

# Countries of the world: Africa

## Teacher's topic guide

### God is our Saviour Year 7

#### **Spiritual Awareness: Sharing the Gospel includes giving to the poor**

God has provided enough food for the whole world, but greed and selfishness prevent many from receiving their share. The Christian response to this is a generous heart. God wants us to share what we have with those in need.

God is love, and wants us to share His love with others. He has told us to preach the Gospel to all cultures. God loves all people equally, regardless of colour, race or belief system.

#### **Values; Our response to 'God is our Saviour'**

- **Compassion** towards others and a desire to pray for those in need
- **Generosity:** Sharing what we have with others
- **Contentment** with what we have, in comparison to others who have less

#### **Outcomes:** Students will

- Identify the continent of Africa on a map, and some of the countries within it.
- Compare and contrast our own resources with those of a selected nation.
- Compare consumption of energy, food and resources of wealthy and poor nations
- Become familiar with organizations that can promote the sharing of resources, and hence support needy countries
- Ask questions about the quality of life in other countries
- Present research on the poorest nations in Africa

#### **Bible stories and passages**

Matthew 25:35-40 I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

Mark 12:41-44 The widow's gift.

Luke 7:36-50 The woman with the jar of perfume. She gave all she had.

Luke 10:38-42 Mary's love for Jesus

John 12:1-8 The precious ointment

Proverbs 21:13 If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.

Proverbs 22:9 Be generous and share your food with the poor.

Isaiah 58:7-11 Share your food with the hungry.

Luke 6:38 Give and it shall be given.

Psalms 112:5; Proverbs 11:25 Be generous.

Proverbs 3:9-10 Honour God with your money

Matthew 7:7 God gives to those who ask.

Matthew 10:8 Freely you have received, freely give.

2 Corinthians 9:7-9 God loves a person who gives happily.

2 Corinthians 8:7 Generosity

Mark 16:15-18 The Great Commission

1 John 4:16 God is love.

Luke 4:8 Jesus came to bring good news to the poor.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

Matthew 10:8 Freely you have received, freely give.

### Key Questions

What do we need to live a comfortable life?

Do we have more than what we need?

How do we get the things we need?

What would happen to our country if there were a major catastrophe such as flood or drought?

Can you name any countries where this has happened?

How can these people get the things they need?

What does God want me to do?

How can I give to people in need?

How can rich countries help poor countries?

Does God love rich people more than poor people?

Does God love Christians more than non-Christians?

How can I share God's love with others?

### Activities

- Draw a map of Africa and mark in the world's poorest countries within the continent of Africa
- Research and present information on one of the world's poorest nations. (See student notes: *Eight poorest African nations*)
- Compare and contrast our own resources with those of a selected nation.
- Mark countries, major cities, rivers and other geographical features on a map of Africa.
- Compare consumption of energy, food and resources of wealthy and poor nations
- Become familiar with organizations that can promote the sharing of resources, and hence support those in need
- Set up a display, depicting different lifestyle and culture of an African nation. Compare feelings, level of happiness, diets, resources, health and educational standards with richer nations.
- Use an illustration with dried beans and jars or plastic cups, to show the difference between the countries that "have" and "have not". Choose different countries to represent different cups. Fill the cups according to how much food that country has available, e.g. full, half full, quarter full. Use the statistics in the student notes: *Eight poorest African nations*, (See students notes).
- Use the \$ statistics in this document for classifying countries rich, poor or in the middle.
- Discuss ways of giving to people who lack resources.
- Make a study of the animals of Africa and discuss problems of animal extinction – the causes and the solutions.

### Assessment

1. Present information on one country where there are many people in great need. Explain the problems and suggest some ways in which this country could be helped.
2. What have I learned from the study other nations...
  - about God?
  - about doing what God wants me to do?
  - about sharing what I have?

**Biographies:** Mary Slessor (Nigeria), Albert Sweitzer (West Africa)

**Student notes:** Problems faced by Africa today; Eight poorest African nations

**Beacon Media resource:** "On Safari" Level 26 Literacy resource

# Values education Year 7

## God is our Saviour

### Cultural understanding, empathy and tolerance

God created people differently. He loves all people, regardless of race, religion or ethnicity.

#### Our response to God is our Saviour

- understand that Jesus died for the whole world, every person of every nation
- recognize that God loves all people equally
- show kindness and consideration to all
- accept and love others

#### Activities and discussion

1. Compare cultural traditions of two different ethnic groups in the areas of: food, music, art.
2. The word “tolerance” means accepting other people’s differences. When differences have no impact on morals, then we can accept and appreciate these differences. Explain how appreciating foods, art and music of different cultures can have a positive influence.
3. Witchcraft has been part of the culture in some African countries. Would it be right to accept, appreciate and take on this aspect of culture?
4. The word “empathy” means to understand how others feel. Why is it important to show empathy? Think of a situation where empathy would be important.

#### What does the Bible say about accepting people of different cultures?

- Luke 10:25-38 The Good Samaritan
- John 3:16 God so loved the WHOLE world that He gave His son
- Revelation 7:9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from **every nation**, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.
- Matthew 22:37-39 Love the Lord your God. Love your neighbour as yourself. (Neighbour refers to people of other nationalities)
- John 4:1-26 Jesus and the Samaritan woman.

# Art Year 7

## God is our Saviour

### Continent of Africa

**Biblical wall art and text:** For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not die but have everlasting life. John 3:16

#### Painting and drawing

Note the warm colours of Africa: hues of red, orange and yellow

#### Animals of Africa



#### Village life

#### African landscape with baobab trees



# Mary Slessor

## Biography

Mary Slessor was born in Scotland in 1848. She came from a very poor family. Her father died when she was quite young, and her mother supported the four children through her job at the weaving mills. When Mary was only eleven, she started working at the mills with her mother. The family lived in one room, in a dirty street.

When Mary was a teenager she decided to educate herself. Mary's mother was a Christian, and while attending the Presbyterian church, Mary was challenged by the need for missionaries in West Africa.

Mary went to Africa and dedicated her life to helping the people of Calabar, (now in Nigeria). The hot, humid climate, and prevalence of malaria made life difficult, but she didn't give up. Mary is remembered for her work as a peace maker among the people. The slave trade, which had developed in earlier years, had made human life cheap. White people would arrive on African shores and offer black traders all kinds of gifts for capturing men, women and children, who would then be forced on to ships and taken to far away places to work for the whites. Although this practice was no longer in existence when Mary arrived, the bribery and corruption of earlier years had caused tribesmen of Calabar to become cruel and unconcerned for the value of human life. Fighting, drinking and cruelty to women were common. Mary rescued hundreds of unwanted babies, particularly twins. The tribesmen came to respect her and she convinced them of the need to talk about their troubles instead of fighting. She set up court cases and reasoned with the tribesmen.

She also set up schools and cared for the sick. She built a hospital and set up training centres for women. Mary never stopped working. She finally died in Calabar in 1915.

# Albert Schweitzer

## Biography

Albert Schweitzer was born in 1875 and died in 1965. He was a lived in a French speaking part of Germany, close to the border of France and Germany, called Alsace. He was a Christian doctor who worked as a medical missionary in Africa. He worked in the Gabon Republic which is a French speaking colony on the west coast of Northern Africa.

Albert was the son of a minister. As a young man, Albert studied the Bible and was a very good speaker. His father hoped that Albert would become a church minister like himself. But Albert gave up his study at Bible College to study medicine. He said that he wanted to help people by working with his hands.

In 1913 Albert left for Africa with his wife. In the first 9 months of his work, Albert had about 2,000 patients to examine, some travelling many days and hundreds of kilometers to reach him. In addition to injuries, he was often treating severe sandflea bites, tropical sores, heart disease, tropical dysentery, tropical malaria, sleeping sickness, leprosy, fevers and tumours. He also tried to stop witchdoctors from deliberately poisoning people.

Schweitzer's wife, Helene, performed anaesthetics for surgical operations. At first they used a shed for a surgery. It had previously been used as a chicken hut. In autumn 1913 they built their first hospital of corrugated iron, with two small rooms (a consulting room and an operating theatre) and a veranda where they sterilised equipment. The waiting room and dormitory were built of logs, like the local African huts. The Schweitzers lived in their own hut. They employed a local African, Joseph, as an assistant. Joseph had come to them at first as a patient.

Albert worked in Africa as a medical missionary for four years. He and Helene often suffered the tropical diseases that affected his patients. In 1918 Albert and Helene returned home for recovery, and it was then that their daughter, Rhena, was born.

By 1920 Albert's health was recovering. He could not stop thinking about his mission in Africa. Being a very good musician, he gave organ recitals to raise money so that he could return to the Gabon Republic.

In 1924, he returned to Africa without Helene and Rhena. Helene was not well enough to continue the harsh life in Africa. An assistant, Noel Gillespie, went with Albert this time. When they arrived, they found that his hospital building needed much repair. They set to work with building and treating people at the same time.

Albert brought with him this time new medicines for treating diseases. A German nurse and doctor joined him in 1924, and another doctor in 1925. More helpers came after that. The growing hospital was supervised by African assistants. Joseph also returned to help. In 1925-6, new hospital buildings were built, and also a ward for white patients, so that the site became like a village.

Much of the building work was carried out with the help of local people and patients. With the new hospital built and the medical team established, Schweitzer returned to Europe in 1927. His last period of work in Africa was from 1929 to 1932.

1. Find Alsace on a map. Where is it?
2. Find the Gabon Republic on a map. Where is it?
3. Why did Albert give up his Bible training?
4. What were some of the medical conditions he treated?
5. How did his wife Helene assist Albert in the medical field?
6. What were some of the difficulties Albert and Helene faced in Africa?
7. Why did they go back to Switzerland?
8. How did Albert raise money to go back to Gabon?
9. What were some of the things achieved on this second trip?
10. How long did he go for on his third and last trip?
11. What do you think would be the hardest thing for Albert?

# Problems faced by Africa today

Student research notes

## Article 1: The World Happiness Report 2017

According to the citizens in the 44 countries surveyed in World Happiness Report 2017 these are the major problems facing the continent.

### 1. Poor Governance

Many African countries are facing a struggle of getting proper democratic governance. In several countries, there has been manipulation of the electoral process. The challenge for current governments regardless of systems used, is the creation and implantation of policies which reflect of the immediate and future needs of the people. Healthcare, security, political stability, and development projects are all affected by poor governance.

### 2. Corruption

Corruption is endemic to the way of life in much of Africa. It has permeated all life facets from simple things like access to medical care, schools and jobs, to the grand scale of it all like award of contracts and use of public resources.

### 3. Unemployment

The whole world may be facing a surge of unemployment especially among the youth but the case for Africa is more dramatic. This is because governments do not sufficiently invest in youths. Unemployment contributes to lower family incomes with many dependents, crime due to joblessness and a host of other social issues.

### 4. Population Growth

The African continent has very high population growth. While the average world fertility rate is 2.5 children per woman, in Africa it is 4.7 children per woman. As growth rates in the rest of the world decrease Africa will contribute 54% of the overall world population growth by 2050. This puts pressure on how to share limited resources among many people.

### 5. Insecurity through violence

This includes everything from urban crime to terrorist groups like Al-Shaabab and Boko-Haram to civil wars in South Sudan and political instability in Libya and Somalia.

### 6. Droughts and Famine

Pro-longed drought periods result in failed crops, depleted grain reserves and loss of livelihoods for a great number of people in the continent.

<https://www.africanexponent.com/post/8304-poor-governance-corruption-and-insecurity-major-problems-confronting-africa>

## Article 2: Six challenges faced by Africa today

**Challenge #1:** Africa's current economic growth rate is far too low.

**Challenge #2:** African industrial development has been stalled since the 1970s.



Only one in five workers in Africa has a job in the wage economy.

**Challenge #3:** The lives of most Africans are affected by poverty, hunger, poor education, ill health, and violence. Incidents of violence against civilians are on the rise.

**Challenge #4:** Every year more Africans live in urban slums.

About 400 million Africans lived in cities in 2010, and 60% of those people lived in slums with no access to basic services. By 2050 that number is expected to grow to 1.26 billion. By 2035 half of all Africans will probably live in cities, with continuing urbanization expected thereafter.

**Challenge #5:** Corruption, corruption, corruption.

This is particularly true of undemocratic governments

**Challenge #6:** Changes to global trade will disadvantage African countries.

### **Some possible answers**

The primary responsibility for addressing these challenges rests with Africans. African business people will have to create the industries that will generate the jobs African workers need. African teachers will have to provide the education that African children need to be economically productive and politically effective. African nurses and doctors will have to do the hard work of raising the quality of health care Africans need. African parents will have to give their children the love, security, and discipline they need to grow into responsible and courageous adults. African political leaders will have to make the changes that will reduce corruption and generate the laws, policies, and practices needed to enable and encourage these preceding non-political efforts. And African citizens will have to create the popular pressure that pushes African governments towards these necessary changes.

<https://providencemag.com/2016/01/six-challenges-facing-africa-2016/>

## **Eight of the poorest nations in the world**

\$ stands for the average total income of a person in a year in US dollars, 2017)

### **Niger (\$415)**

- West Africa
- Over 80% of the country's land area is covered by the Sahara Desert. The non-desert sections of the country are threatened by frequent periods of drought
- The country's economy is mainly based on subsistence with some export of raw materials like uranium ore and a few agricultural commodities.
- Problems: poor health, lack of education, desert terrain, overpopulation

### **Togo (\$636)**

- West Africa
- It is one of the smallest and poorest countries in Africa.
- Only 11% of Togo's land area is fertile land.
- Cassava, millets, corn, jasmine rice are the major crops grown here. However, unstable political situation has led to low market prices of the country's economy.

### **Malawi (\$893)**

- Southeast Africa
- Malawi is among the world's least developed nations. A
- Agriculture contributes to over 90% of the export revenues of the country
- Problems: High rates of HIV/AIDS, poor literacy rates, poor health and hygiene, corruption

### **Liberia (\$716)**

- About 85% of the citizens in Liberia live below the poverty line.
- The poor economic situation in the country is as a result of a series of civil Wars
- and the most recent Ebola virus epidemic in 2014.
- Unemployment rate in Liberia is one of the highest at 15%.

### **Burundi (\$267)**

- East Africa
- The country's political scene has been characterized by a series of assassinations, coups, and a general instability
- Major strife between two people groups, the Tutsis and the Hutus, resulting in deaths of many innocent people.

### **Madagascar (\$972)**

- An island nation in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Southeast Africa
- It is the fourth largest island in the world.
- The island is known for its wildlife, with about 90% of wildlife not found in any other place in the world.
- Madagascar was part of the French Colonial Empire before gaining its independence in 1960.
- About 90% of its 22 million citizens live on less than two dollars a day.
- The country heavily relies on agriculture.

### **The Central African Republic (CAR) (\$333)**

- Significant mineral deposits as well as reserves of many other natural resources including uranium, crude oil, gold, diamonds, cobalt, and forestry
- Large parts of its land are also suitable for crop farming
- Consistently ranked among the poorest countries in the world for several years despite its enormous resources.
- The country has witnessed numerous civil wars and political coups that have contributed to the unstable political environment and poor economic growth.

### **Ethiopia (\$505)**

- Ethiopia has historically been a relatively wealthy nation, but not today
- Has been undergoing a large political reform which has helped economic growth and stability
- But it remains one of the poorest nations in the world
- This is a result of Ethiopia's large population, and dependence on agriculture as a staple in their economy.

### **Compare with:**

**Fiji (\$4,840)**

**Australia (\$54,000)**

**USA (\$56,000)**

**United Kingdom (\$42,000)**