

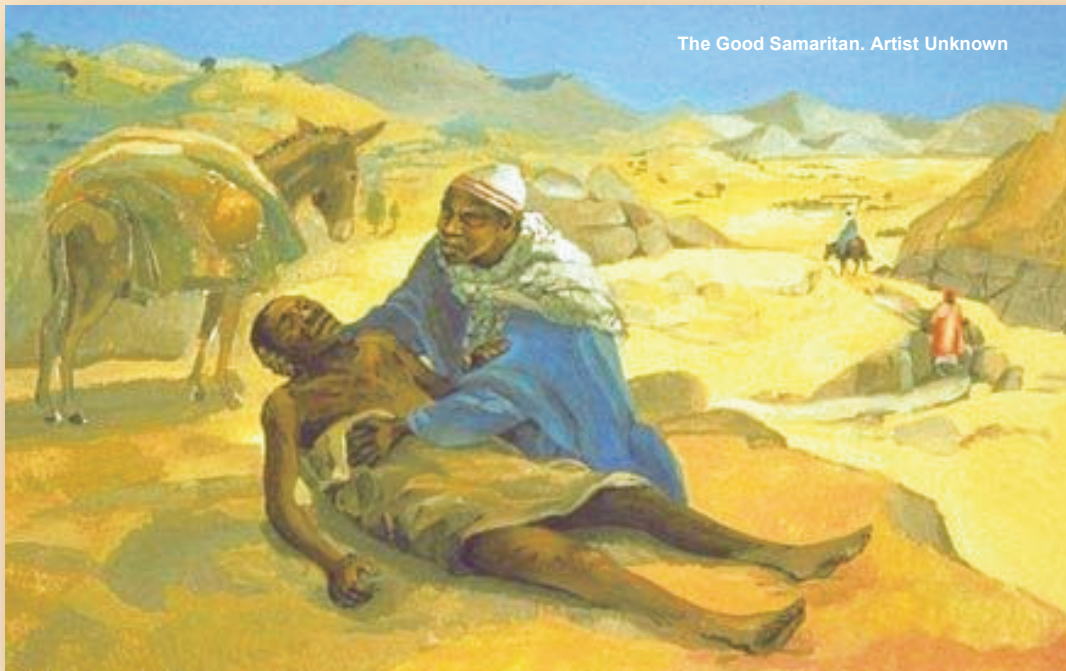


Since 1868... 150 years and counting

MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

No. 2, 2021

The Africa Report



The Good Samaritan. Artist Unknown

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

A message from our President



Dear Friends,

Summer is upon us! It comes with a great deal of relief as the stringent COVID-19 restrictions are progressively being eased across the United States to the immense satisfaction of the American people. Thank God! However, the utmost caution should be exercised as medical professionals continue to remind us that the battle is not yet over. We should not rest on our laurels. I hope we all heed this wise advice and remain vigilant until the deadly virus is fully contained.

As the United States makes headway in the fight against the virus, communities elsewhere, especially in Africa, are left behind. In fact, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), things are getting scarier and the worst is likely to unfold in the near future, if adequate measures are not rolled

out to stop the continent from sinking into chaos.

In Nouakchott, the capital of Mauritania in West Africa, Sr. Anita Martis is working wonders thanks to your support. Through the grant of the Missionaries of Africa Development Office in Washington, DC, she has provided social and medical assistance to over 800 migrants and refugees. Sr. Anita has also implemented a host of COVID-19 preparedness measures to protect the refugees from the adverse consequences of the pandemic. A great example indeed! Thank you for all that you continue to do to make this and all of our work possible.

God bless you.

Rev. Barthelemy Bazemo, M.Afr.
President

Our Mission

Founded more than 150 years ago for the evangelization of Africa, the **Missionaries of Africa** remain faithful to the call to share the life and mission of Jesus, and to give witness to the Gospel in Africa and among Africans, wherever they may be. Our work includes:

- Helping to alleviate the poverty and deprivation that are still widespread in Africa by funding projects that foster self-reliance and human dignity.
- Raising the awareness of the plight of the African people through Mission education and various publications.
- Providing up-to-date information relating to justice and peace issues that concern the countries in Africa where we live and work.
- Working with Africans on structural changes that will help build the Reign of God and thereby helping them to become agents of their own liberation.

We accomplish our work through parish ministry, teaching, community prayer, advocacy, various spiritual and educational publications. We also provide the people of God in America with the opportunity to offer spiritual and financial support for our religious, social, educational and charitable works in Africa. For more information, visit our website: www.missionariesofafrica.org.

Hope for young women in Ghana!

Dear Friends:

I am writing to share with you how much your financial support is making a difference in the lives of young women throughout our community. As I shared with you in my initial letter, girls and young women here have been subjected to discrimination for far too long - simply because they are females. They have often been denied education and jobs. Thanks to your support, we are able to continue providing education and skills training for young women, enabling them to get jobs as teachers, technical workers, and even nurses. Thank you for all that you are doing!

Martina Kaupiel
Director

Teachers and students at the "House of Liberation for Empowerment."

Photos provided by Martina Kaupiel



Your financial support is making a difference throughout Africa.

Bomadi, Delta State, Nigeria

MISSION IN RURAL NIGERIA GETS CLEAN WATER!

The generous financial support of our friends and benefactors has provided clean water for the *Our Lady Star of the Sea Sisters* living and working in a remote region of Nigeria.

"Our mission was in desperate need of a reliable source of fresh drinking water," writes Sr. Felicia Puwei. "While there is an urgent need for a missionary presence in this region," she continues, "it was made extremely difficult due to the lack of drinking water. Now, because of your support, we are able to continue our work among the people who need us. God bless you for your kindness!"

Sr. Felicia Puwei, SOLSS
Director



Right: Workers completing the installation of water tanks; Above: A Sister rejoicing at having fresh water!



Photos courtesy of Sr. Felicia Puwei, SOLSS

SPECIAL REPORT

Land Grab Awareness Campaign: Working for Systemic Change, Prevention & Advocacy for the Poor and Powerless

Between May 23-29, 2021, the Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) presented a conference on “Land Grabbing Prevention Awareness and Promotion of Responsible Investments” in Ghana. Your support of the Missionaries of Africa helped make this conference possible!

An Overview:

The ongoing massive leasing of Africa's farmland to sovereign countries and foreign multinationals under the pretexts of investing, creating jobs, and/or ensuring food security for Africans, unfortunately has become nothing more than "land grabbing" at the expense of African farmers and poor communities. Social Justice Organizations and others are speaking out that this is another form of colonialism -- raising the concerns of African people.

Land grabbing is having a devastating impact on already vulnerable farmers and inflicts generational social, economic, political and geopolitical harm as well. Experts agree that the rush to acquire farmland in developing countries is motivated by factors such as profit, the increasing need for biofuel, food exports, and speculation on the true land value.

Photo Right: Some of the conference attendees from Ghana.

In Bator Horne Kpekpo, Ghana, landowners had already been in discussions with foreign investors who wanted to take their land. With the information provided and their new understanding of land issues, they wanted to see if they could stop the negotiations. After the meeting, they thanked AFJN and said that the conference was just in time because they had not signed any documents with the new investors, so they can easily tell investors that they have changed their minds.



Rev. Barthelemy Bazemo, M.Afr., President of the **Missionaries of Africa**, addresses attendees at the Land Awareness Campaign Conference.

A Brief History:

Moved to action by personal experiences in Africa, three Catholic missionary congregations, the **Missionaries of Africa**, the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (*The Spiritans*), and the Society of African Missions, founded the Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) in 1983 to transform United States' policy towards Africa and her people. Since that time, membership has grown and remains committed in faith to advocate in Washington, DC, for U.S. relations with African nations that foster justice and peace, and to educate the public across the U.S. on the truth about Africa.



SPECIAL REPORT *(continued)*

Land Grab Awareness Campaign: Working for Systemic Change, Prevention & Advocacy for the Poor and Powerless

Additional highlights of the Land Grab Awareness Campaign Conference presented May 23-29, 2021, by the Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN) in Ghana. This conference was made possible in-part through your support.

An African proverb says, "We do not inherit land, rather we borrow it from future generations." Preventing land grabbing and promoting responsible investing is necessary for young adults to learn how to protect their future. With this in mind, in addition to adults, young people from throughout the region were invited to participate in the conference. In total, more than 2,000 people from across Ghana attended the conference!



Top Left Photo: Young people from local high schools attended the conference and learned how to advocate for better land leasing and usage agreements. They were also taught how to raise concerns before their land is leased. Young people were encouraged to help educate their households and communities to ensure their families do not become victims of land grabbing. During the conference, young people were also educated about human trafficking and learned how to avoid becoming victims of traffickers -- an issue that is widespread throughout Africa.



Bottom Left Photo: Youth leaders whose families have been affected by land grabbing were also invited to speak at the conference. More than 1,500 students from area high schools participated in the "Land Grab Awareness Campaign" conference. Because of land grabbing, many families have lost their rights to ancestral lands and have lost the use of vital farmland which has provided food for generations.

Attendees heard of how one investor has diverted water from a stream to irrigate his crops, leaving people living downstream without water. Another investor is preventing families from fishing in a stream because he is leasing the land next to the river. As a result, families who have relied on fishing for their livelihood for generations no longer have access to the river. During the conference, they learned of ways to challenge unfair land agreements. **Right Photo:** Many presentations were held outdoors due to COVID-19.



Thanks to your generosity ...

Lusaka, Zambia

Much Needed Renovation for Mission!

"Our mission is located in a very poor region," explains Fr. Patrice Sawadogo, "so we have never been able to renovate the mission buildings. The people simply cannot provide the funds to pay for the repairs." Fr. Patrice is a Missionary of Africa living and working in Lusaka, Zambia.

"The financial support of the Missionaries of Africa allowed us to purchase building materials to repair the roof and to even replace the doors. We were also able to do painting and other

much needed repairs. All of the labor for the renovations and repairs was provided through the kindness of our parishioners. The work, while quite challenging, gave everyone an opportunity to come together for a common purpose. When it was completed, it was

wonderful to see all that had been accomplished as a community. Please know how much we sincerely appreciate all that you continue to do in supporting the spiritual life of the poor families in our community!"



Fr. Patrice Sawadogo, M.Afr.

Pastor

(Photo provided by Fr. Patrice Sawadogo, M.Afr.)

ABOVE PHOTO: COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENJOYING THE NEWLY RENOVATED HALL!

Uvira, Democratic Republic of Congo

New Apprenticeship Training Center for Youth!

Thanks to the generosity of friends and benefactors of the Missionaries of Africa, young people in Uvira, DRC, have a new apprenticeship training center! "Many young people here work in the mines like slaves," explains Project Manager Josue Kasolola. "In the most remote regions, young people have little chance of training for any other kind of work, so they must work in the mines. Now, thanks to the new apprenticeship training center, they can learn skills for carpentry, plumbing, and mechanical work."

"This center will make a life-changing difference in the lives of so many. It will help young people work and be able to support themselves and their families. Thank you so very much for all that you are doing to help those in need."

Josue Kasolola

Project Manager

(Photos provided by Josue Kasolola)



Top: Construction crews working on the building exterior; Bottom: The new Apprenticeship Training Center in Uvira.



Support our mission when you shop at **Amazon**! Simply pick the **Missionaries of Africa** as your charitable organization and **Amazon** will give .05% of your eligible purchase. [amazon.smile.com](https://www.amazon.smile.com)

Help us continue our mission in Africa!

Charitable IRA Rollover

What is a Charitable IRA Rollover?

- Charitable IRA Rollover is a permanent provision in the U.S. tax code for donors age 70½ or older to make a tax-wise gift to non-profit organizations such as 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 missions 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



Society of Missionaries of Africa, Inc.
Development Office
1622 21st. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-1003

**** Any questions, please call our Development Office ****
1-877-523-4662

* The Charitable IRA Rollover is a federal law.
Consult your tax preparer for your state regulations.

Protecting Your Privacy

The **Missionaries of Africa** do not sell, rent, or exchange donors' names or donors' contact information.
We are very grateful to you and cherish your commitment to our mission and service among the people of Africa.



WAYS TO SUPPORT 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.
- Donations of **stock**, appreciated **securities**, **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 works.

The Africa Report is published four times a year by the

**Society
of
Missionaries of Africa, Inc.**

1622 21st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-1003
(202) 232-5995

Series 12, Vol. 95
No. 2, 2021