

Africa: A Journey Home



By Dr. Paula Newsome
SPECIAL TO THE POST

Africa, truly the land of enchantment, is one of the most misunderstood and misrepresented land masses on the planet. The continent of Africa is the second largest land mass on the earth and the most mineral rich of all the continents. Population experts estimate that over 650 million people live there. This figure is estimated to be 30% of the world's total population.

There are 52 countries in Africa. These countries house more gold, jewels, plutonium, platinum, chrome, and copper than any other place in the world. Africa's

Nile River is the longest river in the world and the Sahara Desert is the largest desert in the world. Africa is more than three times the size of the United States.

Human life began in Africa on the Omo Valley in a place called the Valley of the Moons. The first civilization of the world and the first city in the world were built in Africa. The Pyramids are the only wonder of the world that still exists unaltered.

Very few of us even realize that the country with the greatest African population is Nigeria, with over 115 million black citizens. Brazil is second with over 40 million

black people and the United States is third with 35 million.

Most of the people in Africa are of darker skin hue. In the northern and northeastern countries, quite a few of the people are Arab or of Bedouin descent. In most countries, there are white expatriates and in South Africa, there are 5 million whites and also a small Asian and Indian population.

Africa can be divided into four parts. The northern countries have small populations with the exception of Egypt originally called "kmt" or Kemet. In ancient Egyptian cultures, vowels were not used in writing. The Nile River courses through Egypt and is one of the rivers in the world that runs opposite to the flow of gravity. In other words, it runs from south to north.

The eastern part of Africa gained a lot of attention during recent months with the discharging of troops from the U.S. to Somalia. The eastern part of Africa is home to Kenya and Ethiopia. The eastern part of Africa is very mountainous.

The western part of Africa, especially along the coast, is the most heavily populated.

West Africa is thought to be the part of the continent where most Africans in the diaspora are from. The coast is extremely beautiful and one sixth of the entire population of the continent is located there. Some countries in this part of Africa include Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Gabon, and the Ivory Coast.

Southern Africa is one of the most beautiful places in the world with mountains, lakes, rivers, and very rich mineral deposits. Because south Africa is below the equator, the seasons are opposite ours. In other words, it is hot there in January and cold in July. Some countries there include Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and the Republic of South Africa.

Yes, Africa is a very diverse land full of deserts, savannah, mountains, beaches, cities, villages, towns, highways, dirt roads, and yes, even large game reserves! Africa is full of contradictions, a continent that participated in slavery yet its countries were the victims of slavery by remote control otherwise known as "colonization." Over the next few weeks, we will explore this vast continent as we journey back home.

Braces For Children & Adults
DR. PAUL A. MCGILL,
D.D.S., P.A.

"Practice Limited To Orthodontics"
(704)375-7005

1404 Beatties Ford Rd.
NorthWest Gateway Professional Center
Suite 200 • Charlotte, North Carolina 28216



Classic Designs by Zella

220 Tuckaseegee Rd.
(Off W. Trade - Near The Old Garr Auditorium)

"ZELLA" designs for all Occasions:

- Fresh Flowers • Balloons • Funeral Designs
- Weddings • Fruit Baskets • Stuffed Animals
- Gifts

Thank You, Zella Patton (704)343-0480

Mandela's Coming To America With Tour

Continued From Page 3A

jointly awarded the 1993 Philadelphia Liberty Medal. Constitutional talks are expected to set the stage for free elections in July of next year. With the black majority able to vote, the 74-year old Mandela is almost surely to be elected president of the racially torn country.



Mandela

compete for the city's top elected post. Shortly before his announcement, a poll showed Jackson virtually unbeatable with a 74% approval rating. The 55-year-old Jackson is credited with bringing large numbers of blacks into the city's white-dominated business establishment. He also succeeded in bringing the 1996 Summer Olympics to Atlanta.

Minorities Are A Majority In 2,000 U.S. Counties

WASHINGTON - According to a Census Bureau report released in June, blacks and other minorities are the majority population in over 2,000 counties, cities and towns around the nation. The largest is Detroit, which is nearly 80% black and Hispanic. Among the smallest is Tuskegee, Alabama, where there are 325 whites and nearly 12,000 blacks.

Decision By Atlanta Mayor Creates Election Chaos

ATLANTA - The decision by popular Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson not to seek re-election has created election chaos with a host of candidates now expected to

Gay Protest Against Powell Ineffective

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. - A homosexual protest against Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell drew little support recently as Powell delivered the commencement address at Harvard University. The gay community and its supporters are upset with the highest ranking African American in the U.S. military because of his opposition to homosexuals openly serving in the armed forces. Fewer than 200 of the 30,000 people attending the ceremonies stood and turned their back on Powell as gays had requested.

El Rukns Members To Get New Trial

CHICAGO - New trials were ordered this month for three members of one of the na-

tion's most notorious black street gangs - the El Rukns of Chicago. A federal judge ruled that prosecutors had tainted the trial by misconduct and the withholding of information. Thomas Burnside, Cordell Griffin and C.D. Jackson had been convicted on charges, including narcotics conspiracy and racketeering. The El Rukns - formerly Black Stone Nation - had dominated several criminal enterprises in the Chicago area for over 20 years.

SUBSCRIBE!

Plan today for happy tomorrows

Plan for a secure future today with life insurance, annuities, health and disability insurance. You can head off problems with

MODERN WOODMEN SOLUTIONS



ANTHONY HERRING LUTCF, FIC
District Manager
6407 Idlewild Rd. Suite, 204, Charlotte, NC 28212
(704)535-9936



CARL S. MYERS
District Representative
6407 Idlewild Rd. Suite, 204, Charlotte, NC 28212
(704)535-9936

Bringing Families Together

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA
A FRATERNAL LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY
HOME OFFICE • ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

LIFE • ANNUITIES • IRAs • FRATERNAL PROGRAMS

Louis Farrakhan: 'Never Meant To Slander The Jewish Faith'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK-Louis Farrakhan says he did not mean to offend Jews with his much-quoted remark calling Judaism a "gutter religion."

In an interview with Newsweek magazine, Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam leader and prominent advocate of black self-reliance, said the comment was meant as a condemnation of Israel for its treatment of Palestinians.

"I never meant to slander the Jewish faith," he said. "I was speaking of Israel."

Farrakhan, 60, has begun a campaign to mend fences with the white mainstream and with Jews, Newsweek reports.

"I'm not the ugly fellow you would like to make people think I am," he said during an interview in his Chicago home. "It's necessary for the garbage to be cleared away so that a new and better relationship can be structured between blacks and Jews."

In a gesture that many saw as conciliatory, Farrakhan made a surprise concert appearance in Winston-Salem in April and played a violin concerto by composer Felix Mendelssohn.

He's made overtures to Jewish leaders, Newsweek said, dining last month at the



Farrakhan

home of an unidentified Chicago rabbi.

And later this year he'll publish a book, "Torchlight for America," recasting the teachings of his late mentor, Elijah Muhammad, as remedies for drug addiction and crime in black and white communities.

Farrakhan's efforts at conciliation have been received coolly by critics.

"Playing the music of a dead convert (Mendelssohn's parents converted to Christianity) will not repair the depth of hurt, insult and damage that Reverend Farrakhan has spewed," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

And Chicago Jewish leaders complain that The Final Call, the Nation of Islam's newspaper, is filled with anti-Jewish invective.

Asked about his frequent criticisms of Jews, Farrakhan told the magazine: "Look at me like a Jewish mother who may spank her child not because she hates the child. She wants the child to take a correct course. If I have spoken words that hurt, the question comes right down to this: Did he speak the truth?"

Getting Here From Your Home May Be Easier Than You Think.



If you long for a vacation to some far-off island but think you have far too little money to get there, think again. The money you need for a trip like this and a lot more may be right in your home. And if you qualify for our Prime Equity Loan, we'll help you take advantage of it.

With First Federal's Prime Equity Loan, you can get a line of credit for up to 80% of the appraised value of your home (less

FIRST FEDERAL
335-4400
FDIC Insured

the first mortgage balance). Then you can write yourself loans for anything you want. Interest is charged only on the amount of credit you use and is usually tax-deductible.*

Like a trip to some tropical paradise, our Prime Equity Loan seems almost too good to be true. So why don't you find out for yourself? Stop by any of our offices, or give us a call at 335-4400. And start packing.



FIRST FEDERAL PRIME EQUITY LOANS

*Consult your tax advisor for specific deduction information.

Faster Than A Monthly Magazine.

More Depth Than Television.

Able To Impact Your Life Every Week.

It's Your Newspaper. The Charlotte Post.