

SIM LITERATURE CONSULTANT PBS & ABC UPDATE

July 2006

Dear Friends,

Latest News on the Africa Bible Commentary

The launch of the Africa Bible Commentary (ABC) at the Grand Regency Hotel Ballroom in Nairobi on July 5th was a spectacular event. In attendance were 300-350 government dignitaries, and leaders from the church, missions and business communities.

The ABC received wide media coverage in Kenya before the launch on July 5th – a four-page spread in three newspapers and two TV panel interviews with Tokunboh Adeyemo (General Editor) where other commentary contributors were also featured.

In his speech, former Kenyan president, Daniel arap Moi, noted; “The ABC is a one volume commentary on the 66 books of the Bible plus 70 special articles on African contemporary realities. By any literary standard this is a significant achievement and an outstanding landmark for African Christianity.”

He spoke of the similarities between the Hebrew people and Africans...the Hebraic worldview is basically religious -- just as the African. While one may be more monotheistic than the other, the fact remains that reality is perceived, and events interpreted, through religious lenses in both worldviews. “Religion is not just an aspect of life but in all of life.”

Moi noted, “Africans are people-centered and are community-based in togetherness rather than individualism – “Ubuntu wa Mabuntu” meaning “I am because we are”. He closed with an 1880 quote from Edward Blyden, a St Vincent/Liberian missionary statesman who spent considerable time in West Africa, especially in Liberia. He made the following observation:

“Africa may yet prove to be the spiritual conservatory of the world. Just as in past times Egypt proved a stronghold of Christianity after the fall of Jerusalem, and just as the noblest and greatest of the Fathers of the Christian Church came out of Egypt, so it may be, when the civilized nations, in consequence of their spiritual perceptions darkened and their spiritual susceptibilities blunted through the agency of a captivating and absorbing materialism, it may be, that they may have to resort to Africa to recover some of the simple elements of faith; for the promise of the land is that she shall stretch forth her hands unto God.” (Edward Blyden, 1880:124).

With all editors attending the launch, purchased copies were autographed, and it was while this was proceeding that BBC ‘Focus on Africa’ came to Tokunboh wanting an interview for the 6pm programme from London. Later BBC invited him to their Nairobi studio for an interview for BBC World Service News.

Dozens of text messages of congratulations have been coming in from around Africa, asking ‘How can we get this book?’ The day after the launch, *French Radio* from Paris interviewed Tokunboh. For over a week, Dr Adeyemo was having an average of two media interviews daily. The *Edmonton Journal* in Alberta, Canada, carried an item on the ABC, as did papers in Holland, New York and Turkey – 17 newspaper articles on the net. We are so grateful to God that word about the ABC is getting out in ways we could not have dreamt of.

Below is the current donation status of the ABC – with only \$31,000 to reach the goal!

SIM Canada
10 Huntingdale Blvd.
Scarborough, ON
M1W 2S5

SIM USA
Box 7900
Charlotte, NC
USA

SIM Australia
Box 42 Penshurst
NSW 2222
AUSTRALIA

SIM New Zealand
Box 35 588
Howick
NEW ZEALAND

SIM UK
Wetheringsett 27/22/2006
Stowmarket
Suffolk IP145QX
UK

SIM International
CP 4051
CH 2500 Biel/Bienne 4
SWITZERLAND

SIM LITERATURE CONSULTANT PBS & ABC UPDATE

July 2006

DONATIONS at end of June 2006			
African Bible Commentary	Project Amount	Received	Percentage
ABC (Project AS 99370)	\$1,199,000	\$1,168,970	97.50%

Future Vision in Brief

We are hoping to establish **Hippo Books** - an African Theological and popular imprint, named after both St Augustine and the African animal.

- It will be African, but not generic to one area of Africa.
- It will pay tribute to a great African scholar, Augustine of Hippo.

Our vision would involve a consortium of publishers in Africa. All manuscripts would come from African soil. Our first interest would be a Study Bible with notes relevant to Africa and a Systematic Theology book, that the General Editor hopes to start soon. The goal will be to stimulate growth and depth in the African church through publishing a range of serious evangelical Christian theological books.

Pastors Book Set (PBS) Conferences

The first conference opened on Monday, 3rd July, in Nairobi with Rick Calenberg as the speaker on expository preaching, Dr Stephen Adei from Ghana, taught on Marriage and Finance. Here are some comments from pastors attending:

- The passion and sacrifice by all that were involved to equip pastors, and the desire for us to do the same - in this I see a Christ-like attitude. Bless You!
- This was a great, worthy and generous contribution towards God's mission in Kenya and Africa as a whole. I envy you on how God will bless you for this.
- The pastors commented that they expected to get the books, but the teaching they did not expect. The excellence of it amazed them.
- The Archbishop at the *Voice of Salvation and Healing Church* in Kisumu said this: "I have attended conferences around the world. I have never attended a conference as meaningful, as well organized and focused as this one has been."

Current PBS Donation Status:

DONATIONS at end of June 2006			
	Project Amount	Received	Percentage
Kenya PBS (Project KE 92155 Eng.	\$ 900,000	\$574,739	63.86%
Zambia (Project ZM 94441) Eng.	\$525,000	\$415,904	79.22%
Ethiopia (Project ET 92027) Amharic	\$900,000	\$325,395	36.16%
Ethiopia 1,000 Eng. sets incl. above			
TOTAL:	\$2,325,000	\$1,316,038	56.60%

Continued thanks for your prayers and generosity,

Jim Mason

Jim Mason
Waterloo, ON
July 21st, 2006

**If you wish you can
donate over the
internet at <sim.ca>.
Choose donate -
other, and specify.**

Check Africa Bible Commentary on the web to find coverage on ABC

SIM Canada
10 Huntingdale Blvd.
Scarborough, ON
M1W 2S5

SIM USA
Box 7900
Charlotte, NC
USA

SIM Australia
Box 42 Penshurst
NSW 2222
AUSTRALIA

SIM New Zealand
Box 35 588
Howick
NEW ZEALAND

SIM UK
Wetheringsett 27/22/2006
Stowmarket
Suffolk IP145QX
UK

SIM International
CP 4051
CH 2500 Biel/Bienne 4
SWITZERLAND