

My Dear and Valued Friends,

May 2009

According to the apostle Paul, David “served the purpose of God in his own generation” (Acts 13:36). Think about that. God had certain aims in mind during David’s lifetime, such as securing Israel’s borders and preparing the Temple for construction, a project that was only fully realized by his son Solomon. But David was faithful in carrying out the Lord’s plans.

Africa of course faces more than its fair share of challenges, but in the African Enterprise Leadership Training Centre (AELTC), we’ve witnessed the Lord enabling us to make significant inroads in bringing his purposes about in our generation on our continent. While the AELTC seeks to provide cutting-edge practical and theological training to lay people and clergy on a number of topics, there are two specific arenas in which we are impacting our continent: Our investment in the youth and future leaders of Africa, and our growing access to the African Independent Churches, which often incorporate disturbing elements of traditional religions. Let me tell you about these.

### **Equipping the Youth**

The more youth we can win for Christ the better we can realize an Africa led by those of integrity and a servant heart. The challenge in this realm is great. Schools are not coping effectively and a large percentage of families are so fractured by the effects of HIV and AIDS that many young people are growing up without parents. Many teachers and principals are at their wits’ end. Indeed, Ina Cronje, our provincial minister of education, said recently at AE that “we are at a loss on how to deal with the stress our teachers are forced to contend with . . . and will greatly appreciate any intervention that will help them.”

Our AELTC Youth Adventure Camp is one of our responses to this crisis. Our 66-acre property recently added an adventure ropes course and accommodation facilities. During their stay with us, students learn from a Christian perspective to overcome fears and develop new skills. They are challenged to work on relational skills through teamwork exercises. Through this process, students attain a new measure of what is called Emotional Intelligence, or EQ, which is the ability to exercise self-control in the development of maturity. While many young people are plainly not lacking in IQ, the absence of good parenting, combined with stressed and overwhelmed teachers, has resulted in a gross lack of discipline and young people whose many gifts will never be cultivated and applied.

It has been our profound delight to see troubled young people from even the most problem-plagued schools transformed after only a few days at our Camp. We saw this in the case of a school viewed as out of control from a disciplinary perspective. After 104 of the students came to our Camp, the principal remarked with obvious satisfaction and relief, “Our children have become calmer and the behavior and discipline standards have improved dramatically.”

What better way to present the Gospel to these young people in an environment where they are enabled to listen to and hear the Good News of Jesus Christ? So we see scores of our future leaders finding their Savior and Guide as they grow up to become agents of godly reformation in our land!

### **Reforming the Church**

Alongside our effective and growing Adventure Camp, the AELTC has gained astonishing access into the previously isolated African Independent Churches (AICs). Many in North America might never have heard of AIC's, as they were launched not by missionaries but by Africans themselves. This phenomenon is of course welcome in and of itself, but the problem has been that many AIC's have integrated beliefs and practices from traditional religions that are in direct conflict with biblical Christianity, such as ancestor worship or the consulting of witch doctors. This is not a problem that affects a small number of people: the largest Christian denomination in South Africa is the Zion Christian Church, an AIC with two million members and 5,000 congregations. Experts believe that 40% of southern Africa belongs to AIC's, with these Churches growing faster than any others.

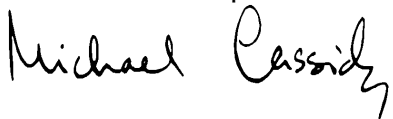
The blessed good news in all of this is that we are seeing increasing numbers of AIC pastors, Bishops and Archbishops coming to our training courses. Some courses are made up of 90% AIC leaders! They receive biblical instruction that enables them to embrace the liberating truth of the Gospel. This liberates millions around the continent from bondage to occultic beliefs and practices. This can only serve to bring about the reformation of Africa that we are seeking in our generation.

Now, how can you be a part of what God is doing in Africa through the AELTC? We have two great financial needs I want to put before you:

- We need to construct 3 additional 40-bed facilities to expand our ability to house young people at our Adventure Youth Camp. The total cost of the 3 facilities is \$75,000. Could you give \$50, \$150, \$500, or even \$5,000 or more to enable this vital ministry to go forward?
- The vast majority of AIC pastors are abjectly poor and we must provide subsidies to enable them to attend the courses that bring them to an understanding of biblical truth. Could you contribute \$60 to enable one AIC pastor to attend a three-day course, or \$600 for ten pastors, or even \$6,000 to underwrite an entire course? 1 Canadian dollar = 7+ SA Rands.

Good friends, I am thankful beyond measure at the progress we're seeing. I hope you'll join with us as we work together to carry out the Lord's purposes in our generation in Africa. Thank you for your prayers and partnership!

Yours for the Gospel in Africa,



Michael Cassidy  
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Chairman, AELTC