Executive Summary – Tuesday 16 February 2016

(Use Links at left, right and below to see more about the article below.)

**Church**

- **DRC Temple articles**
  - MormonNewsroom HQ
  - Deseret News
- **South Africa**
  - Mormon Newsroom Facebook
- **DR Congo**
  - Mormon Newsroom Facebook (French)
  - KUTV

- **GoodUanda**
  - 8 March 2016: Elder Holland, Sister Stephens and Elder Hallstrom to participate in first Face to Face event for young single adults.
  - LDS.org launches ‘Love One Another’ challenge.
  - Mormon Tabernacle Choir announces virtual sing-along opportunity.

- **Interesting Stuff**
  - City of the Ark of the Covenant in Ethiopia? (very interesting)
  - Angola’s largest diamond ever found is 404 carats.
  - Citizens and scientists count Grevy’s zebras by software identifying the zebra’s natural “barcode.”

- **Medical**
  - Russian Ebola vaccine almost 100% effective presented on iPhone.

- **Social Media**
  - Quartz launches text message style news app on iPhone.

- **Other African Countries**
  - Nigeria-State petroleum company lost $1.3B in 2015. (pumped more but lost)
  - Nigeria-Talks over $4B debt.
  - Nigeria-Govt sacks another 20 heads of federal agencies, parastatals.

- **Burundi**
  - EU prepared to strengthen sanctions.
  - Refugees fearful after Rwandan expulsion threat.
  - Series of grenade blasts strike capital.
  - Burundi deflects true causes of crisis.

- **Cameroon**
  - Boko Haram land mine kills 2 in military convoy. (First instance of land mine)
  - Fight over food aid.
  - Rebels massacre 16 civilians in E Congo
  - Talks over $4B debt.
  - Second woman submits her candidacy for presidential election.

- **CAR**
  - Thousands of refugees vote in second round of CAR presidential election
  - UN: New sex abuse claims in CAR
  - Second woman submits her candidacy for presidential election.

- **Madagascar**
  - Communication fee goes up
  - Hunger kills children in southern Madagascar.

- **Zimbabwe**
  - Renamo ambushed on main road for second consecutive day.
  - Nuisy grapples with Guebuza’s toxic legacy one year on.

- **Swaziland**
  - Lowest rainfall in 35 years

- **Tanzania**
  - 5,500 illegal foreign teachers kicked out of Tanzania.

- **Zambia**
  - Drought forces Zambia to ban maize exports to Zimbabwe.
  - Dead body found in U.S. cargo plane grounded in Zimbabwe
  - $1.5B to avert hunger needed.
Elder Holland, Sister Stephens and Elder Hallstrom to participate in first Face to Face event for young single adults

On March 8, the LDS Church will host the first Face to Face event geared toward young single adults. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles will be joined by Sister Carole M. Stephens, first counselor in the Relief Society general presidency, and Elder Donald L. Hallstrom of the Seventy as they answer questions submitted by young single adults throughout the world.

Mormon Tabernacle Choir announces virtual sing-along opportunity

All who have dreamed of singing with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir now have a chance. The Mormon Tabernacle Choir is inviting people throughout the world to join in a virtual sing-along of George Frideric Handel’s “Hallelujah” chorus.

“Handel’s ‘Messiah’ is an extremely powerful oratorio, especially the ‘Hallelujah’ chorus,” said Ryan Murphy, associate music director for the choir. “It is well known and well loved. It’s an honor for us to perform it, and we are delighted to extend the invitation to join us to singers all over the world.”

Those interested in participating can download sheet music for the soprano, alto, tenor and bass parts. They can also learn their parts with the help of videos featuring YouTube star Peter Hollens and his wife, Evynne. Submissions should then be uploaded to YouTube and submitted through the form on mormon.org, using #Hallelujah.

Church-Important Africa Dates

Swaziland
21 February 1990: President Neal A. Maxwell dedicates Swaziland.

Lesotho
22 February 1990: President Neal A. Maxwell dedicates Lesotho.

If anyone has any additional historical events for the ASEA Area historical calendar... please email them to aseapublicaffairs@ldschurch.org

Interesting Stuff about Africa & ASEA area

Guardians of the Lost Ark? The Ethiopian City That Might Be Harboring a Great Jewish Treasure

The otherwise unassuming city of Axum in the high plateau of northern Ethiopia with its deep history exerts a magical fascination of religious mystery on both archaeologists and world travelers alike.

The worshippers are bound to a daily service at an Ethiopian Orthodox church. On the horizon, at the end of the long cobblestone road, two gigantic steles gradually rise into view, the crowning moment of what seems a journey back into time.

According to legend, it is here that one of the greatest treasures of the Abrahamic religions - the Ark of the Covenant, a receptacle containing the Ten Commandments given by God to Moses - has been kept for millennia.

The legend has it that Menelik, the son of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon of Israel, brought the ark from Jerusalem to Axum.

"God chose this place. Axum is a holy city," says the local deacon, Zemikael Brhane. The purported ark is stored in a small chapel, outside of which a solitary monk stands guard - a role that he will fulfill for the rest of his days.

Outbuilding supposedly containing the Ark of the Covenant at Tzion Maryam church in Axum Ethiopia. Credit: Wikimedia Commons/Axam Cohn.

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"God chose this place. Axum is a holy city," says the local deacon, Zemikael Brhane. The purported ark is stored in a small chapel, outside of which a solitary monk stands guard - a role that he will fulfill for the rest of his days.
An Australian mining company’s shares skyrocketed by more than 30 percent today upon news it had discovered the largest diamond ever found in Angola.

Lucapa Diamond Company has not yet valued the 404-carat rock, thought to be the 27th biggest recorded diamond in history, but initial estimations suggest it is worth as much as $20 million.

The discovery continues a rich vein of good mining fortune for Lucapa, which has uncovered 60 large diamonds since work began on the site in Angola’s Lunda Norte province, in the country’s north-east, in August last year. ....

How do you tell one zebra from another? By looking at their stripes, of course – with a special software that can identify their natural “barcode”.

This has allowed conservationists in Kenya to carry out the first ever major census of the Grevy’s zebra, whose population has plummeted from an estimated 15,000 in the early 1980s to an estimated 2,500.

The Great Zebra Rally was the first time that “citizen science” had been used to count the zebra species.

Almost 100% effective! Russian Ebola vaccine presented to WHO

A Russian vaccine against the Ebola virus has been presented to the World Health Organization (WHO) by Health Minister Veronika Skvortsova. Tests of the drug showed high resistance to the virus five months after vaccination, she said.

Russia’s Combi vaccine, which was granted a patent last week, was unveiled at the Palais des Nations at the UN office in Geneva, Switzerland.

The volunteers vaccinated with the Russian drug have passed the first and second phase of research and “we can say that after four-and-a-half to five months… they still retained a high titer of antibodies against the… Ebola virus,” Skvortsova said.

“In laboratory conditions, this serum allows to completely neutralize the wild virus Ebola, with almost 100 percent efficacy,” she added.

Quartz Launches Text Message-Style News App on iPhone

Quartz has announced the release of its news app on iPhone, which allows users to read news stories in an experience resembling a text message conversation.

When users open Quartz, they’ll receive short news blurbs from a variety of websites in an overall ’conversation’ (this content may include photos and GIFs). Once users read a story’s initial blurb, they’re presented with two options, allowing them to learn more about the topic, or move onto the next. Users can also tap many text bubbles to visit a story’s website and read the entire article.

Terms that you may find in the news

AGOA: The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is a United States Trade Act, enacted on 18 May 2000 as Public Law 106 of the 200th Congress. AGOA has since been renewed to 2025. The legislation significantly enhances market access to the US for qualifying Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries. Qualification for AGOA preferences is based on a set of conditions contained in the AGOA legislation. In order to qualify and remain eligible for AGOA, each country must be working to improve its rule of law, human rights, and respect for core labor standards.

Al Shabaab: Al Shabaab is al Qaeda’s affiliate in Somalia and operates primarily out of the country’s southern and central regions. The group is fighting an insurgency against the internationally recognized Somali Federal Government, which is based in Somalia’s capital, Mogadishu.

ANC: The African National Congress (ANC) is the Republic of South Africa’s governing social democratic political party. It has been the ruling party of post-apartheid South Africa on the national level since 1994, including the election of Nelson Mandela as president from 1994-1999.

Boko Haram: Boko Haram, is an Islamic extremist group based in northeastern Nigeria, also active in Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon. The name “Boko Haram” is usually translated as “Western education is forbidden”

BPC: Botswana Power Corporation

CAR: Central African Republic
Multiple African Countries (noted in article) or other African Countries

Nigerian state petroleum company lost $1.3 billion in 2015
(Current price of oil is $30.74/bbl)
LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Nigeria’s state oil company lost 267 billion naira ($1.3 billion) in 2015, even as it tried to pump more oil to counter slashed world prices, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. said Thursday.

The corporation’s monthly report posted at its website shows the biggest losses recorded at its headquarters, but three refineries and a subsidiary that sources and distributes refined products. Nigeria is Africa’s biggest oil producer but imports most refined products because its refineries are inefficient.

Petroleum production averaged 1.6 million barrels a day last year with swings from a million barrels a day in February to 2.5 million barrels a day in October. Oil used to account for 70 percent of government income, back when it cost $130 a barrel in 2013 but not today’s $30. …

Nigerian govt. sacks another 20 heads of federal agencies, parastatals

The Democratic Alliance (DA) of South Africa. The Democratic Alliance (DA) is a South African political party and the official opposition to the governing African National Congress (ANC).

ESKOM—South Africa electricity Public Utility

FAO—Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)

ICC—International Criminal Court

ICGLR—International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

IDP—Internally Displaced Persons

IMF—International Monetary Fund

SADA—the Southern African Development Community

Seleka—An alliance of rebel militia factions that overthrew the Central African Republic on March 24, 2013.

UN—United Nations

UNHCR—United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

USAID—United States Agency for International Development.

Zanzu-PF—the Zambian National Union-Patriotic Front. The ruling party in in Zimbabwe since independence in 1980.
Two of the explosions happened in an open market in the Ngagara area of Bujumbura, killing the two people. Two other grenades exploded in the center of Bujumbura, injuring 11 people. Another explosion happened in the Buyenzi area, wounding at least three people. ... Burundi Deflects True Causes of Crisis

The exiled leader of the opposition Front for Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU) said the allegation that Rwanda is involved in destabilizing Burundi is a pretext to turn the political crisis in Burundi into a Hutu versus Tutsi problem. ....

Elections were held last Sunday.
Thousands of refugees voted in second round of CAR presidential election

GENEVA, February 15 (UNHCR) – Thousands of refugees took part at the weekend in the second round of Central African Republic’s landmark presidential election, which could usher in a new era of peace and reconciliation after years of violence, suffering and forced displacement, and lead to their return home.

Reports from UNHCR staff involved in election facilitation in Cameroon, Chad and Republic of Congo said many of the Central African Republic refugees eligible to vote in those three countries cast their ballots on Sunday.

But initial indications were that turnout was not as high as in the first round on December 30, when 33,000 voted, or more than 60 per cent. This may be because the preferred candidates of most of the refugees were knocked out in the first round. ....

UN: New Sex Abuse Claims in Central African Republic

The United Nations said Monday it is investigating new allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation by U.N. peacekeepers in Central African Republic, including against minors.

U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said details will be announced after an initial probe is completed.

The United Nations has been unable to explain why so many rapes and other sexual abuse by peacekeepers have been observed in which Boko Haram has been implicated.

Increasing concern has been expressed among the ten countries involved, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Nigeria and Chad, that over 14 million U.S. dollars were embezzled from the salaries of state employees in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo)....

Boko Haram Land Mine Kills 2 in Cameroon Military Convoy

This is the first instance that I have observed in which Boko Haram have used landmines. -b) A commanding officer and a soldier with Cameroon’s military have died after their convoy hit a land mine as they were returning from an anti-Boko Haram operation in Nigeria, officials said Monday.

Senior commanding officer Lt. Col. Kwene Belthus died Sunday after his convoy hit the land mine, said Gen. Jacob Kodji who commands the Cameron troops in the convoy. The military had finished cross-border raids on bomb factories in Boko Haram strongholds in Goshi, Nigeria, Kodji said. The convoy hit the land mine while returning to Kerawa, Cameroon, injuring eight other soldiers, said Kodji.

'Boko Haram has resorted to using land mines to kill our soldiers. Their fire power has been weakened but our soldiers and populations should be careful and watchful,' Kodji said Sunday. ....

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 organ!
Second woman submits her candidacy for Congo's presidential elections

Claudine Munati, President of the Movement for Unity, Solidarity and Work (MUST), has submitted her candidacy to run for the presidential elections scheduled for 20 March 2016 in Congo; thus bringing to 12 the number of candidates who have expressed interest to run, including two women.

Hunger kills children in southern Madagascar

Hunger killed three children in the rural commune of Tsimananada, in Androy region, southern Madagascar, and four others are suffering of very acute malnutrition, a statement from the ministry of population said.

Communication fee goes up in Madagascar

Communication fee went up in Madagascar for all three telephony companies in the country, including Airtel, Orange and Telma since the beginning of the year when the government increased excise tax.

Communication fee goes up in Madagascar

Foot: President Uhuru Kenyatta since 9 April 2013. (5 year term)
Swaziland has recorded the lowest rains across southern Africa in 35 years, the United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) says in a report. The agency said short-term forecasts showed the probability of continuing below-normal rainfall, a sign that this could be the worst drought ever.

Boko Haram fighters are traveling to Somalia for training, President says

(Boko Haram fighters are allegedly traveling across the continent to Somalia for training before they head back home to Nigeria, according to Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud.)

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Islamists kill Somalia’s former defense minister with car bomb

Islamist militant group al Shabaab killed Somalia’s former defense minister with a car bomb in capital Mogadishu on Monday, officials said.

Rwandan Genocide: 100 days from 7 April

(Kagame will run for third term in 2017. (Pres. Term is 7 years)

Rwanda—President Paul Kagame, Vice President moved into office in 2000 when president resigned. Next presidential election in 2017.

Rwanda’s plan to relocate the refugees comes amid accusations that Kigali is meddling in the affairs of its troubled neighbour. ....

Burundí refugees fearful after Rwanda expulsion threat

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Islamists kill Somalia’s former defense minister with car bomb

Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab’s military operations spokesman, told Reuters. ....

US drone crashes in south Somalia, residents say

An unmanned aerial vehicle operated by the US military has crashed in southern Somalia near the country’s border with Kenya, residents say.

Residents and witnesses said the US drone crashed Monday in southern Somalia near the country’s border with Kenya, residents say.

The volatile region is considered a stronghold of al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabab militants.

Boko Haram is located in the Lake Chad area of West Africa, has been traveling for training across Africa to Somalia for training. (B)
The impact of the El Nino-induced drought is hardest felt in rain-fed agriculture in terms of poor rainfall and excessive temperatures. …

Tanzania

More than 5,700 foreign teachers have been expelled from Tanzania following a decision taken by government to kick illegal immigrants out of the country, according to a report.

1,600 ‘illegal’ foreign teachers kicked out of Tanzania

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe suspended exporting grain into Zimbabwe, as the country also tried to boost its reserves in light of the looming El Nino-induced drought, the report said. …

Drought forces Zambia to ban maize exports to Zimbabwe

Zambia

Zambian authorities have imposed an export ban on maize meal, leaving Zimbabwean millers struggling to get about 70,000 tons of already paid-for maize meal from their northern neighbours, the state-owned Herald, newspaper reported on Monday.

DEAD BODY FOUND IN U.S. CARGO PLANE GROUNDED IN ZIMBABWE

United States

Travel Advisories/Warnings

This security advisory is effective immediately and will remain in place until February 8, 2016 unless an additional notice is provided by the U.S. Embassy.


The U.S. Embassy has received information regarding a potential security threat in Luanda, Angola. As a precautionary measure, the U.S. Embassy advises U.S. Citizens to avoid the following three locations:

1) Belas Shopping (located in the Talatona area of Luanda)
2) Ulengo Commercial Center (located in the Viana area of Luanda)
3) Hotel Baía (located along the Nova Marginal in Luanda)

This travel advisory is effective immediately and will remain in place until February 8, 2016 unless an additional notice is provided by the U.S. Embassy.
The U.S. State Department is warning Americans about the high risk of traveling to Cameroon. In particular, the department said, U.S. citizens should avoid all travel to the north regions because of the general threat of violent crime, terrorism and the targeting of Westerners for kidnappings and murder.

The terrorist group Boko Haram continues to be a presence in the region. Since July 2015, the group has carried out at least 14 suicide bombings in the north, the State Department reported. The northeastern Nigerian Islamist group has been even more deadly than Islamic State this year.
Kenya 1991 October 24

The next day, October 25, Elder Faust, Elder Lindsay, and President Larry Brown of the Kenya Nairobi Mission traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, where more than one hundred Church members gathered for the outdoor service. Larry Brown of the Kenya Nairobi Mission traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, where more than one hundred Church members gathered for the outdoor service. Near the capital city of Luanda, Angola, to climb Lion's Head (which they called Mount Brigham Heber Willard, in honor of the Church's First Presidency) and dedicated the land to the growth of the gospel.

Zambia 1991 October 23

In late October 1991, Elder James E. Faust of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles dedicated Zimbabwe for the preaching of the gospel. In what has been termed a continuation of events in the "dawning of a new day in Africa," Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Council of the Twelve dedicated two African kingdoms to the work of the Lord and for their growth of the gospel.

Kenya 1991 October 21

The prayer of dedication on the nation of Botswana was offered by Elder Scott on Aug. 21, in a small clearing in the Gaborone Game Reserve. Nearly 100 people were present, including members and missionaries.

Zambia 1991 October 20

Elder Holland dedicated the country of Botswana on Oct. 25, 2009, on a hillside overlooking the capital city of Gaborone. Elder Holland gathered in a peaceful setting in a shaded area located on a hillside overlooking the capital city of Gaborone. The prayer of dedication on the nation of Botswana was offered by Elder Scott. Elder Holland addressed the gathering as "the Lord's people who in the past years have been faithful in the desert and in the wilderness, and have made it blossom as a rose."

Cameroon 1991 August 24

On August 24–25 the Johannesburg South Africa Temple is dedicated. Approximately 66 members gathered at the base of a large, several hundred-year-old baobab tree on a hillside overlooking the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the capital city of Luanda, Angola, to the north, where Elder Christofferson pronounced a blessing upon the country and formally opened Angola to missionary work.

Zambia 1991 August 20

On October 23, Elder Faust, accompanied by Elder Richard P. Lindsay of the Seventy, who serves as president of the Africa Area, dedicated the country of Burundi on a quiet hill overlooking the Atlantic Ocean to the west and the capital city of Lusaka, Elder Nelson. Namibia is part of the South Africa Cape Town Mission. Its president, Reine Hutton, received the dedication as "the Lord's people in the distance beyond the river's rapids. About 65 members and leaders of three branches in Congo attended the dedication.

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South Africa 1985 April 19

When the first LDS missionaries arrived in Cape Town in 1853, they climbed Lion's Head (which they called Mount Brigham Heber Willard, in honor of the Church's First Presidency) and dedicated the land to the growth of the gospel.

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Burundi 2010 October 19

The chosen dedication spot for the country of Burundi was located on a hillside overlooking Bujumbura, the capital city, with Lake Tanganyika shining in the distance beyond. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve pronounced a blessing upon the country of Burundi in the Great Lakes region of Eastern Africa. Elder Holland offered a blessing on the people and the nation, dedicating the country of Burundi for missionary work on Oct. 19.

Uganda 1991 October 23

In late October 1991, Elder James E. Faust of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles dedicated Uganda, Kenya, and Zimbabwe for the preaching of the gospel and the establishment of the Church. On October 23, Elder Faust, accompanied by Elder Richard P. Lindsay of the Seventy, who serves as president of the Africa Area, dedicated the country of Burundi to the work of the Lord and for the preaching of the gospel.

Namibia 1992 August 22

In Namibia, on Aug. 22, a small group of members gathered on Tower Hill in Windhoek to witness the dedication of the land by Elder Nelson. Namibia is part of the South Africa Cape Town Mission. Its president, Reine Hutton, received the dedication as "the Lord's people who in the past years have been faithful in the desert and in the wilderness, and have made it blossom as a rose."

Kenya 1991 February 22

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Cameroon 2009 August 21

Elder Holland dedicated the country of Cameroon on August 21, 2009, on a hillside overlooking Yaounde's capital city of Yaounde, in honor of the church's First Presidency) and dedicated the land to the growth of the gospel. It "was a touching scene," commented Pres. Vern Marble of the neighboring Zimbabwe Harare Mission who was present for the prayer of dedication.

Kenya 1991 August 24

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Kenya 2009 August 27

Elder Holland dedicated Rwanda on Aug. 27 during a sacred moment on the top of a mountain overlooking the capital city, Kigali.

Ethiopia 1991 September 16

The Church was officially recognized in Ethiopia on 16th September 1993.

Angola 2010 October 20

On Wednesday, Oct. 20, a small group of Church leaders and members gathered at the base of a large, several hundred-year-old baobab tree on a hillside overlooking the Atlantics Ocean to the west and the capital city of Luanda, Angola, to the north, where Elder Christofferson pronounced a blessing upon the country and formally opened Angola to missionary work.

Angola 2010 October 20

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Zambia 1991 October 25

On October 25, Elder Faust and Elder Lindsay met with Zimbabwe Harare Mission President Vern Marble for the dedication of Zimbabwe. "Before the meeting, the Saints of Zimbabwe had been fasting and praying for this day," Elder Lindsay said. "As the dedicatory prayer by Elder Faust concluded, a gentle rain began to fall, and rainfall increased for days afterward." In the prayer, Elder Faust asked for a blessing upon the earth of Zimbabwe and prayed that the land would "continue to provide the abundance which it has in the past... May the rain fall and the streams flow, and the sun kiss the land to provide for thy people."

Namibia 2009 August 21

The prayer of dedication on the nation of Botswana was offered by Elder Scott on Aug. 21, in a small clearing in the Gaborone Game Reserve. Nearly 100 people were present, including members and missionaries.

Cameroon 2009 August 21

Elder Holland dedicated the country of Cameroon on August 21, 2009, on a hillside overlooking Yaounde's capital city of Yaounde, in honor of the church's First Presidency) and dedicated the land to the growth of the gospel. It "was a touching scene," commented Pres. Vern Marble of the neighboring Zimbabwe Harare Mission who was present for the prayer of dedication.

Kenya 1991 October 24

The next day, October 24, Elder Faust, Elder Lindsay, and President Larry Brown of the Kenya Nairobi Mission traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, where more than one hundred Church members gathered for the outdoor service.

Zambia 1991 October 25

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Central Africa Republic
2012 October 29

On a heavily forested hillside overlooking the capital city of Bangui, Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve performed on November 5, 2013, a significant country dedication prayer in a forest clearing at the base of a tall tree that was accompanied by his wife, Susan K. Bednar, and local leaders: Elder Carol K. Cook of the Africa Southeast Area Presidency and his wife, Sister Lynteen H. Cook; President W. Bryce Cook, president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Kinshasa Mission; and his wife, Sister Carol K. Cook; and President Armand Mpondou, president of the Libreville Gabon Branch.

Gabon
2013 November 5

On November 9, 2013, eleven days after the Church received full legal status in the Central African Republic of Gabon, Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve performed on November 18, 2003, a significant country dedication prayer in a forest clearing at the base of a tall tree that was accompanied by his wife, Susan K. Bednar, and local leaders: Elder Carl B. Cook of the Africa Southeast Area Presidency and his wife, Sister Lynette H. Cook; President W. Bryce Cook, president of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Kinshasa Mission; and his wife, Sister Carol K. Cook; and President Armand Mpondou, president of the Libreville Gabon Branch.

Tanzania
2003 November 18

The islands of Mauritius and Réunion, in the Mascarene Islands Mission, were dedicated late in 1998 for the preaching of the gospel. Elder Marvin J. Ashton of the Council of the Twelve dedicated the two islands, located off the southeast coast of Africa. He visited Mauritius, an independent nation of 1.1 million, on November 22, and Réunion, an overseas department of France with a population of 500,000, on November 23.

Mauritius
1998 November 21

The islands of Mauritius and Réunion, in the Mascarene Islands Mission, were dedicated late in 1998 for the preaching of the gospel. Elder Marvin J. Ashton of the Council of the Twelve dedicated the two islands, located off the southeast coast of Africa. He visited Mauritius, an independent nation of 1.1 million, on November 22, and Réunion, an overseas department of France with a population of 500,000, on November 23.

Reunion
1998 November 21

The islands of Mauritius and Réunion, in the Mascarene Islands Mission, were dedicated late in 1998 for the preaching of the gospel. Elder Marvin J. Ashton of the Council of the Twelve dedicated the two islands, located off the southeast coast of Africa. He visited Mauritius, an independent nation of 1.1 million, on November 22, and Réunion, an overseas department of France with a population of 500,000, on November 23.

South Africa
1973 December 1

In 1973, President Spencer W. Kimball rededicated South Africa “to the preaching of the gospel…to the transformation of lives.” Among the many blessings pronounced by this prophet of God, none was more thrilling than his request that “processes might converge to bring a temple to this land” and that “no hungry or thirsty soul may ever miss the privilege of hearing and accepting the truth.”


A dreamt of Africa

This is a beautifully written book about a woman who moves from Africa to Italy, learns to love the country, learns to love the animals and especially learns to love its people. A tender story of survival through hard times.

The Shackled Continent

In Unbowed, Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai recounts her extraordinary journey from childhood in rural Kenya to the world stage. When Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977, she began a vital movement that would focus on empowering rural women.

Unbowed: A Memoir

A Shakti

Long Walk to Freedom

Long Walk to Freedom

Long Walk to Freedom is an autobiographical work written by South African President Nelson Mandela, and published in 1995 by Little Brown & Co. The book profiles his early life, coming of age, education and 27 years in prison. Under the apartheid government's system of separation and racial segregation, Mandela was regarded as a hero and a national and international hero. The book discusses his experiences while in prison on Robben Island for a role as the leader of the then-outlawed ANC. He has since achieved international recognition for his leadership as president in rebuilding the country's once segregated society. The last chapters of the book describe his political ascension, and his belief that the struggle continues against apartheid in South Africa.

Dark Star Safari

Dark Star Safari

Dark Star Safari

Long Walk to Freedom is a two-part account of a trip undertaken by Paul Theroux through Africa, on which he traveled by road, rail, sea, and air. Theroux traveled in Africa as a young and idealistic early member of the Peace Corps and part of his trip was to assess the impact of Africa on the many years of "helping" from Western countries. His assessment is generally critical of the long-term impact of aid programs.

If you have any books that you have read that you would like to include in this section, Please, email me the information.
### Sources of information for country banners:

All church membership information is provided by Mormon Newsroom by clicking on the ‘Africa’ continent on the map (at the right) and then finding the desired country on the list. The information is reviewed from the list and updated as necessary.

All keywords and country information is collected from an Internet scan of about 60 specific keywords that is supplied to me at 0300 each morning via Google alerts. This keyword list is reviewed and updated as needed.

All population data are from Country Meters and is updated as needed.

All Cellphone and smartphone data are from GMSA Intelligence and is updated as needed.

All Internet users by country data are from Internet Live Stats and Internet World Stats is reviewed as needed.

GNI (Gross National Income per capita) and Life Expectancy data is from The World Bank.

Unemployment and other data are from Photius, IECNOMICS, Quandl, Wikipedia, Theodora & The World Factbook.

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**Elder Robert Berg**

Elder Berg & Sister Berg - Africa Southeast Area Assistant Directors of Public Affairs, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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