

Samaritan Strategy Africa presents

Hope for Africa

Equipping the Church
Transforming the Community
Discipling the Nation

Calling the continent of Africa to healing and transformation by teaching people to live before the face of God in all areas of life

The Promise

Africa is a continent of great promise, but as it suffers from wars, disease, famine, lack of education, and under-development, that promise is not realized. *Hope for Africa* envisions the fulfillment of that promise, calling for healing and transformation in individual lives, families, communities, nations, and the whole continent!

God's Promise to Africa

God told Abraham that all peoples of the earth would be blessed through Him (Genesis 12:3). The fullness of the blessing will come when the people of Africa learn to live in trust and obedience to God in every area of life. It will occur when a generation is fully persuaded of this truth. Are we that generation?

Imagine this Kind of Africa

Envision the continent of Africa as a place of God's blessing.

- A place where one finds the Body of Christ, His Church, an accessible community of believers, transformed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, demonstrating the love of Christ by serving the needs of the community from a Biblical worldview, advocating for God's intentions in every area of life;
- A place where congregations teach and disciple all who respond to the Gospel of the Kingdom to obey everything that Christ has commanded;
- A place where Christ lives in and through His Church, healing the community's deepest wounds, redeeming its distinct cultures, restoring its God-given dignity, destiny, and joy;
- A place where Christ is Lord of all life – there is individual righteousness, economic sufficiency for all, lasting social peace and public justice, even for the poor.

When Africa is this kind of place, it is becoming the Pleasant Place of the Promise Fulfilled.

First, a Need for Understanding

The Christian Church does not fully believe the promise of God, nor is she envisioning its fulfillment. Despite God's wonderful promises of blessings in His Word, the African Church exists in communities and nations that are in the grip of wars, famine, crime, underdevelopment, and HIV/AIDS. The Samaritan Strategy Africa network believes God has already blessed the continent. We believe God wants to move the continent towards His larger intentions through His Church. But the African Church, and Africa as a whole, need to receive a Biblical worldview, a full understanding of truth as revealed in God's Word, and then act upon that truth. Africa could be a world leader with this kind of understanding.

What is Samaritan Strategy Africa?

In response to the need to understand God's truth and the deep, pervasive suffering of the people of Africa, a number of African leaders of churches and Christian organizations have partnered

under the Samaritan Strategy Africa banner to present the Hope for Africa initiative, formalized in September 2004 at a consultation with a number of Christian leaders in Nairobi. Since then, the African leadership, known as the Africa Working Group, has taken responsibility both spiritually and economically for the ongoing work of the Hope for Africa initiative.

What is the Goal of Samaritan Strategy Africa?

Samaritan Strategy Africa has as its goal to awaken, equip, and mobilize the whole African Church to:

- Discover God's glorious vision of comprehensive healing and transformation of the nations, described by Jesus Christ as "The Kingdom of God."
- Adopt a Biblical worldview (seeing truth as defined by God's Word), and then live it out by taking truth, goodness, and beauty into every sphere of society.
- Practice a ministry of outreach to the churches' communities, demonstrating Christ's love to needy and broken people through works of service called seed projects, in all areas of life ("wholistic ministry").

For too long, the African Church has not understood its role to lift up society. It has focused on proclamation of the Word and Sunday worship, but failed to demonstrate the love of God outside church walls, throughout the week, in every area of society, by every church member. Since the 1980s, we have seen a worldwide call for the Church to return to Scriptural principles and a Biblical worldview, foundational to the Reformation that changed the theological, educational, political, and economic spheres of society in dramatic fashion. These principles are essential to realize God's intentions for transformation and blessing today. They are urgently needed throughout the continent of Africa.

Praising God in church on Sunday and serving Him in the world every other day of the week needs to be the driving mission of the African churches. Reformation that leads to transformation will happen in Africa as the Church comes to understand the Biblical reality of a heart of servanthood, a commitment to the discipline of love, and a desire to crown Jesus Christ as Lord in every aspect of life.

What is the Strategy for Bringing Hope for Africa

The Samaritan Strategy Africa network presents a "school of thought" through the development and distribution of educational resources, conferences and training, and encouragement of expanding communications and cooperation among Christian groups. Fundamental to this work is the realization that local churches are God's primary agency for accomplishing the transformation of individuals, communities, regions, and nations. This strategy has four major components:

1. Provide In-country Training Opportunities

The process begins with Vision Conferences attended by church pastors and leaders from other Christian organizations such as Bible colleges, seminaries, and mission agencies. The participants are presented with a Biblical worldview and God's intentions for the role of the Church. Local churches and organizations sponsor the conferences. Various other seminars are also available.

2. Provide Discipleship Materials and Resources

We offer appropriate, contextual curriculum and training tools to pastors and leaders:

- **BASICS 1-5** - *BASICS* is a unique discipleship curriculum training tool for pastors and lay leaders to guide new and mature believers in the practice of Jesus' commands in all areas of life.
- **LDTP 1-2** - *The Leadership Development Training Programme* is a guide for local church leaders in outreach to the spiritual, physical, and social hurts of their communities. Using Scripture, it offers vision and theology, providing practical strategies for a walk of faith, love and compassionate service as local churches represent

Jesus to their neighbors.

- KLS - *The Kingdom Lifestyle Series* is based on the analogy of a healthy tree, “planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.” (Psalm 1) To have abundant fruit in our lives, we must start in the soil of our lives, God and His Word. The “taproot” is our relationship with Jesus Christ.

3. Provide Ongoing Coaching and Mentoring

Following a conference, the sponsoring group identifies leaders who will carry the vision forward in their communities, receiving additional training and mentoring to equip members of their own churches and organizations, deepening and maturing them.

4. Seek Expansion in Every Country and Sector of Life

The collective potential of African churches is realized when they multiply the training and outcomes of this movement and put truth into action with practical demonstrations of love throughout the nation. Its true significance will be judged as the third generation of trainers takes the message to the next generation of disciples, truly grafting a Biblical worldview and practice into the grassroots of the African church.

Progress made...

Through in-country training opportunities

Since 1998, more than 10,000 church leaders in Africa have attended conferences held in 19 countries, including Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mauritania, Egypt, Congo, Namibia, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania and South Africa. Teams are operating in most of these countries, while several teams are preparing to host training conferences in new countries in the near future. Training is now being done by third generation trainers, paid for largely by in-country funds, and requested by those who have seen results in other communities.

Through discipleship materials and resources

Materials are now available in English, French, Portuguese, Swahili, Hausa, Kinya-Rwanda, and in process in Arabic. Using these materials, one large church in Uganda has cell groups who do nearly 1200 seed projects each year.

Through ongoing coaching and mentoring

In Ethiopia, some 5000 people representing over 1200 local churches have received training from national leaders since 1999. These national leaders receive coaching and mentoring from the Africa Working Group leadership who in turn are mentored by a group of international Christian leaders.

Through expansion

At last count, 88 trainers have been trained and are multiplying training around the continent. For example, in Kenya, there is now an average of one vision conference per month (with about 60-100 participants each). In addition, training teams are functioning in the following sectors: education, business, agriculture and environment, governance, arts, family, and theological education.

“I will hear what God the Lord will speak, for He will speak peace to His people and to His saints...that glory may dwell in our land.” Psalm 85: 8-9