

JONATHAN MENN, Director • 3701 North Gillett St., Appleton, WI 54914 • 920-731-5523
jonathanmenn@yahoo.com • www.eclea.net

ECLEA PRESENTATION: FOX RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH, MAY 17, 2015

INTRO: JMM—ECLEA

- Who I am & what ECLEA is
- Why we exist
- What we do
- How you can be a part of this
- Have time for questions at the end

JMM: Appleton; married to Nancy; 6 kids (3 boys, 3 girls); lawyer 28 years; God knows our end from our beginning; b/g 2003 MDiv @ TEDS; Teacher, not pastor of local church. Missions course: church shrinking in West; growing in non-West—but the vast majority of the non-Western church leaders have no theological training and very few resources. “If you want to teach, go where my people are & where the need is, rather than feeding already fat people.”

2007, degree—to East Africa 5X per year, typically for 3 weeks @ a time; began ECLEA a couple of years ago with Dr. Frank Cummings.

ECLEA: Name describes us—we train and equip church leaders in East Africa. Technically a ministry of Community Church of Appleton (biblical pattern, i.e., Antioch). **EAST AFRICA:** Surround L. Victoria



AFRICA



EQUATOR



MOUNT KILIMANJARO



TEA PLANTATION



RWANDA



UGANDAN WOMAN



KENYAN MAN



PEOPLE ON THE ROAD



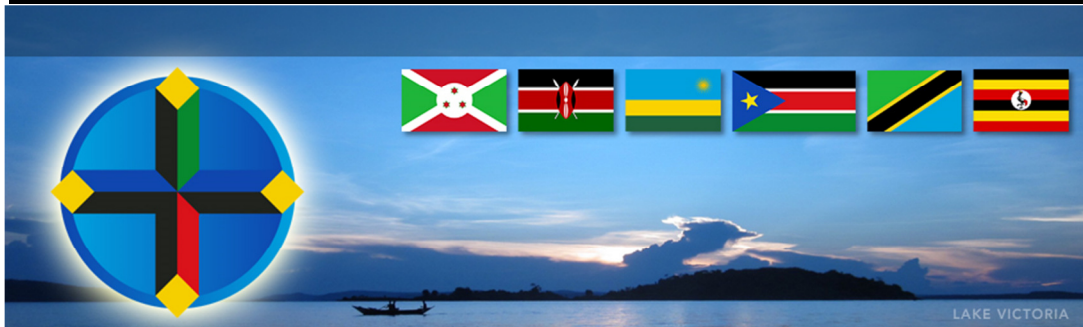
CHILDREN



ANKOLI CATTLE



BABOONS



JONATHAN MENN, Director • 3701 North Gillett St., Appleton, WI 54914 • 920-731-5523
jonathanmenn@yahoo.com • www.eclea.net



NAIROBI, KENYA



KAMPALA, UGANDA

WHY EAST AFRICA? Africa has lots of needs: orphans; HIV/AIDS; clean water; infrastructure, etc., etc. There are lots of NGOs and ministries that deal with those, what I call “humanitarian” issues. But *spiritually speaking*, East Africa is the most strategic area in Africa if not the entire world. Why?

- Africa is most strategic continent: Most Islamized and most Christianized continent & is prime mtg. point between Christianity & Islam: Islam controls north and both coasts and has well-financed plan to Islamize all of Africa (millions of \$\$\$ to build mosques, schools, pay people to convert, etc.).



MUSLIMS



GHADDAFI MOSQUE, KAMPALA, UG

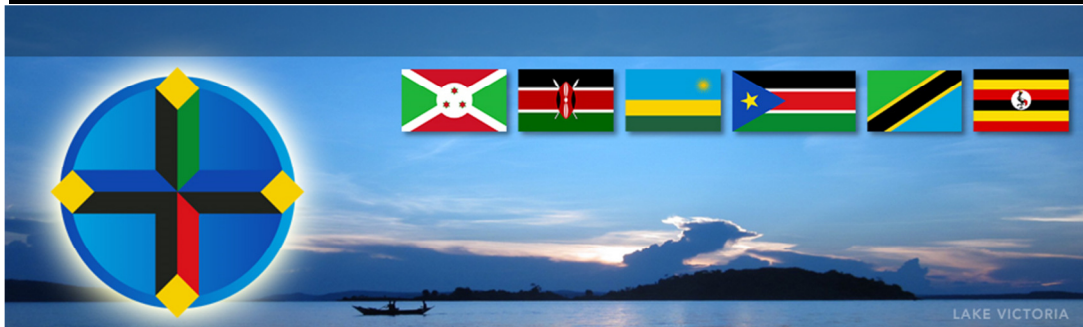


VILLAGE MOSQUE, GATUNGA, BURUNDI

- East Africa is most strategic region in Africa: Most developed; most influential; relatively democratic; relatively stable; they like us relatively a lot; church is most established (been there 150 years).
- BUT, church is “a mile wide & an inch deep.” Hence, if church falls in East Africa, it will fall everywhere else—but if the church is strengthened and deepened in East Africa, the Africans have a missionary heart, and they will go out from East Africa to Zambia, and DRC, and S. Sudan, and elsewhere to evangelize and teach and build the kingdom throughout Africa. East Africa is the key to all of Africa.

THE CHURCH IS ONLY AS GOOD AND STRONG AS ITS LEADERSHIP: The church in Africa is growing indigenously—which is why, in my opinion, there is no need to send Western evangelists and church planters to Africa. The Africans can evangelize better than we can anyway: they know the language; they know the culture; they know the people—and they are effectively making converts and starting churches.

- But the church in Africa has a HUGE problem—and that is a problem that we are well-equipped to do something about. The greatest single need in the African church is that the vast majority of church leaders have virtually no training and no resources.
- One Nigerian scholar estimated that up to 95% of African pastors have no (or very little) formal theological training at all—and most of those who have some training only have it at the HS level.
- Additionally, the leaders of the churches lack resources. Probably everyone in this room has more Bibles and other Christian books and resources than 95% of the pastors in Africa.
- That’s why the church is “a mile wide and an inch deep”. A leader can only raise his people up to about



JONATHAN MENN, Director • 3701 North Gillett St., Appleton, WI 54914 • 920-731-5523
jonathanmenn@yahoo.com • www.eclea.net

the level he is himself—he might inspire them to go farther, but he can't take them there. As a result, although the Africans are good at evangelism, they are terrible at discipleship.

- As a result of that, although the majority of the people of East Africa call themselves Christian, the church is having very little impact in the lives of the people and in society as a whole; Muslims have far greater impact than their numbers alone would indicate.
- But there's another problem that a lack of trained leaders brings with it—it opens the way for heresy and false doctrine: for example, the so-called “prosperity gospel” is HUGE in Africa.
- While there are many ministries dealing with the humanitarian problems facing Africa, there are very few ministries addressing the need for practical theological education that the African church leaders so desperately need. That is why ECLEA exists. BUT, as the church leaders get equipped in the theological area, it will have—and is, in fact having—a significant impact in the practical and humanitarian aspect of life.

WHAT DO WE DO & HOW DO WE DO IT? We concentrate on church leaders—b/c, as I say, the church, like any organization, is only as good and strong as its leadership. How do we do it?

- Look at Christ's model: Sometimes he preached to the masses, but the vast majority of his time he spent with 12 men, and secondarily with the 70. He did that because he knew that the world is always changed by a smaller group of well-trained, passionate, committed people than by a large group of nominal people. And those guys went out and, as the Jewish leaders in Thessalonica said in **Acts 17:6**, **“these men have turned the world upside down.”**
- So that is our strategy: to develop good core groups of pastor-teachers in each of the countries of the East Africa community, to train and equip them well and provide them with good resources, so that they can train and equip not only their own people but other leaders. It's like Paul said in **2 Tim 2:2**, **“The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”**

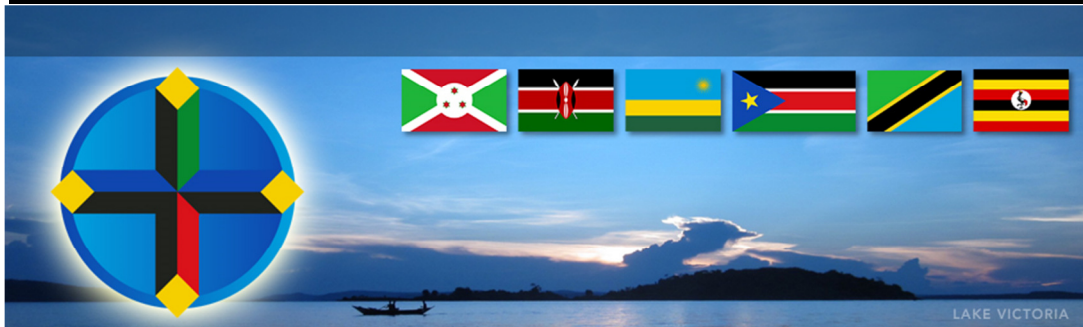


EAST AFRICAN ECLEA LEADERS



3 KENYAN ECLEA LEADERS

- We deal with all denominations from Pentecostal to Anglican and all points in between—because we're all one body; what unites us is greater than what divides us (or than what *should* divide us); all the churches face the same issues and problems; and we need to work together because, as Jesus said in **John 17:20-21**, **“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.”** We concentrate on what John Stott calls “Basic Christianity,” that which we all have in common, the most important things.
- This strategy has a tremendous multiplier effect. Even though I spend about 15 weeks per year in East Africa and Frank Cummings makes about 3 trips per year, we can only be in a few places ourselves. But if we teach 200 or 300 or 500 people per year, and they lead churches of 50 or 100 or 200 people, we are talking of potential impact of 10s of 1000s of people being reached on a regular basis.



JONATHAN MENN, Director • 3701 North Gillett St., Appleton, WI 54914 • 920-731-5523
jonathanmenn@yahoo.com • www.eclea.net

- When I started doing this I spent most of my time doing pastors conferences for anywhere from 50-100 or more participants. Now I'm spending most of my time doing TOTs for smaller groups of 15-25 more carefully selected participants—to encourage more Q&A and discussion. Learning goes way up in that format. The pay-off will be bigger in both the short term and the long term.



NEW LIFE IN CHRIST CONFERENCE



TOT IN TANZANIA

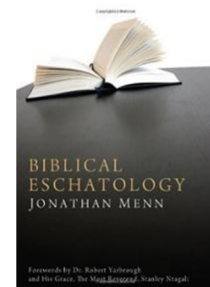


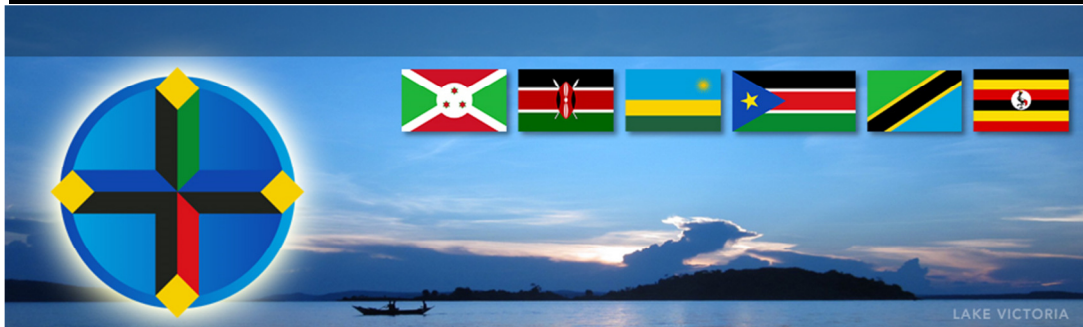
FREDERIC HARERIMANA IN BURUNDI

- There are 2 other aspects of this ministry that are important:
 - First, I mentioned that we have developed indigenous groups of pastor-teachers in the countries of East Africa. What we are doing is training them and then helping to facilitate their going out and doing *all African* pastors training conferences and TOTs. Last year in Kenya our ECLEA-trained leaders did approx. 75 all-African conferences and TOTs and in Tanzania our Tanzanian teams did over 80.
 - News page of the ECLEA website—www.eclea.net—you can read the accounts of these training sessions and see for yourselves the significant impact that we are having.
 - Second, when I am home I spend most of my time researching and writing good materials that go to the heart of what church leaders do. As I said, most African pastors have very few good theological resources. Right now we have course books on:
 - 1 Timothy
 - Biblical Stewardship
 - Biblical Theology
 - Biblical Interpretation
 - Expository Preaching
 - Biblical Counseling
 - Forgiveness & Reconciliation
 - Biblical Marriage & Parenting
 - I've written a book on Biblical Eschatology (pub'd by Wipf & Stock Publishers 1½ years ago—available on Amazon)—I have to convert it to the ECLEA format;
 - Now I'm working on the first volume of a teaching book on Christianity & Islam.
 - Go to the ECLEA Courses page of the ECLEA website: you can read or download these teaching books for yourself, free of charge.
 - We are in process of getting all of these materials translated into the major East African languages, because the vast majority of the theological materials that do exist are in English, but virtually nothing of any depth is available in Kiswahili, Kinyarwanda, Luganda, and Kirundi.
 - We also are in discussion with different theological schools in East Africa and the US to see if our material can become part of a formal diploma or degree program for those African pastors interested in pursuing a formal diploma or degree.



PARTICIPANTS WITH BOOKS





JONATHAN MENN, Director • 3701 North Gillett St., Appleton, WI 54914 • 920-731-5523
jonathanmenn@yahoo.com • www.eclea.net

THAT LEADS TO THE LAST THING I'D LIKE TO DISCUSS: HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- First, your church could partner with an East African church or group of churches. I can help to facilitate that.
 - If you want to partner with an East African church, you could have a tremendous impact. You could not only carry on the teaching that we are doing, but you might have people skilled in construction, or the nursing or medical professions, or nutrition, or all kinds of other things. You could impart your wisdom and skill to the Africans and, at the same time, learn from them.
- Second, I am looking for people who would like to come and teach in East Africa. You could stay for 3 weeks or come for 1 or 2. We have the materials and would train you so that you could then teach with me. And if you are sensing that God is calling you into the mission field, this may be the very mission to which he is calling you.



HOTEL ROOM



MOSQUITO NET



AFRICAN MEAL

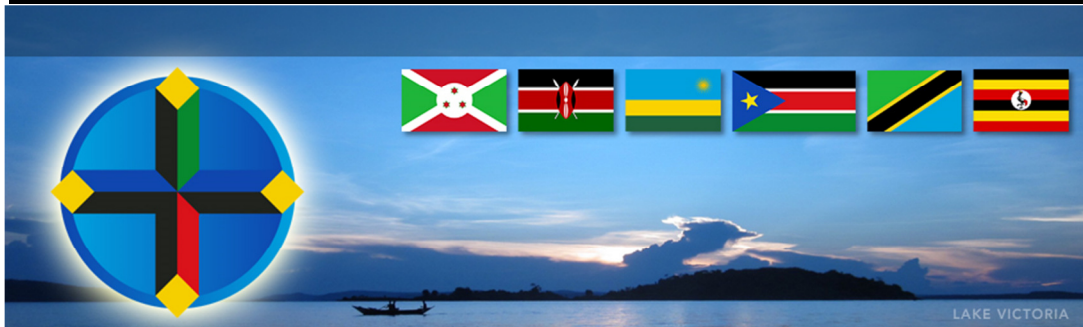


TILAPIA, BEANS, & CHIPS

- Third, I need prayer support and financial support. I have some donors, but I am not a fundraiser and hate fundraising. Maybe that is one of your abilities. Or maybe you would like to become a regular financial donor to ECLEA. The website talks about different ways you can donate online, or you can send a check payable to ECLEA to Community Church or to me at **714 S. Summit St., Appleton, WI 54914**, and I will get it to Benda, ECLEA's bookkeeper.
 - Money is important because my own base of donor support has remained fairly level over the years, but now we are seeing a great increase in the number of all-African conferences, and translations of our teaching books cost around \$500 apiece.
 - You should know that all donations are tax deductible and that 100% goes to the work of the ministry; IOW, I am not raking anything off for my personal support.
 - Additionally, I know lots of African pastors who want and need a laptop. If you have one or get one, I can take it over with me. Or, if you provide the funds through ECLEA, I would get them to needy and worthy pastors.
- Finally, learn more. If you go to the ECLEA website, we have lots more information on each of the countries; we have photos and videos and audio and written sermons, news updates, and other stuff.
 - Get in touch with me. My email is **jonathanmenn@yahoo.com**. If you get on my email list I'll send you updates from the field when I'm in East Africa, or if you have any questions, I'd be happy to do what I can.

CONCL: As I see it, strengthening and deepening the church in the non-Western world—IOW equipping the church leaders—is the single most important missionary need today. For the reasons I previously mentioned, as I see it, Africa is the single most important continent theologically and spiritually, and East Africa is the single most important region in Africa. That's why we are "EQUIPPING CHUCH LEADERS—EAST AFRICA."

Our strategy has been in place for a few years now and it works. Lives are being changed. Churches are being changed. Let me close with just one example of some of the practical effects ECLEA is having in the lives of people:



JONATHAN MENN, Director • 3701 North Gillett St., Appleton, WI 54914 • 920-731-5523
jonathanmenn@yahoo.com • www.eclea.net

I recently received the following email from Obed Magoko, one of ECLEA-Kenya's regional coordinators. Here is what he said:

“Today in church I had a meeting with one of my elders, bro. John. Yesterday in Church I was teaching on Forgiveness and Reconciliation from the [ECLEA] Manual. Bro. John came to me immediately after the teachings and asked me to allow him the manual; he bought a copy. Today he asked for a meeting and he said that he has been absent from Church since his daughter was impregnated by a young man from Church, and when he followed the issue the boy’s parents became defensive, forcing him to technically withdraw from Church.

He says yesterday during the Teachings, he was able to Forgive. He went home and applied the REACH model [*a model for how to forgive in our manual*], and for the first time in 5 months he was able to pray and sleep the night through. Thank you for these Teachings, Pastor Obed”

I hope you will become a part of this great venture.

I have some cards with my contact information and a few handouts regarding ECLEA on the table.

QUESTIONS?