

# AFRIGO

Encouraging the Church in world mission

Volume 5, Issue 2

## PRAYER: THE TRACK ON WHICH THE WHEELS OF MISSIONS MOVE

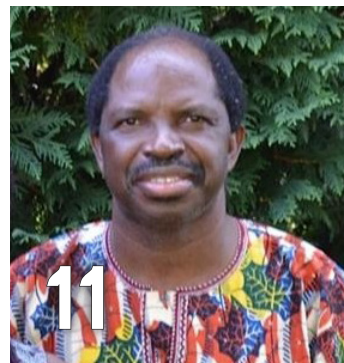
The physician evangelist who prays

Gideon: from refugee camp to mission leader

Testimonies of answered prayer

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE  
[WWW.AFRIGO.ORG](http://WWW.AFRIGO.ORG)

# CONTENTS



## 03 Editorial

### 04 ANSWERED PRAYER

Read testimonies of answered prayer from around Africa. Whether through provision, healing, or removing barriers to the gospel, God is answering the prayers of his missionaries and their supporters.

### 09 CALLED: GIDEON MASHAURI

From refugee camp to mission leadership, Gideon and wife Rachel have taken a journey of prayer, faith and service to reach those who have never heard the gospel.

### 11 THE PHYSICIAN EVANGELIST WHO PRAYS

Read how Felix Kohol has relied on prayer for two decades to overcome impossibilities as a missionary doctor in Cote d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso.

### 10 GO! News of God's Mobilising Church

### 12 People Groups: Maba of Chad





**G**od answers prayers! My husband, Joshua, and I are living witnesses of many answered prayers. One story comes to mind.

We were in Bible School in Canada and praying because we were completely out of money — none even for groceries or petrol, not even five dollars. Our toddler son was still using diapers and we were down to the last one. I was beginning to fret and was wondering what to do since I had to drop him at a babysitter the next day before going to work.

As usual, Joshua went to check for mail at the post office in our small town. Among the few envelopes was one from a man we had met only a few times at one of our supporting churches. He had a mental illness and Joshua was surprised he would write to us.

He opened the letter and in it was \$50 cash, with a note saying he just wanted to bless us. My husband couldn't believe his eyes. The man's job was delivering pizza, which didn't pay much. How incredible that God laid our need on the heart of this brother who needed every dollar he earned. Joshua thanked God and immediately went to the store.

When he arrived home with the diapers, I was also shocked. We held

hands and prayed with tears, giving thanks for our brother and knowing that God had answered our prayers in a unique way.

Praise God, He answers prayers!

We all agree that prayer is important, and we must do more of it. But this is not enough. I believe we must have prayer strategies. Why? Because we have a very real enemy that wants to stay hidden while dividing, deceiving,

## Jesus, even though He is God, spent time in prayer before choosing his disciples

and distracting us from seeking the Lord and building healthy relationships at home, in our neighbourhoods, churches, and ministries. A strategy can be a prayer walk, prayer partners, prayer routines and prayer habits.

When we look at scripture, we see Joshua praying before engaging in a battle. Esther, before risking her life by going to the king without an invitation, asked her people to spend three days fasting and praying. And Jesus, even

though He is God, spent time in prayer before choosing his disciples.

What does that tell us? Before you engage in an issue, a ministry, a relationship, or a problem, spend time in prayer first. Go and seek the Lord. When you seek God first in prayer, you are going before the One that knows the solution and can help you through any circumstance.

In this issue, I hope you will be inspired and compelled to renew your prayer life. You will read many short testimonies of answered prayer. You will see resources on prayer that will provide specific points for intercession around the world. You will also read about prayer in the life of missionary doctor Felix Kohol. Our Perspective article is by Pastor Austen Ukachi who exhorts us to harness the church's praying potential. Lastly, we invite you to spend time in prayer for the Maba people of Chad.

May the Lord bless you!

---

*Dr. Joanna Bogunjoko, from Nigeria, served as a medical missionary at Galmi Hospital in Niger. Today she ministers alongside her husband, Joshua, also a doctor, in his role as the International Director of the mission agency, SIM. They have two children whom they raised on the mission field.*

# TESTIMONIES OF ANSWERED PRAYER

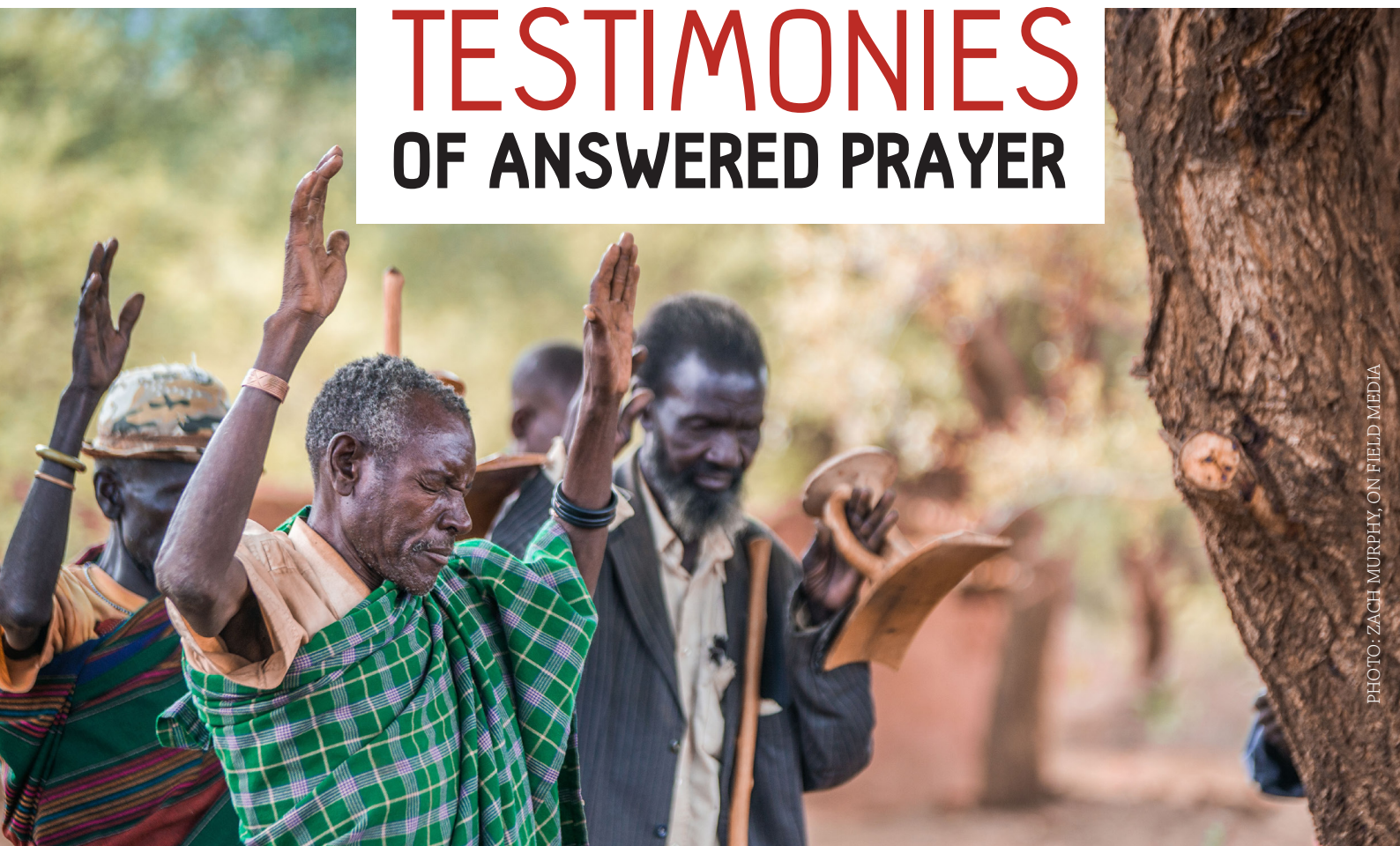


PHOTO: ZACH MURPHY, ON FIELD MEDIA

**G**od provided for us through individuals and families. One time we gave almost all our food to the O. people during a food shortage. One day remained before we finished our food, and that day a girl we didn't know purchased food and sent it to us from a far town.

Another time we were invited to pray for a sick woman who was about to die. During prayer, she instantly got well. Word spread and others also started requesting prayers for the sick. God healed several more people.

— missionary in Northern  
Kenya

One day I met with a new Arab Muslim convert whom I was discipling. He was a refugee from Libya, and of Egyptian nationality. He was desperate and had lost everything, even his passport. After speaking with this new believer and friend, he told me he still has hope in God.

We talked about Jesus together and I asked what we could pray for him. He said he desperately wanted to return to his country of Egypt. But he did not have the money or a passport. I told him that even if this situation is beyond us, we can present it to God, since nothing is impossible for Him.

After the prayer he felt happier and so did I. After just a few days, to my great surprise, he contacted me, glorifying the Lord that finally he was in Egypt and that he also found a community of believers!

— Burundian missionary in Tunisia

The team of Japanese missionaries landed on the island of Buuzu by pure accident. They had fly to one island, but just before landing, a strong wind forced them to change course, landing in Buuzu.

Ibraimu was there when they landed. The missionaries brought a strange message. Being a Muslim, Ibraimu wasn't interested to follow Jesus Christ. But his village needed water and a school. Over time, the missionaries helped them dig a well and build a school.

The missionaries talked about Jesus as Saviour, but Ibraimu knew Jesus was the Saviour of Israel only. His Muslim teacher

confirmed that belief. The missionaries challenged him to read Matthew 28:18-20 and Quran Sura 3. After three weeks of searching and praying, he realised the truth – Jesus was indeed his Saviour from sin. He knew he needed a Saviour. He believed and was baptised together with his family.

— Report of Japanese missionaries in Mozambique

**"Brother, if you would  
enter that province,  
you must go forward  
on your knees."**

*J. Hudson Taylor, missionary  
to China*



In 1977 when I was at primary school, I was having problems with my eyes, I was struggling to see. I was taken to hospital, but when the doctor examined me, he told me he couldn't find any medical reason for the problem. That evening I happened to meet with an Africa Inland Church (AIC) evangelist called Samuel, who invited me to a gospel meeting. I went forward for prayer at the end. We prayed for healing and it was given! I gave my life to Jesus and decided I wanted to give myself to his ministry.

— Frances Manungu in Tanzania ([www.eu.aimint.org](http://www.eu.aimint.org))

After Constance attended our annual “prayer day for the nations” in 2013, a great passion for the unreached was birthed in him, and he has remained faithful till today with our prayer team. He had 40 prayer cards for unreached peoples. An important and interesting aspect of his passion was when he decided to go on a 40-day fast and prayer for the peoples represented in the prayer cards. He does a one-day fast for each people group each year. Today by the special grace of God, he has relocated to another town where he is planting a church.

— From an AIM prayer team leader

When one says ‘yes’ to God, you never know exactly where and how those plans will unfold. God has been so gracious to us in these years of ministry within The Salvation Army. Saying ‘yes’ has grown and stretched me beyond my comfort zone and I have learnt lessons about God and myself.

A way God has answered prayers in a big way has been through our medical care. One of my greatest fears was not having medical coverage through our organisation. My heart's prayer has been that this would not hinder our ministry. In every aspect God has been so faithful; we have always had access to doctors at the right time.

This has showed me over and over that God takes care of the small things. He hears and honours the desires of our hearts. Don't be afraid to say, ‘YES’!

— Lynn Zola, South African missionary in Namibia

I served four years in North Africa with my family as a missionary. The country was majority Muslim, with an ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor. The corrupt police defrauded taxi drivers. Sanitation was almost non-existent. Sunday was a national working day.

The situation called for desperate action. So, the Christian leaders prepared a comprehensive prayer list covering every possible national concern, and mobilised the few evangelical churches in the capital to begin 40 days of fasting and spiritual warfare.




The result of this fast was astonishing. In the same week we started praying about the corruption of the police, the taxi drivers went on strike. Upon investigation, the government ordered the police off the roads immediately and the checkpoints were removed, to the relief of everyone.

Also, in the week we were praying about the sanitation in the city, about 50 big refuse-collection trucks donated by Israel moved around the city clearing the refuse. Our final surprise came when the President announced the changeover to a Saturday-Sunday weekend. The country was making this change after 30 years of a Friday- Saturday weekend. This is the power of fasting, prayer and spiritual warfare.

— Joseph Mensah, Ghanaian missionary in North Africa  
(originally told in *AfriGO* Vol2 Issue 2, pg 6)

Soo Inn Tan, from Singapore, has written a book called ‘3-2-1 Following Jesus in Threes’ to show us how to cultivate the spiritual friends we need to watch over us.

In his method, 3 men or 3 women meet for 2 hours once a month over a meal and share 1 joy and 1 challenge, and then pray for one another. It is a simple way to encourage and be encouraged in your spiritual walk. Buy a digital copy of the book here:

 [whttps://amzn.to/2M8JBYo](https://amzn.to/2M8JBYo)


Related to this is the ‘3-2-1’ prayer method. First, lift up 3 sentences of praise to God, followed by giving thanks for 2 things in one's life, and ending with 1 petition. This method guides us to give glory to God and is especially useful for teaching new believers.



## WEBSITES

**Prayafrica.org**

This Africa Inland Mission (AIM) site lists 55 African people groups who do not have a reproducing church and information on missionary work among them. Subscribe and receive regular updates. The site offers downloadable fact sheets and a two-page guide to help you use Scripture as a basis for prayer for the lost

 [www.prayafrica.org](http://www.prayafrica.org)

 <https://chat.whatsapp.com/K7goOo9DdsSAgw4RmVbwo9>

**MANI Prayer Network**

The prayer network page of the Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI) lists valuable websites, many of which are centred on prayer for Africa. MANI also provides WhatsApp groups to join to pray for the unreached.

 [www.maniafrica.com/prayer-network/](http://www.maniafrica.com/prayer-network/)

**Fellowship of Prayer Strategists**

*"Prayer is the Indispensable Key to the Unfinished Task."*


**Prayer Strategists**

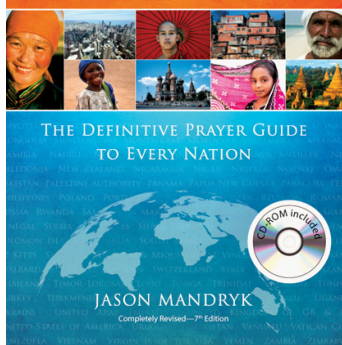
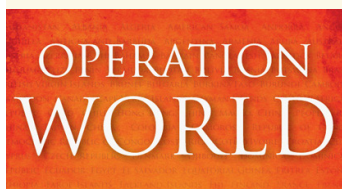
This website brings together prayer strategists — people who link their passion and practice of prayer to prayer movements with strategic efforts to bring people to Christ. This site offers resources on prayer strategy and global guides in various languages.

 [www.prayerstrategists.net](http://www.prayerstrategists.net)

**Operation World**

Originally a book, Operation World's full website includes links to daily updates and a mobile app to pray for the nations. Subscribe or visit regularly to discover prayer needs for every country, as well as how to pray and how to motivate others to pray.

 [www.operationworld.org](http://www.operationworld.org)


**INTERNATIONAL PRAYER CONNECT****International Prayer Connect**

This organisation connects prayer networks and ministries worldwide to focus them in prayer for common global concerns. Acting as spiritual watchmen, they equip and mobilise for prayer. Their vast collection includes resources on how to pray, videos of encouragement, and information about GO 2020, the ongoing 40-day prayer seasons throughout this year.

 [www.ipcprayer.org](http://www.ipcprayer.org)


**Global Voice of Prayer**

This group sponsors the Global Day of Prayer on May 31. From June 1 onwards, you can join the '90 days of Blessing Campaign.' There is a special section on praying for COVID-19.

 [www.globalvoiceofprayer.com/global-day-of-prayer/](http://www.globalvoiceofprayer.com/global-day-of-prayer/)

**Global Prayer Digest**

Subscribe here for daily prayer emails for the unreached around the world. A monthly guide with a daily paragraph about an unreached people is also available.

 [www.globalprayerdigest.org/](http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/)



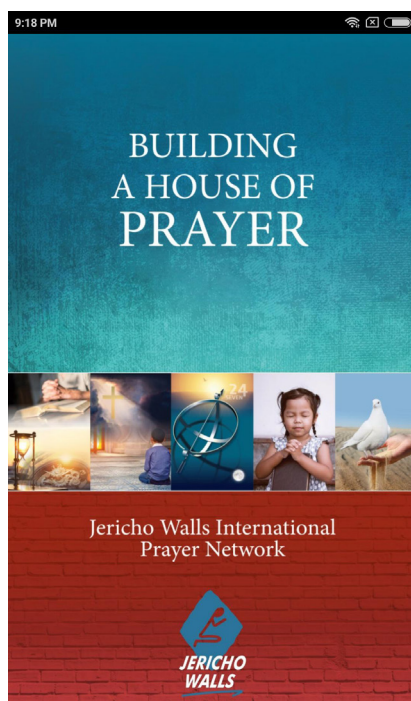
## PRAYER APPS



### The Unreached of the Day

This app is available on iPhone and Android, in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Vietnamese, German and French. It presents a photo, map, basic statistics, profile and prayer items for a different unreached people each day. Browse by country, people name or date.

[www.joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday](http://www.joshuaproject.net/pray/unreachedoftheday)



### Jericho Walls PRAYER App

This app includes:

- Daily prayer pointers about global matters in need of breakthrough.
- A daily 'I PRAYED' commitment with an option to view the number of others also praying.
- An interactive calendar.
- A daily reminder option.
- A share option to forward the content to social media and email.
- Automatic 'prayer alerts' in times of crisis, natural disaster, etc.
- Free access to more than 20 years' worth of resources covering subjects such as how to pray for your pastor, the church, the nation, teens, children, missions, Bible translation and unreached people groups.

[www.jwipn.com/jericho-walls-prayer-app/](http://www.jwipn.com/jericho-walls-prayer-app/)

## WHATSAPP PRAYER GROUPS

### Prayer Movement for Unreached Peoples

This group of mostly Malawians is open to new members. Prayer is for the world's unreached peoples. Contact Reuben Kachala to join +265992403434

### Africa UPG Prayer Group

The group is an initiative of Ethne to Ethne and the 24:14 Coalition. The focus is prayer and missions to the unreached peoples of Africa.

[www.chat.whatsapp.com/KAJDZEMzBI76YtU2BdrQaF](https://www.chat.whatsapp.com/KAJDZEMzBI76YtU2BdrQaF)

## ARTICLES AND VIDEOS

### Praying for Mission Partners

An article on how to pray for missionaries over seven days.

[www.globalconnections.org.uk/churches/global-mission/support/praying-for-mission-partners](http://www.globalconnections.org.uk/churches/global-mission/support/praying-for-mission-partners)

### Praying for Missionary Kids

[www.globalconnections.org.uk/churches/global-mission/support/mks](http://www.globalconnections.org.uk/churches/global-mission/support/mks)

### Praying for Missionaries

[www.missionexus.org/a-prayer-for-missionaries/](http://www.missionexus.org/a-prayer-for-missionaries/)

### Praying for Urban, Rural and Northern Africa

A 4-minute video by Conrad Mbewe.

[www.desiringgod.org/interviews/how-to-pray-for-africa](http://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/how-to-pray-for-africa)

### Praying for Unreached People Groups

An inspirational video, based on the example of the Moravians.

[www.vimeo.com/311331983](http://www.vimeo.com/311331983)

### Watch and Pray for One Hour

This video shows you how to pray for one hour:

<https://youtu.be/LVvC-at4tdM>

### Prayer Graphics

The hour that changes the world presents a document and graphic on how to pray for one hour, and a report on the book by the same title.

[www.docplayer.net/45359-The-hour-that-changes-the-world.html](http://www.docplayer.net/45359-The-hour-that-changes-the-world.html)

# HARNESSING THE CHURCH'S PRAYING POTENTIAL

BY PASTOR AUSTEN UKACHI

**P**layer creates the track on which the wheel of missions moves. An unstable track inevitably slows down the pace of movement. If we are to evangelise the world, then we must step up the pace of our prayers.

Fortunately, one of the greatest strengths of the church in Africa is its praying potential, thanks to our numerous problems, which God has used to train us to pray. The church's prayers need to be harnessed to shape the destiny of the continent and beyond.

Granted, some prayers are misdirected, but none would doubt God has used the peculiarities of our environment to groom the Church in aggressive praying. She must arise and use this God-given strength to transform the continent and the nations.

Not all Christians can go into the arena of politics to influence the affairs of the nation. Not all Christians occupy strategic positions in society to influence their respective sphere. However, every Christian can maintain their portion of the track on which the wheel of missions runs –prayer.

In this light, the church has a mandate to pray for all people and those in authority. "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence... Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Tim. 2:1-2, 4 NKJV)

This text explains that the church should pray for all the segments of society, irrespective of religion, gender, tribe, and occupation. Our duty is to serve as society's watchmen; our priestly ministry must be consistent and without discrimination.

God has positioned Christians as watchmen so that his presence will be extended to every sphere of the nation. "O Jerusalem, I have posted watchmen on your walls; they will pray day and night, continually. Take no rest, all you who pray to the Lord. Give the Lord no rest until he completes his work, until he makes Jerusalem the pride of the earth" (Is. 62:6-7 NLT).

Why do the prayers of Christians over their nation matter to God? They matter because the Church has a priestly and prophetic responsibility to society. Through prayer, the

Church creates the atmosphere for peaceful coexistence and for people to be saved.

Thirdly, according to Revelation 8:3-5, God uses our prayers to do his work on earth. Our prayers are a catalyst for his plans and purposes.

"Then another angel, having a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, thundering, lightning, and an earthquake."

(Rev. 8:3-5 NKJV)

The amazing testimonies which arise when the Church engages in united prayer offer compelling reasons for us to pray. The Acts of the Apostles chapters 4 and 13 contain examples of the answers to prayer. When the disciples prayed, great power was unleashed and the doors for an effective witness to the unreached nations were flung open to them.

Our responsibility is to pray, and God's duty is to answer the way He sovereignly deems fit. The Church has a unique ministry towards national transformation, like no other arm of society. She must use her gift of prayer to shape the destiny of society. Intercessors must shift their focus from the blessing syndrome to what matters most: the kingdom. In this way, the African church can shape the destiny of the continent and world through prayer.

**The church's prayers need to be harnessed to shape the destiny of the continent and beyond.**

*Pastor Austen C. Ukachi is Senior Pastor of He's Alive Chapel in Lagos, Nigeria. He is also Coordinator of the Strategic Prayer Network (MANI), and Executive Member of International Prayer Council. Volunteers are welcome to join in the monthly zoom prayer conference call for Africa's Unreached People Groups every last Wednesday of the month.*



[pastoracukachi@gmail.com](mailto:pastoracukachi@gmail.com)





# CALLED: GIDEON MASHAURI

"Oh You who hears  
prayer, to You all flesh  
will come." Psalm 65:2



## **Journey of passion and prayer**

In 2005, I was a refugee from Democratic Republic of the Congo living in a camp in Nampula, Mozambique. I began sharing the gospel with my fellow refugees and with the Makua people outside the camp. While there, a missionary loaned me Adoniram Judson's biography, and I spent hours praying and reading in the bush nearby. The committed prayer life of this man stood out. He fully trusted the Lord to provide his needs. This inspired me to spend extravagant time in prayer and fasting.

When I went to this bush area, I constantly prayed God would perform a miracle — grant me leave from the refugee camp to serve Him anywhere. Eventually, a missionary blessed me with money to attend Scott Theological College in Kenya. I also received a committed sponsor.

## **Journey of trust**

In 2007, I left Maratane Refugee Camp for Congo to secure a passport. But I also desired to marry Rachel. After daily prayer from two to five am for three weeks, the Lord miraculously provided funds for us through friends. We were married and left a week later for Kenya. I studied Theology in Intercultural Studies.

## **Journey to the unreached**

Before graduating, Rachel and I spent six months praying for direction in ministry. God answered when a Tanzanian colleague shared he was tasked to lead a team with Africa Inland Mission (AIM) and African Inland Church Tanzania (AICT). We accepted his invitation to work in the rural, predominantly Muslim Kondo district for two and a half years. My team appointed me prayer coordinator. Each Wednesday from five to nine pm, our team prayed for the people by name.

God answered, opening opportunities to share the gospel with those we laboured in prayer for. We praise God that one student gave his life to the Lord and pursued Bible school training.

Our team left in 2014, turning over our Christian Resource Centre. Rachel and I prayed for five months for God's leading.

## **Journey of faith**

We were led to work at a church in Nairobi, Kenya, but could not get work permits. God led us to be students in the Africa International University (AIU). Another prayer adventure began when I was given only provisional admission to attend class. My testimony for the scholarship coordinator connected me to a donor. My student visa did not cover my family, so God miraculously provided a visa for Rachel too. I completed an MA in Missions (Islamic emphasis), and Rachel completed an MA in Child Development and Family Studies.

## **Journey of service**

On Saturdays, Rachel and I prayed at a garden nearby. In 2017, God spoke to me there through Daniel 2:22: "He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells in him." After my studies, I wondered,

"Now what?" This verse helped me recognise God would work out the darkness in my future.

An invitation came to join AIM again in Kenya. By January 2018, I began as Regional Teams' Officer, supporting teams and their leaders among unreached people. I am now blessed to use the experiences God gifted to me as I assist others.

Malachi 1:11 says: "For from the rising of the sun to its setting,

My name shall be great among the nations, and in every place incense shall be offered to My name, and indeed a pure offering; for My name shall be great among the nations, says the LORD of hosts." (NKJV)

This verse shows the glory of the Lord will be great among the nations. How? I believe through passion and prayer, through trusting and going, through a Spirit-led revelation of the gospel, seeded by faith and service.

*Gideon Mashauri is a Regional Teams Officer for AIM, based out of Kenya, working with missionaries across Africa. He and wife Rachel have four children.*

God answered,  
opening  
opportunities to  
share the gospel with  
those we laboured in  
prayer for.

# GO! NEWS OF AFRICA'S MOBILISING CHURCH

## MANI Continental Consultation 2021

The Movement for Africa National Initiatives (MANI) has released details of its five-yearly event. It will take place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, from March 8 to 12, 2021. Put this in your schedule and begin to plan!

 [www.maniafrica.com/mani-events/](http://www.maniafrica.com/mani-events/).



**MANI**  
MOVEMENT FOR AFRICAN NATIONAL INITIATIVES

**MANI 2021  
CONTINENTAL CONSULTATION**

**COUNTRY VENUE:** Cote D'Ivoire **HOST CITY:** ABIDJAN  
**DATE:** March 8-12, 2021.  
Details: Arrival before the Opening Session in the evening of March 8th,  
Closing in the evening of March 12th

## Christian Institute of Algeria offers bachelor's degree

The North African country of Algeria has seen a remarkable revival over the past twenty years with the establishment of hundreds of churches. With this growth has come a desperate need for leadership training. At the request of the Protestant Church of Algeria, the Christian Institute of Algeria (ICA) was founded, the only formal institution for theological education owned by the Algerian Evangelical Church.

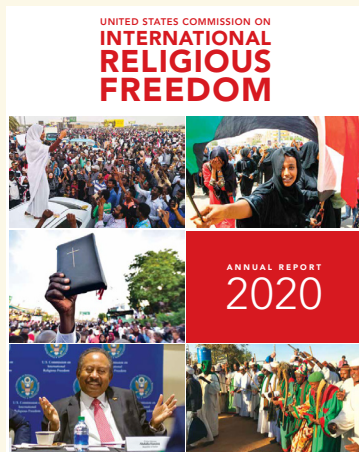
The ICA now offers bachelor's level studies for Algerians, a first in



the history of the Algerian church. The first graduation, with nearly 20

students, is scheduled for 2021. The ICA is seeking to develop a central library, available to students and to all pastors in Algeria. Government restrictions make it almost impossible to import Christian books, so a hard drive containing more than 1,500 Arabic titles was imported for the library. A similar hard drive with French titles will soon be available.

To learn more and to support this ground-breaking work, contact [Afrigo\\_English@sim.org](mailto:Afrigo_English@sim.org).



## 2020 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom


A new report assesses religious freedom violations and progress in 29 countries during the year 2019. The findings provide a glimpse of the right to freedom of belief for any religion, including Christianity.

"Countries of Particular Concern" include the African nations of Eritrea and Nigeria. The report says, "Eritrea continues to have one of the worst religious freedom records in the world." In Nigeria, killings, displacement of communities and human rights abuse

continue at the hands of the Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa.

"Special Watch List" countries include the North African nations of Algeria, Egypt, Sudan as well as the Central African Republic.

Note: This report is produced by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USIRF), an independent government commission, committed to defending the right to freedom of belief.

 <https://bit.ly/2YZPmiX>



## SUBSCRIBE!

Join our email distribution to get every new issue delivered right to your inbox! Email [info@afriGO.org](mailto:info@afriGO.org) to subscribe.

Are there topics you would like Afrigo to cover? Let us hear from you! We welcome your input in order to make our publication relevant and inspiring. Send your suggestions to [info@afriGO.org](mailto:info@afriGO.org).





# THE PHYSICIAN EVANGELIST WHO PRAYS

BY VICTOR BAJAH

**F**elix Kohol, a Nigerian medical doctor and missionary, felt isolated and alone in rural, northern Côte d'Ivoire where he was on assignment. God was using his medical skills to meet the health needs of the Senoufou, a largely unreached animistic people, with some being Muslim.

Felix encountered many challenges. One was not yet speaking French, the main language of the country. Feeling frustrated, he cried out to God.

God brought bilingual missionaries to work alongside Felix. Two Liberian missionaries joined him to pray. The last weekend of each month, they fasted and prayed for an extensive time, a practice he keeps today. They also devoted every Sunday to prayer.

Felix shared the gospel, trained disciples, and taught the Bible. The people began calling him 'Physician Evangelist.'

The Lord led him to hold revival services at local Baptist churches, where many trusted God. The Spiritual Emphasis Week he held yearly in the hospital also yielded fruit, as more patients and staff trusted the Lord and were disciplined. People from his home church in Nigeria also joined in praying for the work.

Together, Felix and the men God brought alongside him grew into a prayer group that became the lifeline of his ministry.

## Overcoming impossibilities

Felix's journey began in 1989 during his residency at what is now Bingham University Teaching Hospital in Nigeria. Navigators Nigeria, a mission organisation, approached Felix to pray about joining a new ministry team in francophone Africa. As he prayed, he struggled with three realities.

With no prior knowledge or training, he felt inadequately qualified to be a missionary. He was also burdened with

family responsibilities as the first graduate among orphaned siblings. And he feared giving up his medical career.

He told God he wanted to serve despite his fears. God encouraged him through the story of Moses in Exodus. Like Felix, Moses felt unqualified, had great responsibility for his family who were slaves, and had to give up his career as an Egyptian prince. When Felix thought of what he might lose, God used Matthew 6:33 to encourage him: "Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

God prompted his local assembly, ECWA Plateau Church, to commission Felix, commit to financial support and include him on their prayer chain. On arrival in Côte d'Ivoire, he received a stipend from the hospital as a tentmaking missionary.

## New assignments, more fruit

After ten years, Felix returned to Nigeria to raise more support, but to little avail. He held onto God in faith even when financial support dropped drastically. On hearing of an opportunity among the unreached in Burkina Faso, Felix felt God's call. In 2001, he saw God grow his support team, often bringing individuals out of the blue to provide for the exact needs of Felix, his wife and three children.

God honoured Felix's ministry. The hospital in Ouagadougou was built through prayer and is still being developed by faith. God provided faithful men who assisted in fundraising with integrity.

When people saw how well the team managed the finances, more gave to the ministry. Sometimes people gave to their personal needs even when Felix did not express them.

More than 20 years later, the oil of divine providence has never ceased to flow. God has taught Felix and his team total dependence on Him through the prayer of faith in His promises.





# PEOPLE GROUPS:

## Maba

The Maba people inhabit the Ouaddaï region of eastern Chad. At present, there is little to no Christian witness in Ouaddaï, where 95 per cent of Maba and other Chadian peoples are Sunni Muslims. This area was once the sultanate of Wadai and served as a crucial intersection of Muslim trade routes.

Twentieth-century colonialism has left its marks on Ouaddaï. The distinct indigenous, French and Islamic cultural groups compete for authority, creating deep-seated political conflict. This tension is compounded by severe food insecurity, limited rainfall, lack of clean water, and overpopulation due to refugees fleeing neighbouring Darfur.

For the Maba people, and especially their women, the impact of socioeconomic instability is far-reaching. They must work alongside men in the fields while simultaneously

maintaining their households. Women must also find sources of potable and non-potable water, meaning education is not a priority.

There's an urgent need to liberate women and young girls from sexual and gender-based violence, which is exacerbated by the collective trauma the Maba and refugee populations have experienced. Violence against women peaks during periods of heightened militant activity, although they're often subject to abuse by their own husbands as well.

Many Ouaddaïen women elect not to fight for justice in case their husbands abandon them and their children, subjecting them to even greater poverty. The Maba have profound physical and emotional needs – needs that the body of Christ is uniquely designed to meet.

### At a Glance

- Daily life is dominated by political instability, the Darfur refugee crisis, and a chronic lack of food and water.
- The majority of Maba are Sunni Muslim. The Ouaddaï region has little to no Christian witness, and the Bible has not been translated into the Maba language.
- The Maba and the refugee population have much in common. Addressing violence against women and facilitating physical and emotional healing will be critical to the health of the region.

### Pray

- Bring peace to the Ouaddaï region and appoint leaders who will govern with wisdom and justice.
- Help humanitarian workers think creatively and strategically as they devise solutions to the Ouaddaï's food and water insecurity problem.
- Send Christians to share God's love and compassion with the Maba people.
- Provide the resources necessary to translate and disseminate the Bible in the Maba language.

Learn more about a new team forming to reach the Maba at [www.facebook.com/global.faithfulwitness](https://www.facebook.com/global.faithfulwitness)



**AFRIGO:** email: [afriego\\_english@sim.org](mailto:afriego_english@sim.org) **ALLONS-Y !** : email: [redactrice@sim.org](mailto:redactrice@sim.org)

**SIM East Africa**  
Tel: 251 911 206 530  
[east-africa.office@sim.org](mailto:east-africa.office@sim.org)

**SIM West Africa**  
Tel: +233 30 222 5225  
[wamo.personnel@sim.org](mailto:wamo.personnel@sim.org)

**SIM Southern Africa**  
Tel: +27 21 7153200  
[za.enquiries@sim.org](mailto:za.enquiries@sim.org)

**AIM International**  
[amc.io@aimint.org](mailto:amc.io@aimint.org)  
<https://aimint.org/african-mobilization/>



# OVERFLOW

**At a Glance** (continued)