



<https://usa.possibilitiesafrica.org/>



Martin Simiyu is the founder and CEO of Possibilities Africa.

Growing up in a small remote village in utter poverty, Martin Simiyu was only ten years old when his father died. His mother raised him and his nine brothers and sisters in a two-room mud hut. But unlike most, Martin always knew there was more to life. He never lost his dream and vision for a better future. He studied hard and was only one of three students in his high school to qualify for college.

After graduating from college in Nairobi, he came to the United States where he received two master's degrees: one from Biola University in Organizational leadership and one from Moody Theological Seminary in Chicago in Intercultural Ministry. Despite lucrative opportunities to stay and work in the United States, Martin returned home to Kenya in 2004 and formed **Possibilities Africa**, where he works to change the face of Africa.

We hope you enjoy following the journey of **Possibilities Africa** and its life giving message in the following pages.



Martin Simiyu

THE QUESTIONS

Why has Africa not seen significant change despite billions of dollars of aid provided over the years?

Why are western donors told that if they will donate money for a ministry to provide mosquito nets or water wells or something else (almost anything) then the lives of thousands of needy Africans will be changed? And likewise, why are Africans still waiting on western resources to supply these needs?



PA Member in Mukamira Community, Rwanda

Can't we find a way to end the scourge of debilitating, generational poverty?

Although many people presume it lacks natural resources, in fact Africa is rich with resources of all sorts.



Mentoring the next generation led by pastor Uwihoreye in Rwanda

Because they live in a place plagued for centuries by deep poverty and corruption, many in Africa believe things can never change. They have become accustomed to waiting on the next handout and many lose themselves in illegal substances. Nothing seems to matter and the people have lost hope that tomorrow can be better than today.

THE ANSWER

What would it take to see those in poverty do more than just survive? What if they could truly thrive?

In the midst of these shattered lives one organization is bringing lasting change throughout Africa. **Possibilities Africa** has found that the answer to the issues facing Africa is HOPE; a catalyst to move them from mere survival to true flourishing.

Possibilities Africa is dedicated to rebuilding hope by helping people realize they have the power to transform their lives, villages and country. Not hope in someone to give them another meal or handout, but hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ. That alone provides the change that includes not only the material things, but also their mental, cultural, socio-economic and spiritual needs as well.



The hope we provide is the spark that allows Africans to see a future and believe they can achieve it for themselves and without the handouts of outsiders. With that they move from mere survival to living the abundant life promised in Scripture.

WHY IS POSSIBILITIES AFRICA DIFFERENT?

1. **Possibilities Africa provides a hand-up to the African people instead of a handout.** While other programs ask Africans to stand in line for a temporary fix for their problems we believe that people can change from the inside out. Possibilities Africa teaches responsibility and accountability instead of handouts or charity, and calling on people to rise up and take responsibility for their families and villages.
2. **Possibilities Africa doesn't find a problem to solve and then impose its solution on Africans.** This may be the single greatest difference in our ministry. When PA gets involved we allow the local people to define their problems for us. This means we don't bring mosquito nets or other things to distribute for the problems we see. Instead, once they define the problem, PA works with them to find the solution that works best for them and that they have the resources to implement. The focus is not on our ability to bring change, but on the locals' ability and desire to effect lasting change.
3. **Possibilities Africa is African led,** our staff is committed to serving and seeing change in their homeland. Knowing the language and culture is a huge advantage when recruiting and training pastors. Operational decisions are made in Africa by our founder Martin Simiyu, and his team.
4. **When Possibilities Africa's work in a village is complete we move on.** How many ministries have you heard of that have an end-game; a plan to finish? However, we have seen that as Possibilities Africa completes work in certain villages they become self-sustaining and we are then able to focus our efforts on new villages.
5. **Possibilities Africa believes in African investment.** In the midst of a continent that has tremendous needs and minimal donors, **Possibilities Africa** raises 5-10% of their support in Africa. This creates local buy-in and ownership in the PA process.



PURPOSE

Our purpose is to cast a vision so that each person, family and village in Africa sees and understands what they can become. We then help them use locally available materials and sustainable methods to develop their vision.

This allows the God-given entrepreneurial spirit within them to grow and burn brightly, and the people to live with dignity and significance without dependence on others.



Pastor Richard Karori's mother in Kenya

The cycle of extreme and all-inclusive poverty in Africa can be broken with a new model of help that is more than a handout.

We call it a hand-up that effects change from the inside out.

It starts with local African leaders who cast a vision for actionable hope to their families, friends, and neighbors. Momentum spreads as families, communities, and countries catch a vision for a different way of life.

Our Proven Model

Possibilities Africa has seen that its proven model changes lives, by replacing handout based living with a hand-up solution. We do this through changing the mindset of local pastors by inviting them into a 2 1/2 year training process where each pastor:

- Attends several weeklong training sessions.
- Joins a local group of other **Possibilities Africa** pastors (10-30) where encouragement, fellowship and accountability are fostered. Currently, we have 1,350 pastors actively involved in this training, in 112 communities.
- Receives individual training and encouragement with onsite visits from the **Possibilities Africa** staff.



Pastor leaders in Kiisi community in Kenya

Throughout this training we focus on three main areas:

1. Spiritual Leadership Development
2. Economic Empowerment
3. Children Mentorship



First training of 50 pastors in the Ethiopia in 2019

1). Spiritual Leadership Development

The vast majority of pastors in rural Africa have a calling from God but little or no training. Often times, they lack even the basic necessities to do ministry.



94 pastors from different communities of Kenya, undergoing training in Nairobi

Possibilities Africa recruits and equips spiritual leaders to embrace **holistic ministry**

in their communities using local accountability groups. They then model those groups to their congregations who are encouraged to join similar groups.

These leaders initiate momentum that leads individuals, families, and communities to holistic transformation. Family dynamics, workplace ethics, government practices—all these and more change as our leaders invite the presence of Jesus into every aspect of life.

Only the gospel of Jesus Christ has the power to change hearts and minds. When someone embraces God's love and mercy, that person is made new.



Pastors training in Nairobi Kenya

That's why we equip our leaders to preach the gospel, disciple believers, and apply life-giving biblical principles, so every aspect of their community begins to flourish.

2). Economic Empowerment



A church member in Kenya

Solutions for economic troubles are hard to see in poverty's darkness. But hope-filled leaders are able to cast a bright vision, helping their communities gain perspective for what could be. **Possibilities Africa** puts seed money in a savings fund. Individuals in these villages, despite their poverty, are encouraged to save money in this fund and when they do they are paid interest. Once they put money into this savings fund they are able to borrow up to three times what they have saved to start a small business.

Possibilities Africa also trains the recipients in the business they choose. They learn how to make a business plan and carry it out. The micro-loan funds are repaid and used as revolving funds in the same or other communities. Local support and

accountability has proven to be very effective in making sure these loans are repaid, the repayment rate is nearly 100%.

Through **Possibilities Africa** people are developing businesses such as: animal and vegetable farming, solar lighting, shops and other economic projects in local communities throughout Africa that alleviate poverty. Since 2012, over 8,000 small businesses have started. We have seen people make the jump from waiting for the next handout to believing they are made to do more. When this happens, they gain a sense of God's purpose in their lives and their value is discovered!

To illustrate this, meet Josephine—a woman with a God-sized story. In 1999 Josephine's husband died leaving her with four small children.



Josephine



Living in Kenya with little hope and even less money, she struggled to raise her four children. In 2014 Josephine took part in the training offered by Possibilities Africa. Through the teaching of Martin Simiyu and his team, she was encouraged to dream about how she could produce an income with the resources she had and the skills God has given her. Her husband had been a carpenter and had started a building but it wasn't finished at the time of his death. Josephine's idea was to turn that building into apartments and rent them. She did this and created an income. From that income she bought a cow. That cow died and she bought another cow. After that she planted a garden and some banana trees.

All four of Josephine's children have finished college. The micro businesses she started have paid the tuition for all four of her children.

Stories like Josephine's are not only economic but also spiritual success stories. Josephine is a leader in her family and church, teaching others spiritual truths and stopping the cycle of spiritual and physical generational poverty.



3). Children's Mentorship

In the United States our activities frequently focus on our children, their interests and activities. But in Africa, that is not the case. In some areas children are not even named until they reach an older age when survival is more likely. Their birthdays are not celebrated, many do not go to school. Their role is to help support the family by gathering wood and water.



A classroom of children being mentored in Rwanda

Yet we know that the youth of today will be our leaders of tomorrow. This is especially important throughout Africa because approximately 40% of the population is comprised of children under 15. And so we train leaders to begin a process of educating parents on the needs of children. Then together, they decide what their children need and how to teach it. For example, some areas offer Vacation Bible School, others have started pre-schools and Sunday school classes to teach biblical truths. In 2019 over 11,000 children were invested in because of the training of **Possibilities Africa**.

We also focus on casting a vision to the kids about how they can have a better tomorrow. At this age we focus on spiritual growth, taking personal responsibility, as well as economic possibilities, so that they can become change agents in their families, communities and country.



A classroom of children being mentored led by pastor Ntambara in Rwanda

As an outcome of this ministry model, we see communities motivated and equipped to minister to orphans, the disabled and widows. It is a reminder that the work of **Possibilities Africa** cannot be quantified in numbers only. Instead it is also about the mental shifts, cultural change, spiritual growth and productivity.

Why Partner with Possibilities Africa?

Possibilities Africa is making a radical impact in the lives of tens of thousands of people. Our model is reproducible, sustainable and growth-focused.

We are currently building into 1,350 pastor/leaders who know the language, culture and lead a church. These leaders are influencing 72,000 people from their congregations and communities, in five countries: Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, Tanzania and Ethiopia. We have recently started training pastors in Burundi and in the near future our goal is to start training pastors in Uganda, Zambia and Ghana. Our goal is to reach **all of Africa**.

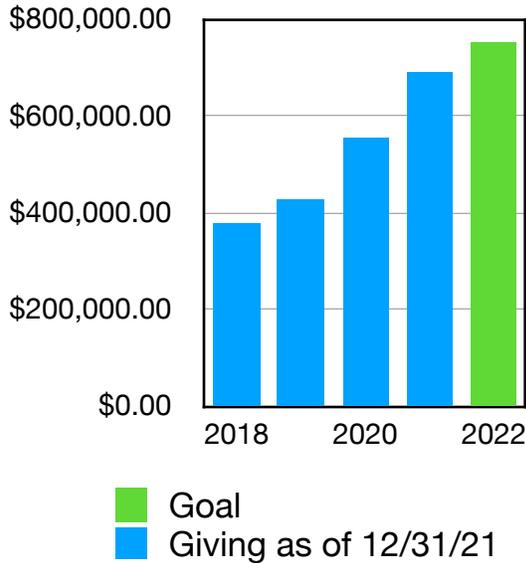


Many of these pastors live in communities where Islam is growing and they need to be equipped to share the good news of the gospel.

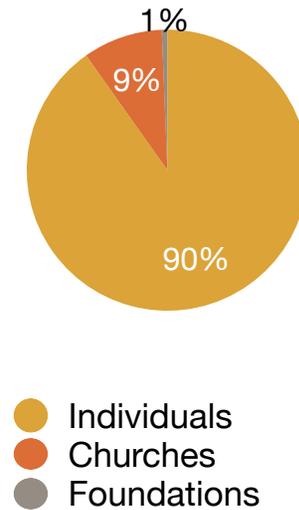
Here are a few points of entry for someone who would like to invest in this ministry:

- ▶ \$250 trains one pastor for one week of training
- ▶ \$2,500 trains one pastor for his/her entire 2 1/2 year program
- ▶ \$25,000 trains 10 pastors (local accountability group) for 2 1/2 year program
- ▶ \$250,000 is the cost of starting a new country for the first three years. Our goal is to have 200+ pastors in the new country, in training, within three years.
 - ▶ Year 1 \$50,000
 - ▶ Year 2 \$80,000
 - ▶ Year 3 \$120,000

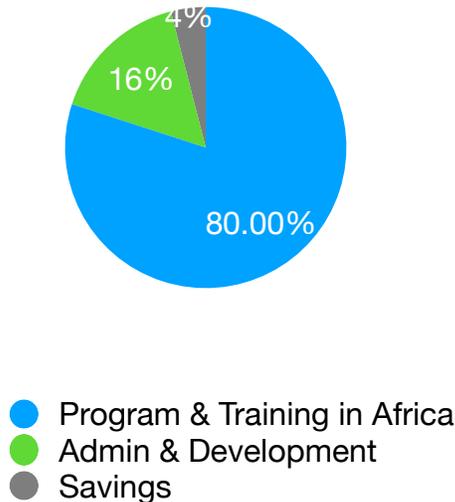
Possibilities Africa
Recent Giving
History & Goal



Who Gave to
Possibilities Africa
in 2021



Possibilities Africa
Spending Plan for
2022



Legal Structure of Possibilities Africa

Possibilities Africa (USA) is a 501c3 non-profit US corporation. We are members of the ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability) and complete a 990 report yearly. Our partner, Possibilities Africa Kenya (PAK) is a legal non-profit corporation in Africa. Each corporation has its own board of directors.

We have a verifiable approach to accountability that includes a written agreement with the ministry in Africa (PAK) that details our mutual responsibilities. We must approve their use of our funds, and we require a segregated account and an annual budget with regular financial reports and photos to document the work there. We also conduct frequent visits to Africa to see the work and a representative from Africa visits the US regularly to report on their activities. We audit to insure that all funds given are used exclusively for their stated purposes. We can demonstrate spiritual leaders who are well trained, children that are being educated, micro finance activities that are being initiated and countries that are being transformed.



My name is Doug Reed and I am the Managing Director of Possibilities Africa USA. I am the only staff person outside of Africa. I am married to Jill and we have three adult children. I have been working with PA since June 2019 and I believe more in this ministry now than the day I started.

I was raised on a farm in south central Nebraska, the youngest of six children. I graduated from college with a Ag Education/Ag Economic degree. After college I farmed for 10 years and then felt called into the full time ministry and served as a pastor for the next 21 years. During this time, I took classes at Bethel Seminary and earned a Masters in Divinity.

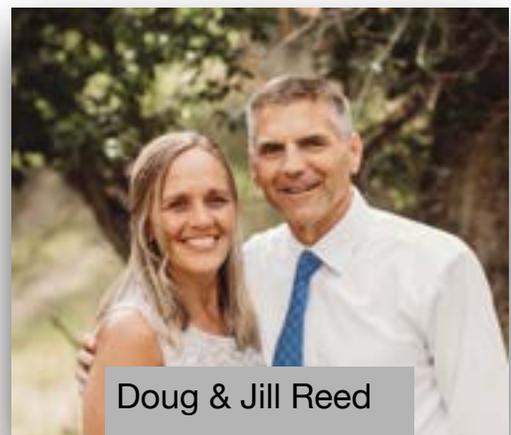
My interest in missions began in 1987 when I spent a summer in rural Kenya showing the Jesus film with Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU). That summer our team of 5 college students showed the film to thousands of people with over 4,000 making a decision to follow Christ. It was a privilege to see God work in this way. But one thing bothered me, who discipled these people? How many times have they raised their hands to accept Christ? I met the local pastors who loved God, had a calling to serve God but did not have an opportunity to be trained.

I saw a need, but not knowing the language or culture I did not know what to do with it. Fast forward to 2019, I was in Tanzania on a mission trip with our church and I heard more about Possibilities Africa and how they train pastors, help start small businesses and educate children. This resonated with not only my education, but also my passion.

I love this ministry and I think you will as well. If you have any questions or would just like to talk, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

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