

THE GAZA ROAD

“Do you understand what you are reading?” (Acts 8:30).

By Keith G. Balsler

The Ethiopian’s reply to Philip was itself a question – one that resounds through the ages: “How can I, unless someone guides me?” (v.31).

That is the question today in much of the world. Not only nonbelievers and new believers are asking it; but pastors and teachers are too, especially in places where Bible study resources are either not readily available or totally lacking. Those resources are desperately needed to shed light on the Scriptures and equip evangelists to point the way to salvation.

One church leader in East Africa – who has gotten that equipping through *The Shepherd’s Staff* – gives a glimpse of conditions on the “Gaza Road” in his country:

Spiritual Infants

“Greetings brethren. I am a young pastor ministering in the interior part of Kenya. I pastor a small church with around 60 members with their families. Also I am a leader/teacher of a youth group with around 85 young people, of whom many are spiritual infants.

“Ministry work to me has been joyous. Not that there are not problems and challenges. But these are not [to be] compared to the joy of doing the Master’s will. Much comfort and heart-lifting comes when the Master with a still, small voice whispers ‘I am with you till the end of times.’

“Being a pastor and a teacher demands equipping. The world today needs the truth of the Gospel. In this part of Kenya [the lack of] teaching and learning materials is a problem. The people mostly we minister to are not people of the Word. Not that they don’t study the Word, but somehow not to that deep degree. Again as the eunuch would tell Philip, ‘How can I understand unless someone guides me?’ They lack equipped men and women to guide them.

Lit By God’s Light

“Another challenge is leading people to the truth. The first missionaries reached here around 100 years ago. In fact many are celebrating 100 years since the word reached here. But when it reached here it was taken together with African beliefs, culture and practices and became syncretic faith. Another challenge is conformity. Due to lack of knowledge, people conform with the world.

“I am thankful to the World MAP group who have continually prayed and supported [the work of] seeing [that] the world is lit by God’s light.”

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps 119:105).

There are many “Gaza Roads” in our world today. There is, however, only one road to salvation. World MAP training resources are helping to light up that road. Church leaders equipped with ACTS Magazine and *The Shepherd’s Staff* are giving sound scriptural guidance to those who ask, “How can I understand the Word of God?” and “What must I do to be saved?”

Our goal is that all who journey on the “Gaza Road” – from the desert roads of Africa

to the mountain paths of Asia – may be guided by godly ministers of the Gospel to “*walk in the light of the Lord*” (Isa 2:5).

We are so grateful to be part of God’s plan to help equip the “Philips” of so many nations who are faithfully – and fruitfully – bringing the light of God’s Word to a dark world.