Africa Inland Church - Kenya

MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

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(founded in 1895)

MISSIONS

2030

RAISING A NEW GENERATION FOR GOD'S MISSION

YOUR PROFESSION. YOUR CALLING. YOUR MISSION.

An invitation to discover your calling, serve humanity, and participate in God's mission.

A VISION AND TEACHING DOCUMENT

By: Rev. Peter Macharia –Director,
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MISSION: To Spread the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ throughout the World.

VISION: To Preach the Gospel, Plant and Establish Churches and to be responsible for all Missions Ministries and activities of Africa Inland Church – Kenya and beyond.

YOUR GUIDE TO MISSIONS 2030

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Your Profession. Your Calling. Your Mission.

An invitation to discover your calling, serve humanity, and participate in God's mission.

A vision and teaching document from the Director of Missions, Africa Inland Church Missions Department.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

The mission must continue, and a new generation must arise.

Dear young people, Christian professionals, church leaders and friends of missions,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I invite you to consider a question that goes beyond your education, professional ambitions, financial aspirations and personal achievements:

What does God want to accomplish through your life?

We live in a generation in which young people are encouraged to pursue education, secure employment, establish businesses, accumulate wealth, acquire professional qualifications and build successful careers. These are worthwhile pursuits. God has given us abilities, opportunities, knowledge and resources, and we should use them responsibly.

However, there is a greater question that every Christian must confront.

Are we pursuing success only for ourselves, or are we allowing God to use our lives to serve others and advance His Kingdom?

At the Africa Inland Church Missions Department, we believe it is time to awaken a new generation to the possibilities of Christian mission.

We recognise that the future of missions requires more than the experience and commitment of the present missionary generation. It requires intentional investment in young people, particularly those aged 20–35, who are developing professional skills, establishing careers and discovering their place in society.

Our concern is that the younger generation remains significantly underrepresented in our missionary workforce. We cannot afford to wait until young professionals are approaching middle age before they begin considering missionary service.

We must help them discover their calling now.

But I want to make something clear: We are not asking every young professional to abandon their career. We are inviting them to surrender their career, abilities, resources and opportunities to God's purposes.

A doctor can serve as a missionary. An engineer can serve as a missionary. A teacher, accountant, agriculturalist, lawyer, entrepreneur, counsellor, ICT specialist or communications professional can participate in missions.

We also recognise that not everyone will be called to travel to a mission field. Some will be called to mobilise and train missionaries. Others will provide pastoral and practical care, support missionaries' children, contribute resources, or strengthen the administrative structures that make missionary work possible.

All these contributions matter.

Our vision is therefore bigger than recruiting a new group of missionaries. We desire to build a sustainable missionary movement in which every Christian can find a meaningful place in God's mission.

Through MISSIONS 2030, we invite you to discover your calling, serve humanity and participate in what God is doing among the nations.

The mission belongs to God. The Church has been entrusted with it. Our generation must faithfully carry it forward.

Welcome to MISSIONS 2030.

Director of Missions

Africa Inland Church Missions Department

CHAPTER ONE: UNDERSTANDING GOD'S MISSION

1.1 Mission begins with God

Christian mission did not begin with a church department, a missionary organisation or an individual preacher. It begins with God Himself.

From the beginning of Scripture, we see God's desire to bless humanity, restore broken relationships and establish His purposes among all peoples.

In Genesis 12:1–3, God called Abraham and promised that through him all the families of the earth would be blessed.

This promise reveals an important truth: God's blessing was never intended to end with one individual or one community. It was intended to reach others.

Throughout the Old Testament, we see God's concern for the nations, the poor, the vulnerable, the oppressed and those who were far from Him.

In the New Testament, this mission becomes clearly visible through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Jesus came to reconcile humanity to God and to establish the Kingdom of God. His ministry included preaching the Gospel, healing the sick, restoring dignity, confronting injustice, welcoming the marginalised and calling people to repentance and faith.

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus gave His followers the Great Commission.

Matthew 28:18–20 commands the Church to make disciples of all nations, baptising them and teaching them to obey everything He commanded.

This commission is not restricted to a small group of professional ministers. It is the responsibility of the Church.

Every believer has a responsibility to participate in God's mission according to the gifts, opportunities and responsibilities entrusted to them.

1.2 Mission is more than preaching alone

Preaching the Gospel and making disciples remain central to Christian mission. We must never lose this foundation.

However, the Gospel also transforms how we relate to people and respond to human suffering.

Jesus demonstrated this through His ministry.

In Luke 4:18–19, He declared good news to the poor, freedom for captives, recovery of sight for the blind and freedom for the oppressed.

In Matthew 25:35–40, He identified Himself with people who were hungry, thirsty, strangers, sick and imprisoned.

James 1:27 reminds believers that genuine religion includes caring for orphans and widows in their distress.

These Scriptures teach us that Christian mission must demonstrate both the proclamation of the Gospel and the practical love of Christ.

We must preach Christ and demonstrate His compassion.

We must make disciples and serve communities.

We must establish churches and strengthen families.

We must nurture spiritual growth and contribute to human dignity.

Our professional skills, knowledge and resources can become instruments through which this Christian witness is expressed.

This does not mean that professional development replaces evangelism or discipleship. Rather, professional service provides meaningful opportunities to demonstrate Christian love, establish relationships, serve communities and communicate the Gospel faithfully.

1.3 Mission belongs to the whole Church

There is a common misunderstanding that missionary work belongs only to pastors, evangelists and people who have received formal theological training.

These ministries are important and must be strengthened. However, the biblical picture of the Church is much wider.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul describes the Church as one body with many members. Every member has a function, and no member should consider themselves unnecessary.

The same principle applies to mission.

Some people preach. Others teach. Some provide healthcare. Others establish schools, support families, develop livelihoods, manage resources, coordinate programmes or care for those serving in difficult environments.

The work is different, but it contributes to the mission of the Church.

God does not call everyone to perform the same assignment, but every believer should seek to be faithful in the assignment God has entrusted to them.

CHAPTER TWO: WHY MISSIONS 2030?

2.1 The generational challenge facing missions

The Africa Inland Church Missions Department recognises the need to strengthen generational continuity within missionary service.

Our current concern is the limited representation of young professionals aged 20–35 in the missionary workforce, compared with the more established missionary generation, particularly those aged 40–60.

This is not a criticism of older missionaries.

We honour those who have faithfully served God, sacrificed for the Gospel and established missionary foundations that continue to benefit the Church.

Their experience is a precious resource.

However, the future cannot depend entirely on one generation.

We must intentionally prepare those who will carry the responsibility forward.

A missionary who has served faithfully for decades should not have to wonder who will continue the work after their retirement.

An experienced missionary should have the opportunity to mentor a younger person.

A young professional should have the opportunity to learn from someone who has already served in difficult missionary environments.

The generations must work together in partnership.

2.2 Why should we mobilise young professionals now?

Young professionals are at a significant stage of life.

They are acquiring experience, establishing careers, forming families, developing networks and making important decisions about their future.

Their professional training represents years of investment by their families, churches, educational institutions, and society.

These skills are needed in communities facing poverty, limited healthcare, inadequate education, unemployment, poor infrastructure, social exclusion and spiritual need.

Imagine the difference that could be made if a generation of Christian professionals intentionally placed their knowledge and abilities at the service of God's mission.

Imagine doctors serving underserved communities.

Imagine engineers contributing to clean water projects.

Imagine teachers strengthening educational opportunities.

Imagine agriculturalists helping families improve food security.

Imagine ICT professionals developing solutions for rural communities.

Imagine entrepreneurs creating employment and supporting sustainable community development.

Imagine accountants strengthening transparency and responsible stewardship in Christian institutions.

These are not merely professional activities. When undertaken with Christian conviction, integrity, compassion, and intentional missionary purpose, they become expressions of Christian service.

2.3 The vision of MISSIONS 2030

MISSIONS 2030 is an initiative of the Africa Inland Church Missions Department to raise a new generation of Christ-centred, professionally equipped and mission-minded people.

We desire to see young Christians:

- Discover their God-given calling.
- Understand the biblical foundations of mission.
- Recognise their professions as possible instruments of Christian service.
- Develop a heart for vulnerable and underserved communities.
- Receive appropriate missionary preparation and mentorship.
- Participate in local, regional and international mission opportunities.
- Support the structures and people who sustain missionary work.

Our vision is not simply to increase the number of people carrying the title of missionary.

It is to strengthen the entire missionary movement.

CHAPTER THREE: SIX LIVES THAT CHALLENGE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SIGNIFICANCE

What makes a life meaningful?

Is it professional recognition? Wealth? Academic achievement? Social status? Influence?

These things may have their place, but they cannot be the ultimate measure of a Christian life.

The following six individuals provide different perspectives on how professional abilities, Christian convictions and personal decisions can contribute to the service of humanity.

Their stories are not presented as lives without struggles or imperfections. Rather, they offer lessons that challenge us to think beyond personal achievement.

3.1 Dr. Paul Brand: When professional knowledge becomes an instrument of compassion

The doctor who served people society had rejected.

Dr. Paul Brand was a Christian orthopaedic surgeon who devoted much of his life to treating people affected by leprosy, particularly in India.

At a time when people affected by leprosy experienced widespread discrimination and exclusion, Brand saw human beings who needed medical care, dignity and compassion.

He used his professional knowledge to understand how leprosy affected nerves and contributed to injuries and deformities.

His work helped advance treatment, reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation.

His story challenges the idea that missionary service must always involve abandoning one's professional training.

He demonstrated that medicine could become an instrument of Christian compassion.

LESSONS FOR OUR GENERATION

A medical professional should see beyond the hospital and consider people who have little access to healthcare.

A nurse can serve people in remote communities.

A physiotherapist can restore mobility.

A pharmacist can help improve access to essential medicines.

A public health professional can prevent disease and promote healthier communities.

A psychologist can support people facing emotional and psychological suffering.

The question is not simply how much your professional qualification can earn you.

The question is how many people God can touch through the knowledge and skills He has entrusted to you.

Biblical reflection: Matthew 25:35–40.

3.2 Henri Nouwen: When prestige gives way to humble service

The professor who discovered a deeper expression of ministry among vulnerable people.

Henri Nouwen was a Catholic priest, theologian, professor and writer.

He taught in prestigious academic institutions, including Harvard and Yale.

He had opportunities for intellectual recognition and influence. Yet his understanding of Christian ministry led him towards a different expression of service.

He joined the L'Arche Daybreak community in Canada, where people with and without intellectual disabilities shared their lives together.

There he discovered the importance of relationships, humility, vulnerability and love.

He learned that ministry was not simply about being the person with answers, authority or recognition.

It was also about learning from people whom society often overlooks.

His experience challenges young professionals to reconsider the meaning of success.

LESSONS FOR OUR GENERATION

Your professional position does not determine your value as a Christian.

You can be highly qualified and still need to learn humility.

You can occupy a senior position and still serve someone who has no influence.

You can possess knowledge and still learn from people whose experiences are different from yours.

A Christian professional must never allow achievement to destroy compassion.

Biblical reflection: Philippians 2:3–8 and John 13:1–17.

3.3 Dr. Robert Coles: When professional expertise gives vulnerable people a voice

The psychiatrist who listened to suffering children.

Robert Coles was an American psychiatrist, researcher and writer.

He devoted significant attention to children experiencing poverty, racial discrimination and difficult social circumstances.

His work during the American civil rights movement helped draw attention to the emotional and psychological experiences of children living through social conflict.

He demonstrated that professional service is not always about performing visible or dramatic activities.

Sometimes it begins with listening, understanding and taking another person's suffering seriously.

He reminds us that vulnerable people need more than material assistance. They need dignity, attention, protection and a voice.

LESSONS FOR OUR GENERATION

Teachers must pay attention to children who are struggling.

Counsellors must understand the emotional needs of young people.

Social workers must defend vulnerable families.

Researchers must investigate problems that affect communities.

Journalists must report responsibly on people whose voices are often ignored.

Christian professionals should use their knowledge to strengthen the dignity and wellbeing of others.

Biblical reflection: James 1:27 and Proverbs 31:8–9.

3.4 Martin Luther King Jr.: When Christian faith confronts injustice

The minister who used his faith to challenge society.

Martin Luther King Jr. was an American Baptist minister and civil rights leader.

His Christian convictions shaped his commitment to nonviolence, justice and human dignity.

He confronted racial discrimination through public leadership, preaching, organising and peaceful resistance.

His life demonstrated that Christian faith must influence how we treat other human beings.

The Gospel cannot be reduced to religious language while injustice, exploitation and discrimination are ignored.

His ministry reminds us that Christian professionals have responsibilities within society.

LESSONS FOR OUR GENERATION

Lawyers can defend the rights of vulnerable people.

Accountants can promote transparency.

Public servants can demonstrate integrity.

Business leaders can create fair employment practices.

Engineers and planners can contribute to inclusive communities.

Christian professionals should not separate their faith from their ethical responsibilities.

Biblical reflection: Micah 6:8 and Matthew 5:13–16.

3.5 Frederick Buechner: Discovering where your gifts meet the world's needs

The writer who challenged people to understand their vocation.

Frederick Buechner was an American Presbyterian minister, novelist and theologian.

One of his most influential contributions to Christian reflection was his understanding of vocation.

He described vocation through the relationship between a person's deep gladness and the world's deep hunger.

This offers a helpful way of understanding professional mission.

Consider an agriculturalist who loves farming and sees families struggling with food insecurity.

Consider a doctor who has a passion for medicine and encounters communities without adequate healthcare.

Consider an engineer who sees people without clean water.

Consider a teacher who encounters children without educational opportunities.

Consider an entrepreneur who sees young people without employment.

Their professional abilities may provide opportunities to respond to these needs.

Buechner's teaching encourages us to consider not only what we enjoy doing but also how our gifts can serve others.

LESSONS FOR OUR GENERATION

Discover your abilities.

Understand the needs around you.

Seek God's direction.

Develop your professional competence.

Use your opportunities responsibly.

Do not separate your spiritual life from your everyday work.

Biblical reflection: Ephesians 2:10 and 1 Peter 4:10.

3.6 Mzee Edward Limo araap Talam: An African legacy of Christian service

A reminder that Africans can build enduring missionary legacies.

In developing a new generation of missionaries, we must look beyond examples from other continents.

We must also recognise African men and women whose faith, generosity, professional abilities and commitment to their communities have contributed to the growth of Christian mission.

Mzee Edward Limo araap Talam (1926–2017) is an important example in the history of Christian service among the Nandi people and the wider Africa Inland Church community.

His life and legacy are associated with Christian evangelism, agricultural service, generosity, educational development and support for Christian institutions.

Born in Kesogon, Nandi South, his early exposure to Christian teaching and literacy contributed to his spiritual and personal formation.

His professional involvement in agricultural services also illustrates the importance of using technical knowledge to improve community livelihoods.

His contribution to the development of Christian and educational institutions, together with his concern for vulnerable people, provides an important example of faith expressed through practical service.

His story challenges us to think about the relationship between personal resources, Christian commitment and long-term community transformation.

He reminds us that mission is not simply something Africans receive from others.

African Christians can become builders, senders, supporters, teachers, evangelists and institution-makers.

LESSONS FOR OUR GENERATION

Your profession can contribute to community development.

Your resources can strengthen Christian institutions.

Your influence can open opportunities for others.

Your generosity can help vulnerable people.

Your life can leave behind something that continues serving humanity.

Do not live only to acquire. Live also to build, give and serve.

Biblical reflection: 1 Chronicles 29:14, Psalm 112:5–9 and Matthew 6:19–21.

CHAPTER FOUR: SIX QUESTIONS THAT EVERY YOUNG PROFESSIONAL MUST ANSWER

The six lives we have considered should not remain inspirational stories.

They should lead to personal examination.

I invite every young professional visiting this website to stop and reflect on the following questions.

Do not rush through them. Consider them prayerfully. Discuss them with trusted Christian mentors. Allow them to challenge your understanding of success, sacrifice and purpose.

Question 1: What is your background?

Where have you come from?

What experiences have shaped your life?

What opportunities have you received?

What challenges have you overcome?

What education, talents, professional skills and relationships has God entrusted to you?

Your background is not merely a record of where you were born or what you have achieved. It is part of the story through which God has shaped your life.

Some people grew up in rural communities where opportunities were limited.

Others were raised in urban environments.

Some experienced poverty, family difficulties or educational challenges.

Others received opportunities that opened doors to professional success.

Whatever your background, your life is not an accident.

Consider how your experiences can help you understand and serve people facing circumstances similar to those you have encountered.

Personal challenge: Do not despise your background. Ask God how your story can become a source of encouragement and service to others.

Question 2: What have you sacrificed?

Christian mission requires commitment.

Following Jesus does not mean that every believer must abandon everything or live without material provision.

However, it does mean that Christ must take priority over selfish ambition, personal comfort and the desire for recognition.

Missionary service may involve sacrificing time, convenience, financial opportunities, personal preferences and the freedom to live only for oneself.

Some assignments may require relocation.

Others may involve serving communities where resources and facilities are limited.

Some forms of service may never attract public recognition.

The important question is whether you are willing to make decisions that put obedience to Christ and the good of others above personal convenience.

Personal challenge: What are you willing to surrender so that others may experience the love of Christ?

Question 3: What did you give up to serve God?

This question takes sacrifice deeper.

It challenges us to examine our priorities and the things that compete with God's purposes.

Some people must surrender the desire for prestige.

Others must reconsider materialism, selfish ambition, unhealthy relationships, dishonesty or the belief that personal advancement is the highest purpose of life.

Some may need to redirect their professional plans.

Others may need to make room in their schedules for community service, discipleship or missionary preparation.

We must remember that surrender does not mean rejecting education, professional excellence, responsible financial planning or family responsibilities.

It means placing these things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Personal challenge: What needs to change in your life for you to become more available to God's mission?

Question 4: How did you treat poor and vulnerable people?

Our relationship with vulnerable people reveals much about our understanding of the Gospel.

How do you treat someone who cannot repay you?

How do you respond to people living in poverty?

How do you relate to people with disabilities?

Do you care about children without adequate parental support?

Do you recognise the dignity of widows, refugees, marginalised communities and people living in difficult circumstances?

Do you make time for people who cannot improve your social status?

Jesus consistently demonstrated compassion towards people who were neglected, rejected or overlooked.

Christian mission must therefore be characterised by dignity, respect, humility and genuine concern.

We must never use vulnerable people merely as objects of charity, photographs or publicity.

We must serve them as people created in the image of God.

Personal challenge: If your profession and resources cannot make you notice the suffering of others, what kind of success are you pursuing?

Question 5: What did you build that outlived you?

A meaningful life is not measured only by what a person accumulates.

It is also measured by what they contributed.

Have you mentored someone?

Have you helped establish a school, business, church, community project or ministry?

Have you equipped another person to become better?

Have you helped create employment?

Have you strengthened an institution?

Have you supported missionary work?

Have you invested in children and young people?