



SATIFYING AFRICA'S THIRST

FOR GOD'S WORD

2020-2021 OASIS UPDATE

 **OASIS**
INTERNATIONAL





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HELLO FROM THE CHAIR

The apostle Paul gave an odd update near the end of 1 Corinthians on how his ministry was going: “A great door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many who oppose me” (16:9 NIV). I would have thought he would have written, “A great door ... has opened, BUT there are many who oppose me.”

His choice of “and” almost seems like he considers resistance to be par for the course. He’s trying to do God’s work—and opposition just goes with the territory; so what else is new? That has certainly been the case during this COVID-19 season, as you will see from reading this report. We couldn’t travel nearly as much as we needed to, shipments got delayed, our main printer had to completely shut down for weeks—but still, “effective work” went on regardless!



I am so glad to be part of Oasis pressing on ahead, despite the complications. Why? Because Africa (and the rest of the Global South) is where the action is, spiritually speaking. The church across Africa is expanding rapidly, evangelism is blossoming from Sunday services to community events to open-air street corners, and through Oasis, I get to be a part of helping satisfy their thirst for God’s Word. Together, we are growing discipleship through publishing African voices.



I’m still smiling about the thank-you note that came from one Bible college president in Liberia who had received a supply of our *Africa Study Bibles*: “This is the best gift I have received in recent history. This new tool will not only help us teach and preach with more clarity but will also help us defeat the lazy argument that the Bible is a Western book.” To that, I say Amen!

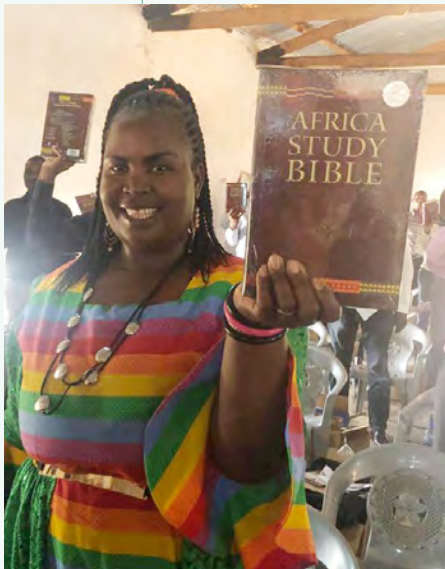
Thank you for helping make this kind of impact.

Dean Merrill
Oasis International Board Chair

BRIDGING THE DISCIPLESHIP GAP

My church small group is reading a book together by an author who thinks a lot like me, who grew up in the same cultural background as me, and was spiritually formed in a church much like mine. The book guides us in sharing Jesus to our post-Christian, postmodern culture.

Here is the thing, Africa is not post-Christian nor postmodern. Most African cultures are very different than my Western culture, in fact nearly every African believes that the spiritual world is real and powerful, an element unaddressed by my small group book.



We must accurately apply the timeless truths of God's Word to our time and place to make disciples. There are thousands of denominations and organizations doing discipleship in Africa that need African-authored biblical resources. Yet they do not have these vital resources.

African voices are necessary to growing discipleship. There is a major discipleship gap of leaders doing ministry without the needed context-appropriate Bibles and books equipping their students with solid biblical truth. This gap is often huge in Africa, causing the spiritual maturity of the world's largest church to hang in the balance. Effective discipleship results in the church responding well to issues like poverty, slavery, corruption, and divorce.

This is why we do what we do at Oasis, to bridge this gap. We have continued to work very hard during this year challenged by COVID-19. We have set up three fully operational hubs throughout Africa, each managed by a local Regional Director; hired an African Operations Manager based in South Africa and a Kenyan as our new Communications and Marketing Manager based in Nairobi; as well as restructured our entire organization around creating affordable resources that are both fully African and fully Christian to meet the needs of the church. Hundreds of ministries, denominations, schools, and bookstores are looking to us to help bridge this discipleship gap with our quality Bibles and biblical resources.

As you will see in the attached report, we are determined to grow discipleship by publishing African voices. We praise God for all he has done this last year and will continue to do in the coming years.

Maranatha,

Matthew Elliott, PhD
Oasis International President



VOICES FROM AFRICA

WATCH RON AND RAY TALK ABOUT *DIVORCE DILEMMA*



Oasis's connection with leading thinkers and writers in Africa, with deep spiritual insights, has opened the door for Oasis's mission of Satisfying Africa's Thirst for God's Word. Despite the challenges of the last year, we continued to engage African voices – providing a platform for Africa's most influential, most relevant, and best communicators to create and communicate the messages God has given them.

The church in Africa is huge, and strong in evangelism, prayer, and faith. However, most believers lack access to biblical resources written from perspectives that meet the needs of their unique cultures, empowering them to go deeper in their faith. One of the greatest needs of schools, relief agencies, churches, and ministries is resources for authentic discipleship.

Africa is rich with writers who can meet these discipleship needs through their messages for the church in Africa and the world. Their books will teach believers around the world something new about topics like polygamy, extended family expectations, spiritual warfare, the false allure of the prosperity gospel, and God's covenant with his people - some topics that are unique to Africa but most with insights that are relevant to Christians around the world.

Oasis is privileged to be working with authors from Africa who speak clearly to African contexts. We're excited to introduce three of these authors who worked through 2020 on their books that are now in the last stages of publishing and will be released in 2021.

REV DR RON MISIKO AND REV DR RAY MOTSI



Divorce is rising throughout Africa. We are seeing broken marriages leave families in pain. The church faces a dilemma. We are not sure how to connect what the Bible says with the person in front of us. We may be afraid of saying or doing the wrong thing, so we avoid talking about divorce at all.

But divorce isn't going away. Instead, struggling people are going away, fearful or frustrated about turning to Christians for help. How can we respond as the body of Christ? Two wise church leaders share all they have learned in a practical handbook, *The Divorce Dilemma*.

Rev Dr Ron Misiko's heart broke for divorced people while pastoring for 12 years at Karura Community Chapel in Nairobi, Kenya. It spurred him to research

about the church's response for his doctorate and to found a divorce care ministry. As an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya trained in mediation, Dr Misiko also shares insights from his legal expertise.

Rev Dr Ray Motsi has been a pastor for over 20 years and has seen biblical principles transform his own marriage and couples he has counselled. Dr Motsi is the President of the Theological College of Zimbabwe. He holds degrees in theology, Old Testament and Hebrew, and conflict resolution and trauma Healing. He founded Grace to Heal, a faith-based organization for community peace-making.

Their book will equip you to understand what the Bible says, what divorced people go through, and what Christians can do to navigate these challenges with God's grace and truth.

DR LEVINA MULANDI

Today's generation of African women in cities face an unprecedented challenge. Africa's population is 40% urban and the median age is just over 19. Many young adults and women with young families shoulder great responsibility and navigate life on their own, often wishing they had mentors to guide them.

Over the past two decades, Dr Levina Mulandi, has disciplined women who are concerned about the state of their community, city, and nation, but do not know how to make a difference. They often do not realize that Christ has called them as his disciples to disciple others, and that they can find fulfillment through investing in younger women.

In her soon to be released book, *The Sisterhood Secret: Changing the World Together, One Woman at a Time*, Dr Mulandi casts a vision by telling stories of some of the 50 women in Nairobi, Kenya she has disciplined. More than Bible study or a church program, Dr Mulandi shares how she empowers any woman to mentor younger women, guiding them to understand their identity, discern the purpose of their lives, and be transformed to be more like Christ.

The women that Dr Mulandi has walked with have mentored dozens more through this life-on-life discipleship model which is a family relationship between sisters in Christ.



**WATCH LEVINA TALK ABOUT
THE SISTERHOOD SECRETS**

PASTOR HANKURI TAWUS GAYA

Many young people in Africa have ideas for how to change their community, church, or nation – but feel powerless to make them happen. They struggle with trying to respect the authority of their leaders but yearn for them to see their vision.

Pastor Hankuri Tawus Gaya, co-author of one of our latest books, *Influence: Leading Without Position*, is passionate about raising up young godly leaders. Motivated by that passion, Pastor Gaya and Dr Phil Morrison co-authored this book which teaches how you can influence others to take action and start change, just as young men and women in the Bible did.

There are inspiring stories of influencers recorded in the Bible. Real stories of the lives of young

people who influenced nations and leaders even when they did not have official positions of power. Each of these influencers faced a different challenge, similar to what we face today in our churches and nations.

In their book, Dr Morrison and Pastor Gaya demonstrate how anyone can be a leader no matter how young you are. Even if you have no official position, no one under your authority, and no title, you can be a leader. How? The secret is influence.

We look forward to seeing young people in Africa and around the world will use this tool to begin leading transformation in their communities in Africa and beyond.



**WATCH HANKURI AND PHIL
TALK ABOUT INFLUENCE**

EQUIPPING LEADERS TO IMPACT THE CHURCH IN AFRICA

DR CHARLEMAGNE NDITEMEH

SHEPHERD, SERVANT, AND
STEWARD IN GOD'S KINGDOM

In October 2020, Dr Charlemagne Nditemeh embarked on a journey to deliver 40 *Africa Study Bibles* into different regions of Cameroon. He traversed into the bush to equip and train pastors with the *Africa Study Bible*. He reported then, "My pilgrimage to empower pastors with *Africa Study Bibles* was exceptionally unique in my ministry life and lifetime. The journey went where no car can go further, I was taken in a wooden boat across a huge swift river, and then by bike for miles on a muddy pathway."

Dr Nditemeh committed his valuable time and effort so his former seminary students could more effectively study God's Word as they guide their congregations. As a pastor and past president of the Baptist Seminary in Cameroon, Dr. Nditemeh is continually guiding his flocks as a shepherd, servant and steward. To him, discipleship is a lifelong commitment.

In November 2020, his fellow leaders voted him as the new Executive President of the Cameroon Baptist Convention. Today, he shepherds 1,537 churches and is excited to serve their 230,000 members. He says, "what I desire people to know about me is that I love to live out my faith as a primitive Christian practicing primitive Christianity. I want people to know my love for truth and justice to prevail in church. I am afraid to say that nowadays in some churches, the truth is tortured even more than the secular world does."

Dr Nditemeh has promised to steward the church on Truth, Equity and Development (T.E.D.). To him, these are not just words but are his core values.



He is passionate about holistic development and for people to achieve what they were created for. His TED Initiative will empower men, women and their families with the means to break the cycle of material and spiritual poverty through the provision of basic business training, mentorship and discipleship.

Dr Nditemeh is an *Africa Study Bible* contributor where he wrote, "Moses placed two choices before the Israelites: physical and spiritual blessings and a special relationship with God would be theirs if they were obedient to God's commands, but disobedience would lead to ruin and destruction (Deuteronomy 30). We face the same choice today. Africa's future depends on our community and national choices. We can either obey God's principles and reap blessings now and into everlasting life, or we can follow the path of unrighteousness and face suffering. Often the health of societies reflects how they live out these commands."

Oasis has partnered with Dr Nditemeh and has supported his ministry over many years. We have seen him grow into the leader that he is today. As a leader he says, "Without exception, there is an expiry date for every leadership; the expiry date for leadership teaches and has trained our souls to tread on the path of lasting usefulness."

Dr Nditemeh exemplifies one of our 2021 book releases which explores the ultimate purpose of leadership to grow into what God has designed us to be.

"I highly recommend this book to all those who want to lead and be led well." –Dr Joshua Bongunjoko, International Director, SIM



**IMAGES OF LEADERSHIP:
BIBLICAL PORTRAITS OF
GODLY LEADERS**
by Dave Bremner

This full-colour gift book studies the portraits God uses throughout Scripture to paint the profile of a faithful leader in his kingdom on Earth to be loving shepherds, humble servants, and faithful stewards. It speaks honestly about the dangers and messiness of leadership yet points to the ultimate purpose of leadership: to grow into what God has designed us to be like Christ.

See more Oasis books on page 10

THE POWER OF CONTEXTUAL DISCIPLESHIP

At the end of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in November 2020, Oasis and its partner, WordSpread Foundation, jumped at the opportunity to train and equip pastors in the rural areas of Mzuzu and Zomba in Malawi, through their Church Growth outreach.

More than 160 pastors received personal evangelism training through “Grow Your Church” kits. These kits, developed by WordSpread Foundation, contain *Africa Study Bible* and *New Living Translation: Africa Edition* Bibles, both published by Oasis, as well as other materials are used to empower local Christians in reaching out to their congregations and communities.

The pastors, taken through practical training, shared their own testimonies – some for the very first time – are now equipped to go out and reach more than 15,000 believers in Malawi.

Upon invitation by the President of Malawi, through his Religious Adviser, we returned to Malawi in April 2021. A group came together that hopes to see thousands of pastors and leaders better equipped to serve as pastors, with the *Africa Study Bible* as the main resource for the training.

During the same time an additional 300 pastors will be equipped in rural areas of Lilongwe, Kasungu, and Mchinji. In May 2021, this partnership will visit Zambia to present two Church Growth conferences in Lusaka and Kitwe, with hundreds more to be equipped. This is just the start of much larger opportunities to introduce the church in these nations to the *Africa Study Bible*.

Be sure to visit godswordforafrica.com to learn more about how you can get involved with this and more projects.



GROWING DISCIPLESHIP

PASTOR TRAINING IMPACT IN MALAWI

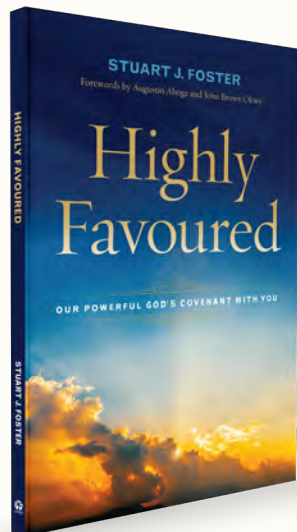
“I just wanted to send a message of appreciation for the course on personal evangelism, and the materials that we received. It helped me and also our church through the members who are going around the community, testifying about the goodness God and what [he] has done [in] their life. Also, the church now know how can they dedicate themselves to pray for [each] other. Thanks a lot may the grace of God continue to be with you. Shalom.” – Pastor Gilbert Munishi, located in Nkhotakota, Central Malawi.



“The Lord gives the word, and a great army brings the good news.” –Psalm 68:11 (NLT)



KEY TITLES FOR GROWING DISCIPLESHIP IN AFRICA



HIGHLY FAVOURED: OUR POWERFUL GOD'S COVENANT WITH YOU

Stuart J. Foster

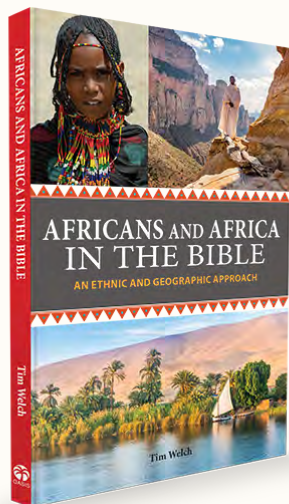
Highly Favoured is about the God of the Bible who is not unreliable or inaccessible like the spiritual beings in African traditional religions – but the one who offers protection, blessing, and power of his spirit. Foster takes readers through God's choice to have a covenant relationship with his people and them not having to earn God's favour.



INFLUENCE: LEADING WITHOUT POSITION

Philip E. Morrison and Hankuri Tawus Gaya

Do you have ideas for how to change your community, church, or nation - but feel powerless to make them happen? *Influence* tells readers how they can influence others to take action, regardless of title, age, or qualifications, just as young men and women in the Bible did.



AFRICANS AND AFRICA IN THE BIBLE

Tim Welch

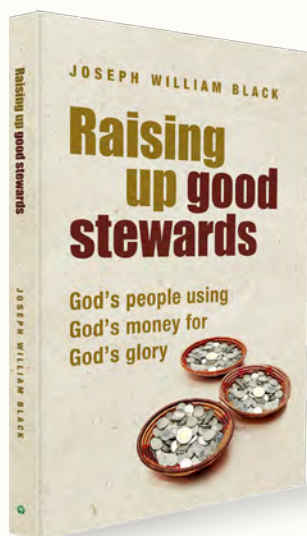
This practical reference book shows the presence and the participation of Africans in the biblical text, helping demonstrate that Christianity is not a “white man’s religion” and that Christianity has deep roots in African soil. Extensive appendices indicate precisely the African people and places mentioned either directly or indirectly in the Christian Scriptures, supporting the premise that Africans are not simply recipients of the gospel message, but they are an integral part of it.



HELPING WITHOUT HURTING IN AFRICA

Jonny Kabiswa Kyazze and Anthony Sytsma with Brian Fikkert

Based on the principles of the best-selling book, *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself* (Moody 2012), *Helping Without Hurting in Africa* trains leaders to proclaim the gospel in both word and deed, changing mind-sets and helping them apply biblical principles to care wisely and compassionately for people who are poor without unintentionally doing harm.

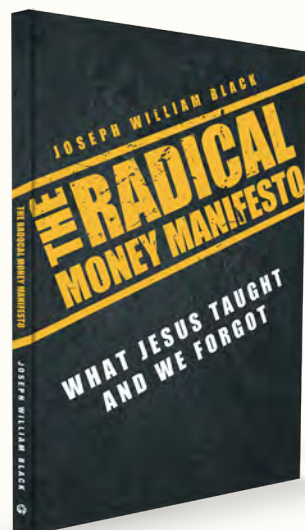


RAISING UP GOOD STEWARDS

Joseph William Black

For anyone who leads a church, a ministry, or an organization in Africa, *Raising Up Good Stewards* gives practical solutions for ministry. Learn how to increase church giving with integrity, support your family and the needy, and restore the church's witness, and credibility in corrupt contexts. Solving the money problems in churches doesn't require outside donors or unethical shortcuts. As we become good stewards using what Jesus has entrusted to us, he will use us to bless our world.

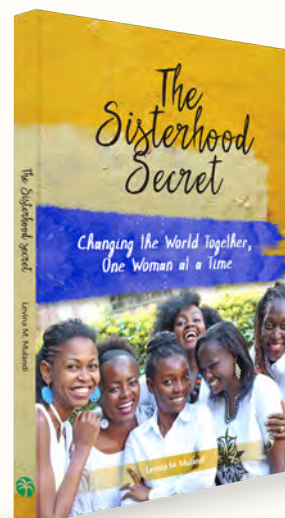
Coming late 2021.



THE RADICAL MONEY MANIFESTO

Joseph William Black

Based on the biblical and church history insights of *Raising Up Good Stewards*, *The Radical Money Manifesto* includes Bible study questions for learning to be stewards together. Jesus has a much bigger agenda for how you use the money he entrusted to you. Jesus issues a radical manifesto for citizens of the kingdom of Heaven. He offers freedom from fretting, justice for the poor, and investment opportunities with eternal pay-offs. Whatever it costs, Jesus promises it will be worth it. Coming late 2021.



THE SISTERHOOD SECRET: CHANGING THE WORLD ONE WOMAN AT A TIME

Levina Mulandi

Over the past two decades, the author has disciplined over 50 women who have disciplined dozens more. In this book Mulandi shares inspiring stories from her personal experiences that empower women to begin sharing God's Word and life with younger sisters and together, influence their families, churches, businesses, schools, government, and healthcare.

Coming late 2021.

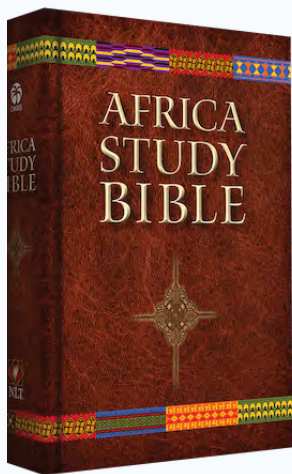
For a full catalogue of our books visit:

oasisinternationalpublishing.com/catalogue



"But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, 'How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!'" –Romans 10:14-15 (NLT)

BIBLES FOR GROWING DISCIPLESHIP

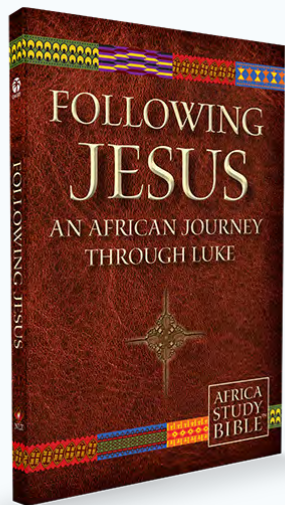


AFRICA STUDY BIBLE, NLT

God's Word Through African Eyes

The *Africa Study Bible* is the most ethnically-diverse, single-volume, biblical resource to date. Written by 350 contributors from 50 countries, it includes the Holy Bible: New Living Translation, and more than 2,600 features that illuminate the truth of Scripture with unique, African perspectives.

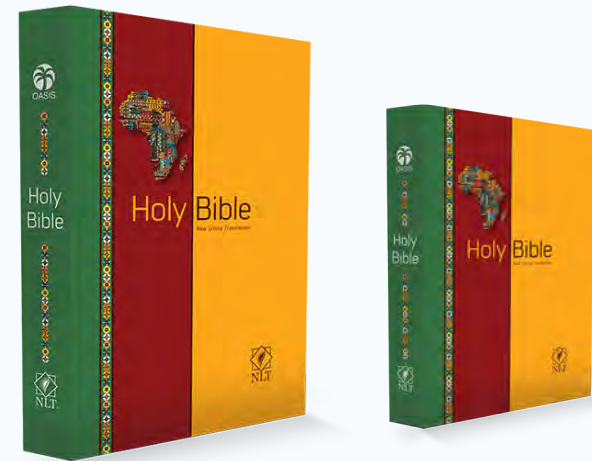
The *Africa Study Bible* is a monumental study Bible, with notes by scholars and pastors in Africa who see the critical need to make Scripture relevant to our everyday lives. It's an all-in-one course in biblical content, theology, history, and culture.



FOLLOWING JESUS: AN AFRICAN JOURNEY THROUGH LUKE

Who is Jesus and how do I follow him? This is a question millions are asking. *Following Jesus: An African Journey Through Luke* seeks to answer these questions from uniquely African perspectives. Featuring the clear and easy-to-read New Living Translation and 50 notes and features from the *Africa Study Bible*, this small-format Gospel of Luke is the perfect evangelism tool for the African continent.

It contains the Gospel of Luke from the New Living Translation; answers to critical questions; notes and features leading new believers to a deeper understanding of Christ from African perspectives on topics such as: "Who is Luke?", "The Good News of Jesus Christ", and "The Accuracy of the Gospels."

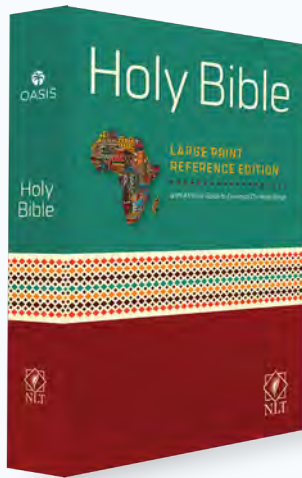


NLT: AFRICA EDITION

The *New Living Translation: Africa Edition Bible* from Oasis International marries the beauty of a clear and accurate Bible text with Africa-relevant features such as book introductions that connect each book's content to African contexts and a full timeline of God's work in Africa that informs students. This NLT edition also includes a more than 45-page expanded concordance to help to further navigate Scripture, full-colour maps that illustrate Africa's role in the Bible, a presentation of the Story of the Bible to give clarity from African contexts, and a full-colour presentation page to make this Bible the perfect gift or keepsake.

The *New Living Translation: Africa Edition Bible* comes in two sizes. The smaller, more portable version is available for use in schools to teach children the truth of the Word of God from a contextual and relevant point of view.

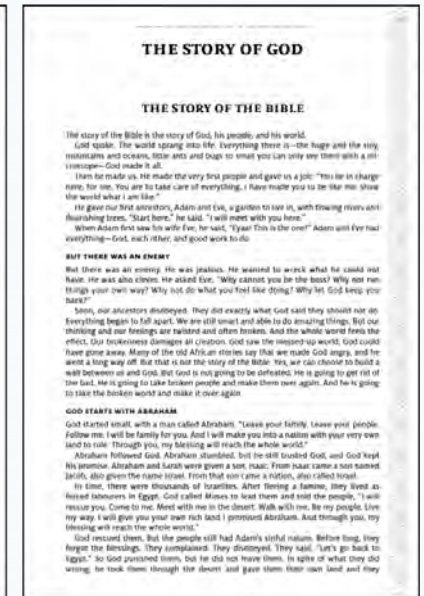
You can help school children get first-time access to Bibles. Visit godswordforafrica.com to learn more.



NLT LARGE PRINT REFERENCE BIBLE WITH AFRICA'S GUIDE TO ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN BELIEF

Oasis is currently working on our newest Bible edition - *NLT Large Print Reference Bible*. This versatile reference Bible features large text and utilities for pastors and teachers, which include a concordance; a centre column reference; books introductions; and articles and resources that make up a brief course in systematic theology. The unique features of this Bible are written by and for Africans, from African perspectives.

Visit oasisbibles.com to pre-order this Bible edition.



Prof Dr Abel Ndjareau (left) an *Africa Study Bible* contributor and Professor at Shalom Evangelical School of Theology in Chad alongside Greg Burgess (right), our French project leader and founder of PJA, are excited and working hard to complete and launch *La Bible d'étude, perspectives africaines*.

LA BIBLE D'ÉTUDE: PERSPECTIVES AFRICAINES

Over 100 million Christians in Africa read and are educated in French, but there are shockingly less French resources than English. The enthusiastic response to the *Africa Study Bible* in English continues to confirm its importance, but the lack of biblical resources in the French language makes the need for the French version even greater.

We are partnering with PJA (Publications pour la jeunesse africaines) in creating this vital resource for Francophone Africa. To learn more about this massive undertaking and how you can help us complete *La Bible d'étude: perspectives africaines*, visit labepa.com.

"French-speaking Africa is known for its material poverty. One element of this poverty is the lack of Christian literature resources in the French language. With so few study Bibles in Francophone Africa, translating this Bible is not merely a priority, it is a necessity, an emergency. It will be like providing food (God's Word) for a starving population." – Dr Daniel Bourdagné, Former General Secretary, International Fellowship of Evangelical Students

SUSTAINABLE PUBLISHING FOR GLOBAL CHURCH IMPACT

EMPOWERING ECONOMIC IMPACT

PUBLISHING AND EDITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

With your support, we have expanded our African reach and resources in equipping pastors, leaders, and students in Africa; and developing contextualized content for discipleship.

We now have partners, authors, and staff – editorial, sales, and marketing – throughout 20 countries in East, West, Central, and Southern Africa.

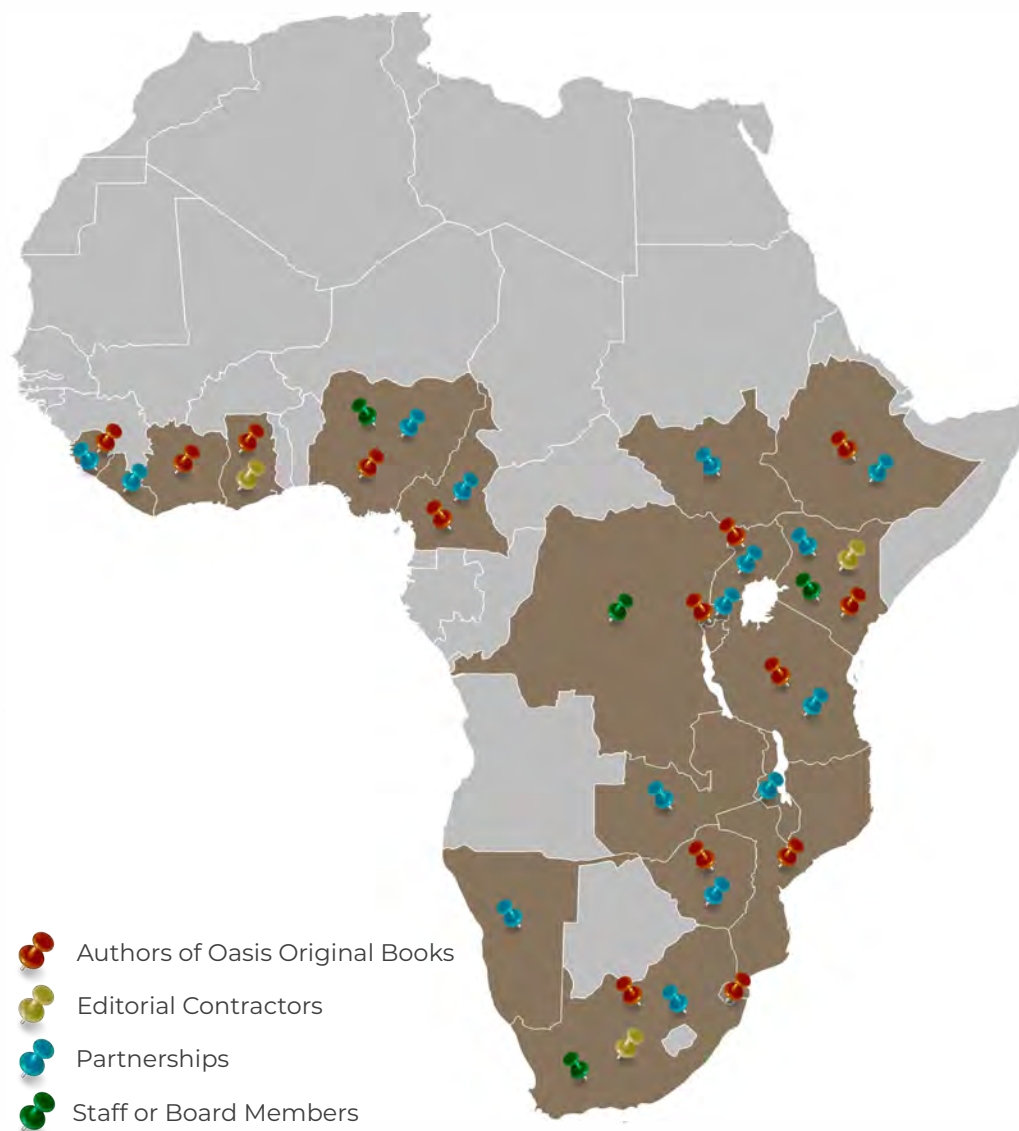
Our hope is that your investment in time and resources to grow discipleship in Africa will ignite the ongoing growth of the church, as well as transform the global church into the future.

Our vision is for Africa to equip its own leaders to impact the global church. Inspired by this vision, the entire Oasis Team, in Africa and the U.S., continues to work to meet the need for contextually relevant discipleship books and Bibles that will make this vision a reality.



"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

–Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)





OASIS LEADERSHIP

GROWTH OF TEAM IN AFRICA

With the visionary leadership of our President, Dr Matthew Elliott, a dedicated Board of Directors, and passionate staff, we have continued to grow in our mission of satisfying Africa's thirst for God's Word by growing discipleship through publishing African voices.

Until October 2020, Oasis's Global Partnerships Team consisted of one Regional Director in East Africa and the Director of Development in the U.S. The team has now grown to include a Regional Director in West Africa, a Regional Director in Southern Africa, and a Director of Africa Operations based in South Africa, and a Vice President of Global Partnerships in the U.S.

In just six months, this team of five passionate advocates for our amazing books and Bibles has worked together to see thousands of people supplied through retailers, denominations, ministries, and schools with discipleship and ministry tools. The Global Partnership Team will continue to focus on building relationships with partners across Africa and the world to build the sustainability of our publishing program and the mission of Oasis.

We have also built our editorial staffing and systems in Africa to include book editors and designers in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, and Ghana to produce relevant and contextualized content from leading communicators throughout Africa.

With support from a Communications and Marketing Manager in Kenya, we have revamped our branding, digital presence, and marketing strategies to support the goals and objectives of the Oasis mission.

There are so many ways to get involved and help us
continue to satisfy Africa's thirst for God's Word:

SPONSOR A GOD'S WORD FOR AFRICA PROJECT: godswordforafrica.com

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR GOD'S WORD FOR AFRICA CHAMPION PROGRAM: godswordforafrica.com/champions

SUPPORT PUBLISHING AND AUTHORS IN AFRICA: oasisinternationalpublishing.com/give

GIVE TOWARDS THE COMPLETION OF THE *AFRICA STUDY BIBLE* FRENCH EDITION: labepa.com

REQUEST A SUMMARY OF OUR EMPOWERING AFRICAN VOICES PROJECT: [send an email to info@oasisinternational.com](mailto:info@oasisinternational.com)

REQUEST MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO INVEST IN THE AFRICA BIBLE FUND: [send an email to info@oasisinternational.com](mailto:info@oasisinternational.com)

JOIN US IN PRAYER BY SIGNING UP FOR OUR PRAYER UPDATE: bit.ly/praywithoasis

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