



The Recovery of Classical Education in Africa with Karen Elliot and Erica Robertson of the Rafiki Foundation

Presentation 3: Why Classical, Christian Education is the Best Education for Africa Pt. 1

Outline:

The Best Education for the Least of These

- Matthew 25
- Who are the least of these? 70% of the world's population that lives on less than \$2 a day lives on the continent of Africa. They are materially poor, and most the materially poor live on the continent of Africa.

Church School in Africa

- These schools are nominally Christian.
- Have access only to a progressive government curriculum.
- The Rafiki Foundation hopes to transform at least 1,000 of these schools.
- Rafiki in Nigeria, 500 church schools may adopt the curriculum.

Strong Partnerships

- The Rafiki Foundation has partnerships with 23 African denominations.
- The problem with the church schools
 - The governments took over the church schools in the 60s and 70s (independence for African countries).
 - The schools were not well managed.
 - The governments are giving back the schools now.
 - Children spend twelve years primarily preparing for an exam (can pass the exam with a 40 or a 50 of 100).
 - African church schools don't teach the Bible every day. They don't have materials. The government curriculum took up all the time.

Why is classical, Christian Education the best education for Africa?

- A liberal arts education has not be tried in Africa on a broad scale.
- Christian Cole was born in 1852, and he enrolled at Oxford in 1873 to read classics. He taught music lessons and helped students prepare for their divinity exams. He became the first black African to achieve a degree from Oxford in 1876. He was the first black African to practice law in the English courts.



Why will classical, Christian Education work in Africa?

- In the African culture there is a deep appreciation for the past and history. “Take from the past what is good and bring it into the present in order to make positive progress through the use of knowledge.” This is embedded in the hearts and minds of the African people.
- The traditional African education system had a master/teacher, mentoring/student relationship.
- Classical education is the education for free men. To not provide it is to subject another generation to be educated to be workers.
- Classical Christian education is the education of the Church.
 - “They are interested in their Christian inheritance, which is the culture of the Church.” Ravi Jain