So Philip started speaking, and beginning with this scripture proclaimed the good news about Jesus to him. 

Pray for the Holy Spirit to show African leaders what verses to use for every situation.

Hammar-Bana leave “ritually polluted” people (those who are believed to exert evil influence on others) in the wilderness, or they are drowned in the river. Reasons for declaring ritual pollution include giving birth out of wedlock, giving birth to twins, eruption of teeth in upper jaw before the lower jaw, and chipping a tooth during childhood. This may be their way to purge people who are likely to become a burden.

The Hammar-Bana people mainly adhere to traditional religion. They believe that natural objects, such as rocks and trees, have spirits. They also believe in jinns, or spirits that are capable of assuming human or animal form, and increasing supernatural influence over people. They rub their skin with sand in an effort to wash away their sins. Because many are Sunni Muslim, they also acknowledge the existence of a supreme being, but they believe they cannot reach him directly.

Though there have been efforts to reach Hammar-Bana for more than 30 years, few have put their trust in the Savior who can take care of their spiritual and physical needs. Recently, however, the New Testament has been translated and distributed to them!

Pray that the enthusiasm and transformed lives of Hammar-Bana believers will cause non-believers to read their New Testament and come to know Jesus as Lord. Pray that these lost people will turn away from their fears and put their complete trust in Christ. Pray that trainers, literacy efforts, and audio resources will be available soon.—KH
Paul Kamuri of Garissa Ministry is a man with a price on his head, and a vision burning in his spirit! He said, “In 2011 I saw myself in a vision among the poor and oppressed communities living in unfavorable climatic conditions.”

His vision is to reach out with God’s love by church planting and creating community projects to improve the lives of these least reached peoples. This would involve increasing literacy and propagating the gospel.

The 45,000 Malakote (a.k.a. Wailwana) people are over 99.99 percent Muslim, but they also practice traditional religion and ancestor worship. They are known for openly practicing witchcraft, and attribute their prowess in this evil practice to their success in not allowing the gospel to enter their land. This is one of Paul Kamuri’s mission fields.

His second mission field is among the 60,000 Muslim Orma people. They believe in a creator associated with the sky. They are resistant to the gospel, suspicious of strangers, fear change, and persecute anyone who looks to Jesus instead of their traditional beliefs.

Pray that the Lord will grant lasting fruit as Paul Kamuri labors among these lost people. Pray against traditional and Islamic strongholds that keep them away from Christ. Pray for the completion of Scripture translations in Orma and Malakote languages. Pray for spiritual growth and protection for new believers among these two people groups.—KH

Pray for those who suffer for Christ’s name in Africa today to rejoice and consider it to be an honor. Pray that non-believers will be astounded by their dedication to righteousness.
When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with devoted hearts…

Pray for new believers to be taught to remain true to the love of their lives, Jesus Christ.

“One People – One Kingdom!” This is the chosen theme of South Omo for Christ. Their mission is to reach unreached tribes using their own language and culture, make disciples, and planting churches. They also want to nurture the few believers through training and prayer so these people can have a godly influence on others in this spiritually dark part of Ethiopia.

South Omo is a highly diversified area in southwestern Ethiopia consisting of 16 ethnic groups. Most of these tribes live without electricity or running water. More than half of the population (573,400 people) practice traditional beliefs. Most of these 16 tribes are unreached, and there are no churches or missionaries in their villages. Cultural and linguistic diversity, unsettled lifestyle of the community, illiteracy, absence of active spiritual movement in the area, and lack of infrastructure are major challenges to reach these desolate people. The tribes are mostly pastoralists, living in remote places.

Current translation efforts include audio Bible stories in nine languages loaded on 600 solar devices. There are 21 local missionaries trained and sent to make disciples.

Pray for these obedient servants, and for the many tribes included in South Omo region to see the light of the gospel through all the confusion of darkness and need. Pray that the truth of God’s Word will break spiritual strongholds.—KH
At first there were mission networks within each African country. Then there were regional African networks. As of 2001 the entire African continent has been working together for the Great Commission!

The Movement for African National Initiatives (MANI) is an appropriate name for this network of networks. The goal is to help African believers begin their own mission initiatives through networking and sharing ideas.

In March of 2016, MANI had their latest meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the African Union building. Africans and non-Africans meet every five years. Delegates, (including the editor of the GPD) were able to network and share ideas. Many of the things you are praying about this month and next came from contacts made at the MANI meeting.

What African believers lack in resources they make up for in zeal. Africans think nothing of spending entire nights praying and worshiping the Lord. Every people and nation brings something valuable to God’s banquet table. One Asian missionary remarked that the Asian believers need the passion of the Africans. There is no shortage of passion among the African mission force!

Pray for passionate, Holy Spirit directed African workers to fan out and reach every unreached people group in their continent. Pray that their passion and zeal will rub off on the people they reach leading to thousands of Christ-centered church planting movements across Africa.—KC

To find out more, go to: http://maniafrica.com
Salim (not his real name) is an Arab believer. He moved back to Sudan 14 years ago to share the love and mercy of Jesus with his friends and neighbors. Since returning to Sudan, Salim's faithfulness has been blessed richly by God. His ministry, which is supported by believers in the United States, now sponsors two shelter homes where the pre-literate are taught to read and widows are taught to sew so they can earn a living. An American church has drilled a well for the ministry. Salim also oversees a school in which the number of students is growing steadily.

Salim reaches out to those who cannot come to him. Although he cannot visit prisoners, he walks near a prison from time to time to pray for those incarcerated.

People often ask Salim who pays for all his projects. He answers that Americans who follow Christ do, and this gives his questioners a different image of Americans. The Americans who came to build Salim’s three churches and to teach from the Bible are unlike the violent, gun-toting stereotypes that the Arabs see on American TV shows.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will direct Salim’s outreach to his Arab community. Ask God to protect Salim and his family. May those blessed by the well also drink of Jesus’ living water. Pray that God will bring to fruition the plans for a fourth church among the unreached Arabs in Sudan.—CMW
Therefore I urge you to take some food, for this is important for your survival. For not one of you will lose a hair from his head.” After he said this, Paul took bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all, broke it, and began to eat. So all of them were encouraged and took food themselves.

Pray for favor for those sharing Christ throughout Africa. Pray that they will win the respect of those they go to with the gospel.

How do you prove your valor? If you are Laarim, you steal cattle! Needless to say, this practice leads to inter-tribal wars and needless deaths.

The Laarim people number between 7,000 and 10,000 and live in the Boya Hills of Southern Sudan. The terrain is hilly, with high grasslands and scrub bushes. According to the Africa Inland Mission, the Laarim people breed the livestock, eat them, drink their blood and milk, sleep on their hides, and use them as dowry. Cattle are their only resource and their only source of wealth. Without cattle, they have nothing.

The Laarim practice animism blended with Catholic beliefs. They believe in a supreme being who controls their lives and their cattle. They respect their chiefs and those they believe can bring rain to their grassy homeland.

The Africa Inland Mission is sending a two-year focus team to do ministry among the Laarim people. Additionally, a small number of young Laarim believers from Eastern Equatoria State hope to return to their home towns to share the gospel with their own people.

Pray for unity among the focus team members as they adjust to their new environment. Ask God to give them cultural sensitivity. May the blood-drinking Laarim understand the gift and power of Jesus’ blood. May they internalize God’s commandment not to steal, and thus break a cycle of cattle-raiding and feuding.—CMW
Acts 8:5-6, NET

Philip went down to the main city of Samaria and began proclaiming the Christ to them. The crowds were paying attention with one mind to what Philip said, as they heard and saw the miraculous signs he was performing.

Pray for God to do miraculous signs to open more doors among unreached people groups.

“T’s a miracle!” cried the visiting pastor. “I would like to have some of these recordings for my ministry.” He was watching the eyes of clinic patients light up as they listened to recordings in their own Swahili language.

A short-term medical worker recently returned to the USA and told us, “Our team treated over 1,000 people. In addition, we shared the gospel using recordings in Swahili and Maasai from Global Recordings Network (GRN). “You should have seen their faces when the recordings started to play. During my stay we witnessed 151 professions of faith. The machines were left with the local pastor’s wife who thanked us again and again for such a wonderful way to tell them of Jesus.”

Practically all Swahili people profess to be Muslims. The central building in their towns is the mosque. Swahili culture has been influenced by Islam, the West, African Bantu and Arab cultures. Many of their traditional pre-Islamic beliefs and practices still exist. They believe that many spirits exist, both good and evil. They also believe in the supernatural power of witches and sorcerers. Few have turned to Christ.

GRN has made gospel recordings in 65 other languages and dialects of Tanzania and another 62 in neighboring Kenya. Many of these people groups have either no Christians or a very small percentage of evangelicals.

Pray for more people like the Swahili to find the recordings on the GRN website, or to have an opportunity to hear the life-giving messages on the recordings.—Allan Starling, GRN.
The gospel used to be going from the West to the rest, and now it is going from the “rest” to all over the world! Now is the time to prepare believers from around the world to finish the task of world evangelization. That is why Perspectives is such a crucial tool. It helps people get on track with God’s plan of reaching every tribe, tongue, and nation.

At the end of 2015, leaders from Perspectives had a “huddle” in Nairobi, Kenya. They reported the following. “With Perspectives in five languages now, and four more in the translation process, the demand for Perspectives is exploding. There are far too many countries asking for permission and assistance. The reservoir of experience and wisdom in our movement has been growing for more than a decade. Now is the time to build on that strength.”

Those from established programs were able to teach those from interested countries how to overcome common obstacles. During their “huddle” they were able to summarize 15 years of experience for those who will soon be starting new classes.

Some of the countries that offer Perspectives are experiencing challenges that come from amazing growth. In the Chinese-speaking world, there were 12 classes in their first 18 months! Portuguese-speaking Brazil is faced with the challenge of maintaining quality while dealing with explosive growth over the last three years.

Pray for qualified laborers to help teach and administrate Perspectives around the world.—KC

He said to them, “You know that it is unlawful for a Jew to associate with or visit a Gentile, yet God has shown me that I should call no person defiled or ritually unclean. Therefore when you sent for me, I came without any objection. Now may I ask why you sent for me?”

Pray for God’s servants in Africa to have the teachability of Peter.
So now why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they are.

Pray that new believers in Africa will be relieved to abandon empty rules and regulations, and gladly allow the Lord to clothe them with grace and mercy. Pray that they will glorify His name by sharing this grace, mercy, and forgiveness with others.

In the midst of a desperate civil war, the Antankarana people found refuge in caves. This was in the early 19th century. The name Antankarana literally means “people at the land of limestone rocks,” which is where they were able to live and hide for over a year before the powerful king of the rival Merina people found them. The king of the Antankarana vowed that if his people survived, they would become Muslim. After fleeing the safety of their hideaway and sailing to a tiny island west of the northernmost tip of Madagascar, the king kept his promise. A continued animosity toward local Protestants further complicates Antankarana receptivity toward the gospel.

These days on Nosy Mitsio, the island that provided respite to the Antankarana people so long ago, most make a living by fishing, harvesting rice, or raising cattle. Ties to ancestors are strong and kept alive by various rituals and sacrifices. Most of the Antankarana people carry a nominal allegiance to Islam, but cling to animistic traditions.

Pray for an encounter in which the Holy Spirit clearly demonstrates His power and love for the Antankarana people and unshackles them from the bondage of the spirits of Nosy Mitsio. Pray that the gospel, presented to them in their own language, would find strong footholds among the Antankarana.—Melissa Hughes, guest writer
H ave you ever been to a long funeral? The Bara people hold funerals that are in three parts. When a person dies the body is washed and wrapped in a shroud, according to an Internet article called, “Madagascar-Feast of Life and Death.” That is only a beginning. On the third day, the body is brought to a solitary location and left for months or even years.

In the second phase of the funeral the family will exhume the corpse and take it to the sacred land of their clan. Family and friends gather there for an elaborate feast, which includes hours of dancing. Family members sacrifice the first of three large animals as they pray to their ancestors to bless the upcoming ritual. They continue the feast through the morning of the next day. That day they place the body in a sepulcher as its final resting place. The body is locked in the sepulcher and guests leave a different way to confuse the spirit of the deceased about where they live.

The third and final phase of the funeral takes place where the deceased lived. An elder sings a hymn, and they sacrifice and eat a calf. Once these rituals are complete, the deceased becomes an ancestor. To the Bara people, ancestors hold power over their daily lives, not the god of creation, who is very distant. (PrayAfrica.org)

Pray that the Bara people will learn that God is with us, and He holds our future.—KC

ACTS 8:18-19, NET

Now Simon, when he saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, offered them money, saying, “Give me this power too, so that everyone I place my hands on may receive the Holy Spirit.”

Pray for the Lord to give spiritual discernment to those involved in the occult to realize that there is a great difference between holy and unholy spiritual forces.
They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, led them out, and said, “Go and stand in the temple courts and proclaim to the people all the words of this life.”

Pray for a Holy Spirit-led obedience that will give African missionaries the boldness to preach when they are called upon to do so.

The young medical doctor and his wife had just come home on a medical furlough, grieved because he, a physician, had failed to save his son from dying of malaria. I urged him to return as a very powerful testimony to the people. He eventually returned to the Comoros, to a nation in need of physicians. Although the Comoro constitution guarantees religious freedom, that freedom does not include being free to evangelize. The Mwali Comorians are a people who blend traditional animism with Sunni Islam. Their volcanic island nation between Mozambique and Madagascar is fewer than one percent Christian, most of whom are foreigners.

Mwali is the smallest of the Comoro islands, and has a population of some 35,000. Of the peoples of the Comoro islands, the Mwalis are the poorest, with the poorest education. Mwali needs Christian educators, physicians, veterinarians, and mission efforts for prayer and evangelization. Its believers need boldness to witness. Currently there are no indigenous-language Bible resources available other than some audio resources from Global Recordings Network (GRN). Resources are available in French and Arabic, used as trade languages.

Pray for boldness of believers and for mission agencies to focus on Mwali. Pray for translators for The JESUS Film, for Christian physicians, veterinarians, educators, and entrepreneurs. Pray also for the conversion of Comorians living abroad who can communicate the gospel back to Mwali and the other islands. Pray the people will access GRN audio resources and that Christian radio will be broadcast in Mwali Comorian.—TP