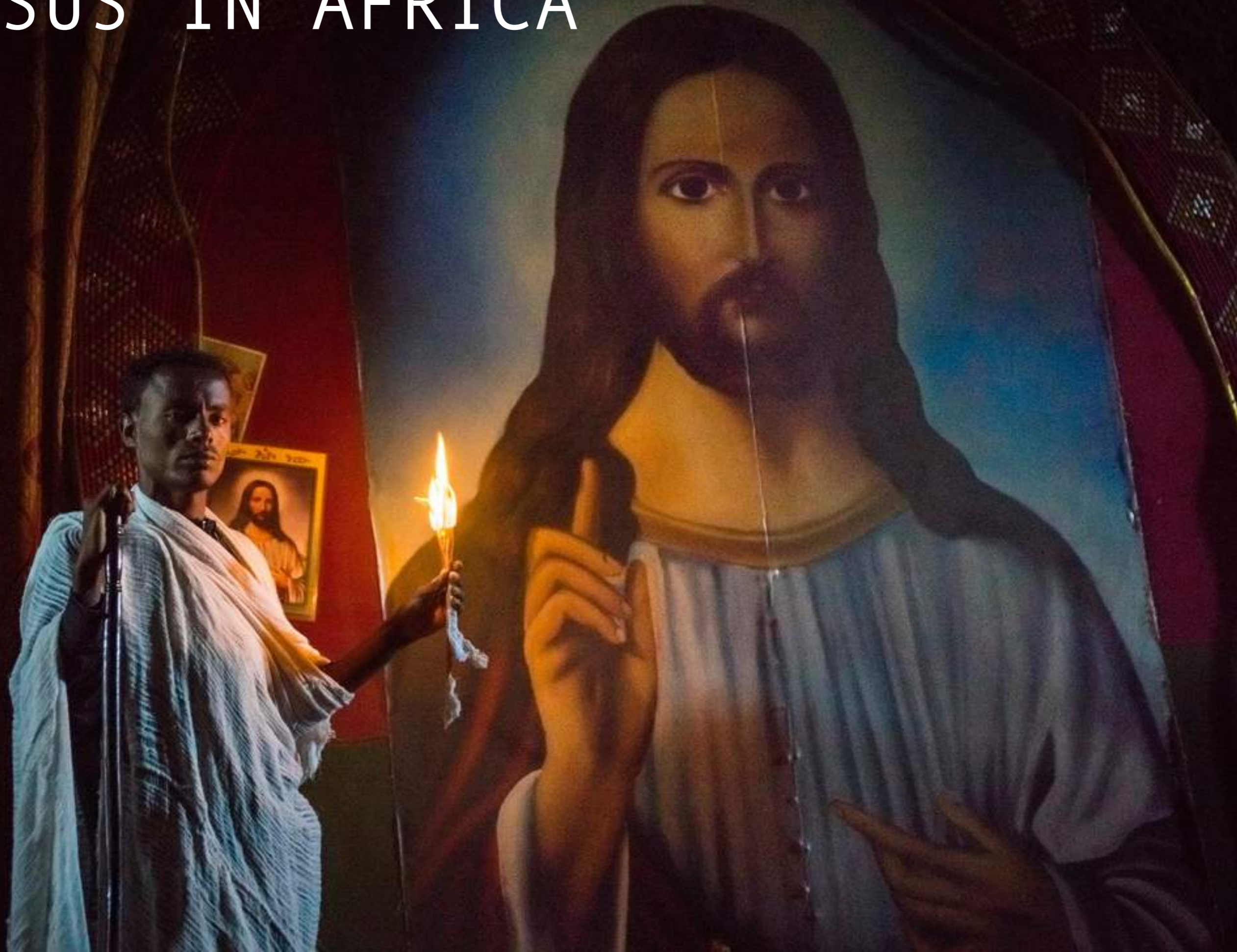


JESUS IN AFRICA





In Southern Angola, this Mukubal tribe woman wears a loincloth with Jesus emblazoned on it. In this area, isolated after 30 years of civil war, Christian missionaries do their best to convert the locals. It is an uphill battle for them. The women refuse to hide their breasts and still wear the very small traditional bra that leaves much exposed.



Religion can also be very fashionable in Africa. This woman from Rwanda has “Jesus” right underneath the Chanel logo on her scarf.



In Namibe, Angola, this vendor specializes in clothes depicting Jesus. This particular textile reads “Jesus is my only hope” in French.



In Africa, everything is recycled. Nothing goes to waste. In Asmara, Eritrea, at the Medebar Metal Market, some old oil barrels are turned into crosses.



Those orthodox crosses, formerly Total oil barrels, will end at the top of the local churches.



In Ganvié, Benin, the “Celestial Church of Christ” devotees pray under a tent. Marketing and advertising are very important for little churches which blend Christianity with traditional belief systems. The main priest has painted his phone number on all the chairs along with the phrase “With God, everything is possible”.



In Soava, Benin, this little girl watches over a makeshift photo studio where people can pose with Jesus.



Mr Kagbanon Bebe is a famous voodoo priest in Benin. He maintains a great many esoteric practices. Here, he asks this owl questions. He never removes his Christian cross though, as he fears doing so will bring him bad luck.



In this Eritrean booze shop, a Jesus poster hangs in front of Zibib alcohol and Cognac bottles.



In an eritrean gasoline shop, the vendor told me he could not afford a color Jesus poster, so he made a black and white photocopy instead. He believes this image will bring him protection and success.



In Jinka, a town in southern Ethiopia, young men play snooker surrounded by religious icons juxtaposed with Liverpool and Manchester United posters.



A mural in the Catholic Church of Marsabit, Kenya, depicts a black Jesus.



A mural in the Catholic Church of Marsabit, Kenya, depicts Jesus on the cross as a black person.



No religious service takes place in Africa without music. The women from the Ethiopian Malang tribe play the drums this Sunday. As the competition is fierce between the many churches, making noise with music is a good way to attract new members to the congregation.



An orthodox priest among the Ethiopian Bodi tribe in Omo Valley is hard at work to convert the locals.



Miss Toro was a Hamer tribal girl I met a few years ago in Turmi, Ethiopia. In the time that has passed, she converted to Christianity and now wears western clothes and a cross. Conversion serves as a way for the government to better manager the tribal conflicts and cruel traditions like ritual baby killings.



Some members of the Hamar tribe just use the cross as decoration since they live in the bush far from any formal church.



Among the El Molo tribe in northern Kenya, the tribes have adapted the crosses they wear to their traditional beading! For many, being Christian just means having free food and clothes from the missionaries.



Religion for Africa's poor, is an opportunity to live like kings for a few hours. On their wedding day, this couple rents traditional clothes so they can look like the Ethiopian emperor Haile Selassie.



WHEN GOD SAY
YES NOBODY
SAY NO.

In this Anuak village in South Sudan, the priest has posted religious sayings even on trees. This one reads: "When God says Yes, Nobody says No".



Deep in the Chalbi Kenyan desert, in a Gabbra tribe village, I asked this lady what the most precious thing she owned. She came back couple minuted later with this picture of Pope John Paul the 2nd.



In Ethiopia, the ultimate symbol of true faith is a cross tattooed on the face.



Eric Lafforgue

lafforgue@mac.com

+3363305345 |

<http://www.ericlafforgue.com/category/stories/>