

Great Doors of Opportunity Continue to Open In Africa

Training Leaders and Discipling Christians in Mozambique, Madagascar, and Swaziland

Out of every 10 CBS participants around the world, about 7 live in Africa. This means that more than 400,000 African men, women, and children are becoming better followers of Jesus as they study God's Word in community. I would encourage you to dwell on that fact for a moment and just think about its wider implications.

————— **400,000** —————

And it seems that God is just getting started, because we see Him opening doors widely across this region. Our Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Directors and Calebs are reporting that invitations to bring CBS to their own churches and organizations continue as they have, and in many countries are increasing. It's reminiscent of Paul's experience when he received a vision from Macedonia asking, "Come over here and help us!" (Acts 16:9).

In this edition of the CBS International Letter, I would like to walk with you, just briefly, through those doors so you can catch a glimpse of the incredible things God is doing.



Mozambique

Last September, CBS leaders presented CBSI to the Full Gospel Denomination (FGD) of Mozambique. The FGD leaders responded with a request to *come over here and help us to **disciple its 42,000 adult members and its 100,000 children and youth***. In February, Maury Kapsner, Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Director, along with Richard and Barbara Anson, conducted a two-day training with 95 of their key leaders. And the effects of this training will continue exponentially—these 95 newly-trained leaders will, in turn, pass that training on to their larger network of leaders.

The critical component for sustainable growth—competent, passionate leadership—is firmly in place. The denomination's top overseers are taking personal responsibility to be certain that CBS is carefully implemented throughout the FGD among the adults.

Providentially, God also has provided a point person for the FGD children's initiative—a highly respected and experienced woman who served 10 years with Child Evangelism Fellowship. She is not an FGD leader, but we had recruited her to translate our studies for the FGD conference. And, compelled by what she translated, she wants to be part of this amazing story.

The FGD leaders are hoping to see hundreds of thousands of Mozambique brothers and sisters join CBS studies. Please pray for this exciting new outreach!

Madagascar

CBS is also expanding in the rainforests of Madagascar and its surrounding areas. Over the past 10 years, another mission organization has focused on planting churches in Madagascar, the Comoro Islands, Zanzibar



- Swaziland
- Mozambique
- Madagascar

// This [CBS studies] is the answer to withstand the Islamic movement. Our people must become grounded in the Word. //

— CBS National Coordinator



and other islands off the east coast of Africa. The founder of this mission has trained more than 100 church planters, and together they have planted more than 4,500 churches with 250,000+ members—not including children. In the face of this explosive growth, they are finding themselves in great need of discipleship tools.

This mission reached out to CBS saying, *come over here and help us!* In September, they invited Maury to conduct a training for 111 leaders. Those leaders will launch CBSI not only in the rainforest, but also throughout the island of more than 24 million people covering 22 regions (only 49 percent Christian).

In a follow-up visit this past February, Maury found more than 2,000 followers of Jesus already in CBS studies. He was then asked to conduct a CBSI presentation for another 160 leaders. God is also raising up partners to assist with this movement. We asked

one of Wycliffe's translation teams if they would be willing to help in the translation of our material, and they agreed to help at a significantly reduced cost.

Swaziland

Greg and Hannah Poe, Calebs to Swaziland, conducted a training in February for 39 pastors and church leaders. A sense of excitement was in the air as the leaders saw CBS materials in their mother tongue, siSwati. With this training complete, nearly all the regions of Swaziland now have a CBS shepherd within their network.

Because the Poes responded to the call to *come over here and help us*, the people of Swaziland now have a new resource to make better disciples of Jesus ... and hope!

Friends, I hope that as you have briefly walked through these "doors of opportunity" you have begun to sense the incredible movement that God is propelling. **I have no doubt that there are MANY other doors opening on the great continent of Africa.**

Thank you!

Keith Spartzak, International Director

Madagascar Milestones



A Rainforest Village Where CBS Is Now Present

Practicing Caring Community



CBS Material in Malagasy

Comorians Reviewing CBS Materials



Trainees Learning to Study

Join Us and Make a Difference

Out of ignorance, years ago Europeans described Africa as "The Dark Continent." But in 2018, it is clear that this region has seen a great light (Isaiah 9:2). Africa is leading the world in the growth of Christianity; CBS is helping to fuel and sustain that growth. **Your prayers and sacrificial donations will contribute to this movement.**

You may donate online at www.communitybiblestudy.org or by mail at 790 Stout Road/Colorado Springs, CO/80921.



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