

Exerts taken from a report written by Hendrick Mahlangu, director and founder of 'Hope For Africa Missions'

What is "Hope for Africa"

Background

Liberation and counter liberation struggles have come and gone in the continent, but Africa has not yet become what everyone who lives in it would like it to be. Ideologies have come and gone leaving this continent with the worst social strife, wars, killings, poverty, hopelessness and helplessness that have ever happened in the history of mankind.

One is tempted to agree with the thinking that says; **"for all its faults and legacy, the 400 years of colonial rule brought at least a bit of development, education, better health services in some regions, and some economic development"**.

However in a very short space of time most of these in many parts of Africa, have been reversed to almost nothing; all in the name of building better Africa.

What then shall we say is the hope for Africa?

It is this background which made us feel that the future and the hope of this continent will depend upon the degree and extent to which the churches, and missionaries, willing to work together, bring about change of hearts and direction.

- We need first of all to **pray** for the church leaders and missionaries, who will have Africa and its people at heart and for committed African leaders who will look beyond their own interests and their comfort zones.
- We need to **pray** for the eradication of corruption and selfishness first from the church leadership and then the secular leadership.
- We feel that the Lord has impressed upon our hearts, the need to stand up and bring together for training credible and accountable men of God in different parts of Africa. This applies especially in the most affected regions where there is conflict, disaster, the legacy war and to the most unreached communities of Africa.
- We must;
 - stand together,
 - as a strong force,
 - joining hands,
 - sharing resources
 - and building strong mission teams in almost all the affected regions of Africa.

We are impressed by the initiative and advocacy of Africa renaissance started by President Thabo Mbeki. It is in that very same spirit of Africa renaissance that we feel the church should also play a pivotal role. With the help of the Lord we have already started in South Africa. A strong and committed team of mission workers has been formed under the name "Hope for Africa Missions"

We started in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Malawi, and there are plans for advancing into Lesotho, Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo; then into Sudan, Angola and will continue until we cover most of the affected regions of Africa.

This we believe is the vision born at the right time for our war torn and almost no-go regions of Africa, We believe this will help us to build a strong united force of missionaries from different parts of Africa who will work together for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Mission

It is true that the old concept of sending missionaries is no longer the best and practical way of doing mission today; especially if that means, sending missionaries who do not know the people, the language and their culture and as a result, more resources and efforts are wasted with little output.

Nevertheless, as 'African Missionaries' we don't dwell on the past; we have moved on and risen to the mission challenges of today, spending our time focusing on what we are called to do today.

Our main task is to look at the good work our predecessors started in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and continue in it with the same zeal and energy.

It is no secret that most of our African politicians and academics were educated in the schools started by various missionary societies. Many of our hospitals even today are still mission hospitals.

- **Does this mean that we have seen the end of this good work done in the name of the Lord for this continent?**
- **Does it mean that since there are now less western missionaries coming to Africa, the holistic gospel (that has been instrumental in bringing about change, civilisation and transformation of lives in our communities) can no longer be seen in this continent?**
- **Does it mean the holistic gospel is not going to be witnessed in Africa and there will therefore be no hope for Africa.**
- If western missionary societies with their entire limitations and barriers can do as much as they have done; **what more can we the indigenous African missionaries do?**
- It is also not enough to stand back and blame our political systems of being corrupt and greedy which was one of the main reasons for civil wars, strife, killings and massacres. **We need to stand up as ambassadors of the 'Gospel of Jesus Christ' who is the real hope for Africa.**
- There will never be real peace and transformation of lives in this continent unless the churches join hands with credible, committed people of God in Africa, to fight greediness and corruption. **We must stand up and show the Love of Christ to our fellow countrymen and women.**

Other religions, especially Islam, have targeted Africa as their focal point. They are prepared to spend what ever is possible in order to round up Africa in their hands.

It is therefore important for us as African Christians to stand up in the strength and in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and show our brothers and sisters that He is really the hope for Africa.

Our holistic gospel thinking

Many Christian relief agencies end up being side tracked from the main aim of bringing the gospel to these communities, by focusing solely on the social needs .

Does it make any difference to their lives?

Yes it does, but it becomes like any other secular relief programs whose aim is only to see people out of their disastrous situation. Our aim is surely to offer them something, which brings greater benefits!

The other extreme can also be equally dangerous. The heartless preaching of the gospel without any empathy as portrayed in the New Testament by Jesus himself; this is also detrimental to the preaching of the Gospel. Preaching to the suffering and needy without even caring for their needs and suffering, does sometimes communicate a negative message to the very people you are preaching to and others.

Our approach is bringing a holistic gospel to our people, that will address all aspect of a person's need both **spiritual and physical**.

When Mozambique was hit by disastrous floods in February 2000, we were more than willing together with other Christians on the ground, to use every resource available to show the love of God, by supplying their immediate needs as well as preaching the Gospel.

To us the two are inseparable. The one opens an opportunity for the other.

The hundreds of tons of food and clothes distributed in Mozambique since the disaster, have opened immense opportunity for the preaching of the gospel, and thousands have come to the Lord. Nine Churches have been planted by Hope for Africa church planting ministry, not to mention other churches planted by our bible school students and other church workers of other denomination who participated in this program.

Dependency syndrome

This type of program going on in a country where there is very little employment, tends to build up a syndrome of dependency. This might make the whole idea of helping to be dangerous to the very people you are trying to help. Dependency might develop in two ways:

- Firstly, the very people being helped might sit back and do nothing and expect the process to continue forever, producing more suffering and strife at a later date.
- Secondly it might develop a dependency syndrome to the very churches, organisations and people who are receiving help for too long without doing anything for themselves. They would miss the opportunity to help their country to grow and become self-sustaining.

For these reasons and many others, we are working and praying hard that all the projects will become self-sustaining.

We work, combining preaching of the gospel with the much needed skills training that will help to improve the socio-economic conditions of these people and their communities.

'Hope for Africa Missions'

Some of the many projects currently in progress:

Church planting projects in:

- Northern Mozambique
- Swaziland
- Malawi
- South Africa
- Zimbabwe

Pre-School crèches in:

- Chiaqualelane
- Embalenhle
- Dennilton
- Siyabuswa
- Zengeza pre-school (Zimbabwe)

Caring training & awareness HIV/Aids

Orphans care (Enthembeni place of safety/Grace Home/Young Daniels soccer team)

Relief program (food & clothing supply)

Building homes and community centre

Mission poultry farms and agricultural schools in:

- Witbank
- Mwavicoluane Chiaqualelane
- INhambane
- Mapai
- Zimbabwe

Small income generating, skills training and community development projects:

Mwavicoluane sewing project
Zimbabwe peanut butter project
Chiaqualelane peanut butter project
Liberty team catering

Schools project:

Grace Christian School
Chiaqualelane Pre-school
Bible Schools
Hope Christian School

If you require more information on HFA and would like to support it in some way please write to:

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Mission Statement

To bring the holistic gospel to needy African communities, which will address the **spiritual, physical, social and economic** needs of people, for the transformation of their lives as individuals and as communities; and to bring relief, from man made or natural disasters and to assist development and humanitarian intervention..

Objectives

- To proclaim the message of salvation to all the peoples of Africa
- To plant churches and mission centres in Africa
- To provide pastoral and leadership training for church-workers in needy African communities
- To offer relief to African communities struck by natural disasters, civil strife and wars, and any other accident or practices which undermine the humanity of individuals and communities
- To offer support through sustainable development projects to poor African communities and disaster areas, for the transformation of needy communities.

Friends of Hope For Africa Missions

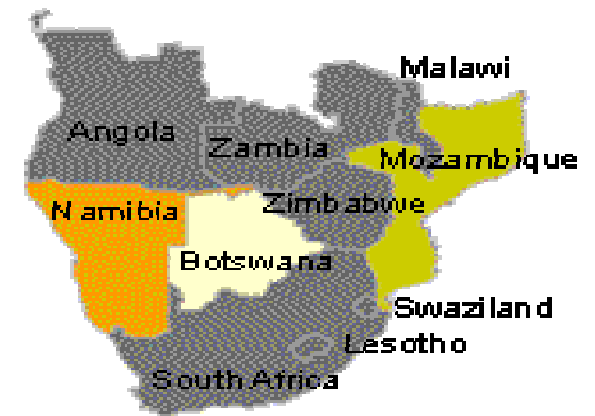
In partnership with

Hope for Africa Missions

(A registered charity in South Africa)

Background information about Hope For Africa Missions

(Map of current and expected future areas of Operation)



This is an information leaflet about **Hope For Africa Missions (HFA)**. Extracts are taken from reports written by Hendrick Mahlangu, its director and founder.

It is printed and published by **Friends of Hope for Africa Missions (FHAM)**, one of the supporting charitable organisations to **HFA**; the purpose is to give our donors and prospective donors a more detailed information about **HFA's** background, aims, objectives and some of the projects it is involved in.

This document is intended to assist the other supporting charitable organisations, churches, partners and friends, linked with **HFA**. Permission to reproduce the information within has been given by **HFA**.

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