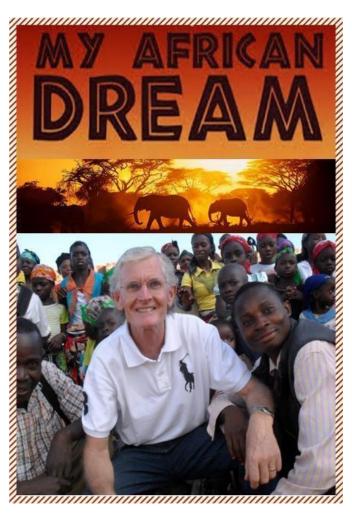


### PART 3

## MY PASSION FOR MISSIONS



# MY JOURNEY TO BECOMING A MISSIONARY TO AFRICA AND FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA

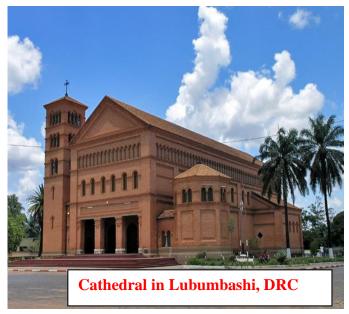
By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

The third sentinel point in my life takes me to the city of Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo. **Tim Butcher** calls it "a hell hole". **Mario D'Offizo** wrote on arriving in Kasembalesa:

"I WAS SHAKING AT THE KNEES. My mouth was dead, my heart beat furiously and I was almost blinded by fear as I walked into the jaws of hell. It is a very dangerous place with dangerous people, a whorehouse and a smuggler's den."

With my dear brother, Pierre Kabange we had just had the most amazing mission trip. Preaching in Likasi, Lwambo, Nteke and Lubumbashi, we had seen many turn to Christ. But now it was over and I wanted to be left alone and so I went into the Cathedral in the city centre to spend time with the Lord. My life was at a cross-road.







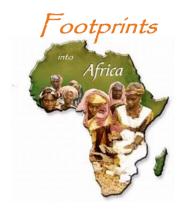
- 1. My <u>dearest son, Jon</u> had been diagnosed with an ocular melanoma and was given two years more with us.
- 2. I had the most incredible privilege of serving Holy Trinity Pietermaritzburg and Christ Church Pinetown for <u>forty years</u> and this had laid the foundation for my life. These forty years gave me pastoral experience and the privilege of preaching verse-by-verse through the Bible. All my lectures were ready to teach across Africa.
- 3. I was about to turn sixty and wanted to live the rest of my life in total abandonment to Jesus. All my life I had wanted to become a missionary to Africa. In that Cathedral, at the altar I poured out my heart to God and the tears just poured down my cheeks as I wrestled with the Lord. After hours, in my small way, I felt the Lord was saying to me:

"Go home now, stand down as the Bishop of KwaZulu-Natal and Africa, as the Rector and go fulltime into missions ... you are now trained and ready."

I went home, told my family, the Church Executive and the reply was "not yet ... how will you live ... where will your support come from ... you are being reckless ... Jon has left you emotionally unstable ..." BUT in my heart I knew that the rest of my life would be given to KMBC in the training of pastors and missionaries for Africa and as a missionary to Africa. It was a case of:

"Let your heart be strangely drawn by the stronger pull of what you truly love"

I cashed in my pension and started on a new journey where I would not be receiving a salary, but live day by day in total dependence on God ... so ...



## FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA was born.

At the time my son Gregg was practicing as an attorney in Cape Town and he very kindly arranged for Footprints into Africa to be registered:

- 1. As a Section 21 Company
- 2. As an NPO

I went to the Bank to open an account and in order to do this I had to deposit R25.00. So now I was a missionary into Africa under the banner of Footprints into Africa ... the greatest honour on the planet.

#### 1. WHAT WE BELIEVE

We are an Evangelical and Reformed organisation who passionately believes the Bible to be the Word of God and therefore know that when the Bible is taught God's voice is heard.

Furthermore, we believe that there is a heaven and a hell and this makes Missions critical.

#### 2. WHAT WE DO

<u>TRAIN</u> up a new generation of preachers and missionaries for Africa. Men and women who are passionate for the Gospel and who believe the Bible to be the Word of God. This makes the work at our College of critical importance.

<u>MENTOR</u> these pastors and missionaries by regularly visiting them in Africa, living with them and encouraging them in their great work.

<u>PLANT NEW CHURCHES</u> which are based on the Bible and not hampered by tradition, churches which are self-supporting, self governing and self propagating.

<u>ARRANGE CONFERENCES</u> to continually be equipping God's people for the work of Gospel ministry. These have been great blessings to many.

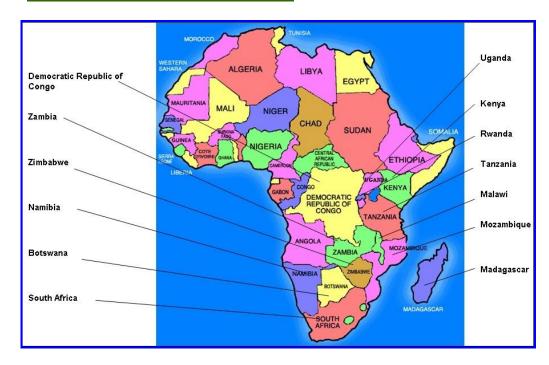
<u>PREACHING</u> where invited across Africa believing that when God's Word is preached, God's voice is heard.

<u>PROVIDE</u> an amazing number of free Resources to assist Pastors with their Ministries from my website www.footprintsintoafrica.com

#### 3. WHY WE EXIST

Footprints into Africa is a non-profit organization based in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa aiming to mentor and grow a new generation of Gospel preachers and servant leaders who will through the power of the Holy Spirit and based on the Bible, build sustainable Churches in communities throughout AFRICA.

#### 4. COUNTRIES WE ARE WORKING IN



#### 5. UPDATE

I had to bring all my books from Pinetown, rent an office at E.S.S.A. as my home base, and Footprints into Africa was launched, with R25.00 in the Bank! I could not have been more fulfilled in life; truly I became the most blessed man on the planet. Africa was in my blood and I began to travel, running Pastor's Conferences, mentoring and encouraging past students and inviting new students to come and study at KMBC. I have now undertaken 65 mission trips all over Africa, from Nairobi down to Cape Town. As **Donald McClure** once wrote:

"I am filled with an undying ambition to do something worthwhile in the land of AFRICA."

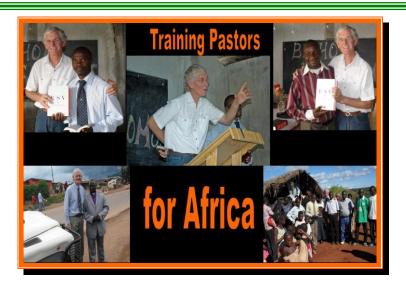
#### 6. WEBSITE

With the assistance of some amazing friends, all my sermons and lectures over forty years have been put onto my website <a href="www.footprintsintoafrica.com">www.footprintsintoafrica.com</a> This now means that all my work is available, free of charge, to all our students and to all those I have visited across Africa. In additional our C.Th. Is now online which is incredible. All my Journals of my sixty-five trips have been collated and printed into two volumes. The Swahili translation our Distance Study Manual is complete and currently the Chichewa translation is under way which means the Certificate in theology Outlines will be available right across East Africa. What a joy to make all these resources available to those who have very little by way of resources.

#### **CONCLUSION**

KwaZulu-Natal Missionary and Bible College has now trained 350 pastors and missionaries for Africa and beyond, 140 new churches have been planted and now with Footprints into Africa, over 65 missions' trips have been completed. As **James Stewart** wrote:

"I shall never be satisfied till I am in AFRICA with a Bible in my pocket."



Truly, establishing *Footprints into Africa* was my third sentinel point in my life.