

Born of a vision

During the year 1987, Pastor Laban Jjumba got a vision of a new Africa. The vision was so vivid that whenever he had the opportunity to speak in Christian fellowship meetings or preach in churches, he talked about it. In the vision of the New Africa, he saw groups of Christians relocating out of cities and urban areas into the vast open countryside and starting new communities or village settlements there. These were well-planned villages with large compounds having all the social amenities that people find desirable in the cities. The houses had electricity and running water, and they were well constructed and maintained.

The Christians who established these communities had large individual household plots in which they built their family house, grew food and vegetables for family sustenance and even had cottage industries that produced a whole range of products for their own family use and for sale. Along the perimeter of these villages were ranches and agricultural farms producing both food and cash crops. Many of the household cottage industries were packaging products from these agricultural farms. At the center of each village was a large space where the community constructed their church hall and build various commercial and social amenities like a commercial center, schools, hospitals, etc. These new communities looked like self-contained economic units. They both exported to the urban areas and also traded with the other communities around the country. There was neither hunger nor poverty in these villages. People looked engaged and happy.

The villages were also centers for preaching the Gospel in the countryside and the rural populations were turning to Christ. The new converts were not only followed up, but disciple not only in the Christian doctrines and values, but also taught practical life skills. They passed them on to them the skills used in the cottage industries and then employed them there and in the farms. Additionally, they were helped to improve their homes.

Sometime during 2017, many areas of Uganda suffered draught resulting in famine and a lot of suffering for the affected populations. During this period, Pastor Laban had a talk with a Christian leader who has established an agricultural farm in the countryside. The leader informed him that he had been inspired to establish his farm by what Pastor Laban had shared during the years 1987-1988 about Christian communities in the countryside. As they conversed, the Holy Spirit spoke a word in Pastor Laban's spirit that the time had come for the vision, which he had seen in 1987, to be fulfilled.

Intercessors for Africa is a continental prayer movement whose vision is "The Restoration of the Prophetic Destiny of the African Continent and the Black Race." The movement, of which Pastor Laban is one of the leaders, holds annual prayer conferences in different cities on the continent as led by the Holy Spirit. In March 2018, they held a prayer conference in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. During the conference, Pastor Laban was asked to lead a workshop, for men only, in which he was prompted by some of his fellow leaders to share on the vision he had for the

continent. When he completed the sharing, one of the delegates from Nigeria stood up and informed those present that he had contemplated cancelling attending the conference due to the inability of the conference organizers to furnish him with sufficient details of the conference. He however told his fellow men that the night before he was to cancel the participation, he had a dream in which God told him not to cancel but rather confirm it. He stated that God told him that during the conference there would be a group discussion session in which the leaders would share the vision He, the Lord, had given him concerning the future of Africa. After he spoke other delegates also stood up, one after another, telling them of the way God had given them similar visions for the future of Africa. Habakkuk 2:2 says, *"write the vision, and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it."*

The proposal for the African Christian Kibbutz & Moshav Movement was born in response to this vision concerning the continent of Africa.