

ACRP Code of Ethics (continues)

The core ethical values and standards for good practice continues from Issue 6 as follows:

10. Justice: Affiliates should treat all individuals and groups in an impartial, fair and just manner. This principle does not exclude the affiliate's right and duty to proclaim the message of faith and wisdom as contained in the Bible and the relevant faith tradition, and to apply rules of membership, as previously referred to.

11. Professional competence and self-improvement: Affiliates should continually endeavour to increase their level of knowledge and skills required within their area of practice.

12. Community: Affiliates should strive to contribute to the betterment of society in accordance with their professional abilities and standing in the community.

Duties to the profession: The affiliate undertakes to report violations and seek redress in circumstances where they have good or persuasive reason to believe that the rights of persons are being violated and / or where the conduct of the affiliates of ACRP is unethical.

The guiding light Newsletter



Issue 7 - June 2021



nbi nehemiah bible institute

A message from Pastor Mawonga Phaphile Celesi: Principal of Nehemiah Bible Institute

An African proverb 'Inkunzi isematholeni' literally means the bull is found within the calves. Indeed leaders of tomorrow are found in the youth. We cannot afford to neglect the children if we want to change the course of history. Scripture admonishes us to "Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives." (Proverbs 22: 6). Inkunzi refers to many things in Africa such as 'new life, family wealth, family strength, family pride, family growth, and hope for the future'. Attention given to children and their upbringing leads to strong individuals, strong families, strong churches and strong societies that live out the values of Ubuntu/Botho. Opposed to a society that lives out the values of Ubuntu is a society that inflicts pain on the other person, a society that oppresses, discriminates and marginalises others.

Sharing God's love with the young ones

Society and the Christian church, in particular, are blamed for their failure to transfer or pass their faith and values to children. Many in the youth ministry and theological space, (e.g. Strommen & Hardel 2000) speak about 'passing the faith' to the next generation. Sharing with children about our faith in God, and the goodness of the Lord is a noble thing to do. That is what the psalmist (Asaph), urges us to do in (Psalm 78: 1-8).

Learning from Christ-the Master teacher

In Matthew 18: 1-11, Jesus uses the child to teach the church 'disciples' about the kingdom principle of humility, and in Mark 10: 13-16, He blesses children. In both instances, the child/children become a tool in the hand of Jesus (a teaching resource) to help adults and the church to change its attitude for life in general. He also demonstrates that children are also recipients of God's blessing of salvation. The church (church leaders & parents) in the world is well placed to teach biblical values to children.

- The church that fails to capacitate its children and make use of them deprives itself of leaders of Timothy's calibre (2 Timothy 1: 5) - Paul calls Timothy's faith 'Sincere Faith'.
- The church and parents that fails to pour enough resources towards children up-bringing robs itself and society a good future- *a future that is full of well-nurtured citizenry.*
- The church and parents that fail to train those who teach their children expose children to doctrines and influences that may have a lasting negative impact. *This calls for the church to subject teachers to thorough training.*

Homes epitomise church and church reflects homes

The entire Bible (from Genesis to Revelation) has no reference directed to 'Sunday school teachers' but it is full of references to parents as the ones mandated by God to teach children at home (Deuteronomy 6:7). This God-given mandate cannot be delegated to teachers or children's leaders. The implication, therefore, is that homes should be the epitome of what church is, and the church should be a reflection of what home is. We pray that God blesses us and our children as they grow to know Him.



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Oasis Int. has been intensely involved with the development and distribution of books by authors speaking to the African contexts. The Africa Study Bible is one of these. Please read part 7A of their sponsored article on the next page.

*Article sponsored by OASIS International –
Publishers of the Africa Study Bible*

**SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE CULTURES OF THE BIBLE AND
AFRICA (PART 7A)**

Culture includes everything that makes up a person's way of life – beliefs, values, behaviours, ideas, and way of thinking and living.

In Germany or Switzerland, it is rude to be late for dinner. Yet in other European countries and Africa, being late is normal.

In Europe and North America, telling a woman that she has gained weight is an insult, whereas in many places in Africa, you are remarking that she looks healthy or had a nice holiday.

Bible stories were set in a particular time and place with a particular culture. Knowing the similarities and differences between the culture in which the Bible was written and the one in which it is read helps us understand and apply the Bible. Consider some ways that cultures in the Bible compare to cultures in Africa.

An Awareness of the Supernatural

It may seem obvious to say that the Bible assumes an awareness of the supernatural. Until three hundred years ago most people believed in the supernatural. But since the 1700s when the Enlightenment in Europe claimed human reason was the primary source of authority, the West has increasingly denied the importance of the supernatural. The Bible, however, says the world was created (Genesis 1:1) and is sustained by God (Psalm 104). Although we may have earthly enemies, the Bible says our real battle is against supernatural opponents (Ephesians 6:12). Bible stories tell about the God who speaks to people.

Most of us recognise that we are part of a world that is both physical and spiritual (or natural and supernatural). Actions in the physical world have consequences in both the physical and spiritual world. Demonic oppression, miraculous healings, speaking in tongues, and prophetic utterances are common in the church in Africa because of the supernatural orientation of the church members.

Integration of the Religious and Secular Worlds

In the Bible, there is little or no separation between the religious and secular worlds. Instead, the two are integrated. In the Old Testament, the Jewish people lived according to the laws of God that regulated their daily life (see Numbers 28–29).

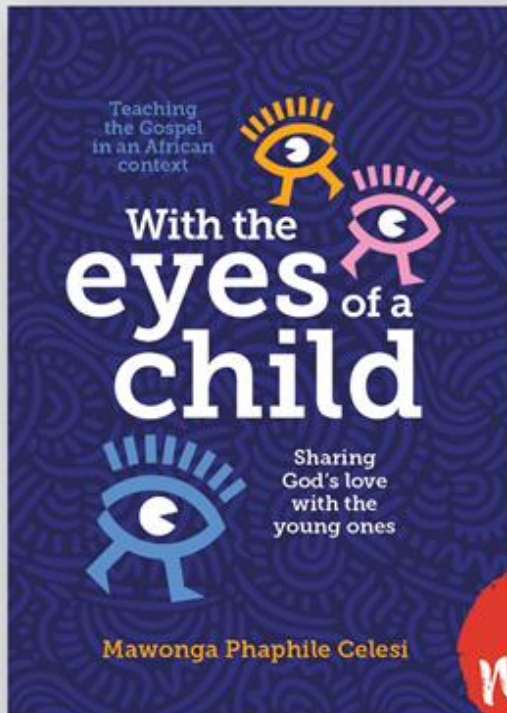
This kind of integration is found in many African cultures. In our traditions we perform special rituals because people believe it will improve life in the physical realm. Many festivals that we enjoy also have religious elements.

Sacrifice and Fear

An awareness of the consequences of wrongdoing or sin in both the Bible and many African cultures leads individuals to offer sacrifices. In the Old Testament, the practice of offering sacrifices was established by God. But in many African cultures and indigenous religions, sacrifices are offered because of fear of spiritual beings or forces. The fear of God mentioned in the Bible is very different. For example, Proverbs 9:10 says, "Fear of the LORD is the foundation of wisdom." A person's fear of the Lord will drive out the fear of other spiritual beings.

In the next newsletter we will consider community and family life in Africa and in the Bible.

EQUIP YOURSELF TO RAISE A CHRIST-LIKE GENERATION



Children have always been at the centre of Jesus' ministry, and this book is a must-read for everyone who has the responsibility to raise a Christ-like generation in these challenging times.

The main purpose of this book is to help everyone involved in children's ministry to make Jesus known to children, to make Jesus shine as a hero and role model to children.

To achieve this goal, we need to learn from Jesus how to do ministry. And this book is an excellent resource fulfilling this need.

Pastor Mawonga Phaphile Celesi challenges us to go back to the basics of the Gospel, back to the Bible, and back to God.



This book is a simple manual to equip you for this noble task. This book marks a very significant contribution to the fulfilment of the Great Commission in three respects:

- teaching the Gospel in the African context,
- preaching the Gospel with the eyes of a child, and
- sharing God's love with the young ones in our society.

All people involved in children's ministry can use this book:

- Ministers, pastors, faith leaders and community leaders
- Sunday School teachers
- Parents
- Students in theology focusing on children's ministry



Direct orders: bestel@bmedia.co.za
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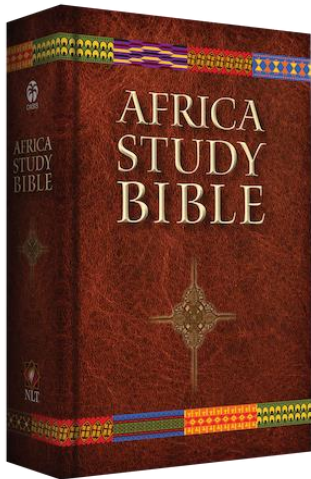


*The two **Must Have Resources** for the private library of pastors of the African continent. Together they form a complete library!*

Both available from ACRP office
(place orders by sending an e-mail to cgmp@acrpafrica.co.za)

1. Africa Study Bible (ASB) Hardcover

General Editor: Dr John Jusu



Key features:

The Africa Study Bible (ASB) was written by 338 contributors from 48 African countries, making it the most ethnically diverse, single-volume, biblical resource to date.

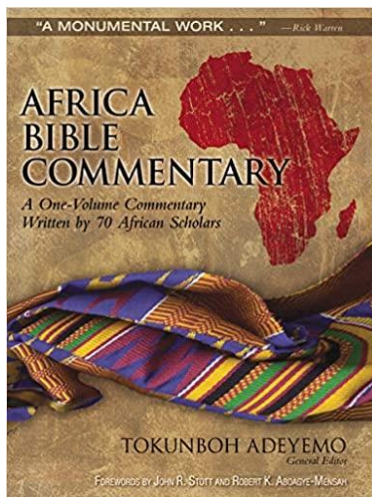
- It was built from the ground up by scholars and pastors in Africa who see the critical need to make Scripture relevant to our everyday lives.
- It contains more than 2,600 features that illuminate the truth of Scripture with a unique, African perspective.
- It is an all-in-one course in biblical content, theology, history, and culture.
- "Touchpoints", "Proverbs" and "Stories" gives an African perspective on the Bible and also show parallels with African wisdom.
- An absolute treasure of 2100 pages

Price: R450.00 (excluding delivery costs). A discount for orders of 10 or more can be arranged.

"The Africa Study Bible is a pacesetter in using the African experience for understanding the Bible. I recommend it highly to those who have sought to understand life and the world from an African perspective". **Dr Mvume Dandala**, former presiding bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa and former head of the All Africa Conference of Churches.

2. Africa Bible Commentary (ABC) (Hardcover)

General Editor: Dr Tokunboh Adeyemo



Key features:

- One-volume Bible commentary produced by African theologians, in Africa, for the needs of African pastors, students and lay leaders—and for the world.
- Section-by-section interpretive commentary, providing a useful guide to the entire Bible.
- More than 70 special articles dealing with topics of key importance in ministry in Africa today, but that have global implications.
- 70 African contributors from both English- and French-speaking countries in Africa
- Transcends the African context with insights into the biblical text and the Christian faith for readers worldwide.
- An absolute treasure of 1585 pages.

Price: R450.00 (excluding delivery costs). A discount for orders of 10 or more can be arranged.

"A rich and valuable contribution to biblical knowledge and understanding. I commend it to Christian leaders. not only in Africa but the world over". **Dr Justice James Ogenyi Ogebe**, High Court Nigeria

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