



Since 1868... 150 years and counting

## THE MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

Nº 1, 2018

# Africa Report



Jesus said to his disciples: "Go to all nations. Give witness. Speak and work as I have done." Painting commissioned by Cardinal Charles Lavigerie (1825-1892), founder of the Missionaries of Africa. Was in the Church of the Headquarters, Algiers.

## *150 Years, Let's Celebrate!*



Dear Friends,

"I love everything about Africa, her past, her future, her sunshine, her mountains, her skies, the vast horizons of her deserts, the deep blue waves that bathe her shores." These words echo the passionate love that Cardinal Charles Lavigerie, Archbishop of

Algiers (Algeria) had for the continent of Africa.

He wanted men and women to share in his dream of bringing Christian values and the benefits of modern development to the indigenous populations across the continent.

In 1868, Cardinal Lavigerie founded the Society of the Missionaries of Africa for the service of God's people in Africa. In the prime of their lives, many

men and women left their comfort zones, families and friends to "preach, teach, heal and build". They crisscrossed vast swathes of countryside to share their best gift of faith. They built schools and hospitals to provide healthcare and education to communities. Since 1868 to now, 150 years of total commitment and dedication for a noble mission! Today, their message and legacy have galvanized a new generation of youth ready to step up to the plate.

Africa has come of age, and her future looks very bright. Hence this jubilee is nothing more than the celebration of the milestone the continent has achieved. We are proud and grateful that you have been part of it. Thank you for your continuous support.

Fr. Barthelemy Bazemo, MAfr  
President of the Missionaries of Africa in the USA



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## Our Mission: Encounter

### Fr. Paul Reilly MAfr

### from California to Ethiopia



Photos: Paul Reilly

**Paul, where were you going barefoot and why?**

We were climbing to a traditional rock hewn Ethiopian Orthodox church in the mountains of Tigray with our soccer team after a game. We wanted to give the youth exposure to their cultural and religious heritage. We were barefooted because it's a safe way to climb.

**So, Paul, you work with youth in Ethiopia?**

Yes, I am the Director of Bruh Tesfa Youth Development Center. In the local language, Bruh Tesfa means "Bright Hope". The Center offers recreation and education programs to hundreds of disadvantaged young people, most of whom are Orthodox Christians, with a few Catholics and very few Muslims. Apart from those who come to play and study in our Center, we also offer room and board. We also provide school materials to 27 high school students coming from poor out-of-town families. And we support over 60 young women in technical schools and universities throughout Ethiopia.

**Tell us about your relationships with the old Ethiopian monk we see in the photo? Were you able to speak with him?**

The old priest in the photo is an Orthodox monk renowned for his holiness. I visited him, along with three Orthodox priests, to receive his blessing. We shared a few words in the local language, Tigrinya. It was a wonderful gesture of Christian brotherhood. Christianity arrived in Ethiopia 1,600 years ago, coming from Egypt. The people and their Church survived many invasions, from the Arabs in the Middle Ages to the Italians in the last century. They have a very strong faith and many unique traditions: chants, liturgical dances, strict fasting days when no animal product (including eggs, milk, cheese) can be eaten. In the Ethiopian Church some priests are married men and some are celibate monks.





## Selling humans — particularly young girls is wrong and must be eradicated

### “Free at last...”

#### The story of Simu, a young woman

“I remember being 11 years old and locked inside my parents’ house. People stood guard to ensure I would not escape. They were going to cut me, what is called female genital mutilation. Immediately after the mutilation, they started negotiating my bride price.

I come from a large family. My father currently has four wives and 35 children. I had just fin-

ished my sixth grade exams. At that age, I did not want to be sold as a bride. ... So, I had to flee to Nairobi, the big city where a cousin contacted HAART, the NGO where they found shelter for me, to avoid my family tracking me down.”

“Now, I am 17 years old. HAART sent me to a boarding school. I am studying hard and pursuing my dreams to become an engineer in one of the universities here in Kenya. HAART believed in me and saved me from my parents... still I hope to see them again.”



Photo:  
Radek Malinowski

### About the NGO HAART

Awareness against Human Trafficking, the NGO HAART Kenya, operates a rescue center for the victims of human trafficking. Currently the shelter can house up to 25 young women at a time. During reintegration, HAART works both with the family and leaders in the community to ensure safety. The project has the approval of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Ngong, John Oballa Owaa. He sees this project as very important “to empower and heal those who have suffered human trafficking.”

The project is run by Mr. Radek Malinowski, from Poland. He is well known to the **Missionaries of Africa**. The former Superior of the Missionaries of Africa in Kenya, Fr. Charles Obanya recommended this project: “We are confident that the expertise and capacity of HAART will enable us to provide holistic

care for the victims.”

HAART Kenya is dedicated to ending human trafficking in Kenya and more broadly in East Africa. More than 20,000 victims are trafficked through Kenya annually from neighboring countries including Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan. The girls are usually between 7 and 18 years old. The shelter provides basic healthcare, psycho-social support, legal aid, education, food, security and clothes. The shelter focuses on giving trauma care to the victims. They have gone through multiple forms of abuse and have suffered both physical and mental trauma. HAART helps to find their families, and promote economic empowerment for them.

As the beneficiaries are not able to pay for the services provided, it is impossible for such a project to be self-sustaining. Financial help comes from different charities, including Misereor in Germany and the **Missionaries of Africa Development Office** in the USA.

## Charitable IRA Rollover

### Help us continue our Mission in Africa!

#### *What is a Charitable IRA Rollover?*

- Charitable IRA Rollover is a permanent provision in the U.S. tax code for donors age 70 ½ or older to make a tax wise gift to non-profit organizations, including the *Missionaries of Africa*.

#### *Benefits of Charitable IRA Rollovers*

- Satisfies requirements for annual minimum IRA withdrawals.
- Avoids federal and in some cases, state income tax.\*
- Provides vital and ongoing support to the Missionaries and their mission in Africa.

#### *Guidelines*

- Donors age 70 ½ or older at the time of distribution.
- Gifts must be transferred directly from your IRA account to the *Missionaries of Africa*.
- Charitable gifts up to \$100,000 can be given each year.

#### *How to make a Charitable Gift?*

- Donors should contact their IRA Bank or broker/administrator to request an IRA distribution transfer to the *Missionaries of Africa*. Instruct your administrator to issue a check to:

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1622 21<sup>st</sup>. Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009-1003

Any questions, please call our  
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1-877-523-4662

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### WAYS TO GIVE TO OUR MISSION

- Join our Friends of Hope Monthly Giving Plan.
- Memorial Gifts in memory of a loved one.
- Celebrate a birthday, wedding or anniversary with a donation to our works in Africa.
- Donation of stock: appreciated securities, stocks, bonds or annuities provide the same benefit as a cash gift.
- Life Insurance - consider naming the *Missionaries of Africa* as a beneficiary.
- Bequests – an estate gift to the *Missionaries of Africa* will continue our mission

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