

Daily Story Calendar

August 2022

AUGUST 1: Kimpa Vita

1682-1706, The Antonian Movement, Angola

Kimpa Vita, a popular female prophet in the kingdom of Kongo, founded the Antonian movement – a movement that used Christian symbols but revitalized traditional Kongo cultural roots. Her ideas remained among the peasants, appearing in various messianic cults, until centuries later, it took a new form in the preaching of Simon Kimbangu.

AUGUST 2: Bartolomeu Cassapa

1939-2006, Evangelical Synodal Church of Angola, Angola

Bartolomeu Cassapa, the first pastor of the Ovanha tribe, was actively involved in radio evangelism projects broadcasting the Christian message in the Ovimbundu language.

AUGUST 3: Toitoi Smart Mthembu

1901-1985, Head Mountain of God Apostolic Church in Zion; Botswana & South Africa

Toitoi Smart Mthembu was a Zimbabwean Christian leader who founded the Head Mountain of God Apostolic Church in Zion. He was known for charismatic ministry, his 'smart' clothing outfits, and his famous contest with a one-eyed snake at a dam in New Canada, near Soweto.

AUGUST 4: Wilo Banderembako

1937-1998, Catholic Church, Burundi

Wilo Banderembako, a catechist at Kirimbi parish, died a martyr for his commitment to his priestly duties after suffering severe beatings and torture inflicted by soldiers in Bugendana.

August 5: Edet Okon Ekpo

1926-2010, The Apostolic Church, Cameroon

Edet Okon Ekpo, the first African superintendent of the Apostolic Church, Nigeria, and an outstanding evangelist, apostle, and peacemaker, ministered for sixty years in villages, towns, and cities contributing significantly to planting churches in Nigeria and Cameroon.

August 6: Lydie Mengwelune

1886-1966, Evangelical Church of Cameroon, Cameroon

Lydie Mengwelune abandoned her privileges as concubine of the king because of her newfound love for Jesus, thus becoming the first convert in her area. Her life-long ministry and leadership led to the founding of many churches.

August 7: Estella Catherine Myers

1884-1956, Brethren Church, Central African Republic

Estelles Catherine Myers or “Mama” Myers was a nurse, teacher, administrator, preacher, and a pioneer missionary of the Brethren Church from 1918-1956 in central Africa (Oubangui-Chari). She published the Karre language version of the New Testament in 1947.

August 8: Emile Biayenda

1927-1977, Catholic Church, Congo

Emile Biayenda, a Congolese clergyman who rose to the rank of cardinal, was famous for his radical social views and for being a vocal critic of his country’s government – its injustices and the persecution of church leaders – which eventually cost him his life in March 1977.

August 9: John Ahui

1888-1992, Harrist Church, Côte d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast)

John Ahui, also known as Boghui Ahui, was an Ivorian multiethnic grassroots movement leader, and was for fifty-seven years acknowledged as Supreme Preacher of the Harrist Church of West Africa.

August 10: Simon Kimbangu

1889-1951, Church of Jesus Christ on Earth Through the Prophet Simon Kimbangu, Democratic Republic of Congo

One of the most famous founders of an African Initiated Church, Simon Kimbangu’s church today numbers over twelve million members and holds high influence in the DRC.

August 11: St. Catherine

300s, Ancient Christian Church, Egypt

The legendary St. Catherine embraced martyrdom for her Christian faith. During the Middle Ages, she became a cult figure, and pilgrimages were made from all over Europe to her resting place in Mt. Sinai.

August 12: Abd el-Mesih al-Habashi

1898-c.1973, Orthodox Church, Eritrea

Abûnâ Abd el-Mesih al-Habashi was an Orthodox priest and ascetic who lived in a desert cave for most of his life. He is regarded as one of the twentieth century's greatest influences on Coptic monasticism.

August 13: Eva (Manzini) Mthethwa

1920-1970, Church of the Nazarene, Eswatini

Eva Mthethwa was the first Swazi nurse to be fully registered and in 1952 became the first African to be appointed nursing sister in charge of wards in Eswatini.

August 14: Esa Lalé

1888-c.1925, Traditional Religionist, Ethiopia

Prophet Esa of the Zara community near Chenchä had a substantial influence in southern Ethiopia as both a pre-Christian prophet and providential precursor of Christianity.

August 15: Lamin Sanneh

1942-2019, Catholic Church, Gambia

An extraordinarily gifted scholar, Lamin Sanneh was a leading historian in the study of World Christianity, missions, and the little understood place of the local vernacular in Bible translation.

August 16: Hannah Spurr Kilham

1774-1832, Friends Church (Quakers), Gambia

An English Quaker missionary educator and linguist in West Africa, Hannah Spurr Kilham left a legacy of advocating the use of the vernacular languages in Gambia and Sierra Leone to teach freed slave children.

August 17: Peter Newman Anim

1890-1984, Christ Apostolic Church (Aladura), Ghana

Apostle Peter Newman Anim (formerly, Kwaku Anim Mensah) pioneered the first indigenous evangelical Pentecostal movement in Ghana and was later called the “Father of Ghanaian Evangelical Pentecostalism.”

August 18: Samuel John Chege

1927-1995, African Christian Holy Ghost Church, Kenya

Bishop Samuel John Chege played a decisive role in the foundation, growth, and unification of the African Christian Holy Ghost Church. He revolutionized the concept of ministry in Akurinu church by emphasizing the importance of theological training.

August 19: Abisage Odima

1933-2008, Anglican Communion, Kenya

An outstanding leader, Abisage Odima, despite gender bias against girls’ education in her family, pursued education and active church life, eventually becoming a pastor whose ministry brought phenomenal growth throughout Marachi land in Kenya.

August 20: John Tsizehena

1840-1912, Mission Lord Church (Anglican Communion), Madagascar

John Tsizehena, an untrained layman, became the bishop of the Christians of Vohémar, preaching, teaching, and ordaining priests to eventually establish a strong church known as the Mission Lord Church in Diego Suarez, far north of Madagascar.

August 21: Patrick Umzimkhulu

1902-1985, Anglican Communion, South Africa & Lesotho

Patrick Umzimkhulu has the distinction of being the first African to be accepted as a religious priest in the Anglican Church in Southern Africa. He was instrumental in establishing the Society of Precious Blood in Basutoland.

August 22: Emma Bertha Delany

1871-1922, Baptist, Liberia & Malawi

An African American missionary, Emma Bertha Delaney worked for the establishment of industrial schools in Malawi and Liberia.

August 23: Kassoum Keita

1937-2006, Evangelical, Mali

Kassoum Keita was a church planter, pastor, and Bible translator who served as national director for Campus Crusade of Christ. His role in conflict resolution between the Malian Islamic Association and the Catholic church was remarkable.

August 24: Frumentius

300s, Ancient Christian Church, Ethiopia

A freed slave boy, later bishop, was responsible for bringing Christianity into the kingdom of Aksum (ancient Ethiopia)

August 25: Petros Mayengani Mhlauli

1880, Ethiopian Church of Gazaland in Zimbabwe, Mozambique

While spreading the gospel in Transvaal, Petros Mayengani Mhlauli received two visions that made him feel called to establish the Gazaland Zimbabwe Ethiopian Church.

August 26: Tomo Nyirenda

1890-1926, Watch Tower, Zambia

Tomo Nyirenda, a messianic religious leader, preached a millenarian creed that stressed opposition to the white regime and promised the return of Black American benefactors.

August 27: Mary Gomer

d.1896, United Brethren in Christ, Sierra Leone

Mary Gomer and her husband Joseph Gomer were the first Black American missionaries sent to Sierra Leone. Mary worked with women and children in Shenge station for 23 years.

August 28: John Yambasu

1957-2020, Methodist, Sierra Leone

John Yambasu, a bishop in the United Methodist Church, was a visionary leader who strived toward reconciliation within his church and believed in working ecumenically to deal with the health crises during the Ebola and Malaria epidemics in Sierra Leone.

August 29: Christinah Nku

1894-c.1980, St. John's Apostolic Faith Mission, South Africa

Christinah Nku founded the St. John Apostolic Faith Mission. Her healing ministry attracted fifty thousand members to the church making it the largest indigenous church in South Africa.

August 30: Benjamin Wani Yugusuk

1928-2000, Anglican Communion (Episcopal), Sudan

As archbishop of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, Benjamin Wani served as a mediator in the peace initiatives between the Sudanese government and the Sudan Liberation Army.

August 31: Rebecca Gode

1905-1990s, Africa Inland Mission, Tanzania

Despite being insufficiently educated and excluded by her in-laws for being a Christian, Rebecca Gode first served as a cook at Katunguru Mission of Africa Inland Mission and later as a Christian Education teacher in primary schools impacting many people through her ministry in Katunguru.