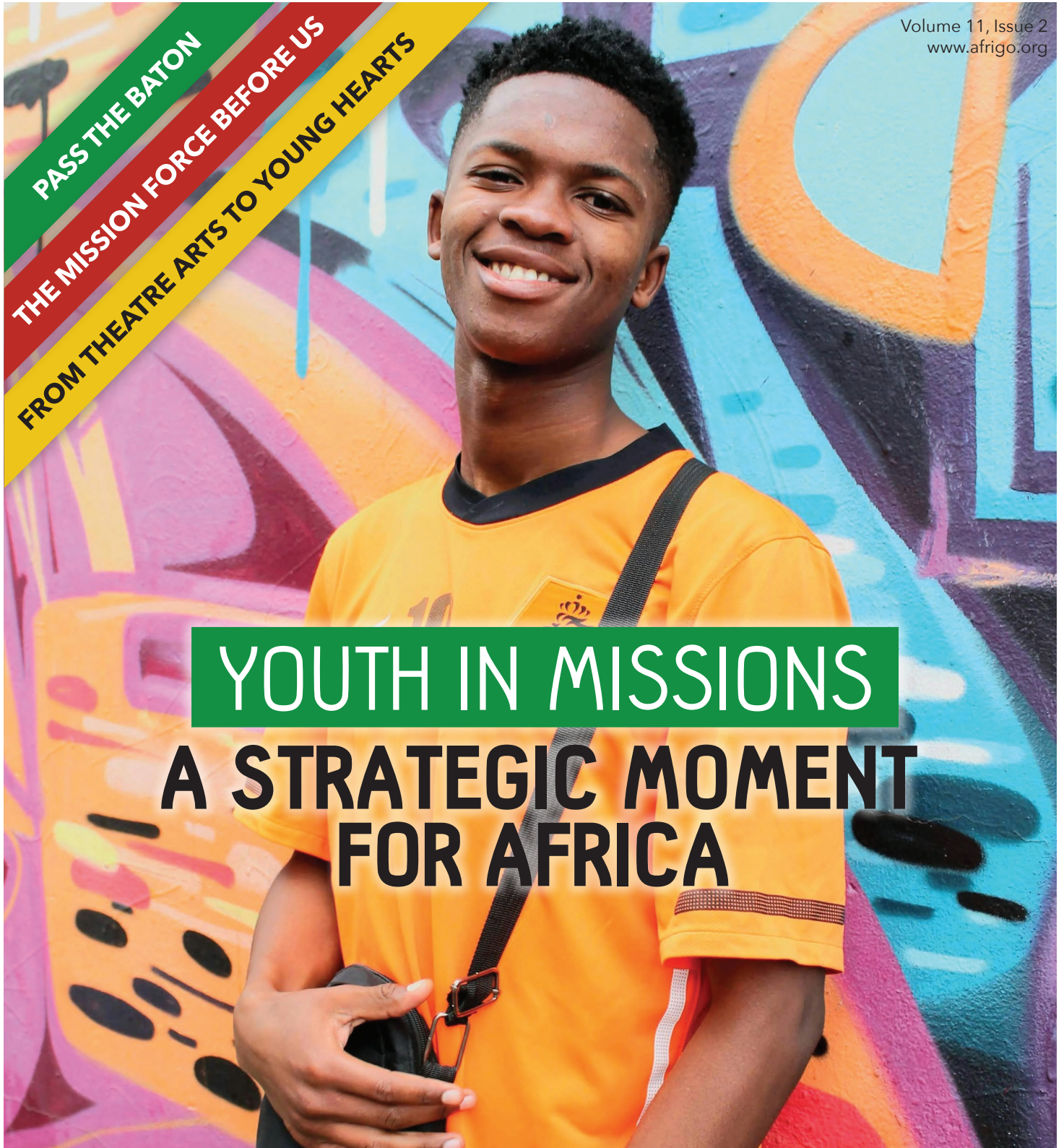


AFRIGO

Encouraging the African Church in world mission



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PASS THE BATON

THE MISSION FORCE BEFORE US

FROM THEATRE ARTS TO YOUNG HEARTS

YOUTH IN MISSIONS

A STRATEGIC MOMENT
FOR AFRICA

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LET LOOSE

AFRICAN CHEETAHS

BY YAW PERBI

Our 18-year-old son, Nana Agyina, is on mission aboard Operation Mobilization's *Logos Hope* ship, bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to thousands at every port. During a recent trip to Europe, my wife and I caught up with him in Brussels, where he was part of a sports ministry team sent into Belgium while the ship drydocked in Spain. We hadn't seen him in months.

He is one of about 300 crew from approximately 60 countries, mostly youth. Apart from a few adults in key roles, the ship is literally run by young people. Significant intentionality has resulted in the most African young people on board than ever before. Think of other spaces like Youth with a Mission (YWAM), Scripture Union (SU), or the local expression of IFES in your country and you might see how youth and missions are intertwined.

Youth and mission is deeply biblical. Many consequential characters in the Scriptures were greatly used in God's mission as young people: Joseph, David, Samuel, Esther, Daniel, Jeremiah, Isaiah, Mary the mother of Jesus, and indeed, Jesus himself. So young was Timothy that Paul had to exhort him not to let anyone look down on him because he was young (1 Tim. 4:12).

In the mid-2000s, as a young medical student myself and president of the Christian Medical Fellowship, I introduced the concept of 'Youth Power' through a book bearing that title, to start a fire in young people to do something significant with their lives. Young people have POTENTIAL—Passion, Opportunities, Time, Energy (and strength), Numbers, Talents and Technology, Influence, Attitudes, and Lock-down (control and command).

Today, Africa is the continent with the most youthful population. Seventy per cent of sub-Saharan Africa is under the age of 30.¹ The World Economic Forum reports that by 2035, there will be more young Africans entering the workforce each year than in the rest of the world combined. At the same time, Africa is the continent with the most Christians. We ask in our book, *Africa to the Rest*, "Is it a mere coincidence that the current most numerically Christian continent is also the demographically youngest continent?" No, the Lord of

the Harvest must have a Masterplan: "The most Christian continent is the youngest continent and 'African Christian youth' may be the most powerful combination of words to affect the mission of God this century."²

God foretold that he would pour out his Spirit on young people (Joel 2:28). This has huge implications for the mission movement within and from Africa, including the half a million African international students who wield visas and scholarships to some of the most unreached places including India, Turkey and China; yet, are largely neither strategically envisioned nor intentionally sent.³ The local church and mission agency must be intentional about discovering, developing and deploying these teeming youth to be professional missionaries who go and/or missional professionals who as they go about their everyday lives, make disciples.

The Ghana Evangelical Missions Association (GEMA) has set up a Missional Young Leaders department, nicknamed GEMA NextGen, with a mandate to identify, prepare and strategically commission youth into God's mission. Creative initiatives like that should be numerous for Africa's young cheetahs who have all it takes to run fast with divine purpose, displaying and declaring God's glory among the nations!

In this issue of AfriGO, Anna Abidan narrates her call as a young missionary, and Pacifique Bisangwa delves into the potential and reality of engaging young people in missions. Our training articles offer practical guides for mentoring young people and organizing them for short-term mission trips. We also bring you FOCUS Kenya's story of equipping thousands of students for missions. Enjoy reading and share with others.

*Dr. Yaw Perbi is the founder and Global CEO of www.thehudgroupglobal.org, founding International Director of www.kwiverr.org and a Lausanne Movement leader. He is the Principal at www.PerbiExecutive.com and former president of International Student Ministries Canada (www.ismc.ca). Yaw is co-author of *Africa to the Rest* and resides with his family of nine between Accra, Ghana and Montreal, Canada as transnationals.*

¹ <https://bit.ly/4davy25>

² Perbi, Yaw and Ngugi, Sam. 2022. *Africa to the Rest: from mission field to mission force (again)*. Xulon Press, pg. 53.

³ Kwiverr (October 2022). "Not All Who Go Are Sent: A Research Report on the Missionary Preparedness of African Christian International Students, Past and Present, from 16 African Nations" (<https://bit.ly/4xJG8oT>). Also Perbi, Yaw (2 December 2021). "The African International Student Phenomenon: Turning an Unsung Force into a Tour-de-force in Missio Dei". *Journal of African Christian Thought*: 41–49 (<https://bit.ly/4wSOT1a>).

CALLED: ANNA ABIDAN

FROM THEATRE ARTS TO YOUNG HEARTS

AS TOLD TO HABILA BATURE

I serve with SIM WAMO in Senegal, West Africa, where I am involved in ministry to youth through discipleship, evangelism and English language facilitation. I am originally from Gombe State but was born and raised in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria.

My parents are ministers of the gospel. I gave my life to Christ at a young age, but my true journey with him began years later. I watched my parents invest deeply in discipling others but I often felt overlooked and struggled to understand why they gave so much of themselves to people who sometimes hurt or disappointed them. At one point, I decided that missions was not for me.

When I got to university, I studied Theatre Arts, hoping it would take me in a different direction. Yet, in God's providence, that became part of his plan. Through a community development course, I began visiting local communities and volunteering with Christian organizations. These experiences gradually softened my heart.

My turning point came during a youth camp outreach. Seeing young people eager to be discipled, yet lacking guidance, deeply moved me. In that moment, I sensed God's call clearly. What I once resisted became something I could no longer ignore. Even after taking up a

regular job, the desire to serve remained strong. I am grateful for mentors who recognized God's hand on my life and supported my transition into missions.

My journey began in campus ministry, where the focus was on building relationships and intentional discipleship. Today in Senegal, I work with young people who have little or no exposure to the gospel, and where cultural and religious differences require patience, humility, and consistency. My ministry includes sharing the gospel and walking alongside young people in discipleship. Often, this means listening, encouraging, and building trust over time.

One young lady had a real impact on me. At first, she was quiet and withdrawn, rarely engaging in conversations. Over time, she opened up. She shared her struggles and eventually we had deeper spiritual discussions. Watching her grow in confidence and curiosity about God reminded me that transformation is often slow but deeply meaningful. Moments like this affirm why relational ministry matters.

Serving cross-culturally has not been without challenges. I have experienced culture shock, including a difficult conflict with a close friend. By God's grace, that relationship was restored, teaching me the importance of listening well, showing grace, and being slow to speak. Language learning has stretched me, but it has also opened doors to deeper connection. Often, it is in quiet moments after a long day that I reflect on how God reveals himself in simple, everyday ways.

As a young missionary, I believe one of my greatest contributions is influence. When young people see someone their age living out their faith with courage, it challenges them to take their own



steps of obedience. I have seen peers grow in boldness because they realized that following Christ wholeheartedly is possible at their stage of life.

To those considering missions: come with a teachable spirit. Understand cultures different from your own. Examine your motives. Missions is not about adventure but about loving Jesus and making him known.

Young people are bursting with enthusiasm, passion, flexibility, and a positive naïveté that makes them willing to do what others deem impossible. At the same time, they need mentorship, guidance, and intentional support systems to thrive.

Scripture reminds us not to let anyone look down on us because of our youth (1 Tim. 4:12). Delaying obedience can mean missing the opportunity to be part of what God is doing.

Serving in Senegal has been a journey of surrender, growth, and joy. Each challenge and small step of obedience deepens my trust in him.

To young people sensing God's call: the mission field needs you now. Be willing to say yes.

PRAY FOR

- Open hearts among the young people Anna is engaging, that they will respond to the gospel and grow in discipleship.
- Grace in language learning, cultural understanding, and for God's continued guidance and provision in her ministry.

A YOUNG CONTINENT AT A CROSSROADS

BY PACIFIQUE BISANGWA

Africa is the youngest continent in the world. According to the African Union, more than 400 million young people are between the ages of 15 and 35, nearly 70 per cent of the population. By 2030, African youth are expected to make up 42 per cent of the global youth population.

This demographic reality presents a remarkable opportunity for the Church in Africa and for global evangelization. Unlike many parts of the world where young people are leaving the Church, African churches remain full of youth. They are present, active, and searching. Yet, presence does not always mean awakening.

I grew up in church but only understood the call to reach the nations during my college years. As I travel and visit churches across Africa, I see the same pattern. Many young African believers are yet to see themselves as participants in God's global mission.

Potential and reality

Young people are naturally driven by purpose. They are curious, energetic, and often willing to take risks for something meaningful. However, they need a cause worthy of that risk. When young people discover that life's ultimate purpose is to make Christ known among all nations, something shifts. When they realize there is no greater calling, many respond with passion and commitment.

Within our churches, we must ask not only how many Christians we have, but also what kind of disciples we are forming. When young people do not fully understand what it means to follow Christ, the idea of mission becomes distant and abstract. Additionally, connection to global ideas is influencing the youth with new perspectives. For example, recent data in Rwanda show a growing number of people with no religious affiliation.



While still small, this shift signals a broader trend that may continue across the continent. This presents a warning; the Church must act intentionally while young people are still open and engaged in local churches.

True discipleship involves transformation into Christ's character and obedience to his command to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19-20). It requires intentional mentoring, where older believers invest in younger ones, not only teaching Scripture, but also modelling a life of obedience.

At the same time, there are encouraging signs. Across the continent, many young people are seeking truth with sincerity. In some places, they are challenging unhealthy practices and calling for a return to the gospel.

This hunger is a sign of hope but it must be guided with wisdom and humility. Without mentorship, even passionate young leaders can struggle.

Barriers and pathways

One of the greatest barriers to youth involvement in mission is financial. Cross-cultural mission work is costly, often requiring more support than local

ministry, and young people hesitate to respond to God's call because of economic realities.

In Africa, this challenge is even more complex due to communal expectations. Family expectations on young people, especially after completing their education, can make choosing mission work appear irresponsible.

Some youths are also discouraged by the experiences of previous generations. Those raised in missionary or pastoral families may have seen their parents struggle financially, making them hesitant to follow the same path.

While there are flexible forms of mission funding, the Church must take collective responsibility to support those sent. In many African contexts, believers are highly responsive to church leadership. When leaders actively encourage and support missions, congregations often follow. This influence must be stewarded well.

At the same time, partnership is crucial. Parachurch organizations and mission agencies bring valuable experience in training and member care, while local churches provide community and long-term support. Rather than working separately, these groups must collaborate.

Finally, young people themselves must embrace humility and patience. A genuine call to mission should be tested and nurtured within community. Going alone without accountability or support often leads to unnecessary struggles. Let's work together to support and encourage the valuable resource of young people in missions.

Pacifique Bisangwa is a Rwandan mission mobilizer. In 2018, he co-founded Tubasange and currently serves as its Executive Director. He is also the National Team Leader for the Perspectives Course in Rwanda. He previously served with GBU (IFES) and Youth for Christ. He is married to Assumpta Murenzi and they have two young daughters. They live in Kigali, Rwanda.

African churches remain full of youth.

THE MISSION FORCE IN FRONT OF US

BY BIRUKTAWIT TSEGAYE MANDEFRO



Delegates at Commission Conference 2024

On December 29, 2017, 18 university students passionate about witnessing gathered after the Commission Conference organized by the Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS), Kenya. They formed the Northern Beacons of Light (NOBOL) on November 25, 2018, aiming to spread the gospel to least-reached communities in northern Kenya and beyond. Many of those 18 are now engaged in Bible school, translation, and mission work.

A young lady who participated in FOCUS Kenya's short-term global programme initiated Muslim evangelism at her Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology in western Kenya. Later, she pursued a Master of Arts degree in Missions, specializing in Islamic Studies. She is now the mission mobilization coordinator for a major Pentecostal church in Kenya.

In 2009, the Christian Union at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology conducted a mission in Kasiluni, Kitui and identified a school lacking basic structures. Since then, they have supported the school through classroom construction,

sending missionaries as teachers, providing learning materials, and implementing food and mentorship programmes. By 2022, the school had grown to accommodate 600 pupils.

FOCUS Kenya

Young people are not only a mission field; they are also a formidable mission force, and the most strategic place to reach them is within institutions of higher learning. If we want to change the world, we must begin where leaders are formed, ideas are tested, and convictions are shaped. Institutions of higher learning serve as a launch pad for youth in missions and FOCUS Kenya is strategically engaging young students for that purpose.

FOCUS Kenya was founded in 1973 as an umbrella body linking and networking Christian Unions (CUs) in institutions of higher learning across Kenya. It is an interdenominational, non-profit movement affiliated with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES), operating within the English, Portuguese, and Spanish-speaking Africa (EPSA) regions. It collaborates with over 240 CUs, reaching more than 65,000 students in public and private universities and

colleges. Its mission is to see Christian students and associates impact higher education institutions, the Church, and society through effective Christian living. Missions is one of its six strategic priorities. The rest are discipleship and Scripture engagement, leadership development, campus and college evangelism, societal transformation, and mentorship and care.

Clement Babu, the former missions director for FOCUS Kenya, shares: "We define missions as the holistic preaching of the gospel beyond campus communities, mobilizing and equipping students to engage through going, praying, and giving. We encourage each campus to adopt five primary, junior secondary, and senior secondary schools within a 5km radius to share the gospel and we mobilize students for missions lasting three to 14 days. In recent years, over 90 CUs with 4,506 students have participated in our mission trips. Our goal is for CUs to adopt specific people groups in Kenya for prayer and engagement."

Training and collaboration

FOCUS Kenya is committed to empowering Christian students to transform their campuses and

communities through holistic mission work. By equipping students with the necessary skills and opportunities, the ministry aims to cultivate a generation of leaders who will boldly share the gospel and enact social change.

Every three years, FOCUS Kenya organizes the Commission Conference which focuses on equipping students for missions. Over 2,700 delegates attended in 2024, leading to significant commitments to mission organizations such as the Sheepfold Ministry in Garissa. It was at a Commission Conference that the NOBOL initiative started to reach communities in Northern Kenya such as the Samburu, Borana, Gabra, and Somali people groups. Since its inception in 2017, 521 students have participated in the initiative, with about 85 per cent being Muslim converts, emphasizing the need for discipleship and evangelism.

During the long holidays, FOCUS Kenya mobilizes students for a four-to six-week mission engagement that includes onboarding, cross-cultural training, exposure, and debriefing. This has resulted in over 5,100 people hearing the gospel with 199 conversions to Christ.

Another initiative is the Short-Term Experience in Ministry (STEM) launched in 1992 as a follow-up to that year's Commission Conference. It gives fresh graduates the opportunity to serve God in universities and colleges, church, and society for one year. Currently, it has five participants. Two are training local evangelists in collaboration with World Concern and have planted two churches. Two are an agricultural officer and a teacher serving as missionaries among the Samburu people. The last participant is involved in community development in the Dadaab refugee camp.

FOCUS Kenya also facilitates exchange programmes with sister movements, including a six-week summer programme where Intervarsity students learn cross-cultural ministry skills alongside Kenyan students. Another collaboration happens with the Norwegian branch of IFES with participants involved in a 10-month cross-cultural mission before they engage with various movements.

Develop their capacity in various aspects of missions.

In partnership with Christ is the Answer Ministries (CITAM), FOCUS launched the Least-Reached Integral Gospel-centred Homegrown Transformative Programme (LIGHT-P) with the vision to raise passionate local and global missionaries through training, mentorship, and exposure. A student from the first cohort influenced his CU to adopt the Gabra people group in Northern Kenya and last year, they conducted a successful mission there with plans to return this year.

Mentorship

To effectively support young people in missions, Clement Babu counsels, "Develop their capacity in various aspects of missions including digital missions, frontier missions, urban outreach, and missions to people of other faiths. Establish long-term discipleship pathways to guide them from initial exposure to deeper commitment. Create structured programmes for mission exposure and provide mentorship throughout the process. Ensure strong biblical and theological grounding in God's mission, offering guidance before, during, and after their engagement in missions."

"Many young people face financial challenges when participating in mission activities. Parents struggle to support their children's missionary endeavours due to concerns about security, career stability, and financial demands. It is essential to journey with parents and emphasize the need for both senders and goers. We should encourage community

involvement to support their budgets by sponsoring individuals for mission exposure activities and educational opportunities."

"Help young people to view frontier missions as a way to reclaim God's ownership of the world while also pursuing academic excellence and job opportunities as means to share the gospel. The current generation often equates mission exposure with excitement and short-term trips, which can dilute genuine missional discipleship. Addressing this requires a focus on biblical formation and growth to cultivate a deeper understanding of missions beyond mere experiences."

"Inadequate debriefing after mission experiences can lead to unresolved challenges and unaddressed convictions and result in disengagement from future missions. To address this, mentoring and follow-up should be implemented, providing safe spaces for reflection and emotional processing. Additionally, new convictions should be nurtured through ongoing discipleship and mission pathways."

To the African Church

Involving young people in missions requires a multifaceted approach that emphasizes collaboration, education, and spiritual engagement. By partnering with mission agencies and parachurch organizations, the African Church can broaden its reach and impact, enabling a more robust mobilization of youth into mission fields.

Educating congregations about unreached people groups through sound biblical teaching is essential for fostering a deeper understanding of the importance of missions, thereby inspiring young people to take an active role. Incorporating missions into youth forums and conferences will further engage and equip them for service.

Finally, a culture of prayer within the church community will not only support missionaries but also deepen the spiritual commitment of young people to the mission of the Church. Together, these strategies can create a vibrant environment where young people are empowered and motivated to participate in missions, ultimately contributing to the growth and vitality of the African Church in its mission endeavours.



SHORT-TERM MISSIONS FOR YOUTH

BY GABRIEL NGHUUYEPA

Short term mission trips are a great way to get youth interested and involved in missions because they get excited about what is on God's heart. Youngsters who visit the mission field eventually may become missionaries themselves or people who pray for and financially support missions.

Invest in the future

Although sending youth on short-term trips may not always make sense financially, the long-term benefits are immense. Young people bring energy; they haven't experienced too much to fear the risks. And when the Spirit of the Lord is upon them, they can have a great effect. We have so many projects which were original ideas from young people thinking out of the box and I have seen ministries and even churches established through short-term trips.

Seeing is believing

When young people go into the field and are plunged into a situation of need, their hearts break and they think "God can use me to be an answer." They may see children who are neglected and wanting to be loved. They may see violence and injustice. Or, most often, it is a realization that there are people who don't know Jesus and who may have no opportunity to know Jesus. It is a powerful moment for a young person.

Don't "hit in the wind"

As we think about sending young people out, we must not just hit in the wind; don't go unless there is a plan to follow up. I would rather send a mission team to a group that already has somebody or something with the potential to continue the work. Otherwise, it's like giving birth to babies and leaving them in the streets. We need to ask, "How can we serve you?" and equip the locals for long-term impact.

Teach fundraising

We cannot expect young people to go out and raise money without guidance.



Don't just tell them what to do; help them to own the ideas they generate. Give them enough time to do it, or they will be frustrated and unable to go. Encourage them to team up to sell something or have an event to raise funds. They can sell coffee or cookies at church, or an offering can be taken after a presentation.

Too often we say to young people, "Just have faith." Faith is not a problem for the youth; it is the help to do what is necessary so that God may provide. Come alongside and work together, then let God do his thing. One does not go to the airport without a passport. Perhaps, God will provide the money for the flight on the way, but without that passport you cannot go. God may give you a vision and you can begin to prepare as he gets the miracle ready. I've seen too many young people fail and become discouraged because there was no preparation.

Eat the "eyeball"

Cultural training and sensitivity are vital to prevent discouraging and offending your hosts. If a team member makes a comment like "Oh, everything is so cheap here," the local person who is struggling to live will be hurt. Help young people see the dignity and intrinsic value in the people they are serving. Strange

foods like eyeballs, strange accents, and seemingly oppressive cultural practices are a challenge, but in the end, hearts open when people see that you actually are serving them and are willing to bow to their elders. People see you before they hear you.

Our organization has Mission Prep Training which includes discipleship, practical evangelism, cultural training, and other teaching. We really soak in to prepare the youth for what they will see and do, so they will not overreact when faced with new situations.

How can we do better?

- Two leaders create a better team dynamic and lessen the stress.
- Don't bring a person who doesn't want to go or who is already struggling.
- Don't expect your host to provide for you, unless that was the arrangement. Teams who are low on finances can serve the host or community in exchange for meals.

Young people are not just the future, they are the present. God can use them now.

Gabriel Nghuuyepa is the base director for YWAM in Windhoek, Namibia. He is married to Nicol and they have four children. Contact him at gabrielywamwindhoek@gmail.com

PASS THE BATON

BY DELPHINE FANFON



She was only thirteen when she began to question God's purpose for her life. Being a pastor's daughter surrounded her with church activity, but it was not enough to give her life meaning. Something deeper was stirring. So, she began searching for mentors.

She reached out to people she respected, asking for help to grow spiritually. No response came. Life unfolded. She struggled, made mistakes, and endured pain that might have been avoided with guidance. By God's grace, she eventually found her way back and went on to live and serve God with passion and alignment to his purposes.

The silence she encountered was not rejection. It was something deeper; mentoring was simply not something many people had learned to do. Yet, Scripture presents mentoring as central to God's design: "What you have heard from me ... entrust to faithful people who will teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2).

A generational relay

The mission of God is like a river flowing through history – each generation steps in for a time and is then replaced by the next. Whether by intention or by the natural course of time, the younger generation will soon lead missions on the continent. The critical question is, will they be ready? For lasting impact, the passion of youth must be anchored in the wisdom of those who have gone before them. Our greatest contribution is not measured only by what we accomplish

in our lifetime, but by what continues after we are gone. Moses understood this when he prepared Joshua (Deut. 31:7-8). Elijah did the same with Elisha (2 Kgs. 2:9-15). Mentoring is not optional. It is essential. "One generation shall commend your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts" (Ps. 145:4).

Mentoring effectively

- 1. Identify those who are ready:** Mentoring requires discernment. We must seek God to identify those who are not just present but prepared in heart to be formed. Jesus demonstrated this clearly. Before choosing his disciples, he spent extended time in prayer: "In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve ..." (Lk. 6:12-13).
- 2. Build trust across generations:** In many African contexts, cultural hierarchies create distance between leaders and young people. This distance often prevents meaningful relationships. Trust grows when people feel seen, valued, and safe. Mentoring cannot thrive without trust. Barnabas modelled this when he stood by Paul and gave John Mark a second chance when others had rejected him (Acts 9:26-27; Acts 15:37-39). Because of that investment, Mark later became "useful for ministry" (2 Tim. 4:11).

The responsibility to initiate trust lies largely with the older generation. They must intentionally close the gap and create space for authentic, life-on-life interaction. Young people, in turn, must respond with humility, openness, and a willingness to learn.

- 3. Create space for growth, not control:** A common mistake is when leaders try to "fix" or control those they are mentoring. True mentoring is not control – it is cultivation. Jesus exemplified a different approach. He created space for his disciples to engage, fail, learn, and grow. Their growth was shaped by their response to him. Even among the twelve, outcomes differed based on individual choices. Mentors must resist the temptation to produce compliance and instead, nurture maturity.

The urgency of now

Africa is uniquely positioned to lead in the decades ahead. But without intentional mentoring, a great loss will occur. The wisdom, experience, and spiritual insight of the older generation may be buried with them. The younger generation will then be forced to relearn lessons already paid for, delaying progress and weakening impact.

The stakes are high. The mission of God, which has flowed through history and will continue long after us, demands that we get this right. Now is the time to ensure that the next generation is ready to carry the mission forward.

GO! NEWS OF AFRICA'S MOBILIZING CHURCH

NATIONAL MISSIONS ASSOCIATIONS IN AFRICA WITH SAM NGUGI, VICE CHAIRMAN, AFMA

The Africa Missions Association (AfMA) was formed in 2013 to catalyze the formation of National Missions Associations (NMAs) in Africa to maximize the sending potential of the African Church. NMAs seek a collaborative approach among evangelical expressions of the Body of Christ at national, regional, and global levels to ensure the gospel is presented to least-reached and unreached people groups. (Read a brief definition of "Evangelical" here: <https://bit.ly/4ehgfnl>.)

Although local missions are growing within African countries, often there is fragmentation and duplication when mission agencies are not working together. This results in uneven training standards, poor missionary care, fewer options for aspiring missionaries, and limited influence for promoting mission needs.

AfMA believes that when evangelical churches, institutions, and mission organizations come together in an NMA, there is more opportunity for strategic coordination across mission mobilization, training and sending.



Association partners and networks can share research and intelligence and promote strategic engagement for greater impact. Cooperation also encourages greater missions sending, with a variety of options for those called to go. NMAs gain strength before the international community as they present a united front to engage globally. Importantly, NMAs provide credibility to member organizations through accountability, theological stability, and visibility.

The Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association (NEMA) is the pioneer

NMA on the continent, founded in 1982, followed by the Ghana Evangelical Missions Association (GEMA) in 1990. A Consortium of Evangelical Missions in Uganda (ACEMU) was formed in 2017. In recent years, the Kenya Missions Association (KEMA) and the Malawi Evangelical Missions Association (MEMA) have taken shape. Launched in 2026, the Liberia Evangelical Missions Association (LEMA) is the latest MA in the fold. AfMA reports that currently in progress are MAs in Ethiopia, South Sudan, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone.

For information on what is happening in your country with respect to missions, contact the Africa Missions Association via email at afmamovement@gmail.com.

Nigeria: NEMA <https://nemanigeriamissions.org/>
Ghana: GEMA <https://gemagh.org/>
Uganda: ACEMU <https://www.acemu-ug.org/>
Kenya: KEMA <https://kemamission.org/>
Malawi: MEMA <https://shorturl.at/SsvI8>
Liberia: LEMA <https://facebook.com/LiberiaMissionsAssociation>

LIVINGSTONE SCHOOL OF MISSIONS – Forming missionaries, transforming nations

The Livingstone School of Missions (LSM), an initiative of OneWay Ministries Africa, was founded in 2005 to train and equip missionaries to reach the unreached and exalt Jesus across Africa and beyond. Based in Accra, Ghana, the school offers one-month certificate, three-month advanced certificate, and one-year diploma training tracks in missions. The school operates from the foundation that every Christian is a missionary and must be equipped for their God-given mission.

Beginning June of each year, up to 30 students are accepted from countries such as Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Chad,



Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Zambia, Benin, Gambia, Mali, USA, and others to be trained in strategies and skills for effective Great Commission work and deep missional formation. Training includes lectures, group presentations, and written and oral assignments in topics such as cultural anthropology, language and culture, practical

evangelism, church planting, and sports ministry. Professors have backgrounds in missiology, theology, and cultural anthropology. Trainees embark on field trips and outreach activities among the unreached in northern Ghana to add practical experience to theoretical knowledge. Visit onewayafrica.org/lsm for more information.

HUMBLE STEPS AND GIANT LEAPS

BY JACOB MUGENDI

When Rev. Dr. John Gordon Egyir-Croffet started Excellent Youth Outreach (EYO) in 1995, the goal was simply to meet the spiritual needs of a few students at a high school in Ghana. Thirty years later, EYO has grown to impact people all over Africa. In the three years before the pandemic, the ministry sent over 130 young people on 60 short-term international mission trips across 30 African countries.

“We started with Mali in 2002, then sent out others to USA, India, Pakistan, and to Egypt,” says Kwesi Oteng-Yeboah, the International Director of EYO. By 2019, the number had grown to 30 countries, with the goal to reach all African countries. The outreaches slowed down in 2020 due to the pandemic, but the vision is still on. Branches of EYO have started in other countries and they all send out missionaries.

Self-funded

Sending young people who are in college or just out of college to lands far away with the gospel comes with a major challenge – young people have the energy and the time but not the money to go. Kwesi says, “We have never had outside funding. Whenever I tell people about our mission trips, they keep asking if we have sponsors from Europe or the US, and I tell them we don’t.” He adds that maybe God wanted to use

EYO as an example to people in Africa that they can fund from within.

The ministry has heavily invested in support-raising activities, reaching anyone willing to help. Every participant is expected to raise funds from their networks and EYO as a ministry raises support also. For example, they will reach out to over 400 churches in Ghana asking them to donate \$10 each. In the end, some would give more, others would give less, but the amount would go a long way in funding the trips.

The alumni of EYO also support fundraising efforts, increasing the network of mission donors. Students go to the malls and streets asking strangers to give money for missions, sometimes as little as one cedi (US\$0.09). One time, Kwesi went knocking on doors and a pastor directed him to a church member who ended up giving a recurring gift of US\$6,500. What an unexpected miracle!

Throughout the mission activities, the team has seen God come through when it was almost time to give up. Kwesi recalls a mission team in Kenya that ran out of money. By a miracle, one of them found enough money to last them a few days.

Challenges

One of the biggest funding challenges EYO faced was the depreciation of the Ghanaian currency, which affected people’s ability to give and escalated the cost of international missions. A mission

trip that used to cost 1200 cedis ended up costing 6000 cedis.

Financial challenges also meant that not everybody who wanted to go could be sent, but this didn’t dampen the resolve of the young missionaries. Some students sold their smartphones and laptops to raise the money. At a mission station in Sierra Leone, the message that moved young people most was hearing that some of the missionaries who came to them had sold their gadgets to pay for their travels!

Impact

Through EYO’s missions, churches have been revived, people involved in crime have given up their old ways, and churches have started similar projects to reach out to neighbouring countries. In one of the trips, an old imam got saved and invited the missionary to share the gospel with his whole family. Can you imagine a young person barely in their 20s leading an imam to Christ?

In another mission to South Sudan, only two out of five missionaries could go due to financial setbacks. The two held a crusade and when they made an altar call, over 600 people gave their lives to Christ. They started a new believers’ class and 350 people attended. The events made EYO send a missionary back to the place and a church was planted. The church is still active and bringing many to the Lord in a South Sudanese refugee camp in Northern Uganda, where the church relocated to due to war.

Long-term sending

At the moment, EYO is reorganizing its missions arm into the International Missions Commission (IMC). This will provide a dedicated structure for sending and supporting missionaries to reach the whole world. Building from what has been done, the IMC will enable young people from all over Africa to take the gospel to the farthest corners of Africa and the world. Kwesi hopes that there will be bold leaders who will be willing to send out young people to the nations.



Young EYO missionaries in Sierra Leone



PEOPLE GROUP COMORIANS

Comorians number around 900,000 people and inhabit four islands in the Indian Ocean between Mozambique and Madagascar. They are warm-hearted, welcoming, and enthusiastic. Some make a small income by selling spices for export, such as cloves and vanilla, but many are subsistence farmers or fishermen. Most of them struggle financially with building sturdy houses or buying good medicines.

Getting married is an important milestone in Comorian culture but relationships within marriages are often troubled. Polygamy and divorce are common. Women are expected to have as many children as possible, so birth rates are high, but families often lack the finances to provide well for their children. Child malnutrition is common. At the same time, many adults struggle with diet-related problems like diabetes and high blood pressure. Debilitating conditions such as malaria and typhoid are recurring.

Islam came to the islands as early as a single generation after the life of Mohammed through Arab and Persian

traders travelling the spice route. More than 99 per cent of Comorians are Muslim, and only around 0.7 per cent are evangelical Christian. They have a saying that “to be Comorian is to be Muslim” and leaving Islam is forbidden. Converts risk losing jobs, homes and families and may be arrested and beaten. Those who have the courage to accept Christ need a lot of support to replace the community, identity, and practices they have lost. There is not much trust between believers, the church is scattered, and regular meetings are rare.

Translation of the Bible is underway but faces challenges. Each island has a different dialect, requiring its own targeted translation. The heart languages are not often written and French is used in schools and businesses. Most Comorians can’t read their own heart languages and must overcome this barrier to read the Word. Audio players, YouTube videos, and apps have been a great encouragement to those who struggle to read and offer support for isolated believers.

AT A GLANCE

- Comorians are an unreached people group and there are few Christians.
- Some strictly follow Islam while others practice ‘Folk Islam,’ which is a mix with traditional beliefs about local spirits and witchcraft.
- Better education, healthcare, and economic opportunities would increase day-to-day quality of life for Comorians.

PRAY FOR

- God’s Word to be translated into all languages and made available in forms that all can access, transforming hearts and lives.
- Comorians to see that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one comes to the Father except through him.
- Courage for Comorians to follow Jesus and support each other as a church.

Sources: Joshua Project, Wikipedia, www.peoplegroups.org.



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