



JULY 2026

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel.”

Philippians 1:27

ANSWER TO YOUR PRAYER

IMB missionary Katee Sheppard recently walked into a church in the U.S., and someone who had been praying for the Jula people group after reading about them in a previous PrayerPoints, asked for an update. Sheppard shared that the core group of 30 new believers are now meeting with 238 new people twice a week for their Bible stories. “We thank the Lord; He is responding to your prayers for multiplication and safety. We look forward to the next baptism.”

PRAYER POINTS

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN PEOPLES

By 2033—two thousand years after Jesus’s death and resurrection—we aim to see zero unengaged, unreached people groups (UUPGs) in Sub-Saharan Africa. Today, more than 440 UUPGs still remain. Missionary teams, African believers, and global churches are uniting around this vision. Together, we imagine every people group engaged with the gospel. As you read these stories, celebrate, pray, and join us in moving forward in our vision of “Together to Zero” by 2033.

Going far together, Benin Baptists team up with the IMB to reach Guinea

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the proverb, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together,” is often spoken. It rings especially true for the daunting task of reaching the unreached with the gospel—a task far too great to accomplish alone.

IMB teams across the region are partnering with African believers to ensure every people group is engaged with the good news. One recently formed partnership comes from Benin. Years ago, God began working in a young man’s life, calling him out of his family’s voodoo religion to follow Christ. This man, Jacques, remained faithful despite persecution, and during that time, the Lord burdened his heart for countless others still trapped in darkness. His passion for the lost aligned with the Benin Baptist Convention’s desire to join forces in reaching hard to reach places with the gospel.

One such place in their region of Sub-Saharan Africa is the country of Guinea, a country that is less than 1% evangelical, heavily affected by Islam and animist traditions, and urgently



Jacques leads the next generation of believers in Guinea, teaching them to share the gospel with those around them.

in need of transformation by the gospel. In September 2025, the Benin Baptist Convention sent their first international missionaries, Jacques and his family, to join the existing team of IMB missionaries in Guinea. They are partnering together for the advancement of the gospel to the unreached of Guinea and beyond.

Pray for Jacques, his family, and the members of the Conakry Urban team as they seek to share the gospel in Guinea. Ask God to open the eyes of the 99% who are spiritually blind and to give the 1% evangelical believers boldness to proclaim their faith.

1 Pray for the Globalization team in Sub-Saharan Africa as it responds to 37 churches requesting a training providing consultation that advises how African churches can send missionaries so that they can work "Together to Zero."

2 Pray for strong collaboration and wise organization as plans are made for a potential 2027 Together Conference uniting francophone churches in West Africa and Europe to develop strategies for sending missionaries.

3 Pray for continued momentum of the African church as they disciple believers, plant churches, and send missionaries as they work "Together to Zero."

4 Pray for more global missionary partners (GMPs) from Africa to be sent out to the mission field, strengthening IMB efforts to bring the number of people groups who've never heard the gospel to zero.

5 Africa On Mission, an African-led mission-sending agency, desires to send their first missionary. Pray they can finalize their processes and work in unity to accomplish this task this year so they can partner with IMB personnel.

6 The Lead Global Center, which equips and trains African missionaries, emphasizes the need to abide well in the Lord, knowing that it is from the overflow of abiding that Christians successfully serve the Lord in missions. Pray for trained partners to prioritize abiding as they serve in the Great Commission.

7 Pray for Africans to have a heart to share the gospel cross-culturally. Pray for the Lead Global team to train and encourage them well. Pray they will have the skills to evangelize, make disciples, plant healthy churches, and train leaders.

8 One of the greatest challenges in seeing trained national partners sent to engage the unreached is financial support. Pray for those who are called and trained through the Lead Global Center to have healthy sending churches that will support them financially and in prayer.

9 Pray for the Lead Global team to have positive interactions with church leaders and have opportunities to vision cast and encourage them in missions. Pray the churches of the local convention will respond in obedience to how the Lord is leading each of them.

10 Pray for those who have been trained at the Lead Global Center and sent to the mission field. Be it in a nearby community or among an unreached people group, pray the missionaries will be encouraged and obedient as they serve. Pray they will be salt and light to the lost.

11 Pray for missionary explorers as they learn new languages. Missionary explorers seek out and research unengaged and unreached people groups. The explorers' growing ability to communicate enables them to share the gospel with people who have never heard the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ.

12 Pray that as missionary explorers trek into remote, hard-to-reach places, the Spirit will give them courage, creativity, and clear opportunities to meet those who have never heard the name of Jesus—fueling the "Together to Zero" vision.

13 Missionary explorers gather crucial research to help future missionaries plant churches. Pray that every map drawn, interview conducted, and contact made will lead to disciples and churches among the last remaining unengaged peoples.

14 Pray for missionary explorers to stand firm when facing illness, opposition, or harsh conditions. Ask God to strengthen their resolve so that unengaged peoples may gain their first opportunities to hear and respond to the gospel.

15 Pray for missionary explorers as they equip and encourage African believers to step boldly into the missionary task—raising up local Christians who carry the gospel into the hardest places and among the least-reached around them.

16 Elders among the Konkabay of Guinea forbid exploring other religions and create social barriers to the gospel. Pray God will soften Konkabay hearts, break spiritual fear, and open doors for His Word to be heard with understanding. Ask for workers who will patiently pursue long-term relationships.

17 Pray for the Bozo people, asking God to tear down spiritual strongholds and reveal the life found in Jesus. Also pray for Madit, a widower seeking courage to share his faith. Pray he will find joy in seeing others come to Christ and a wife who loves his children and seeks truth.

18 In northern Nigeria, the Manga Kanuri people face strict religious control and frequent attacks, making it hard to hear or follow the gospel. Pray for protection, open doors for engagement, and courage for those bringing Jesus' hope.

19 In northeast Burkina Faso, the Songhai endure harsh landscape, deep Islamic tradition, and lingering spiritual beliefs that keep many from knowing Jesus. Pray for softened hearts and for Burkina believers to bravely carry the gospel where international workers cannot.

20 The Dahalo of Kenya number less than 800 people. Their culture and unique language of clicking sounds is being lost as the Dahalo assimilate into neighboring people groups. Ask God to open the eyes of believers in their host cultures to make disciples among them.

21 The Geme people of the Central African Republic belong to the Indigenous people groups formerly known as pygmies. Many of them follow the Roman Catholic religion. As the Geme engage in trade with other people, ask God to engage them with true believers of the gospel.

22 The Ajja people of South Sudan are a small ethnic group of approximately 300 people. They have their own distinct language and are Muslim. Ask God to call believers from a similar-culture people group to go and make disciples among the Ajja people.

23 The Kimbu people of Tanzania number around 260,000. They maintain a strong tradition in oral storytelling. Kimbu mix Roman Catholicism with traditional beliefs of ancestor worship. Ask God to send workers to share the gospel using oral storytelling methods.

24 Pray the Lord would raise up laborers and grant wisdom and strategy to engage diaspora communities across Central Africa with the gospel. Pray the believers would gain favor through creative platforms and equip the African church to boldly proclaim Jesus.

25 Pray for the churches of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to pursue biblical health through honest evaluation, for a movement of true discipleship to be born, and for God to work powerfully through IMB missionaries to lead churches toward greater faithfulness.

26 Pray for wisdom and fruit as a digital engagement project launches in Equatorial Guinea. Pray many would respond, Spanish-speaking partners in the U.S. would share boldly, evangelical churches would remain faithful, and believers would be equipped to impact lostness with the gospel.

27 Pray for the formation of a training team across Sub-Saharan Africa to inform and equip African churches sending African missionaries, and for wisdom and unity as they gather later this year with IMB personnel and national partners.

28 Over 167,000 refugees find shelter within South Africa. Many are from closed countries where their chances to hear the gospel are slim to none. Ask Jesus to convict the hearts of South African believers to boldly proclaim the good news to all refugees in their country.

29 Why do believers in Madagascar struggle to be obedient to Jesus? It is so hard to find others also willing to turn away from cultural norms of ancestor worship. Pray Jesus will surround every born-again Christian on the island with godly community so that all can see their faith.

30 Pray that God, in the same way He told Jesus, "What to say and how to say it" (John 12:49), would speak to and through the believing youth and young adults in Namibia. May they know what to say and how to say it so every person in Namibia can hear of His salvation.

31 Believers in a rural town in Zimbabwe feel prompted to begin preaching in the streets. "It might not be the way we want to spread the gospel, but obedience is better than sacrifice." Pray the Lord will give boldness so that working together with His help, they can reach every person.

Dental graduate finds divine redirection

Floridah graduated with a degree in dental science but was struggling to find the mandatory internship needed for licensure. She committed to use her time to seek the Lord, and that led her to a three-week training on cross-cultural ministry and the core missionary task at Lead Global Training Center.

During those weeks of learning about God’s heart for the nations and the call of missions for the church in Africa, Floridah realized that her delay in dentistry was actually a redirection from the Holy Spirit. God was in each step as she sought His will.

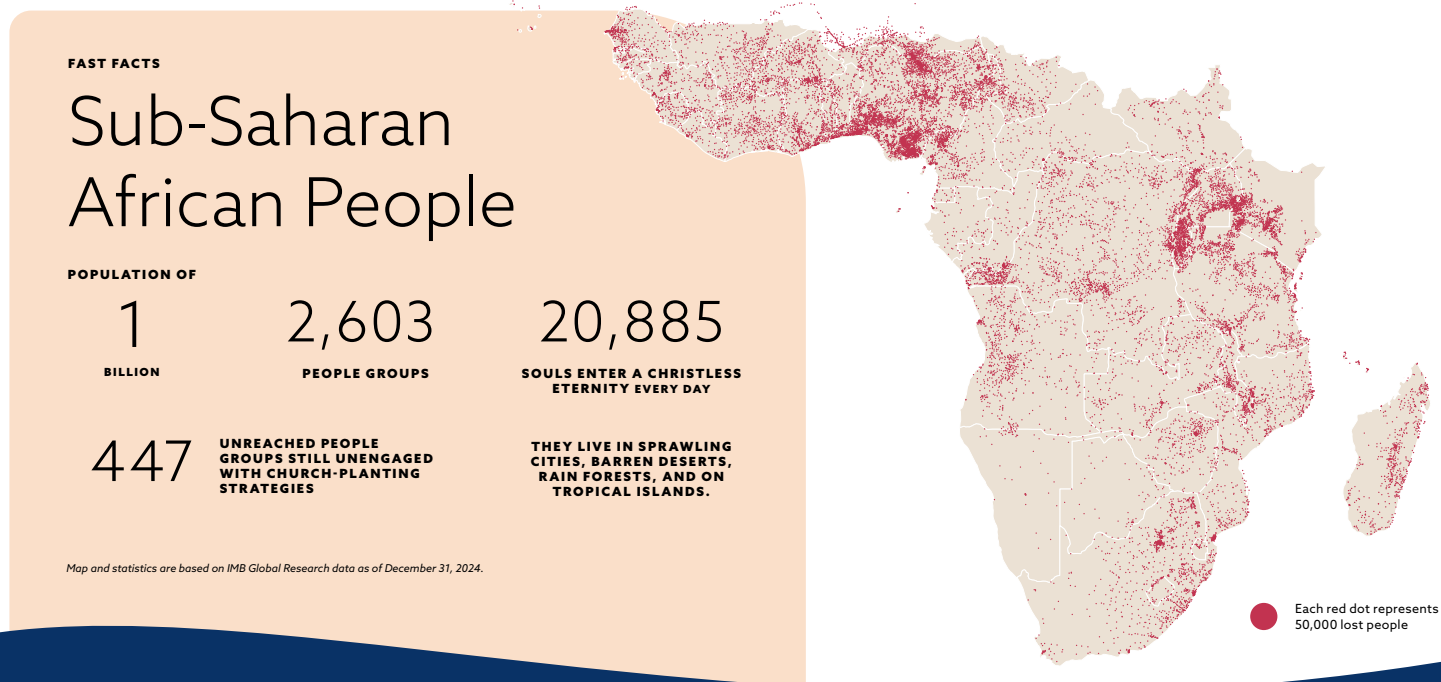
Her heart was burdened and her calling was confirmed by her church. An IMB team in Kigoma, Tanzania, recognized their need for a new teammate with skills and passion which matched Floridah’s giftings. Her family, church family, and friends raised the necessary funds to cover transportation, living expenses, and ministry budget.

On Oct. 5, 2025, she was commissioned at Gracepoint Church Thika Road in Nairobi, Kenya, to serve as a missionary among the Waha and Wabembe of Tanzania.



Floridah teaches at a kid’s club in Kigoma, Tanzania.

The African church is sending African missionaries who are trained and equipped through the Lead Global Center. Pray for Floridah as she develops a children’s curriculum for Sunday School and Bible clubs, and for the teen girls she is mentoring into deeper discipleship. Pray for the believers in Kigoma to also join the mission force, so their team can work “Together for Zero” in the western part of Tanzania and beyond.



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REACHING THE NATIONS, TOGETHER.