

# MY MISSION TRIP TO ZAMBIA



**MAY 2015**

## BACKGROUND

Today I leave for my third mission's trip into Africa this year and will be going up to Zambia.

It should be a very blessed time because, not only will I be preaching at a **Leadership Conference**, but also there will be a **reunion of many our past KMBC students**. Over the years we have had a number of students coming to study with us, mainly from the Copperbelt in Zambia, so it will be wonderful to see them all again and especially to hear of the work that each one of them is doing for the Kingdom.

Whenever I leave, these words from *Helen Blakeslee* ring in my heart:

*"I go to Africa not for fame and prominence, but because I am attached to Jesus Christ in a love that knows no sacrifice too great to be made: that men and women everywhere throughout Africa may know of and come to possess the wonderful inheritance He has won for them on the Cross of Calvary. I go to AFRICA because I believe Africans to be worthy of the most heroic effort that can be put forth to save them. I believe this because Jesus Christ believed and proved to the world that it was true."*

A Xhosa Proverb says:

*UKUHAMBA KUKUBONA*

which translates...

*Travelling opens a window  
to the world*



This amazing window into Africa has been opened for me ... thank you again so much my dear friends for all your prayers and financial support that makes these trips possible, I am so very grateful.

Enjoy the journey into Zambia with me .....



# Zambia

## Geography

Area: 752,614 sq km

Landlocked central/ southern African country;  
largely savannah grasslands with forested areas.

Population: 13,257,269 Annual Growth: 2.46%

Capital: Lusaka

Urbanites: 35.7%

Peoples: 82 (5% unreached) All peoples



## Answers to Prayer

1. Christianity continues to be widely accepted, even in public institutions and the media. Influential Christians such as past presidents have further increased evangelical Christianity's profile. Freedom of all religions is practiced, and the opportunity to minister as believers to the many challenges Zambia faces means an open door for Christian work. Evangelicals were 3.8% in 1960, 8% in 1980 and 25.7% in 2010.
2. New holistic ministries are springing up, initiated both from abroad and from within the nation.

## Challenges for Prayer

1. Poverty and its many causes need to be tackled wisely but aggressively. Consider the following: up to 86% of the population are below the poverty line; agriculture and copper mining, which employ the large majority of the population, are dependent on erratic weather and markets. Between 33% and 50% of children are malnourished; 40% of the people do not have access to clean water or adequate sanitation. Illiteracy in rural areas is 90%. Current economic growth cannot offset the high birthrate or AIDS prevalence. All of these challenges are beginning to be met by a great host of agencies working in development, healthcare, education, vocational training, microfinance and other areas. Pray for wise policy-making and for the right balance between external assistance and homegrown solutions.
2. The "brain drain" of many of Africa's brightest and best to richer nations impacts Zambia deeply. While Zambian doctors, lawyers, businessmen, professionals and pastors set up shop in South Africa, Europe and North America, their home nation cries out for precisely the skills and resources they have to offer. Pray for conviction to return to be blessings and the ideal missionaries to their country.

# MY DIARY



WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY

My Bible readings this morning were from Numbers, Psalms, Isaiah and 2 John. What a blessing it is to open each new day with prayer and the reading of the precious Word of God. Afterwards, as I have done for the past 48 years since my conversion, I read from *Oswald Chambers*, *My Utmost for His Highest* and this is what he wrote:

*"The baptism of the Holy Spirit does not make you think of Time or Eternity; it is one amazing glorious NOW. This is life eternal that they might know THEE. Begin to know Him now and finish never."*

I have packed my bags; my Bible is in, plus my lecture notes, conference files for all the students, and so now I am ready. For this trip, I have also taken two books, which I hope to read through:



**Christian Mission in South Africa - by W. Saayman**



**Don't Waste Your Life - by John Piper**

The flight up to Johannesburg and the one up to Ndola were excellent. It was so good to be back in Zambia again and to see all the familiar landmarks and people and there to meet me was Michael. Always I need to exchange some money, get a new sim card, take some photographs and then we were on our way.

After a lovely supper, there was plenty of time for me to get into my books and let me end off today with the first quote from John Piper's book, **Don't Waste Your Life**:

*"I will tell you what a tragedy is. I will show you how to waste your life. Consider this story from the February 1998 Reader's Digest – A couple took early retirement from their jobs in the North East some years ago when he was 59 and she was 51. Now they live in Punta Gorda in Florida where they cruise in their thirty-foot trawler, play Soft Ball, and collect shells .... Now I want you to picture them before Christ on the great day of judgement. Look Lord see my shells..... that is a tragedy. God created us to live with a single passion, to joyfully display his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life. The wasted life is the life without this passion. God calls us to pray and think and dream and plan and work, not to be made much of, but to make much of Him in every part of our lives."*

Wow ... what a word that is for today and how I long to live like that in my own life. That great missionary statesman *Count Nicolas Zinzendorff* once said, **"I have one passion and it is Him alone."**

I can now drift off to sleep so grateful to be a missionary into Africa, teaching the precious Word of God and not wasting away my life.

### THURSDAY 28, MAY

The most beautiful morning dawned across Zambia this morning and I feel so privileged to be here. My Bible readings were from Exodus, Proverbs, John and Philipians. And as you know, my readings are followed by *Oswald Chambers*. He challenged me not to question, but to trust Him and this is what Chambers said:

*"If anything is a mystery to you and is coming in between you and God, never look for the explanation in your own intellect, look for it in your disposition, it is that which is wrong. When once disposition is willing to submit to the life of Jesus, the understanding will be perfectly clear, and you will get to the place where there is no distance between the Father and you His child."*

My Bible readings were followed by prayer. The unreached people that I prayed for this morning were the Bakumpai of Indonesia, one of the most unreached people in our world today.

After an excellent breakfast I was able to read again from Piper's book, *Don't Waste Your Life.* In Chapter one he took us back to life in the 60's and to 1965 especially when the Beatles wrote their famous song "Nowhere Man" which perfectly summarised the 60's.

*"He's a real nowhere man sitting in his nowhere land, makes all his nowhere plans for nobody. Doesn't have a point of view, knows not where he's going to, isn't he a bit like you and me."*

Those were the turbulent 60's. But what an amazing contrast to the Christian view of life where we believe *"Only one life, twill soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last"*. And therefore, we do not want to waste our life but live every moment of every day for Christ.

Now I am going to be able to visit a rural self-sustainable environmental educational project just outside of Ndola.

It was the most moving and encouraging experience to see what they are doing here. We were able to visit the Fisheries, the Piggery and they also have an onsite slaughterhouse where their produce is sold, plus a visit to a Primary School. As you will see from my pictures they are very environment conscious and the whole area is kept spotless, no litter can be seen on the ground. This must surely be one of the most wonderful examples for the continent of Africa today. All of this is set in the most beautiful surroundings imaginable, this made for a memorable visit.



With the hatcheries so full of fish, I am so hoping to hear one of the calls of Africa .... the Fish Eagle.

After such a memorable day it was now time to enjoy a simple supper and to get ready to move onto Kitwe where we have planned a reunion for our past Zambian students, and then to speak at a Leadership Conference for the students and their leaders.



And guess what ... this afternoon I first heard, and then saw a pair of Fish Eagles right above my head ... phew it was thrilling to hear that sound that I have been waiting so long to hear. It made the day even more special....

## **FRIDAY, 29 MAY**

Another incredible morning dawned across Zambia and my readings from the Word of God continued from Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Jude. **Oswald Chambers** issued the following challenge to me this morning:

*"What a challenge! By the resurrection and ascension power of Jesus, by the sent down Holy Spirit, we can be lifted into such a relationship with the Father that we are one with the sovereign Will of God by our own free choice even as Jesus was."*

After my Bibles readings, in my time of prayer, I was again able to pray for another unreached peoples group in our world, which I get each day from the Joshua Project.

*"I thank God that Edwards did not waste his life. It ended abruptly from a failed smallpox vaccination when he was only 54. But he had lived well. His life is inspiring because of his zeal not to waste it, and because of his passion for the supremacy of God. At the age of 22, he wrote a number of resolutions, let me share two with you:*

*Resolution 5 says: Resolved, never to lose one moment of time but to improve it in the most profitable way I can.*

*Resolution 17 says: Resolved, that I will so live, as I shall wish I had done when I come to die."*

Chapter two of [John Piper's book](#) was another tremendous challenge as he showed the impact which **Jonathan Edwards** made on his life. Listen to what he says:

After a lovely breakfast, we caught a bus to Kitwe where Anderson was waiting at the bus stop for us. What an amazing friend he has been to me for many years. Immediately we made our way to my Zambian home, which is the home of Anderson's parents. It did not take very long for Mama Mwila to bring out some tea and sandwiches. It was wonderful to catch up together. My little room was all ready and waiting and it was lovely to be back with them.



I heard a great commotion and as I looked out of the window, there they were all chasing after a chicken, which was going to be my supper for the evening. Nothing could be fresher than this!!

After supper, I talked well into the night with Anderson until it was finally time to get some sleep. Let me close with a quote from this challenging book of [Piper](#):

*"The Cross is to be the only boast of our life. The only joy. The only exaltation. Paul said, 'Far be it from me to boast except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.' What does he mean by this? Can he be serious? No other boast? No other joy? Except the Cross of Jesus"*

## **SATURDAY, 30 MAY**

At 06:00 am there was a little knock on the door from Mama Mwila telling me my hot water was ready, I could now go and have a wash and shave for the day. Afterwards I continued with my Bible readings from Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Jude, and then **Oswald Chambers** was such a challenge. Read it slowly.

*"Jesus Christ demands of the man who trusts in Him the same reckless sporting spirit that the natural man exhibits. If a man is going to do anything worthwhile, there are times when he has to risk everything on his leap, and in the spiritual domain, Jesus Christ demands that you risk everything you hold by commonsense and leap into what He says."*

How I long to follow that challenge as I follow Jesus across Africa. I was then able to spend time in prayer remembering especially the unreached people of our world. Today I prayed for Indonesia and Patrick Johnson says, *"Praise God there has been thrilling growth of the Indonesian Church over the past 40 years"*. **BUT** he went on to remind me there are still 300 people groups which remain unreached. It was now time for Anderson and I to return to the Church for the rest of the Conference.

This year we are trying something different. Instead of opening the Conference up to all churches in Kitwe, this year I have invited our KMBC past students from Zambia, together with their leaders. I want to keep close contact with all our past students and encourage them wherever I can. In this way, we will keep a loving family spirit at KMBC.

Last night I never got much sleep as I was sharing my room with another brother who wants to come to KMBC in the future for the Diploma in Missions. But at 1:30 in the morning he was still praying aloud, I felt a bit guilty but I had to say that I thought we needed to get some sleep ... and silence reigned.



Pastor Annie Muya's Group



Our hosts, Anderson & Annie



Pastor Stephen Kangwa's Group

Today I will be giving five talks; four of them will be on the book of 2 Thessalonians. We will work our way verse by verse through the book. Then during the closing session I will try and give a practical talk on *How to prepare a sermon*; while our Registrar, Charmaine Swart will have a separate session going through all the different study options, as well as showing them all the available resources. Lack of resources and study opportunities are one of the greatest challenges that face many African pastors and leaders today, so I am thrilled to be able to offer study bursaries and free resources.



My interpreter, Pastor Fred



Some of the past students



Pastor Kelvin Mulofwa



With Anderson



Bishop Tom Msiska's group

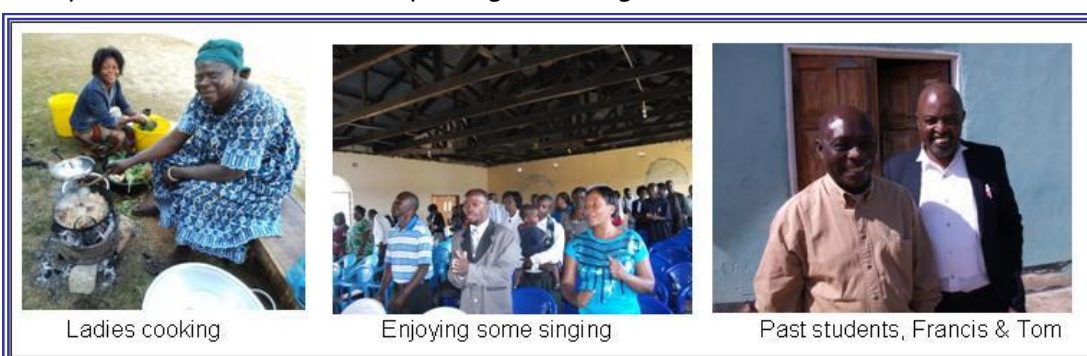


Anderson, Charmaine & Freeman

By the grace of God alone, everything seemed to go off well and the Kitwe Brethren Church, which is Annie's church, was full for every session. The attendance exceeded our expectations, which was a great thrill for us.



Then for lunch, the ladies of the church cooked a lovely meal for everybody and Footprints into Africa had the privilege covering all the costs for the Conference.



Exhausted we all made our way back to the Mwila home where Mama prepared another lovely supper, consisting of a fish and some nshima, which is impossible to eat with a knife and fork and so you dig in with your fingers!!

Let me now close with another quote by [Piper](#):

*"Therefore every enjoyment in life and the next that is not idolatry is a tribute to the infinite value of the Cross of Christ, the burning centre of the glory of God. And thus a Cross-centred, Cross-exalting, Cross-saturated life is a God-glorifying life. All others are wasted."*

## **SUNDAY, 31 MAY**

After an incredibly fulfilling few days of linking up with our past students, preaching from 2 Thessalonians and sharing the KMBC study options and resources with everybody, it is now time to move on.

But, before I did anything else, there was Mama Mwila with her bucket of hot water for me to have a nice wash and shave. My readings continued from Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation. After which my mentor, **Oswald Chambers** wrote on the question of "GOD FIRST. This is what he said:

In everything of life, the challenge is always to put God first.

*"If I put my trust in human beings first, I will end in despairing of everyone. I will become bitter, because I have insisted on man being what no man can ever be – absolutely right."*

My very dear friend and faithful supporter, Eric Keiser has now moved from Malawi where you will remember I used to stay with him and his wife Gail on the Mulange Tea Estate. Now they have moved to Zambia and run a Lodge just outside Batoka on Lake Kariba. So we had therefore planned to go and visit them there and then fly home from Livingstone. Sadly, they were unable to see us because the situation at the Lodge had changed and their future there was uncertain. However, having already booked flights out of Livingstone, we bought seats on one of the public bus services that go through to Livingstone. I cannot wait to get there because here is a town named after my hero, David Livingstone and I will be able to revisit the Livingstone Museum and of course see the Falls again.

After seeing so much of the Zambian countryside and in typical African style, after many stops to drop off and pick up people, we arrived safely in Livingstone after a long journey. It was lovely to be able to stretch my legs, have a cup of tea and then again get into this lovely book of [John Piper](#).

After supper, it was time to sleep and [Piper](#) quotes a book that changed his life, called "[The Cost of Discipleship](#)" by [Dietrich Bonhoeffer](#). The most famous and life-shaping sentence in that book was:

*"The Cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise God-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die."*

This is an incredible statement and it reminds us that fleeing from death is the shortest path to a wasted life.

I stayed in one of the many backpacker hostels where I given the "Kenneth Kaunda" hut, very basic but all I needed for a good sleep after the journey.



## MONDAY, 1 JUNE

As you know, over many years, I have greatly admired the work of David Livingstone, so today will be a very special day for me. It stirs my heart to visit the places where David Livingstone walked, but it is important to always begin the day as he did, by reading from the Bible.

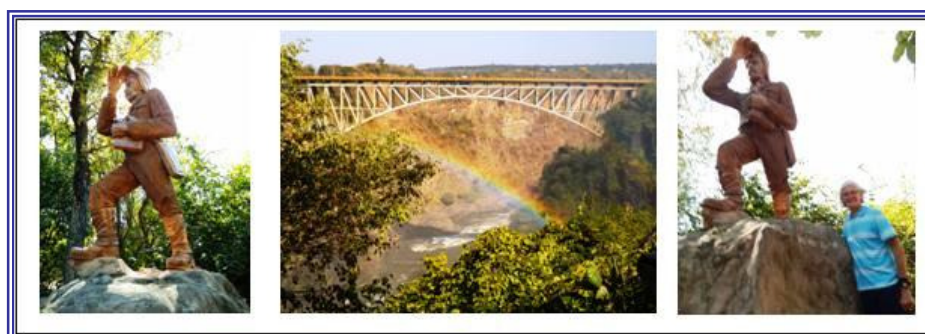
My readings continued from Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation after which **Oswald Chambers** said the following in his book of daily readings:

*"If we are haunted by God, nothing else can get in, no cares, no tribulation and no anxieties. God is our refuge; nothing can come through that shelter."*

After a simple breakfast of two pieces of toast (no butter or jam) and a cup of black tea, we headed off to walk the town of Livingstone flat!!



The first stop was the Victoria Falls. Remember how David Livingstone once said, "***It was the greatest sight ever you can see in Africa***" - where he spoke of ***the smoke that thunders***. This describes the mist that hangs over these incredible Falls as the water thunders and plunges over the edge. Walking over the bridge that spans the deep gorge was quite exhilarating but also slippery because the mist comes over like a squall. Every viewpoint gives a different dimension to this magnificent wonder of the world. What a privilege to be here.



Walking off to the side, I was able to see ***Livingstone Island***, where he went across in a canoe, so close to the edge of the Falls. Walking where he walked was an even more thrilling experience for me, and my heart was so very full just to be here.



From the Falls, I negotiated a good price for a taxi to take us back into the town. The first port of call was the ***David Livingstone Memorial Church***.

What was encouraging was to read their mission statement and to see how the Church has stayed true to the Gospel over these many years.



Livingstone Memorial Church

A section from his Journal describing the Falls

From there the next stop was the Museum, a short walk away and again I was able to look at his medical chest, the mirror he used, his famous cap and coat and to read some of his original letters from the many Journals he kept. Sadly, since I was last there it is a new rule that said NO photographs are allowed to be taken inside the Museum. I tried my best to bargain with the lady at the desk, I offered everything .... but she would not budge!!



Then what a bonus .... I spotted an Ocean Basket restaurant, and was able to enjoy a familiar pan of fish and chips ... after so much nshima, and fried chicken it was a welcome treat!!

After walking along the main road in the city centre I came across the *Stanley House*, which I presumed was built to honour *Henry Morton Stanley*, the man who came to Africa to look for Livingstone. Then it was time for some bargaining at the local market ..... which I did until my wallet was empty and my bag was full of mementos to remember my visit by.

Feeling dusty and tired it was good to get back to a cup of tea and then an ice cold shower ... phew I just love Africa ... she keeps you humble.

Now let me allow [Piper](#) to close off the day:

*"What a tragic waste when people turn away from the Calvary road of love and suffering. All the riches of the glory of God in Christ are on that road. All the sweetest fellowship with Jesus is there. All the treasures of assurance. Take up your Cross and follow Jesus. On this road, and this road alone, life is Christ and death is gain. Life on every other road is wasted."*



"If you love what you do, it becomes your life and can't be divided into weekend and work time. It's all consuming."

## LOOKING BACK ...

Another amazing trip into the very heart of Africa is now over. Looking back these were the highlights for me:

1. I found the **Zambian African Rural Development** a great challenge because it could work so well across the whole of Africa.
2. **Renewing friendships with our past students** was very special. Some of them have been through great heartache with splits in their churches, so it was a great privilege to come alongside and encourage them all.
3. **Preaching my heart out through 2 Thessalonians** is always the **highlight** for me. I love working verse by verse through the books of the Bible.
4. This book of Piper "Don't Waste your Life " has been phenomenal.
5. Seeing the response for those wanting to study in one form or another, as well as the huge interest shown in our Resources was a blessing because this was one of the main reasons for this trip.
6. Always to walk in the footsteps of David Livingstone moves me very deeply. He is often criticized as being a failure as a missionary. The thought is that he only led one person to Christ his entire life, but that of course was not his main purpose. He came to open up the whole of Africa for the Gospel; for commerce and abolish the slave trade. The slave trade was abolished; commerce is flourishing and through Livingstone's work, the whole of Africa has been opened to the Gospel, so much so, that today Africa has become the capital of Christianity in the world. There are millions and millions of Christians in Africa. To me Livingstone was the most amazing man.
7. Being incredibly struck by the magnificence and splendour of the Victoria Falls is always a huge privilege to see and experience.
8. In South Africa, they are defacing and pulling down statues and changing street names to almost try to obliterate the past, but here is a place that honours David Livingstone and wherever you turn there is a reminder of his influence.

9. The only sadness for me was that after travelling into Africa for over 30 years it was the very first time that *I was embarrassed* to say that I was from South Africa, remembering the horrendous impact of Xenophobia back home. In my humble opinion, it has put us back years.

So my 37<sup>th</sup> visit into Africa draws to a close ..... I feel so wonderfully privileged to share in the lives of these precious people, to encourage them and to always bring them back to the Cross of Christ.

Thank you dear friends for sharing this journey with me, may you be encouraged and blessed.

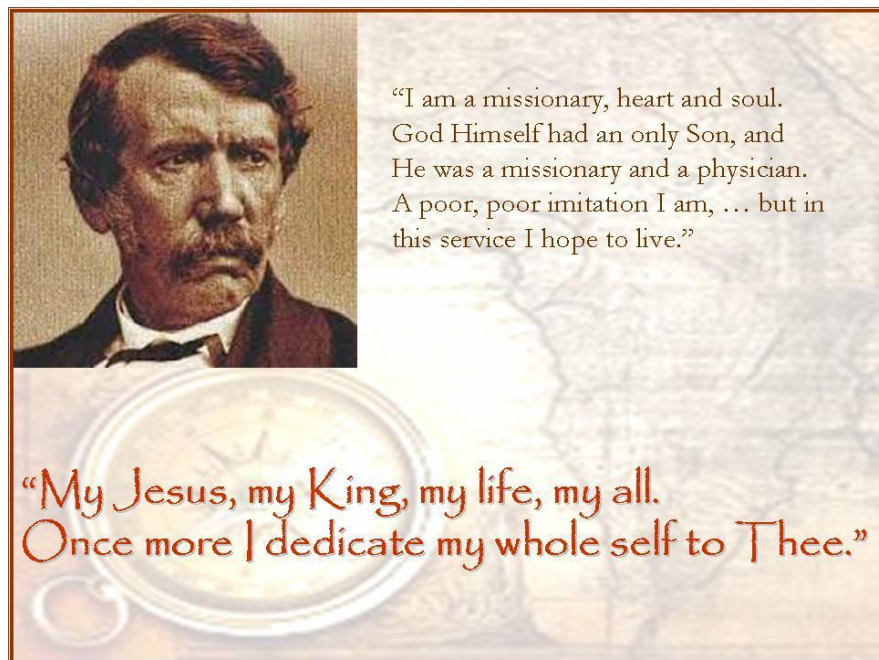
Most of the streets in the town of Livingstone are clean and the verges swept daily with grass brooms, such a rebuke for the dirty streets and suburbs in Pietermaritzburg.

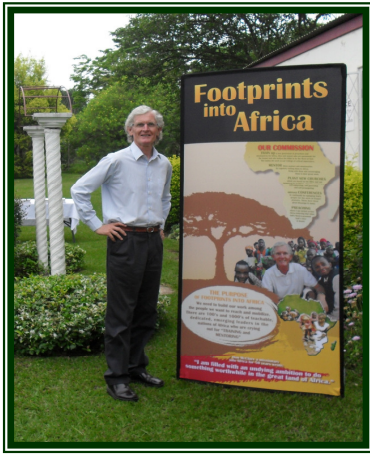
Then I saw this in a garden and I had a good laugh ...  
*I just love Africa* ..... how is this for an ingenious water sprinkler ..... simple but so effective ... I might even try this myself!!



## GOD BLESS AFRIKA

The right way to end off my Journal is with this great quote from my hero:





If you would like to share in, or support my work into Africa, I would value your partnership. Perhaps you may like to consider one the followings avenues:

- ☑ Pray for one of the countries and the past students who are working there
- ☑ Sponsor a student's training
- ☑ Contribute to supply the pastors with resources for their work
- ☑ Contribute towards my missionary trips into Africa
- ☑ General support

Visit us on:

Website: [www.footprintsintoafrica.com](http://www.footprintsintoafrica.com)

Contact details:

200 Pine Street, Pietermaritzburg 3201

Cell: 082 920 1147

Office: (033) 346 0635

E-mail: [footprintspmb@gmail.com](mailto:footprintspmb@gmail.com)

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Footprints into Africa

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