

# AFRICA'S CHURCH

# LEADERSHIP

# CRISIS

## HOW WILL GOD TRAIN AFRICA'S CHURCH LEADERS?

### A GROWING CHURCH

In 2018, for the first time, Africa became the continent with the most Christians, compared to the rest of the world – a staggering 631 million people.<sup>1</sup> This is only 45% of the continent's population though, and not all of these Christians would be considered evangelical or born again. But when considering the fact that each year the church in Africa is growing by 2.6%, while the rest of the world sees a decline of 0.4%<sup>2</sup>, this continent will become a force to be reckoned with when it comes to spreading the gospel.

### A GLOBAL INFLUENCE

Not only is the church in Africa growing, but it is also spreading across the world. Since 2010, eight of the ten fastest growing international migrant populations have been from sub-Saharan African nations. Already there are African churches firmly established in the US and of the four largest megachurches in Great Britain, three of them are African led. It is incredible to see this growth when 130 years ago the number of Christians in Africa was estimated to be fewer than 10 million.<sup>2</sup>



### HUGE CONSEQUENCES

But the rapid growth of the church in Africa, brings with it a problem. A problem highlighted by the Centre for the Study of Global Christianity and the Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA), who have estimated that 85-90% of church leaders in Africa have little to no biblical training. When we think of the staggering number of Christians in Africa, as well as those who are now leading the churches across the rest of the world, there are serious implications for this lack of training. If poorly trained leaders cannot effectively disciple<sup>3</sup> their congregations or preach the gospel message, then the consequences will be far reaching, affecting the global church.

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### HOPE AND EXCITEMENT

The solution sounds simple: receive a solid understanding of the Bible and doctrine through theological education. But for about 90% of church leaders in Africa, attending a university or college to study is impossible. There are alternatives though, such as grassroots training ministries found across the continent, bringing non-formal training to people where they serve. AIM has an exciting part to play in a range of theological education, so that the church in Africa – and by extension, the worldwide church – can grow and thrive. There's an abundance of opportunities for those with a passion for teaching God's Word. Might you have a part to play?

- Notes: 1. In 2024 there are 734 million Christians estimated to live in Africa.  
2. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Status of Global Christianity 2024.  
3. Association of Evangelicals in Africa, Scaling Up Theological Education in Africa, (2020), p.3.

