AFRICA LEADERSHIP STUDY

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Category: Observations

The Africa Leadership study is an excellent resource for anyone who is interested in how the church is growing and developing on the African continent. Indeed, I'd go so far as to say that it is essential reading. Bookmark it now!

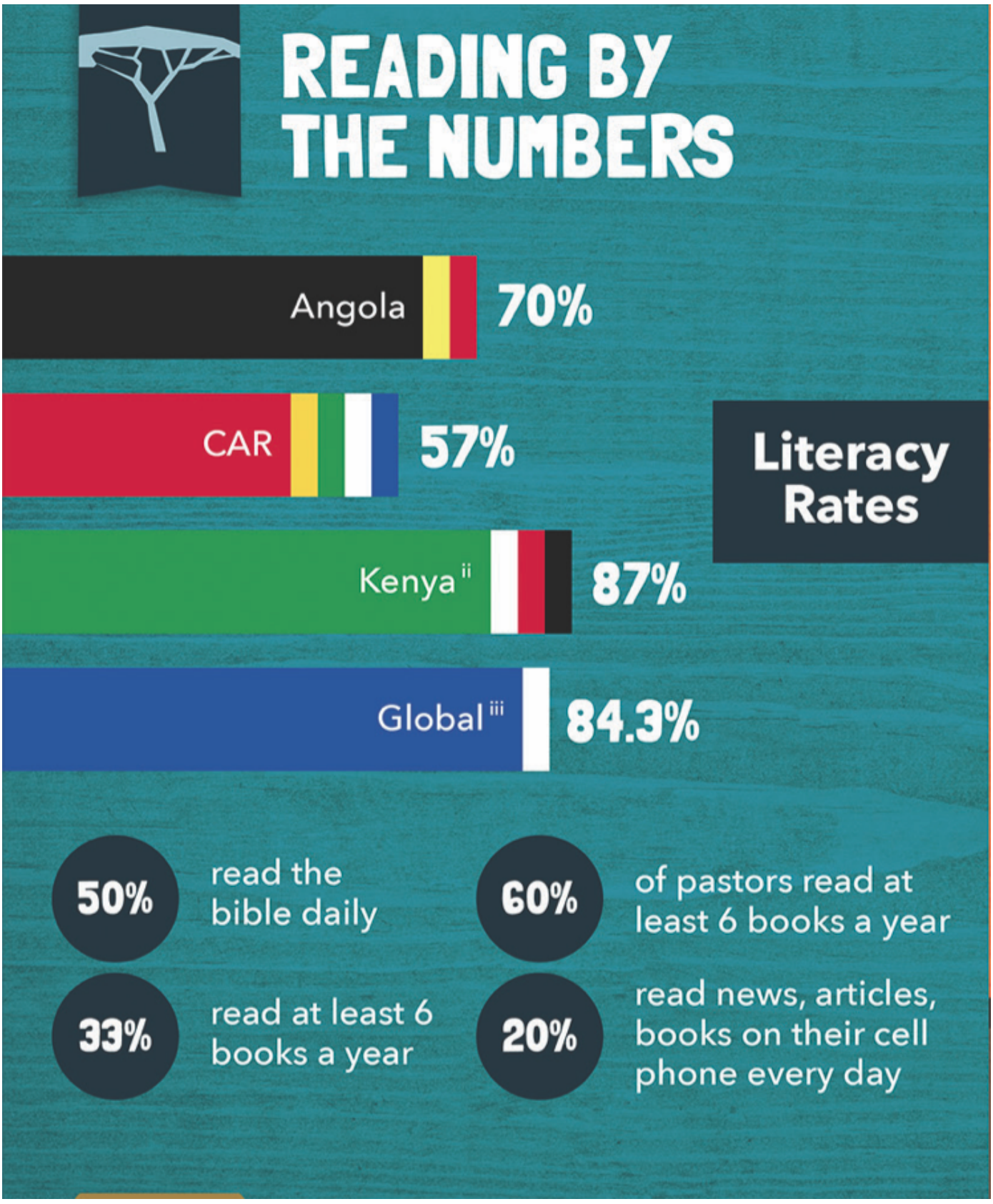
The website is in English, French and Portuguese and gives a good overview of a survey of leadership and attitudes in the African Church. One of the features that I appreciate about the study is the rigour with which it was carried out. This is a good practical example of how to do this sort of work:

> *The Africa Leadership Study began the effort to understand the complex issues of leadership development in Africa by asking African Christians to tell us what they know and have observed. Â The whole team worked together to design and implement a 93-item questionnaire to gather information.Â It was provided in English, Swahili, French and Portuguese. We asked 8,041 respondents not only to tell us about themselves and the churches they attended but to identify key clergy and non-clergy Christian leaders, as well as key African-led Christian organizations that were having a high level of positive impact in their communities. Questions focused on the leaders and organizations identified: their characteristics, relationships, and leadership development efforts. There were also questions included which related to the availability and accessibility of books, digital resources, and other training options.*

A SUMMARY OF THE 17 INSIGHTS FROM THE STUDY

1 **Pastors were identified as the most influential Christian leaders** in Africa's growing Christian community. Naturally that means that **2** **churches play many key roles** in the lives of ordinary African believers. At the same time three other key groups were found to be essential to leadership in Africa. They are **3** **non-clergy leaders,** **4** **women** and **5** **emerging parachurch organizations**. All three of these groups seek to develop leaders, five areas were identified as key to developing their impact and influence.

The main results of the study can be downloaded as document called 17 Findings, which is also available in French and Portuguese. These downloads are all available on the "Findings" section of the website. Of particular interest to me is an infographic on reading.


READING BY THE NUMBERS
Angola
70%
CAR
57%
Literacy Rates
Kenya[ii]
87%
Global[iii]
84.3%
50%
read the bible daily
60%
of pastors read at least 6 books a year
33%
read at least 6 books a year
20%
read news, articles, books on their cell phone every day

What strikes me about this survey, though it doesn't surprise me, is the professionalism with which it was carried out and some of the results, such as those from the reading survey above. This study demolishes many of the stereotypes that Westerners hold about the church in Africa. The study clearly shows that the biggest need in Africa is not for Western resources; books etc to be translated and made available, but for African authors to be supported to produce and distribute quality materials in their own context.

There is a lot more to this study than I have outlined here and I do encourage you to take a deeper look if you are interested in Africa or in leadership.