

Pray for Africa

Facts about Africa

- Africa is home to over 1.2 billion people.
- Africa comprises 57 countries housing 17% of the world's population, a population which grows at double the world's average.
- One third of the world's Muslim population lives in Africa.
- Over 2000 different languages in Africa.
- Many areas in North Africa, West Africa and the horn of Africa are hostile to the Christian faith.
- 3,702 total Africa People Groups; 957 total Africa Least-Reached--Unreached People Groups. – www.joshuaproject.net
- Helpful resource: <https://africa.thegospelcoalition.org/>

Christianity's geographic center is moving to Africa.

- *“By the year 2050, Africa will be home to more than a billion Christians, by far the largest concentration on the planet.”* Baylor University
- Many of the top ten nations with the largest Christian populations will be in Africa, including Nigeria, Ethiopia, DRC, and Uganda.
- In Kenya, for example, *The Christian population is likewise exploding, from 4 million in mid-1960's to more than 40 million today.*
- In Uganda in 1950, there were perhaps 3.5 million Christians. Today, there are 37 million, expanding to possibly 80 million by 2050.

Prayer Needs

- Pray for a good understanding of the gospel amongst Christians.
 - Though Christianity is the largest religion in sub-Saharan Africa, the growing influence of false gospels, syncretism, and western secularism is rampant. Many parts of Africa are “highly churched” but significantly lacking in good theology (mile wide and inch deep).
- Pray for leaders to be trained.
 - According to research done by TOPIC (Trainers of Pastors International Coalition), 85% of the pastors in the 2.2 million evangelical churches globally have received NO training whatsoever. This is well over 3 million pastors globally! Numbers in Africa are much higher, perhaps 90-95% are untrained.
- Pray for the Christian witness in Africa
- Pray for a Holy Spirit breakthrough in areas dominated by superstition, witchcraft and even Islam
- Pray for access to clean water and improved sanitation
- Pray for the Church to have the ability and the desire to care for the poor
- Pray that Christians will unite in opposing wrong and upholding policies that honor God and lead to human flourishing.

North Africa, where the presence of Islam is strong, and the church is persecuted: Pray for resilience and courage in the face of opposition and pressure.

Urban Africa, where there is increasing development, young professionals, and Western influence: Pray that God would keep the young, growing church's focus on Jesus and his mission, rather than Western materialistic exports.

Rural Africa, where there is poverty and lack of basic amenities (like running water, electricity, and ease of communication): Pray that the church will not end up in syncretism, but embrace the gospel in all its purity, not as a covering for false religion.

Tess Brizzolara

Tess is a Hope member who is pursuing a career in missions.
She is with African Inland Mission (AIM) in the town of Torit, South Sudan

AIM – currently has teams among 3 unreached people groups

- Lopit – Discovery Bible Studies (DBS) currently happening in several Lopit villages, local believers facing persecution from family, multiple Lopit villages entirely unengaged
- Didinga – using “storying” to teach the Bible in this oral culture, resistance to foreigners and the Church being brought in
- Laarim – DBS happening in several villages, discipleship of local believers, much conflict due to cattle raiding and the importance placed on cows
- Please also be in prayer for the missionaries in these villages. Life itself is very difficult, let alone the challenges faced in ministry. Pray for continued strength, wisdom, and joy from the Lord.

Torit

- A town at the crossroads of many different people groups, some reached and some unreached with the gospel
- Torit itself has many Churches and a significant number of people attend these Churches
- While many people attend Church and are aware of the gospel basics, there is a significant lack of depth and true understanding of what Jesus has done
- Many Churches operate at a surface level, and while there are certainly positives to be seen, the brokenness is quite evident
- There are many **unreached people groups** in the area, but a majority of those in the local Church lack an understanding of the importance and a desire of going out to share the gospel with those around them
- Those considered **reached** (Churches existent), but certainly in need of prayer as Churches are often struggling and there are still many in these groups without saving knowledge of Jesus Christ: Lotuko, Madi, Acholi, Toposa
- Those still unreached: Lopit, Didinga, Laarim

Receptivity to the Gospel

- Highly dependent on what part of the country you are in. In towns, there are many Churches that lack depth and a true understanding of the gospel. This surface level understanding of the gospel almost makes it more difficult to reach people with the freedom found in the true Gospel
- Out in the rural villages, there are many challenges to the gospel – animism (tribal religious beliefs) are strongly held on to
- Those who break cultural norms by accepting Christ no longer fit into their home culture and will face various forms of persecution
- Alcoholism is prominent in town and in the villages, posing a major challenge to turning towards new life in Christ
- Cattle raiding and violence out in villages also poses a challenge to receptivity towards the gospel