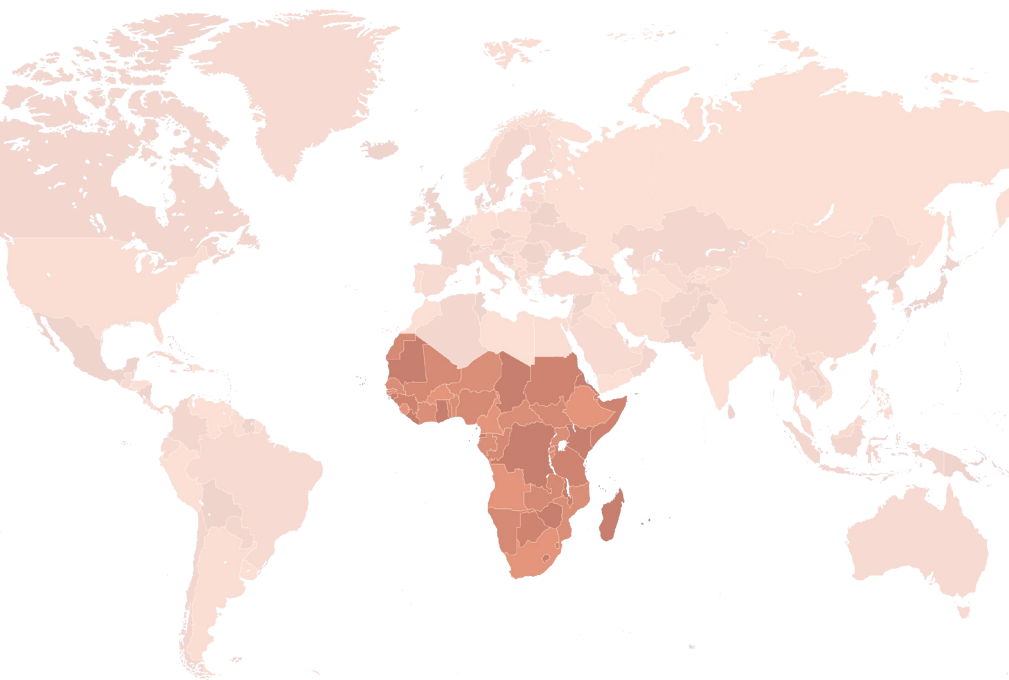


SENT!

VOL. 3



A HISTORY OF UPCI GLOBAL MISSIONS

Africa

DARLINE ROYER

SENT! VOL. 3

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A HISTORY OF UPCI GLOBAL MISSIONS

Africa

BY DARLINE ROYER



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Contents

Dedication to Bruce Howell	9
Introduction	11
Author's Preface.....	13

PART I

The Big Picture.....	17
75 Years United Pentecostal Church International Global Missions	19
Foreword	27

PART II

UPCI's Beginnings in Africa	33
1. The Beginning and Spread of UPCI Global Missions in Africa	35
2. A Continent Prepared for the Sending of Apostolic Missionaries	39
3. Liberia Where the Africa UPC Story Began.....	47

PART III

Expansion into South-Central Africa.....	89
4. South Africa The UPC's Second African Field	91
5. Angola Regional Missionary from Brazil	117
6. Bophuthatswana (Now Part of South Africa).....	119

7. Botswana	
Ascent from Poverty.....	123
8. The Long, Winding Road to the	
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	129
9. eSwatini (Swaziland)	
A Constitutional Monarchy.....	149
10. Lesotho	
Missionaries Beckoned Back to Africa	155
11. Malawi	
The Warm Heart of Africa.....	161
12. Mozambique	
A Church Birthed through the	
Witness of Saints	177
13. Namibia	
A Delayed Harvest	181
14. Zambia	
A Revival Church Birthed Amid Adversity	185
15. Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)	
The Amazing Pioneer Work	
of a Lady Missionary	201

PART IV

East Africa.....214

16. Burundi	
Church Growth Amid Poverty	215
17. Ethiopia	
Revival and Reorganization.....	221
18. Kenya	
From Seed-Planting to Nationalization.....	233
19. Rwanda	
Initial Planting, Genocide, Rebuilding.....	257
20. South Sudan/Sudan	
A Marvelous Response to God's Word	265

21. Tanzania	
Four Decades of UPCI Missions.....	269
22. Uganda	
Apostolic Multiplication	281

PART V

Islands of East Africa.....	301
23. The Marvelous Madagascar Story.....	303
24. Comoros and Mayotte Madagascar Mission Fields	319
25. Mauritius Seeds Planted by a Vacationer	321
26. Réunion – A Vacationland Becomes a Mission Field.....	331
27. Seychelles Prophecy Fulfilled.....	335

PART VI

West Africa.....	341
28. Togo, Benin, and the Central African Republic Truth Proclaimed Across Borders	345
29. Burkina Faso Ivory Coast’s Mission Field	355
30. Cameroon Seeds Planted from Nigeria.....	359
31. Côte d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast) Apostolic Seed Planted by Ghanaian Missionary	369
32. Equatorial Guinea Church Planted by Regional Missionary from Cameroon.....	377

33. Gabon	
A Madagascar Mission Field.....	381
34. The Ghana Story	
Touched by a Tract.....	387
35. Guinea and the Republic of Gambia	
Missionary Daughter Returns to West Africa	425
36. The Niger Story	
No Resident Missionaries.....	429
37. Nigeria	
Africa's Most Populous Nation	
Fifty Years (1970–2020) of Apostolic Truth	431
38. Senegal and French West Africa	
Planting, Setbacks, Replanting.....	447
39. Sierra Leone	
Groundbreaking, Planting, Harvesting.....	453
40. Afterword: Bible Schools/Colleges	
in the Africa Region.....	473
41. Furlough Replacement	
Ministry in Africa.....	477
References	481
Notes.....	485

Dedication to Bruce Howell

Soon after their 1980 arrival in war-ravaged El Salvador, newly appointed UPCI missionary Bruce Howell and his family were greeted by machine gun bullets and an RPG round that pierced the front and back wall as the family embraced the floorboards of their bedroom.

Once Bruce and Diane Howell prayed through the fear that such experiences would naturally bring, they never looked back and continued a life in missions with unbridled enthusiasm and contagious joy. They lived that way with their three children through two decades of service and explosive revival in El Salvador that war, political upheaval, and the devil could not stop. Bruce Howell was just twenty-five years old when he and Diane were appointed as missionaries. Within three years of their arrival, the pastors of El Salvador elected him as superintendent of the work.

Early on, El Salvador was the first mission field to see over three thousand filled with the Holy Spirit in one revival. Later, in 1999, during a revival with Evangelist Billy Cole, 3,900 were Spirit-filled in a single evening service. Around that time, Bruce Howell was appointed as regional field supervisor (regional director) for Central America and the Caribbean, followed soon after by his election as general director of Global Missions in 2001.

Twenty-one years later, he continues to serve in that pace-setting office with an undiminished passion

Dedication

for revival and harvest, while UPCI mission fields worldwide are experiencing accelerating growth, with a constituency outside North America reaching nearly 4.5 million. As revealed in the pages of Volume 3 of this seventy-five-year history of UPCI Global Missions, Africa is at the forefront of that miraculous revival.

The Global Missions team of missionary husbands, wives, children, and single missionaries could not have a more enthusiastic, evangelistically focused supporter than their director, Bruce Howell. Even after the loss of his beloved wife, Diane, in July 2019, General Director Howell has continued that love and camaraderie he and Diane shared for missions, missionaries, and missionary kids worldwide.

With Darline Royer's completion of this third volume of *Sent, A History of UPCI Global Missions*, it is evident that there is no one more worthy to dedicate this miraculous saga to than someone who exemplifies the burden and passion of missions, our general director of Global Missions, Bruce Howell.

William Turner
Chair of the Writing Committee

Introduction

Bruce Howell

Director of UPCI Global Missions

History is a record of man's endeavors in the past. In the United Pentecostal Church International the sacrifices of a host of missionaries have brought us to today's triumphs. I rejoice as I read the daily reports of many people giving their lives to God in repentance, being baptized in the matchless name of Jesus, and speaking in tongues as they receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Then I watch for reports of these converts being disciplined into fruitful people and families, enabled by the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit. Such spiritual growth does not take place without the tireless efforts of missionaries such as those you will read about in this book—a third volume recording the history of UPCI Global Missions.

About three years ago I felt impressed that the UPCI needed a narrative history of its global missionary work. Thus, I appointed William and Elizabeth Turner, Dorsey Burk, and Darline Kantola Royer to write this history. As veteran missionaries, they willingly accepted the challenge. Two books are already in print: *Sent!, Volume 1: A History of Global Missions (Asia, Europe/Middle East, Central America/Caribbean)* by William Turner, and *Sent!, Volume 2: A History of UPCI Global Missions (South America and the Pacific)* by Dorsey Burk. Having served as a missionary in Africa, Darline Royer gladly and meticulously researched and compiled this book about UPCI missionaries in Africa.

Introduction

Please enjoy as you journey through this history and see what God has done through some of the greatest people on the face of the earth—the missionaries of the UPCI. May God help us as Apostolics to continue adding to this list of missionaries. I pray that some readers of this book will become missionaries who will continue this remarkable story.

Author's Preface

UPCI Missions in Africa

One of my earliest missionary memories stretches back to my childhood in the 1940s. Through the years I have retained the memory of a picnic in the Idaho mountains. I can still visualize the scene: Nona Freeman standing on a tree stump expounding on God's Word. At the time of this incident, Nona and a friend, Victoria Carrington, had stopped by our somewhat remote mountain area to share Nona's calling to the continent of Africa. While I do not recall whether the Freemans had received their initial appointment to Africa at that time, I do know that Nona's burden for Africa made a lasting impression on my childhood mind.

At the age of ten I crossed paths with another lady, Georgia Regenhardt, destined to be a missionary to Liberia, Africa. I met Georgia during her studies at Pentecostal Bible Institute as she prepared for missionary work. As a teenager, I heard stories about other missionaries sent to Liberia. As a Bible college teacher, I met Ena Hylton, who attended Conquerors Bible College before her appointment to Liberia in 1963.

Decades later I sit at my computer contemplating how to effectively share the story of when and how Oneness Pentecostalism began impacting the African continent. Readers who followed missionary stories in UPCI publications will recall the prominence of E. L. and Nona Freeman as missionaries to Africa. Though not the first UPCI-appointed missionaries to

Author's Preface

Africa, they were appointed in 1948 to South Africa. Earlier, they were pictured as outgoing missionaries to Northern Rhodesia (*Pentecostal Herald*, 1946), a country to which they did not get visas. Their extraordinary story spanned forty-one years of African missionary work. The Freemans, along with over 200 UPCI-appointed missionaries to Africa (not counting AIMers and other short-term ministers), have planted truth, watered, and witnessed an abundant harvest of souls.

As I recorded historical events and shared missionary stories, I drew from books written by missionaries, from UPCI publications, from personal interviews with missionaries, and from personal memories. The UPCI Global Missions *Insights*, compiled and edited by Dorsey Burk, provided much of the background information for this book. I feel indebted to Dorsey for these invaluable resources. Also, I found the 472-page book, *The Evolving World of Foreign Missions* compiled by Daniel L. Scott, of significant help. Daniel compiled his book from records he accessed at UPCI World Headquarters. Many of the dates and other biographical information referenced in this history of Africa are documented in the book by Daniel L. Scott. Thus, I have avoided overloading this record with excessive footnotes. (*Note: I usually accessed the e-volume, the page numbers of which differ from the printed volume.*)

Sincere thanks go to William Turner and Dorsey Burk for the honor and privilege I have had in working with them on *Sent! A History of UPCI Global*

Missions. I first met William in 1976–77 when he taught part time at Conquerors Bible College while taking selected classes in preparation for missionary work. My acquaintance with Dorsey began in 1967 when he enrolled in Conquerors Bible College where I taught. In recent years we have worked together as officers of the Veterans of Global Missions.

Gathering material for a history book requires input from many people. I am grateful for the missionaries, both active and retired, who have contributed information. Without their help the Africa story would be deficient and sparse for some countries. My thanks extend to those at the Global Missions office who have graciously sent me requested information and answered questions. Janice Leaman deserves a blue ribbon. She has kindly and repeatedly gone the second mile to assist me. With gratitude I write, “God bless Director Bruce Howell for inviting and challenging William, Dorsey, and me to participate in compiling *Sent!*”

While serving as missionaries in Uganda, Arlon and I had the joy of hosting AIM and AYC workers. One of them, a professional artist, offered to design dividers for this volume of *Sent!* Since including photos to represent over two hundred missionaries was impossible, I felt that art designs depicting Africa would add distinction to Africa’s story. Knowing of Kathy Moyou’s artistic talents, I gave her a call. In her love for missions, she graciously offered her help. My deepest thanks, Kat!

Author's Preface

I trust the readers will quickly recognize that detailed stories of each country could not be told within the scope of one book. However, I did endeavor to mention every UPCI missionary who served in Africa, even when I didn't find a story to share. In compiling the African history, I purposely told some stories with more detail to represent African missions as the church grew from the seed-planting stage to a mature, self-governing church. If I have inadvertently overlooked any appointed missionary who has served time on the field, I sincerely apologize.

UPCI Global Missions history gives Apostolic believers cause to rejoice together in knowing that God-called supporters gave and prayed, missionaries served, and God gave the increase. I trust the stories recorded in this book will inspire increased prayer and financial support for global missions. Above all, I hope that many readers will be challenged to listen for God's call into global missions.

PART I
The Big Picture



AFRICA

By direction of the Holy Spirit the church takes ordained
strides throughout the African continent.

The Big Picture

The illustration on the preceding page and other illustrations on the part title pages of this book are imaginative representations of the church advancing the gospel in African nations. The figures represent more than the ground work of the missionaries, they include every precious soul added to the body of Christ fulfilling the commission.

~ Kathy Lea Moyou

75 Years
United Pentecostal Church
International
Global Missions

Scott Graham, UPCI General Secretary
Pentecostal Life (September 2020)

“The UPCI was founded with the desire of proclaiming this saving gospel throughout the world. It was our stated purpose to ensure that this gospel of the Kingdom would be preached in all nations, and that mission has guided us throughout our history. Each leader has filtered decisions through the considerations of how the mission of the church would be impacted.

“In 1945, our overseas presence was limited. The newly formed UPCI had 40 missionaries in 9 countries serving a constituency of approximately 4,500 in nearly 500 churches. At the start of 2020, we had 1,161 missionaries in 230 nations and territories serving a constituency of approximately 3,400,000 in 36,000 churches. Global Missions continues to press forward to reach every nation, tribe, and tongue.”¹

From Seed-Planting to Abundant Harvest in Seventy-Five Years

Year	Countries	Missionaries	Churches	Constituency
1945	9	40	500	4,500
2020	230	1,161	37,567	4,474,121

2020 data posted by Global Missions on August 24, 2020

UPCI Global Missions Worldwide 2020

Global Statistics: At the dawning of the twenty-first century (2000), the United Pentecostal Church International had reached into *137 nations worldwide* with a constituency of 2,298,184. Twenty years later (2020) the UPCI constituency showed a presence in 232 countries with a constituency of 4,474,121.

The African constituency accounted for 1,132,371 of this total—25 percent of the total UPCI Global constituency.

75 Years of UPCI Global Missions

UPCI Global Picture

Categories	1980	1990	2000	2010*	2020
Constituents	272,662	901,920	2,293,184	2,042,103	4,474,121
Ministers	3,000	7,622	18,395	17,879	30,626
Churches & Preaching Points	4,059	11,855	26,137	30,307	37,567
Churches Added		653	1,338	923	1,062
Preaching Points Added		1,080	1,433	3,058	1,581
Nations with UPCI presence			137	192	232

Data from Annual Field Summary (8/24/2020)

*Ethiopia not included after 2003

The UPCI Africa Region of Global Missions

The Africa Region, according to UPCI Global Missions designation, includes the African continent except for the northern tier of nations—Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, and Tunisia—which lie in the Europe-Middle East Region (EME). The United Nations lists fifty-four countries within the African continent.

2021 Africa Region Statistics

The 2021 Global Missions Field Report listed a constituency of 1,226,398 in the African churches located in 46 countries.

Descriptions	Totals
Constituents	1,226,398
Ministers	6,046
Established Churches	4,676
Established Preaching Places	1,273
New Churches	216
New Preaching Places	236
Bible Colleges	70
Bible College Students	1,298
Seminars	155
Seminar Students	18,189

Regional Directors of Africa from 1971 Onward

In 1971 the Foreign Missions Division established the regional field supervisor position to provide improved oversight and communication with the missionaries on the field. In 1996, the title was changed to regional director. At the time of this writing (2021), four men have served in this position over the fifty-year span:

- E. L. Freeman (1971–1988)
- John Paul Hughes (1989–1996)
- Jerry Richardson (1996–2015)
- Randy Adams (2016–Active)

E. L. Freeman's 1971 appointment as the first regional field supervisor followed the Freemans' twenty-three years as missionaries in South Africa. With more than two decades of missionary experience in South Africa behind them, E. L. and Nona filled this position with excellence.

John Paul Hughes's 1989 appointment as regional field supervisor came after fourteen years of African missionary involvement. Before assuming the role of RFS, J. P. and June Hughes had served as furlough replacements in seven countries, plus appointment to Kenya. Their love for missionaries and acquaintance with all the Africa regions equipped them well for this ministry.

Jerry Richardson's 1996 appointment as regional director followed twenty-four years of missionary work in Madagascar with his wife, Vickie. By the 1990s, UPCI missions had expanded into twenty-six African countries, thus stretching the regional director's vision and responsibility. As seasoned missionaries and visionaries, the Richardsons implemented new programs to facilitate growth and revival in the expanding Africa Region.²

1. *Subregions and conferences* brought missionaries and national church leaders together to establish and work toward common goals and vision. National leaders drew strength and inspiration from each other at the sub-regional conferences. Shared ideas expanded vision and brought unity throughout the Africa Region. As Scripture states, "Iron sharpens iron."

2. *Area Coordinators* — In conjunction with the subregions, a missionary within each sub-region was appointed to provide oversight, project vision, and communicate with the regional director as needed.

3. *Vision for Africa Ministries* provided the umbrella for seven specialized regional ministries organized for the Africa Region: (1) Africa Network of Prayer, (2) Africa Aflame, (3) Leadership Development - Africa, (4) Campus Ministries - Africa, (5) Africa Association of Theological Studies, (6) Reaching Africa's Children, and (7) Africa Regional Promotions.

4. *Africa Association of Theological Training (AATT)* — AATT, the outcome of a meeting designated as Diversified Training for Diversified Africa,

elevated and unified Africa's Bible school program. It purposed to implement excellence in theological training. This Africa Region's advanced training program ultimately led to the development of GATS (Global Association of Theological Studies), which is now the flagship training program of Global Missions.

5. *The Africa Project* — Utilization of A-Teams for the African countries to assist with evangelizing unreached millions in African nations. Missionary superintendents were encouraged to solicit North American ministers to join a team for their country. The team members made repeated trips to the country to assist with evangelism and training.

6. *New Frontiers* — Special efforts to reach into unevangelized countries.

Foreword

by Africa Regional Director
Randy Adams (2016–Active)

Soon after my conversion I received a definite call into the ministry. In relatively short order, my wife, Carolyn, and I started a Bible study, which quickly evolved into weekly services. For the next nine years we served as founding pastors of Faith Tabernacle UPC in Port Gibson, Mississippi. During this time God spoke to me distinctly about the “Dark-skinned French-speaking people.” This was our first clear call to “Foreign Missions.” We said yes and applied ourselves to study the French language.

I recall a very special weekend at Faith Tabernacle. E. L. and Nona Freeman agreed to come and preach a missions weekend. We received an amazing blessing as the first regional field supervisor of the Africa Region ministered in our church and spent quality time with us. Carolyn and I sat and listened intently to the testimonies and stories they shared. Little did we know that one day we would be asked to take up the same mantle of leadership for the Africa Region.

John Paul and June Hughes followed the Freemans as regional field supervisor (RFS). After the Hugheses, Jerry and Vickie Richardson assumed the leadership of the Africa Region with a name change from RFS to regional director (RD). For the next twenty-one years, the Richardsons led the Africa Region with their passionate and visionary leadership. One of the greatest honors of my life was to serve under Jerry’s

Foreword

leadership. I learned much from him, and his influence continues to play a key role in my life and leadership style.

In early 1995 Carolyn and I made our first trip to West Africa. On that trip we discovered the “dark-skinned French-speaking people” about whom God had spoken to us in our early ministry. In October of that same year, we were appointed as career missionaries to the nations of Benin and Togo. We resigned the pastorate of Faith Tabernacle and began deputation in early 1996. With God’s blessing we quickly completed our first budget and departed for the field on December 8, 1996.

For the next twenty years our love for and understanding of the people of Africa grew as did our responsibilities to the work. In 2002 we began serving as area coordinator for French West Africa, and in 2012 our assignment changed to include all of West Africa (English and French). Then in 2015 our responsibilities expanded with our appointment as Africa Regional Director. Once again, we said yes. Without doubt our years serving as pastor of the home missions church, resident missionary, and area coordinator prepared us for the enormous responsibility of leading our missionaries and national leaders in Africa.

In the early years of our missionary career, I read a biography of the life of David Livingstone. As Dr. Livingstone and other pioneer Christian missionaries blazed trails into the heart of Africa preaching the gospel, they became the first white faces to encounter the beautiful people of Africa. Much has changed in

the last 175 years in Africa, but some things remain unchanged, such as the value of souls and the gospel that saves.

Today Africa is well-known as a very fruitful harvest field of Apostolic revival. Having experienced this firsthand, I can attest to this reality. The fruitful seed of the gospel has been sown and watered by the sweat, tears, and sometimes blood of Apostolic missionaries who gave their all to accomplish the command given by Jesus Christ in the Great Commission: “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Despite, or perhaps because of, disease, wars, social unrest and political upheaval, the Apostolic church in Africa continues to see record growth and increase. Every twenty-four hours in Africa an average of over one hundred people are baptized in Jesus’ name and filled with the Holy Spirit. The church in Africa is blessed with visionary leadership, both national and missionary, moving the church forward.

Aiden Wilson Tozer said, “God is looking for those with whom He can do the impossible—what a pity that we plan only the things that we can do by ourselves.” Africa has been blessed by an extraordinary array of men and women of faith who believed God for the impossible. Some died having never seen the harvest for which they labored. But those who followed in their footsteps, put their hands to the plow, and caught the vision have witnessed the fulfillment of the dreams and visions of those precious pioneers (elders).

Someone said that if we missionaries today can see afar, it is because we’re standing on the shoulders of the

Foreword

spiritual giants who preceded us. Some of those spiritual giants of the early days of the Apostolic movement in Africa are the likes of “Daddy” A. J. and “Mother” Pearl Holmes (Liberia); E. L. and Nona Freeman (South Africa); Kenneth and Bobbye Wendell (Ethiopia); Denzel and Frieda Richardson (Madagascar); Mack and Bobbie Carpenter (Swaziland); Wilma Ruth Nix (Zimbabwe/Bophuthatswana); Else Lund (Liberia/Ghana); Robert and Evangeline Rodenbush (Ghana); and the list goes on.

UPCI missions history is rich, but much work remains to be done. Statistics show that half the population of Africa is under the age of eighteen years. What does this mean? Upward to 700,000,000 children and youth in Africa must hear the Apostolic message. What a daunting challenge! Africa urgently needs gifted workers in children and youth ministry. Africa still has countries, regions, mega-cities, towns, villages, and unreached people groups who have never heard of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Africa urgently needs more helping hands. Bible schools need instructors and administrators. Nationalized fields still need help with training and evangelism. Newly opened fields urgently need leadership and Apostolic ministry.

A quote from Dr. David Livingstone’s journal (circa 1853) speaks hope to the current generation of God-called missionaries:

Future missionaries will be rewarded by conversions for every sermon. We are their pioneers

and helpers. Let them not forget the watchmen of the night, we who worked when all was gloom and no evidence of success in the way of conversion cheered our path. They will doubtless have more light than we, but we served our Master earnestly and proclaimed the same gospel as they will do.

Pioneer missionaries were trailblazers, and many traveled a one-way road—meaning they knew they might never return to the homeland. Some literally *bought the field* and were buried in the land of their labors. Missionaries in Africa today still benefit from the paths opened by those pioneer men and women of fearless faith. We may never know the extent of the hardships they endured and sacrifices they made to open Africa to the gospel. But we can know they obediently walked by faith. They gave their best, and God blessed their labors by sending unprecedented revival to the people of Africa. The words of the apostle Paul come to mind: “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.” And God continues to give the increase.

One hundred years before I was born, David Livingstone purposed to open a path for the gospel from Linyanti (on the border with present-day Botswana and Namibia) to Loanda (modern-day Luanda, Angola). Many warned him of the dangers of such a venture and futilely tried to dissuade him. But he stated his purpose in clear terms: “I shall open up a path into the interior [of Africa] or perish.”

Foreword

This indomitable spirit of determination in the heart of that special breed of men and women called missionaries is pictured in the pages of this book. Read their stories. Hear their heartbeat. Feel their passion. And accept the challenge to carry on their legacy.

Welcome to Africa.

Just a parting word of caution:

“Once you get African sand in your shoes, it’s impossible to get it out.”

PART II

UPCI's Beginnings in Africa



LIBERIA

Sowers and reapers rejoice together as the Lord adds to
the church.

1

The Beginning and Spread of UPCI Global Missions in Africa

With the merging of the Pentecostal Church Incorporated (PCI) and the Pentecostal Assemblies of Jesus Christ (PAJC) to form the United Pentecostal Church in 1945, foreign (global) missions entered an epochal season. Now, seventy-five years later, the amazing, miraculous stories of African missionary work must be published to testify of God's mighty works, to honor those who have faithfully labored, and to inspire others to listen for God's call to global missions.

At the time of the 1945 merger, many of the missionaries endorsed by the two organizations continued their work under the umbrella of the United Pentecostal Church. However, no specific 1945 list of UPC missionaries to Africa was found. The March 1946 *Herald* listed the following missionaries present at the first UPC Missions Conference in January 1946: Neva Russel, E. L. Freeman, Gladys Robinson, and Carmen Campbell to Africa; Peter M. Jensen to Liberia, West Africa. However, the E. L. Freemans didn't arrive in Africa until 1948. No further record appeared for Carmen Campbell. Missionaries to Africa listed as on the field in July 1946 were in Liberia, West Africa: Louis and Helen Haney, Otis and Rosezell Petty, A. J. and Pearl Holmes. A 1947 list included

The Beginning and Spread of Missions in Africa

missionaries in Liberia and Congo, but no further information was found regarding Congo. *For over twenty years (1945 to 1966) UPC missionary appointments to Africa included only Liberia and South Africa.* During these early years, resident missionaries in these two countries sometimes traveled across the borders to share the Apostolic message with neighboring nations.

Expansion into other nations of Africa by appointed resident UPC missionaries began just before the 1970s. Between 1966 and 1968, eleven missionary units (six couples and five single women) were appointed to six countries: Liberia, South Africa, Ethiopia, Rhodesia, Madagascar, and Ghana.¹ The four new countries noted below are listed in the order in which the missionaries arrived on their fields. Appointed in 1966, Kenneth and Bobbye Wendell were listed as outgoing missionaries to Ethiopia in 1968. Appointed in 1967, Wilma Ruth Nix arrived in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in April 1969. Appointed in 1967 to Madagascar after serving in the Philippines for five years, Denzil and Frieda Richardson arrived on the field in June 1969. Appointed in 1968, Robert and Evangeline Rodenbush arrived in Ghana in October 1969. One other couple, Alvin and Rhoda Cobb, was appointed to Madagascar in 1965. They did arrive on the field but resigned without establishing a work.

During the decade of the 1970s, missionaries were appointed to eight more countries of Africa: Nigeria, Kenya, Malawi, Ivory Coast, Senegal, Tanzania, Botswana, and Sierra Leone. With UPC missionaries

The Beginning and Spread of Missions in Africa

residing in and reaching across borders from fourteen countries, the African church began experiencing significant growth.

Missionary appointments in the 1980s added five African countries: Cameroon, Mauritius, Swaziland, Zambia, Zaire (Democratic Republic of Congo-DRC). The appointees to Zaire, Theodore and Patricia Grosbach, ministered in three other countries for eighteen years while awaiting their resident visas for Zaire, which changed its name to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the intervening years. While awaiting visas, the Grosbachs ministered in the DRC as visitors.

Appointments in the 1990s sent resident missionaries to four additional African nations: Bophuthatswana, Benin, Togo, and Uganda. William Ruth Nix, the first resident missionary to Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), opened the work in Bophuthatswana.

Resident missionary appointments between 2000 and 2020 added four more countries: Rwanda, Burundi, Gabon, and Guinea. In addition, an appointment to French West Africa added countries into which Missionary Craig Sully made frequent trips to provide oversight where no missionary resided permanently.

For a graphical representation of this data and other resources, see www.pentecostalpublishing.com/sent.



