

October for Africa 2025

October 2025

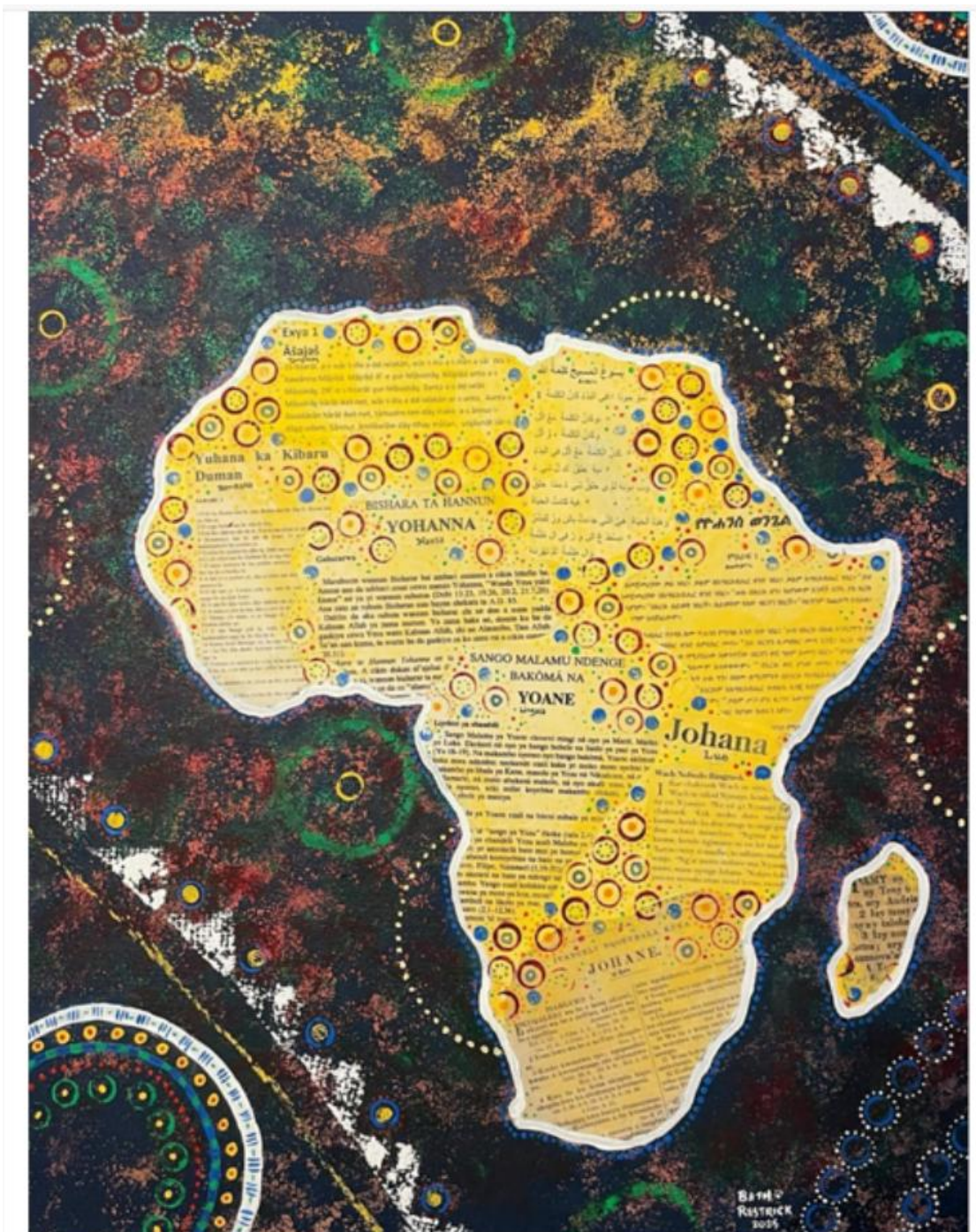
Dear Friends of Nazarene Education throughout Africa,

“October for Africa” is a time to think and pray for pastors in training across the great continent. There are 54 countries in Africa. The Church of the Nazarene is in 44 of them.

The Church of the Nazarene has nine institutions of higher learning in Africa that nurture and train pastors and other church leaders for multiple kinds of Christian ministry. The top need of these institutions and of the Church at large is for the leaders to be enabled to take **“one step up”** in their preparation in order to improve the ministries in their institutions, districts and churches. For years EDUF has moved funds to institutions to scholarship students.

The painting below might be called **“Africa Shines Brightly”**. The artist, Beth Restrick, crafted it using sponges, brushes, paper and paints (of course). Each white dot is painted on.

“Make Africa Shine Even Brighter”. We are very pleased to share that EDUF has already moved **\$45,564** this year from faithful donors! Hallelujah! The funds blessed institutions with equipment and needed scholarships. So, as you think and pray in October, please ask God what you might send to EDUF in 2025 to **“make Africa shine even brighter”**.



About the Painting by the talented artist, Beth Restrict, raised in eSwatini and Mozambique as a “missionary kid”, now Head Librarian at the African Studies Library at Boston University.

Beth writes: “How does one capture an entire continent in a single painting? It cannot be done. When Auntie Margaret asked me to paint something for "October for Africa", I looked forward to the challenge.... and promptly suffered from 'artist's block'. For quite some time, I wasn't sure what to do. And then one day at work, it occurred to me to perhaps try something a bit more abstract.

The library where I work includes a collection of African textiles, some of which we have on display at the moment. Inspired by those textiles, I thought it could be interesting and fun to try and paint a textile-like background as the backdrop for the continent of Africa. As I considered what to do with the continent itself, I was reminded of its great linguistic diversity (over 2000 languages) and I thought it would be interesting to take a passage of Scripture that would be recognizable to people and collage it in different languages across the continent. I chose languages that represented regions around Africa but tried to shy away - in some cases - from the most well-known languages (like Swahili) in order to showcase other, perhaps lesser-known languages. I chose the Gospel of John, chapter 1 as my passage. The opening verses of this Gospel are powerful and reference light.

Depicting Africa in bright gold and using these verses, was perhaps, in retrospect, my way of pushing back on the tired, old stereotypes of "darkest Africa", because honestly - it is the exact opposite! God is at work in mighty ways across the continent, and Africa shines bright.

John 1:1-5 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it..."

Languages Used: I selected the languages to be representative of the region where I placed them. They are as follows:

- **Arabic** - Spoken across Northern Africa and Islamic communities throughout the continent. This passage is standard Arabic, but it's worth noting that many African cultures took Arabic script and modified it in order to be able to write their own African languages. This modified script is known as "ajami" and has been around for centuries - European colonizers didn't realize these people were literate; they assumed that they were just writing gibberish in Arabic.
- **Amharic** - Spoken in Ethiopia and Horn of Africa, the Ethiopic script is an ancient script and is used for a number of languages.
- **Bambara** - Spoken across West Africa, part of the larger family of Manding languages.
- **Hausa** - the second most spoken language across the Sahel after Arabic. It was used as a trade language.
- **Lingala** - spoken in Central Africa, mostly the Democratic Republic of Congo, it is also used as a lingua franca north in the Central African Republic and south in Angola.
- **Luo** - an East Africa language spoken most predominantly in Kenya, but with dialects occurring from southern Sudan to western Ethiopia down into northern Tanzania and west to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- **Malagasy** - Spoken in Madagascar, this is classified as an "Austronesian Language" and is most closely related to a language spoken in Borneo.
- **Tamasheq** - a variety of Tuareg, or Berber. Spoken by nomadic peoples across the Sahel, but particularly in Mali. It has its own script, but unfortunately, I was not able to find John 1 in the script itself.
- **(isi)Zulu** - one of the main languages of South Africa.

As we continue to focus on *shining brightly*, two young African's who were recipients of scholarships made possible by faithful donors to EDUF produced a video now published on our EDUF YouTube channel: [African Voices and EDUF](#).

Gratefully serving the Lord,

Margaret Scott
President

There are several ways you can give to EDUF to support African education:

- Via the 'donate' button on our [website](#)
- Via [Tithe.ly](#) – just search for EDUF
- Via [PayPal](#)
- Mailing a check payable to EDUF to our Treasurer:

Lauralee Nothstine, 2412 Wildflower Cove Dr, Mishawaka, IN 46545

