

AFRICA

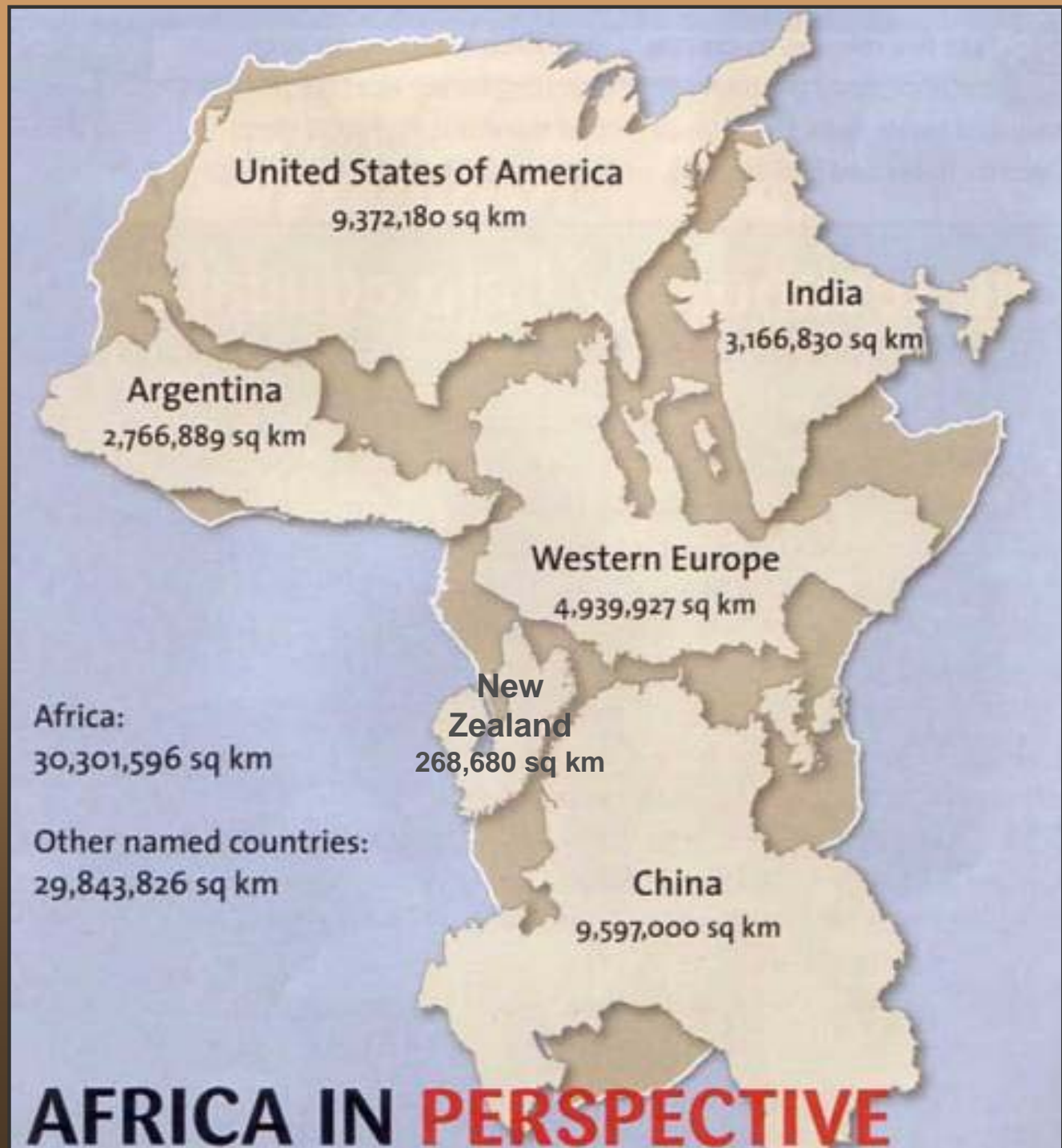
A savanna landscape at sunset. The sky is a warm, golden-orange color. In the foreground, there are several acacia trees with flat, umbrella-like canopies. In the middle ground, a herd of zebras is grazing. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

*The Pleasant
Land*

The Continent of Unimaginable Abundance

- Africa's Land Mass
 - Nearly 900 million inhabitants (14% of the world's population)
 - More than 22% of the world's total land area





Natural Resources

“In terms of natural resources, Africa is the world’s richest continent.”

Dr. Walter Williams,
Professor of Economics,
George Mason University



Natural Resources

- Agriculture:
 - Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Congo DR have the potential to feed the entire continent



Natural Resources

- Agriculture:
- Water:
 - Home to the greatest rivers in the world
 - Nile
 - Niger
 - Congo
 - Zambezi



Natural Resources

- Agriculture:
- Water:
- Minerals:
 - 90% of the world's cobalt
 - 85% of platinum
 - 3/4th of the world's gold
 - 1/5th of the world's copper
 - Most of the world's diamonds
 - Sierra Leone has largest supply of titanium
 - Congo has the largest supply of radium used to treat cancer



Natural Resources

- Agriculture:
- Water:
- Minerals:
- Energy:
 - 40% of the world's hydroelectric potential
 - 8% of proven oil fields
 - 7.6% of proven natural gas
 - Solar potential to meet more than all their domestic needs



Natural Resources

- Agriculture:
- Water:
- Minerals:
- Energy:
- Incredible plant and animal life:
- Beautiful coastlines and mountains:



Historical Contribution to God's Redemptive Plan

- Garden of Eden (Genesis 2: 10-14)
 - Pishon and Gihon in the land of Cush
- Cushites
- Joseph, Moses, Nation of Israel in Egypt
- 300 B.C. – Old Testament first translated into Greek in Alexandria
- Over 1500 references to Africa in the Old Testament alone
- Mary, Joseph and Jesus
- Early Church Fathers
 - Augustine of Hippo, Tertullian of Carthage, Cyprian of Alexandria



Incredible Growth of the Church in the 20th Century

- In 1900, 10% of the African population was Christian. By 2000, 430 million or 48% of the population was Christian.
- Every day some 23,000 are added to the African Church
- Fastest growing Church on earth is Ethiopia
- Mission-Sending Force
 - Over 600 sending agencies
 - More than 15,000 African missionaries
- Audacious 50:15 Vision of Nigeria
- MANI – Movement for Africa National Initiatives



Incredible Growth of the Church in the 20th Century

- During the last century in Africa
 - 8 million or 10% of the population in 1900
 - 430 million or 48% of the population in 2000
- **“Africa is not a museum of misery!”**
Every day since 1900 a people has been added to the African Church
- Fastest growing church on earth is in Ethiopia
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Theo Mushinzimana



The Heartbreaking Paradox

- Extreme Poverty
 - Produces slightly less than 0.1% of the world's GDP
 - 17 of the 21 poorest countries in the world are in Africa



The Heartbreaking Paradox

- Extreme Poverty
- Life Expectancy Declining
 - Declining since 1960
 - Today it is below 50 years



The Heartbreaking Paradox

- Extreme Poverty
- Life Expectancy Declining
- HIV Infection
 - 71% of the world's AIDS cases are in Africa
 - 29 million are infected
 - There are 13 million orphans



The Heartbreaking Paradox

- Extreme Poverty
- Life Expectancy Declining
- HIV Infection
- Infant Mortality
 - 15% of children will die before the age of five



The Heartbreaking Paradox

- Extreme Poverty
- Life Expectancy Declining
- HIV Infection
- Infant Mortality
- Startling Report - World Bank
 - African Development Indicators 2003
 - Average \$20 billion per year of foreign aid from 1980 to 2001

Result: All living standards and GDP declined



The Heartbreaking Paradox

- Extreme Poverty
- Life Expectancy Declining
- HIV Infection
- **Lack Local Leadership Based**
- Infant Mortality
- Startling Report - World Bank
- **Fatalistic attitudes reinforced**
- Average \$20 billion per year of foreign aid **Dependency**
- Result: living standards and GDP declined

Why?

Action

Fatalistic attitudes reinforced 2003



The Heartbreaking Paradox

More is not always greater.

Bigger is not necessarily better!



Needed: A Biblical Way of Thinking About Mission

- Differentiate between . . .
 - Unreached People
 - Relief
 - Development
 - Fellowship and Education

And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Colossians 1:20



Needed: A Biblical Way of Thinking About Mission

- Differentiate between . . .
- Think Inside Out!
 - Local Leaders
 - Change the Mindset and Attitudes



African Traditional Mindset	Biblical Worldview (Mindset)
Women are inferior to men	Women are made in the image of God and have equal worth with men. While the roles of men and women differ, their value before God is the same.
Work is a curse	Work is part of our dignity.
Tribalism: my tribe is superior to your tribe.	Community: each race/tribe is equal in value but wonderfully unique, and the uniqueness is to be celebrated.
Fatalism: We are poor and there is nothing we can do about it. History is something that happens to us. This leads to a “dependency” mentality that is outward looking, waiting for someone or something else from the outside: to solve our problems.	Freedom: We were made to create history. God created humans with freedom and personal responsibility.
Time: focus on the past; backward-looking	Time: celebrate the past, enjoy the present, plan for the future; forward-looking.
Corruption: The gods are capricious and can be “bribed” through various acts or sacrifices.	Justice: The living God is unchanging in His character, which is both just and good. He takes no bribes.
The life of the individual is not significant.	Individual human life is significant.
Zero-sum: Limited Good; resources are fixed and limited. If my neighbor prospers, it must be the result of him doing something wrong to me, such as stealing.	Positive-sum: Wealth is created.
Capriciousness of the universe. The universe is chaotic and unpredictable.	The universe is governed by natural laws; it is orderly.

Needed: A Biblical Way of Thinking About Mission

- Differentiate between . . .
- Think Inside Out!
- Think Together!
 - Collaborative Models rather than Competitive Models

How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. Psalm 133



Needed: A Biblical Way of Thinking About Mission

- Differentiate between . . .
- Think Inside Out!
- Think Together!
- Think Small in a Big Way!
 - Leaven
 - Mustard Seed
 - 5 Loaves & 2 Fish

