leaders through multiplication impact.

Big need - Bigger God!

For the first time since the US / global recession really hit, we are facing the possibility of canceling some of our training institutes. Up to now, we've been able to stagger schedules, shorten the events by a day or two in order to cut costs, but we are now facing more difficult decisions. We are not troubled, though it is the focus of prayer. And we know that many of you have been so faithful through these challenging times! If you have been an occasional financial partner with AFMIN, would you consider coming alongside us at this critical time? Perhaps you can help with a lump sum gift or with a regular monthly commitment. However you can respond for the sake of these dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we thank you sincerely! You can give securely online at www.afmin.org.