

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)



PRAYER POINTS

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES

Lostness defines the West African cities that are being flooded with people in search of hope. Unfortunately, many churches focus on prosperity and worldly blessings while millions of Muslims go without hearing the truth. We are at a critical time to combat false gospels and proclaim the good news. Will you pray with us that these urban centers will be conduits for the gospel message to reach all tribes and tongues?

WEST AFRICAN BELIEVERS ARE NO LONGER DEFINED BY HOPELESSNESS

An overwhelming oppression and lostness covers much of West Africa due to the prevalence of poverty and Islam. At times, people in these 16 countries feel defined by their struggles, religion, and poverty, which leads to a cycle of hopelessness through generations.

Yet the next generation of West Africans, which is quickly overtaking these countries, wants to break this generational cycle. They are fleeing from their villages to urban centers in search of opportunity, hoping for a better tomorrow. IMB teams across West Africa are adapting strategies to work with these youth. Through English centers, university work, health strategies, and digital engagement, IMB teams are engaging the next generation with the hope of the gospel.

Alpha came from a Muslim family living in poverty. He fled his country and sought refuge in a nearby urban center. After meeting an IMB team members and hearing stories of hope in Jesus, Alpha chose to follow Christ. His Muslim wife heard these same stories and followed Christ. They are now raising their family to know Him.



A Muslim man in Ghana holding prayer beads. IMB Photo.

They share the gospel weekly with others from their country who also sought refuge in the city. The gospel changed Alpha's life and broke the cycle of hopelessness for his family. They still struggle with poverty, but they are no longer defined by it.

Pray for the next generation of Africans to find their hope in Christ. Pray for them to take this hope back to their families and villages.

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

Last July, we prayed for children throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. God is answering our prayers. So many children from different world religions are going to a new Kid's Club at a Baptist Center in West Africa, that several children are being turned away until more volunteers join this ministry to teach the gospel. Praise God for making a way for these children to learn the truth about Him.

1 LESOTHO. The Basotho of Lesotho are terrified of water due to a legend about a large snake that lives there. Pray for our missionaries in Lesotho as they disciple believers. Pray for new believers to overcome their fears and be baptized so that others will see their testimony of faith.

2 LAGOS, NIGERIA. Nigeria, the largest West African country with over 220 million people, is roughly 50% Christian. By the end of the century, Lagos will be the largest city in the world. Pray for Nigerian believers to impact the world with their gospel witness.

3 NAIROBI, KENYA. Pray for believers and seekers in Nairobi to discern false teachings. Ask the Holy Spirit to help the Church so that they can discern truth from lies. Pray for people deceived by false religions to have the veil torn from their eyes so they can see the truth.

4 ABIDJAN, COTE D'IVOIRE. Abidjan, "the pearl of West Africa," is a cosmopolitan city of 6 million people. A large portion are Muslim, and the prosperity gospel abounds. Pray for healthy churches to disciple believers so that the Church will be a light to the lost in this bustling city.

5 BAPTIST CONVENTION OF MOZAMBIQUE. Pray that the Baptist Convention of Mozambique will continue to be intentional about finding ways to interact with those around them in meaningful ways. Ask God to give them opportunities to demonstrate the love of Christ and share the gospel.

6 KANO, NIGERIA. Over 99% of the Hausa people in Kano are Muslim. Pray for the Hausa, the largest ethnic group of West Africa, to be engaged with the gospel and for the Christian Hausa to persevere amid the intense persecution they face.

7 KWANGALI OF NAMIBIA. Pray that the Kwangali people along the Kavango River will turn from worshiping the false river gods to worship the true God, who created everything, including the rivers. Pray that their hearts will be prepared to hear and believe in Jesus Christ.

8 IBANDAN, NIGERIA. Ibandan is headquarters for the Nigerian Baptist Convention, founded in 1914 and responsible for over 14,000 churches. Pray that their leadership continues to walk in wisdom. Ask God to guide them and protect the integrity of the Church as they send Nigerian missionaries worldwide.

9 KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO. Pray that the over 17 million residents of Kinshasa will have the opportunity to hear the gospel and trust in the Heavenly Father for salvation. Pray for them to not rely on temporary and corruptible things, but instead choose eternal life.

10 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA. In addition to sharing the gospel with the lost, some missionaries on the field also serve in support roles like logistics. Ask the Lord to send missionaries to help with daily logistical needs in a place that is majority Muslim so that the mission work can continue there.

11 NORTHERN TEKE OF GABON. The Northern Teke of Gabon are in bondage to lies they believe about God. Pray that our Heavenly Father will set them free and help them understand who He really is. Pray that they will trust that salvation is found only in His Son, Jesus Christ.

12 ACCRA, GHANA. Accra is Ghana's capital city of 2.7 million people and many Baptist churches. Neo-Pentecostalism and prosperity gospel heavily influence some of these churches. Pray that pastors will recognize and reject false teaching, stay rooted in the Bible, and protect their flock.

13 MISSIONARIES. Tanzania's coast and remote regions are heavily influenced by Islam. They have little access to hear the gospel. Pray for more missionaries to help train and catalyze local churches and ministry partners to spread the gospel there. Ask God to multiply healthy churches.

14 CONAKRY, GUINEA. Conakry is a coastal city of 2.5 million people. About 99% of them are lost and live day to day with little hope for a future. Pray that believers in this city will value their hope in Christ and passionately share this hope with the lost around them.

15 ESWATINI. Pray that Swazi believers will be faithful to God's Word, proclaim the gospel boldly, and live in freedom, not entangled by sin. Pray for God to thrust laborers into the mission field of southern Africa.

16 ABUJA, NIGERIA. Abuja is a capital city dotted with churches that are topped with golden domes, stemming from the prosperity gospel that is preached

there. Pray these churches will teach biblical doctrines, be rooted in the true gospel, and share hope with their Muslim neighbors.

17 JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into Juba to train believers in making disciples who make disciples, resulting in healthy churches that spread across South Sudan and beyond.

18 BAMAKO, MALI. This capital city has over 3 million people, and only 2% are Christian. In January 2024 Mali designated \$5 million to build a witchcraft learning center. Pray that this project does not happen. Pray for God's truth, way, and life to penetrate the darkness.

19 BAMBARA OF SENEGAL. Pray that God will move in the hearts of the Bambara of Senegal. As they choose to follow Christ, pray that they will share the good news with their family and friends across Senegal and Mali.

20 YAOUNDE, CAMEROON. Yaounde is Cameroon's capital city. Many citizens speak both French and English. Pray for their Baptist convention as they train up and send missionaries into the unreached French-speaking countries of West Africa.

21 CENTRAL AFRICA. Pray for the multitudes of people in Central Africa, that God would draw their hearts to His light. Much work is happening as missionaries and Baptist partners share the good news. Pray for prepared hearts that are ready to say yes to Jesus as their Savior and Lord!

22 OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO. Most people are Muslim in this capital city that's known for its instability. They've gone through nine coups d'état since having independence. Pray for the churches of Ouagadougou to be solid in their faith and boldly proclaim the true King who is forever on His throne.

23 MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE. Pray that the believers in Maputo who have been trained in planting and multiplying disciples and healthy churches will be strengthened by God to move forward in wisdom and obedience.

24 MONROVIA, LIBERIA. The message of the prosperity gospel abounds in this capital city as it is played non-stop over Christian radio stations. Pray for the churches to be rooted in biblical doctrines so that they are not led away by false teaching.

25 CHIKUNDA OF ZIMBABWE. Pray that the Chikunda of Zimbabwe will have open hearts, trusting in God alone and making a clean break from animistic traditions.

26 NIAMEY, NIGER. With 1.5 million people, Niamey's 100 churches aren't nearly enough for everyone in the city. Pray for missionaries and churches who are engaging new areas of this city that is 95% Muslim. Pray that Muslims who are thirsting for truth will drink from the living water that Jesus offers.

27 BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY OF ZAMBIA. Pray for the Baptist Theological Seminary of Zambia to continue walking in biblical integrity as they train future Christian leaders and pastors. Pray for God to call laborers to teach in seminaries across Sub-Saharan Africa.

28 FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE. This capital city has been overrun with mudslides and poverty. Pray for the Baptist churches and convention to reach their community by sharing God's love and compassion with those in need, physically and spiritually.

29 SOUTH AFRICA. Pray for God to move among refugee communities across South Africa and draw them near. Ask God to encourage our missionaries who are working faithfully among these displaced. Pray for more missionaries to come minister among refugees across Sub-Saharan Africa.

30 LOME, TOGO. Lome is the largest port city in West Africa. People from across Togo and neighboring countries come to this city of 2 million people looking for work. Pray that the Church will find ways to share the riches of the gospel with thousands who go to Lome looking for a job.

31 INGESSANA OF SUDAN. Pray for the Scripture translation project among the Ingessana of Sudan to be completed and that the people will hide God's Word in their hearts. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers to East Africa, where the Ingessana live.



A Baptist pastor prepping a sermon in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire. IMB Photo.

PROSPERITY GOSPEL'S UNBIBLICAL PROMISES EXPLOIT THE VULNERABLE WITH MISGUIDED HOPE

In one of the most poverty-stricken regions of the world, people are desperate for hope and are often misguided by a gospel that makes unbiblical promises. Baptist churches in West Africa are not immune to this prosperity gospel that more and more churches are preaching. At the end of a New Year's sermon, a Baptist pastor proclaimed, "God said you will find a job this year! This year you will be debt free! This year..." When asked why he preached this, he replied, "Our people are in despair, and I wanted to give them hope." Unfortunately, these claims bring people into the church for a season, seeking the things of this world instead of the kingdom of God, and they miss the message of salvation. Pray that Baptist churches would hold firm to the true gospel message that gives eternal life.

AFRICAN CHURCHES RIGHTLY PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL AND CONTINUE TO REACH THE LOST

Despite the overwhelming percentage of lostness and false teaching in West Africa, there are healthy African churches who rightly proclaim God's Word and are reaching the lost. In 2022, the Baptist churches gathered in Dakar, Senegal, the least evangelical place in West Africa (even less evangelical than Iran), to relaunch the Senegal Baptist Association. They held their first conference in September 2023 with the theme "Being on Mission: Making disciples together." In the last year, they have sent out two missionaries to bring hope to unreached regions of Senegal. Praise the Lord that these African churches are sending African missionaries to reach the lost. Pray that this continues and grows.



Massive market in Lomé, Togo. IMB Photo.

Facts about Sub-Saharan Africa



Over 60% are under the age of 25. Home to the youngest population of any region of the world.



1 person every 5 seconds enters into a hopeless eternity.



1,588 unreached peoples in sprawling cities, barren deserts, rain forests, and on tropical islands.

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