

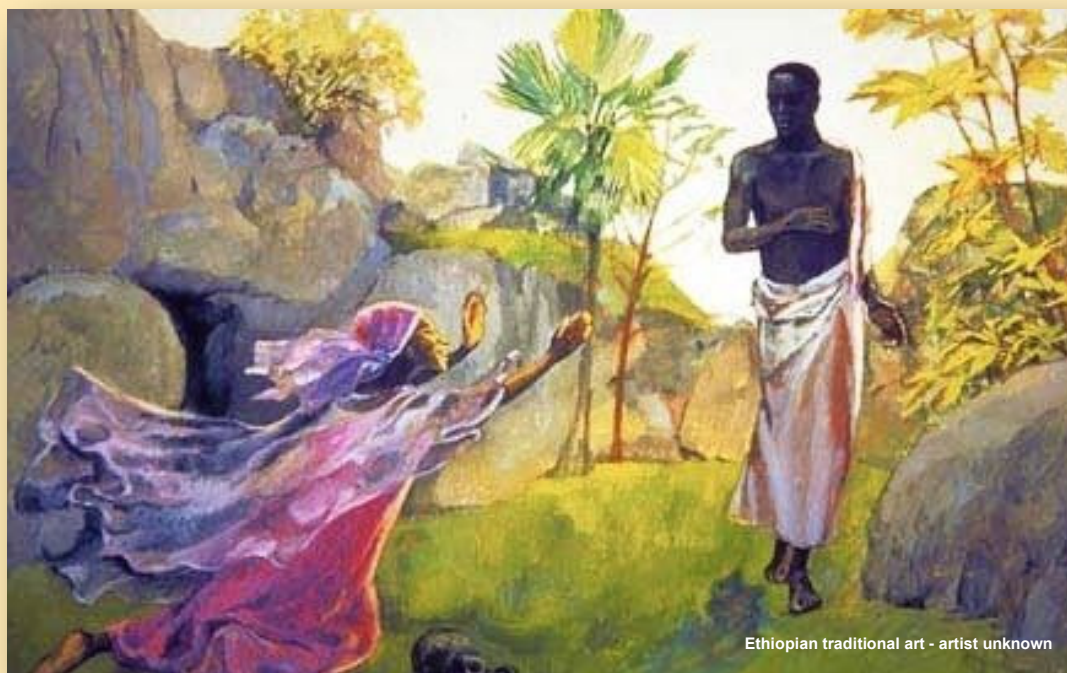


Since 1868... 150 years and counting

## MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

No. 1, 2022

### The Africa Report



Ethiopian traditional art - artist unknown

**"Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!'" John 20:18**

***May the joy of the Resurrection fill your heart and your home!***

### Celebrating Easter throughout Africa

Throughout the African continent, celebrating Easter is the highpoint in the life of Christian communities. In most parish churches, the Easter Vigil is highly anticipated. Churches are often decorated with vitenge and kanga cloth, illustrating new life in the form of butterflies, flowers, banana trees, etc. Hymns are sung accompanied by the beating of drums and vigelegele (shouts of joy), the high-pitched sounds made by women. After Mass, traditional dances are held outside of the church. People then return home to continue their celebrations with local food and drinks. "Since many adults are baptized during the Easter Vigil," explains Fr. Antonio Koffi, treasurer of the Missionaries of Africa in the U.S., "it is common for families to bring infants for Baptism on Easter Monday. I remember baptizing hundreds of children on Easter Monday when I was pastor at St. John the Baptist in Nabulagala, Uganda. You are busy all day, but it is a wonderful time for the whole community."



Batik of "The Baptism of the Lord"

## A special letter from our President

Spring 2022

Dear Friends,

For most of us, Africa is best known for its incredibly impressive diversity of wildlife. It boasts a wide range of rare and unique species found nowhere else on our planet. In recent years, the continent has become a favorite tourist destination where holiday-makers go to admire the big five: the elephant, rhinoceros, cape buffalo, lion, and leopard. These beauties of Mother Nature are magnificent and breathtaking. **However, there are more hidden treasures that visitors can enjoy beyond the wildlife on a continent that is cloaked in mystery.**

Today, I am not taking you on an African safari or an expedition to explore wildlife in Africa. On the contrary, I invite you to discover another facet of the continent's best-kept secret: **its people and the various expressions of their cultural heritage.** Our journey takes us to Kologdiese, a rural village I visited in the central plateau of Burkina Faso, a landlocked country in the heart of the West African savannah. Kologdiese is situated at a distance of 25 miles from Ouagadougou, the capital city, which holds the seat of the Mogho Naaba, the paramount chief of the Mossi Kingdom.

In this village of about 10,000 souls, a pioneering initiative spearheaded by Princess Juliette Kongo led to the establishment of an art museum to celebrate the Mossi woman's seminal role in preserving the traditions of the Mossi people. The collection of artworks displays key symbols of womanhood and an assortment of tools and utensils used in cooking, local architecture, dressmaking, and the rites of girls' initiation from teenage to adulthood. When asked about the rationale behind the creation of the museum, Juliette answered, **"For time immemorial, women have been the custodians of our values because of the place they hold in the education of children."**

As the museum drew more and more visitors to the village, many income-generating projects flourished to the delight of its residents. Many received training to acquire basic business skills and the opportunity to read and write. Overall, the primary objectives of the program are progressively being met. Several women have earned sufficient income to send their children to school and care for their families, thus actively contributing to the community's welfare. This is the remarkable story of how the creative idea of one person can transform the destiny of a community by offering its members the opportunity to realize their life goals.

God bless you and thank you for the generosity you share that makes such endeavors possible!



Your Missionary Friend,

Rev. Barthelemy Bazemo, M.Afr.  
President



Fr. Barthelemy  
Bazemo, M.Afr.



Top: Women using traditional techniques to floor the Museum compound. Middle: Princess Juliette Kongo pounding sorghum with one beneficiary of the program. Bottom: Women milling sorghum to celebrate International Women's Day.

Photos courtesy of Fr. Barthelemy Basemo, M.Afr.



**For all that you do to help those in need, thank you!**

### **Dedza, Malawi**

#### **New building provides classrooms and a place to sleep!**

"Even though the COVID pandemic delayed our work, we have finally been able to complete the construction of the new building," Fr. Peter writes. "Thanks to the generous support of the Missionaries of Africa, we were able to complete the new building in January. This new building is serving as a classroom for our elementary school children as well as a parish hall for adult meetings. We will also be using it to provide travelers with a place to sleep, since accommodations are very limited in this part of our country. Everyone is extremely grateful to you for making this possible!"

**Fr. Peter Nickson White, Administrator**  
(Photos provided by Fr. Peter)



**TOP RIGHT: WORKERS COMPLETING MASONRY WORK. BOTTOM RIGHT: CHOIR FESTIVAL HELD IN THE NEW HALL. LEFT: THE NEW HALL**

### **Ibondo, Tanzania**

#### **Clean water for remote village!**

"We are writing to thank you for making clean water a reality for the people of Ibondo village in northwestern Tanzania. If you will recall, the people of the village did not have a reliable source of clean, safe drinking water. That has been a problem for quite some time. Without an adequate source of clean water, many of the people in the community risk infection, disease, and death by drinking water that has been tainted by animal waste."

"Thanks to the generosity and financial support of the benefactors of the Missionaries of Africa, we were able to drill a borehole deep enough to access clean drinking water. While the villagers were happy to do as much of the labor as needed, it was your generosity that enabled us to hire a company to do the actual drilling as well as purchase the pipes, valves, etc. God bless you!"

**SCIM Brothers**  
**Project Directors**

(Photos provided by the SCIM Brothers)



**Top: Heavy equipment was brought in to drill the deep borehole well.**

**Left: Ibondo villagers dig the trenches to install pipelines for water delivery.**

## A message from our new Director of Development

The **Missionaries of Africa** create a lasting impact for families living in poverty by focusing on long-term solutions instead of temporary fixes. Safe water, food, shelter, and education provide hope in parts of the world where true hope is often limited. With our **Friends of Hope** monthly donor program, the **Missionaries of Africa** are spreading *the message of hope* to our brothers and sisters in Africa. For those who have been long time supporters, and for new supporters as well, we are praying that you will join in our **Friends of Hope Monthly Giving Plan**. You can have your donation sent automatically by using a credit card or by electronic payment from your checking account. We promise to include you in our daily prayers. Each month, we also celebrate Mass for our **Friends of Hope**!

To become a **Friend of Hope**, simply return the enclosed form or complete the **Friends of Hope** donation form on our website at [www.missionariesofafrica.org](http://www.missionariesofafrica.org). You can also call us at 877-523-4662 and we will be glad to help you. You may cancel at anytime. As we work together to bring the basics of life – food, water, medicine – along with education and evangelization, to break the cycle of poverty and hunger, you will feel great knowing that your commitment is helping so much. *By joining our Friends of Hope, you will be giving hope and life to those we serve in Africa.*

In December, I joined the **Missionaries of Africa** staff as Director of Development. Please feel free to reach out to me at [canderson@missionariesofafrica.com](mailto:canderson@missionariesofafrica.com). God bless you for all that you do to support our work!



Christopher Anderson

## Help us continue our mission in Africa!

### Charitable IRA Transfers

- Donors age 70 1/2 or older can transfer a contribution each year directly from a traditional IRA account. This may satisfy a portion or all of the annual required minimum distribution (RMD) and serve as a qualified charitable distribution for your IRA, which can decrease your tax burden even if you are no longer itemizing deductions.

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

Any questions, please call our Development Office  
877-523-4662 or email [info@missionariesofafrica.org](mailto:info@missionariesofafrica.org)

\* Always 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.
- Make a **Memorial Gift** in memory of a loved one.
- Celebrate a birthday, wedding or anniversary with a donation to our works in Africa.
- Donations of stock, 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 support the ongoing work of the **Missionaries of Africa**.

For more information, call us at:  
877-523-4662

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