

Venerable Mark Wokgam Mukan

Venerable Mark Wokgam Mukan's passion for the *Africa Study Bible* (ASB) project was obvious when he hurriedly walked into the venue of the interview for this article. He held a copy of ASB with a torn back cover. "It is because of usage. It is my companion," he answered, when he was asked about the torn back cover. "This is the work of God. It seems people were connected divinely as they worked on this Bible," he passionately added.

The description of Gantang Tuwan relates well to the idea of ASB. "Gantang Tuwan is a place in our village where elders sit to tell Bible stories and tales about the village, ancient parents, hunters, and heroes. Other activities include prayer, advice and correction of errors. I feel very much at home with the *Africa Study Bible*. I can hold it close to my heart."

Mukan is a minister with the Anglican Diocese of Jos, Church of Nigeria. He serves as the Director of Mission Operations (Local and Foreign Missions). He is married to Lantana. They have three boys and one adopted daughter.

He described his studies before having ASB as limited, especially in finding relevant illustrations. "I enjoy reading different versions of the Scripture. I try to contextualize as I read them, and make the language simple for my people. I use observations a lot in preparing a sermon. However, it was always limited. I didn't have many illustrations to share." However, his studies were enhanced through the use of ASB. His unique aspects of ASB are "Storytelling, incredible illustrations, wealth of insight of the commentators, ability to connect to biblical realities, its simplicity, and it is African in context."

He has donated some copies of ASB to some Pastors, Missionaries, and Church Workers, who were affected by insurgency in the North East of Nigeria. The representative of the beneficiaries sent this feedback. "Sir, on behalf of our group, we want to appreciate your effort for giving us the *Africa Study Bible*. We have found it useful. Remain blessed."

Mukan explained, "My heart drive is to reach the North East of Nigeria. Many Pastors have lost their Bibles and biblical literature as a result of the insurgency. I hope to replace those losses by putting an ASB in their hands. Other things will be replaced when they read it and live it," he keenly explained. "If it pleases God, my dream is to place ASBs in the hands of many Missionaries, Pastors, Church Workers, Traditional Rulers, and Imams. I have a longing to give to Imams as a way of evangelism."

Mukan concluded, "To Oasis International, we appreciate God for their availability, in this generation, to reach out to Africans in their own terms. They should not get tired. I appreciate those who may not be able to see physically, but have sown into the lives of brothers and sisters in Africa. Their investments are not a waste, but living investments."

"I feel very much at home with the *Africa Study Bible*."

