



# 06 AFRICA

Moving from Asia to Africa is a short journey because the two continents are joined at the border of Egypt.

However, as you travel farther into the second largest continent, you begin to realize how big and diverse Africa is. It covers 20 percent of the Earth's surface, currently contains fifty-four countries, and is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on the west and the Pacific Ocean on the east.

Africa has a long history going back to ancient times. The Greeks and Romans were the first to explore north Africa, and then in the 7th century Arabic slave traders arrived. They captured the indigenous people and shipped them to India, Turkey, and Persia. When the Europeans began exploring in the 1400s, they established a slave trade with North and South America. Then in the 19th century the European powers discovered how rich the African continent was, in more than just people. Mining for gold and precious stones became an obsession for some, while others began to take over land

to establish large farming plantations. In 1884 the Berlin Conference met and divided up the entire continent between the European powers so that they all received their fair share of the resources and profits. But no one asked the African people.

Not surprisingly the many millions of African people were not pleased to be treated this way, and the 20th century was filled with armed rebellions and civil war, some of which continue today. However, each of the countries have won their independence and are working on managing their own affairs.

Given this history, missionaries have had a challenging time when arriving in various parts of the continent. The first challenge was to get anywhere, especially if there were no roads. Traveling through dense forests, open savannahs, rugged mountains, and huge lakes and rivers was very daunting. The hottest climate in the world, and the dangerous animals, snakes, and disease-carrying insects slowed down many a missionary. When meeting the people themselves, missionaries had to overcome the suspicion and fear the indigenous people had either because of previous bad experiences with white

people, or because they had never seen people like them before.

In this chapter we will follow twelve missionaries by working our way down the east side of the continent to the southern tip, and up the western side. Each has a

story to tell about their experiences serving God in various African countries.

A. Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe – one of the world's largest waterfalls.  
B. Savannah plain, Kenya  
C. Pyramids of Giza, Egypt



## 06 CONTINENT: AFRICA

- EGYPT — ASSIUT (ASYUT), CAIRO
- SUDAN
- ETHIOPIA
- KENYA — MOMBASA, RABAI, UKAMBANI (NOW CALLED KIKAMBUANI)
- UGANDA — LAKE VICTORIA, ENTEBBE
- TANZANIA — MOUNT KILIMANJARO, MOUNT KENYA
- RHODESIA (NOW CALLED ZIMBABWE) — BEMBESI, BULAWAYO, ZAMBEZI RIVER, VICTORIA FALLS
- SOUTH AFRICA — CAPE TOWN, TSHWANE, KURUMAN, MATOTSA
- BOTSWANA — LAKE NGAMI
- ESWATINI — NGWENYA
- ANGOLA — LUANDA
- MALAWI — LAKE MALAWI
- MOZAMBIQUE — QUELIMANE
- ZAMBIA
- BURUNDI
- RWANDA
- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO — LBAMBI, NEBOBONGO, NIAKUNDE, ITURI FOREST, RWENZORI MOUNTAINS
- NIGERIA — DUKE TOWN, CALABAR, OKOYONG DISTRICT, EKENG
- SIERRA LEONE — FREETOWN
- ALGERIA — CASBAH, ALGIERS
- MOROCCO — TANGIERS

**AFRICAN FACTS**

Two main climate zones cover most of the continent: Tropical Humid (rain forests), and Dry (deserts).

Tropical Humid climate      Dry climate

Three other climate zones are much smaller: Mediterranean, Marine west Coast, and Humid Sub Tropical.

## EGYPT

69



**LILLIAN HUNT TRASHER**  
(1887-1961)

Let's start right at the eastern top of the African continent in Egypt. When Lillian Trasher was growing up in Florida, she didn't know that she would spend fifty of her seventy-four years taking care of abandoned children in **Assuit (now Asyut)**.

She had planned to be a journalist. But when she became a Christian, her focus changed. After working in Faith Orphanage for three years, she attended Altamont Bible and Missionary Institute in Greenville, SC. She also became engaged to a Pentecostal minister, Tom Jordan. However, she broke the engagement when she felt a call to be a

missionary and Tom did not. In 1910, against her parent's wishes, she and her sister Jennie left for Egypt. Going as independent missionaries meant they had little money and no established mission station.

God guided them to the city of Assiut where they visited a dying woman, who told them to throw her tiny granddaughter into the river. Horrified, the sisters took care of the child instead, and began an orphanage. It didn't take long to discover all sorts of abandoned children in the city, children whose parents had died or were too poor to care for them.

By 1918 Lillian was caring for fifty babies and children, along with eight widows. She set up a school for the children and a



Assiut, 1918

Bible study program. She also worked out an agreement with the local Presbyterian hospital to help care for the sick children. When Lillian had to return to the States in 1919 because of civil unrest in Egypt, she joined the Assemblies of God mission, which gave her the support she needed to continue her work in Egypt. After returning the following year, Lillian spent the rest of her life caring for thousands of children. Her work was greatly respected by the Muslim Egyptian government, and Lillian became known as Mother Trasher, the one who cared for those no one wanted. The Lillian Trasher Memorial Orphanage is still operating today, funded by the Egyptian Assemblies of God churches.

## AFRICAN FACTS

*Churches of Lalibela, Ethiopia are eleven church buildings that were carved out of solid rock in the 1100s and 1200s. Pyramids were built as tombs for rulers in Ancient Egypt.*



*Cairo, Egypt is the largest city*



*Lagos, Nigeria, is the most populated city*



70



**JOHANN LUDWIG KRAPF**  
(1810-1881)

Traveling south of Egypt, we will pass through **Sudan and Ethiopia** to arrive in **Kenya**. Johann Krapf, a German Lutheran missionary, had a dream of establishing a line of mission stations across the African continent, from east to west.

With this plan in mind, Johann arrived first in **Ethiopia** in 1836 as a Church Mission Society missionary. His assignment was to work with the Oromo people, the largest group of people who lived in Ethiopia and northern Kenya. Johann, who was brilliant at picking up languages, struggled to bring the gospel to the people. Even though he

translated the Gospels of John and Matthew into their language, and held many discussion groups with Muslim men and boys, very few turned to Christianity.

When the political situation in the country became unsafe, Johann had to move to **Cairo** in 1842. Two years later he was sent to establish a mission station in **Mombasa, Kenya**. Here he learned Swahili and created

## AFRICAN FACTS

*The Equator and both tropics run through Africa:*



*Africa has the second largest population in the world, behind Asia.*

*The African Union established in 2002, has representatives from 53 of 54 countries (not Morocco).*



Cathedral, Mombasa, Kenya

a dictionary and grammar book to help with translating the Bible into the language. He also learned several other African languages in order to share the gospel as widely as possible. Sadly, his wife Rosina and newborn baby died of malaria. However, Johann kept going. He traveled north to **Rabai** to establish a mission station there.

In 1846 he was joined by another missionary, Johann Rebmann, and together they journeyed inland over 200 miles (approximately 322 km) to see if Johann's dream of mission stations could begin. They were not well received by the various tribes they met, but they didn't give up. In 1848 they tried again, getting as far as **Ukambani (now called Kikambuanii)**,

but they had to turn back because of the hostility of the Kamba people. On another journey they became the first Europeans to reach **Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya**, the two highest mountains in Africa.

By 1853 Johann's health forced him to retire to England, which stopped him from achieving his dream. However, for the next fifteen years he became an advisor to other missionaries going to eastern Africa, and he continued with his Bible translation work in Swahili and Kamba. While God did not allow Johann to see his dream fulfilled, he did allow him to prepare the way for other missionaries to take up his plans.



Mount Kenya

## KENYA

EGYPT



Lillian Hunt Trasher  
(1887-1961)

KENYA



Johann Ludwig Krapf  
(1810-1881)

UGANDA

Alexander M. Mackay  
(1849-1890)

ZIMBABWE

John Boyana Radasi  
(c. 1876-1924)

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Robert Moffat (1795-1883)  
& Mary Moffat (1795-1871)

David Livingstone  
(1813-1873)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Helen Roseveare  
(1925-2016)

NIGERIA

Apolo Kivebulaya  
(1864-1933)

Mary Slessor  
(1848-1915)

SIERRA LEONE

David George  
(c. 1742-1810)

ALGERIA

Isabella Lilius Trotter  
(1853-1928)

MOROCCO

Patricia St. John  
(1919-1993)