From a missionary's Perspective
For Westerners, the idea of poverty is a foreign thought. Yet, in Africa each day the natives live a life filled with privation, illness, and death. Albert Kaunda is a native of Kitwe, Zambia and has been ministering to those less fortunate than himself as a missionary for over two decades. He faces deaths every day. Often, several funeral processions pass his front door in one day, on the way to the cemetery.

During the dry months, which are May to October, Albert holds open-air and indoor crusades and meetings. He teaches the natives how to live clean and pure lives both physically and spiritually. Many diseases ravish this continent, such as dysentery, malaria, HIV/AIDS, and those spread by mosquitoes. Albert speaks on these illnesses, giving instruction on how to resist contracting them. Since Albert is also a medical missionary, he is able to treat those with Malaria, Aids, and other sicknesses. Natural remedies such as poultices, hot-and-cold treatments, and herbal mixtures are given to those who have no hope from the mainstream medical system. During the rainy season, which is November to April, Albert visits the inmates of prisons, convicts in civil courts, and children in orphanages, bringing hope and the Good Message with him.

The moral issues, which he must handle, are difficult at times. On one particular incident Albert was ministering in a courthouse and learned about a woman’s case. She had a young daughter and the man who wished to marry her said she must first give her daughter to relatives, before he would marry her. However, there were no relatives who could take the child and so the mother came up with a plan. The next day, she walked to the river with her child and a large bag.

A fisherman nearby saw the disaster unfold as the mother pushed her child in the bag and threw her into the river. She was then taken to custody and was waiting to go in front of the judge, who would see the case and sentence her.
Albert was able to talk to this woman and her heart was opened when she heard that Jesus died for her and loves her. Although this incident may have hopeful results, some are not that way.

In a land where many children are not born into loving homes, but to single women or as a result of unfortunate circumstances, mothers take extreme measures to get rid of them. Only a short time ago, Albert found a baby left in a sawdust pile close to his home. The mother had abandoned her child and it was left in the elements to die. Taking it to an orphanage, he was able to get help for the baby. Tragically, when he returned to check on the baby a few months later, it had died.

Everyday Albert must face this harsh reality, of life and death, even in his own life. Recently this brave missionary started having eye problems and since then his eyesight has degenerated. He has found out that this is a result of a tumor in his brain. His son, Albright Kaunda who is only eighteen years old, has picked up the work in areas where his father can no longer function. Yet, Albert continues to visit prisons and courtrooms, orphanages and hospitals, touching his fellow African’s lives.

Westerners can take a lesson or two from this champion of the gospel. Perhaps they will follow Albert’s example and touch the lives of those around them and in distance lands such as Africa. Africa is truly a land of despair and hope. Will we fight to conquer the despair and help the hope triumph?