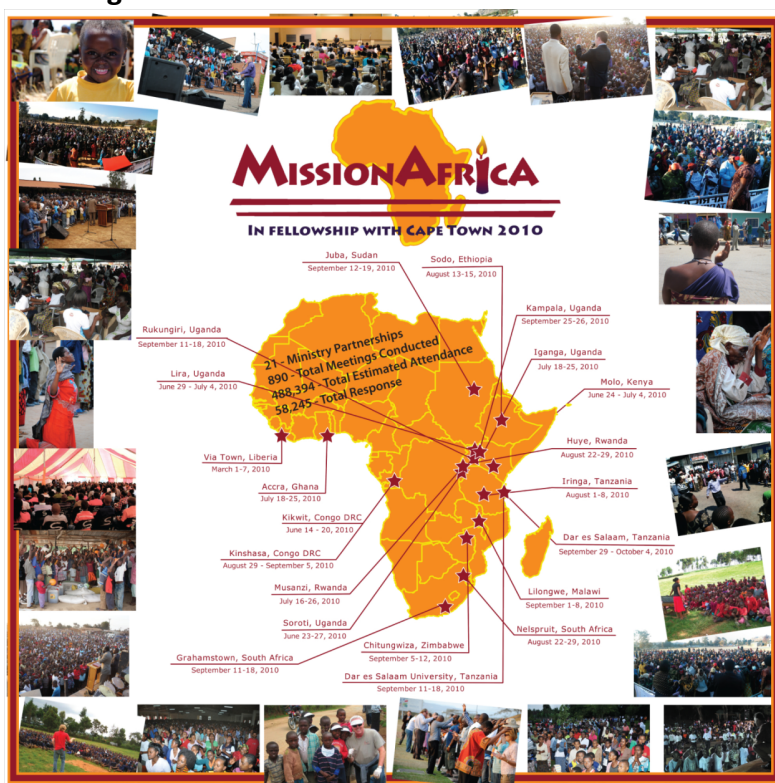


## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF EVANGELISM 2010-2020:

### From Cape Town to Rwanda-Congo Brazzaville-Angola-Cuba-Ukraine-Russia-Belarus ....

We celebrate the faithfulness of God for the last 10 years. The story of Mission Africa started on the final day of the Cape Town Congress in 2010 when testimonies were shared of evangelistic events which took place in the months leading up to the Congress.

### Pre-Congress Mission Africa events across Africa



The original vision for *Mission Africa* came from the first Congress on world evangelization that was held in Lausanne 1974. With the theme of 'Let the Earth Hear His Voice', the Congress focused on the message of the gospel and the biblical foundation for evangelism. Concurrent with the Congress on evangelism, the churches of Lausanne initiated a public proclamation of the gospel and invited Billy Graham to preach at the Olympic Stadium. This became a practical outworking of the heart of the Congress – a real-life illustration of one model of proclamation evangelism for all the participants from around the world to engage in.

Mission Africa followed in these footsteps. It was birthed in January 2007 with church leaders in Cape Town who had the unique vision of partnering international evangelists with continental African evangelists to proclaim the gospel together, at the invitation of the local church. Evangelist and Chairman Michael Cassidy, with his team, took hold of the vision and carried it forward. Mission Africa's emphasis was to go beyond event-focused evangelism – to mobilize the church in advance, and to prepare nurture-group follow-up Bible studies, ensuring that those who respond to the invitation to follow Jesus would become lasting disciples who are incorporated into local congregations.

The original vision was to focus on proclamation throughout the continent of Africa for the three-year period leading up to the October 2010 Congress.

However, it was clear to all the congress participants that there was a need for accelerating and advancing proclamation evangelism even after the congress. On the final day of the CapeTown 2010, church leaders from across the continent of Africa gathered to express the mandate that Mission Africa must continue. It was agreed that priority should be given to French-speaking West Africa, Portuguese-speaking Africa and North Africa.

The story of Mission Africa these last ten years is the faithful work of God through his people, and his graciousness in opening doors to begin fulfilling this mandate. Mission Africa continues on, with the desire to undergird the church in building indigenous movements of evangelism that will continue by their own initiative for years to come. To this end, several components have been added to enhance the depth and breadth of preparation: Evangelistic training for pastors, Evangelism training conferences geared to university students; training for God-called and anointed evangelists; and specialized training for evangelists who work amongst children.

Michael Cassidy served as chairman for the first phase. Stephen Mbogo has now taken the mantle. The Mission Africa team meets yearly to consult, to pray and to strategize, seeking God's direction.



**Photo 1: A local evangelist receiving a Mission Africa certificate after a School of Evangelism**



**Photo 2-3: The very first Mission Africa Regional Consultation in 2012. ( 12 African countries were invited in Rusizi-Rwanda)**

It is amazing to see how in the last 10 years Mission Africa has become not only a gift to Africa, but a model and a strategic inspiration for evangelism in other countries such as:

- *Cuba*
- *Ukrain*
- *-Russia-Belarus*

## Key Highlights 2010-2020

### I. **Developing Evangelism Materials:**

The following materials have been developed to equip local evangelists and local churches in proclamation evangelism and growing disciples. The goal is to empower selected local leaders to teach and advance these courses in their communities. Using stories from the Bible, these are available for churches to use in mobilizing believers in outreach and follow-up, and are accessible for both literate and oral learners.

1. ***Being Disciples*** – a four-week course to be taught by a pastor to prepare and inspire church members for outreach
2. ***New Disciples*** - a four-week small-group course taught by church members, designed to be used in churches and neighborhoods for those who have responded to the invitation of the evangelist to follow Jesus.
3. ***Growing Disciples*** – a 30-lesson small-group course taught by church members, designed to be used in churches and neighborhoods for those who are going deeper in their new relationship with Jesus.
4. ***Knowing God Personally*** - a tract combining the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15) and the diagram of Steps to Peace with God for use in one-to-one witness.
5. ***Mission Preparation Manual*** – a handbook designed for church leaders to outline the biblical foundations of evangelism and practical organizational structures and timelines for local outreaches.
6. ***Evangelism Training Conference*** – a course book using the Bible as the text, designed to accompany a 3-day training conference for pastors and church leaders in anticipation of local evangelistic outreach.
7. ***Friend to Friend Card, Mustard Seed Card, Enquirer Card*** – tools for personal evangelism, prayer and outreach.
8. ***Understanding...Living...Preaching...the message of the Gospel*** – a 5-day residential course specially designed for those who sense God's calling and anointing as proclamation evangelists.
9. ***7 Pictures of Jesus in Revelation*** – an inductive Bible study using 7 select passages from the book of Revelation that form a composite image of the person of Jesus, his message of salvation for the world, and his call to his people to live as disciples.
10. ***Inductive Bible Study: Luke*** - an inductive Bible study based on 5 select passages from the gospel of Luke, that give a vision for witness and discipleship.

Many of these materials are available in: English/ French/ Spanish/ Russian/ Portuguese/ Kinyarwanda/ Oromo/ Amharic. Selected pieces are being translated into Arabic (available in 2021).





**Photo 4: A group of Pastors and Evangelists were trained in Musanze (2013)**

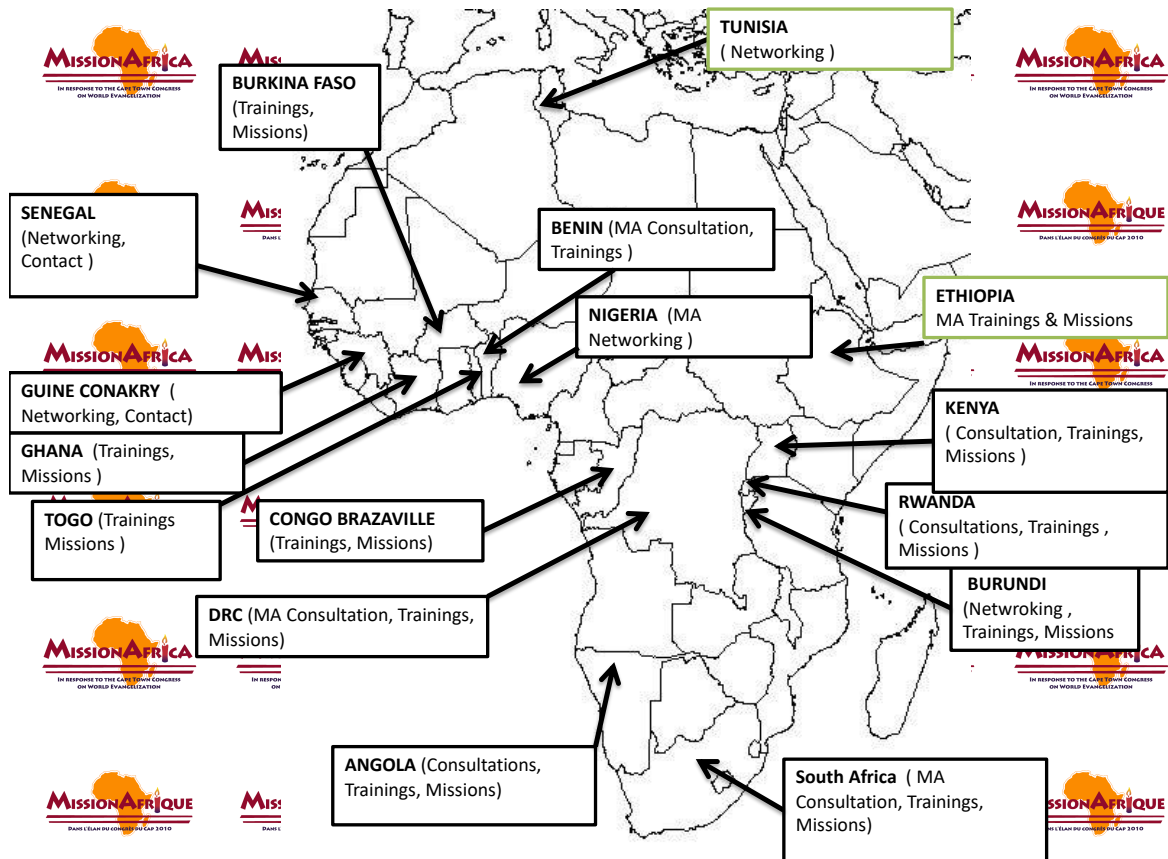


**Photo 5: In 2014, over 500 students from different universities in Rwanda were trained in Evangelism**

## **II. Evangelistic Outreaches**

A variety of evangelistic outreaches have been conducted in partnership with Mission Africa networks, local churches, denominations, and para-church organizations, partnering international evangelists with continental African evangelists.

The map below summarizes the main locations where Mission Africa training and mission events have taken place in the last 10 years.



Each region has developed and is implementing God's call to evangelise in a way that is tailored to meet the specific identified needs of their situation, following the basic steps of Mission Preparation:

1. **Vision and Prayer.** This consultative first step provides local leaders an opportunity to express how they sense God leading them to proclaim the good news in their community/country/region. This step invites the articulation of the essence of the gospel and it highlights the importance of preparation and follow-up within the local church. Upon seeing the way forward, consensus is formed for the steps that follow. The best time-frame is considered (i.e. rainy season, dry season, etc), and other local considerations are taken into account. In identifying the vision, this first step also launches an ongoing prayer emphasis that pervades each of the steps.
2. **Leadership Development** is accomplished on two levels: **First**, identifying and training local leaders, using the Bible as a textbook, in what proclamation evangelism is, how to prepare, the basics of the gospel message, how to follow up new believers and help them become disciples of Jesus, enfolded into the body of Christ. This is done in part through a 3-day evangelism training conference for pastors and church leaders. **Second**, identifying God-called emerging evangelists, inviting them, under the auspices of their church, to take part in a 5-day residential training conference considering the biblical basis of what it means to be an evangelist. The long-term vision is that these evangelists would be partnered and mentored by senior evangelists and would be incorporated into ongoing proclamation events organized in their own country and beyond.
3. **Mobilization of Believers.** For the greatest impact, and for the ongoing work of local evangelism, church members are encouraged in their own identity in Christ and thus empowered and motivated to reach out to family, neighbors, friends, colleagues in witness, like Andrew reached out to his brother Simon (John 1), and the nameless servant girl pointed her master to the prophet (II Kings 5). This provides a movement that multiplies the effect of evangelistic events, as believers befriend, pray, invite and follow-up.
4. **Proclamation Outreach Events.** The gospel is taken out to the community in multiple settings and locations, including schools, markets, prisons, clinics, workplaces, etc. These places are identified and prepared in advance by local church leaders. International and continental African evangelists proclaim the good news, inviting people to respond to Jesus, and helping them to connect to ongoing follow-up Bible study groups.
5. **Follow-up.** From the very first step of vision and prayer, the emphasis is on follow-up. How will new believers be incorporated into small-group Bible studies in a local church or neighborhood where they can learn and grow as disciples of Jesus Christ?

This is often the hardest step of preparation and requires passionate and dedicated leaders in a mobilized church to fulfill it.

These five steps have been applied in each country, but the outworking has varied according to the local vision and need. A few examples:

- Congo-Brazzaville: Local leaders implemented a five-year vision focused on three large geographical regions of Congo: the North – outreach by five evangelistic teams to the Baka (pygmies), and refugee camps; the Southwest – two medical teams accompanied by five evangelistic teams established temporary clinics in remote jungle areas; and the Central region – multiple medical teams partnered with multiple evangelistic teams, going to previously closed areas of the country.
- Rwanda: Local leaders implemented a four-year vision highlighting different regions and incorporating the following: a continent-wide 3-day evangelism consultation; a 5-day training conference focused on training children’s evangelists; and a 5-day university student evangelism training conference in preparation for an 8-campus evangelistic outreach.



**Many people were reached by the gospel**

- Angola/Guinea Bissau: Mission preparation and outreach in partnership with Portuguese-speaking evangelists from Brazil.
- Togo/Rwanda/Congo (Brazzaville and DRC): Mission preparation and outreach in partnership with French-speaking evangelists from France and Belgium.





**Mission Africa Children Evangelism Summit in Kigali Rwanda**



**Robert Siakimotu (from Open Campaigners) running a children outreach after the summit.**



**Mission Africa Consultation in Benin 201**

### III. Empowering the Next Generation through strategic Congresses of Evangelists

Proclaim 2020 has been mentioned by the Lausanne Movement Proclamation Evangelism Issue Network as one the most representative gathering of African Evangelists in the history of the Christian movements in Africa.

The inspiration came out of the need to connect, empower and mentoring emerging evangelists. It was also inspired by Amsterdam2000 organised by Billy Graham, along with a call to continue responding to the evangelistic need identified in the last 10 years.

Join us to celebrate what God has done to connect evangelists from 59 Countries



To access the full report with wonderful testimonies , kindly click on the following link;

<http://bit.ly/3rmP3KTProclaimPraiseReport>

### **Prayer Requests**

- Pray for the process of getting a strategic team of co-catalysts and Issue Network members in every country.
- Pray for the new initiative of publishing a Lausanne occasional paper on Proclamation Evangelism.
- Pray for the vision of hosting strategic congresses of Evangelists in different continents.
- Pray for the needed funds for The Virtual Proclaim2020 and In-Person Proclaim 2021.
- Pray for new evangelism initiatives to grow.

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