



# ANGOLA MISSION TEAM

Declaring His glory among the nations and His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

Angola is a Portuguese speaking country in Southwest Africa and is approximately twice the size of Texas. Portugal first began the colonization of Angola during the 15th century. The slave trade soon followed, and the Portuguese continued to dominate the region for the next five centuries. Following 14 years of war, Angolan nationalist movements finally achieved independence from Portugal in 1975. Hungry for power, those same nationalist groups plunged the new nation into a civil war that very same year - a war that would last 27 years.



## Why Angola?

After four decades of conflict, Angola has now entered an era of peace. In 2002, the civil war ended, and for over six years the nation has experienced a peace it has not known since its birth. By God's grace, this unprecedented period of development and rebuilding is proving to be a window of receptivity when Angolans are responsive to the good news of Christ. We now have an incredible opportunity to share that good news!

## The Door is Open



The past forty years of war have kept Angola isolated from the rest of the world and made it difficult for foreign missionaries to carry the Gospel into the country. Consequently, Angola has received few long-term missionaries from churches with a Restoration heritage. The war is now over and the door is open.

Angolan Christians, already zealous for God's work, are asking churches to send missionaries to provide them with biblical teaching and leadership training. They are also asking for missionaries to come and plant churches throughout the country. The door stands open for God's people - from neighboring Zambia, from Portuguese-speaking Brazil, and from America - to answer the call.

## The Need is Great

Six years have passed now since the end of the war. Angola's economy is the fastest growing in Africa, but the average Angolan still faces overwhelming challenges. Returning refugees flood the cities, only to find that jobs are scarce. Decades of war have torn families apart, and the infrastructure of the nation is in shambles. In the midst of their great need, the population has learned to look to churches to provide schools and other basic services.

Angola is in dire need of hospitals, clinics, basic health and AIDS education, schools, teacher education, well-drilling, intensive farming, literacy development, and small business training. But, first and foremost, Angola needs the Gospel. Many Angolans have an understanding of Christianity that is limited to nominal Catholicism, but there is a deep need for Christianity that truly changes people's lives, a faith that will build healthy families and communities.



## The Workers are Few

In recent decades, few missionaries of any kind have worked in Angola because of the prolonged war. Most missionaries to Angola work on a short-term basis, for two years or less. As Angolan church leaders testify, evangelism, church planting, and leadership training are among the greatest needs for the Angolan church.

The soil is ready for new churches to be planted, but existing churches feel ill-equipped for the task, and Angola is still largely unevangelized. Churches need encouragement to return to Scripture and the Spirit of God's truth in order to flourish in this post-war environment.



## The Time is Now

Since the end of the war, Angolans have begun to rebuild their country and their lives in a world still disoriented by the recent conflict. History has shown that nations that experience long periods of devastation emerge from those times highly receptive to the Good News of Jesus Christ. In Africa, Uganda and Mozambique serve as clear examples. Right now, Angola is at the same crucial crossroads.

Too often, we only recognize doors for the Gospel years after they open. Angola's door is swinging open right now. There are still obstacles to overcome as the country recovers from its brutal past, but there are also abundant opportunities to demonstrate the love of God in a broken and hurting nation. Now is the time to enter Angola in the name of Christ. Now is the time to reach a people who are crying out for help and for hope.

## The Responsibility is Ours

In the midst of the chaos and confusion that has torn apart the nation, God has been preparing the hearts of the Angolan people for the Gospel of Christ, the true source of hope in a broken world. God has also been preparing the hearts of His people around the globe. We, His people, are called to be ambassadors for Christ in Angola.

This window of receptivity won't last forever, and we cannot afford to let it slip by. As Angolans rebuild their nation and their lives, they need to rebuild on the one true Foundation! We need to show them Jesus. In His name and by His power, Angola's dark past will give way to a future bright with hope!



**The Angola Mission Team**

<http://angolateam.org>