

FALL 2022

BELONG TOGETHER

YOU WERE MADE WITH A DESIRE TO BELONG



TAYLOR'S NOTE

Why is our mission to share the Gospel?

When you hear the word "treasure," what comes to mind? A pile of precious gems? A chest of gold coins sought after by a ragtag group of pirates?

A treasure is something of great value. It's no wonder wealth and riches are among the first things we think of, for in this world's economy, currency is king.

In Jesus' famous sermon on the mount, he talked with the crowds about treasure, too. He understood the heart of man that sees his worth in his physical wealth. He gives a warning to those who treasure the things of this world, for like all things on earth, they will one day come to an end. Instead, he admonishes them to store up heavenly treasures where "moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal" (Matthew 6:20).

What Jesus says next, however, is even more sobering – "where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

Where is your treasure?

Your home? Your finances? A degree or job, vacation time, delicious meals or even your body? This is an important question that deserves an honest examination.

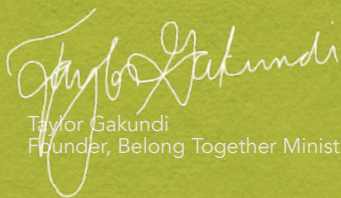
As we know from God's Word and the reality we all bear witness to, one day our lives in this flesh will come to an end. Whatever treasure we have amassed here on earth will not continue on with us. And where we go will either be an eternity with God in heaven due to the redemption Christ accomplished for us on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21), or an eternity of wrath where we will receive the wages our sins deserve (Romans 6:23).

Eternity is quite a long time. And while it's tempting to not focus on what we feel isn't imminent, this question of what we treasure is one that deserves our attention now. One day, with no advanced notice, we will come to the end of our lives. If where we find our heart is in worldly treasures and not in Christ and the glories of heaven, what we have once deemed as precious will turn out to be our greatest peril.

Why is our mission at Belong Together Ministries to share the Gospel? **Because the Gospel is the only way by which man can be saved from the eternal wrath we all deserve in our sins (Acts 4:12).** Compelled to share the Good News that Jesus Christ lived and died to save sinners, there is no other message or mission worthy of our days or ministry. As we share the Gospel in Rwanda through our Bible study programs, Christian Library and one day through our Homeschool Center, we pray the Lord continues to provide us with opportunities for young men and women to hear the Truth and examine their hearts to see where their treasure lies.

We thank the Lord for how he has used people like you to help us carry out our mission, that the Gospel may be proclaimed throughout Rwanda, that the sons of daughters of God may be revealed, and that all glory, honor and praise be given to Him.

With gratitude and joy in Christ,



Taylor Gakundi
Founder, Belong Together Ministries





Dear brothers and sisters,

We rejoice to share with you the importance of our Bible Study programs at Belong Together Ministries.

Bible Study is one of the key elements of our ministry for a number of reasons:

- The Bible is God's infallible and inerrant word to us: This is the most important reason why we are so committed to studying the scriptures. We are fully convinced that God spoke to us through his written word, the Bible, and we believe that the mind of God is revealed to us in the pages of the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- The Bible reveals the way of salvation: As a ministry committed to evangelism and discipleship among our most important activities, we recognize that the souls of men and women are heading to an eternity, whether with God in eternal joy, or with the devil and his angels in eternal hell. Knowing that only the gospel of Christ can save them from sin and eternal hell, we cherish the Bible, the word of God, which alone reveals that way of salvation to all who come to God through Christ (Romans 10:14-17).
- Diligently studying and teaching the Bible is also for us a fulfillment of the great commission left to us by Christ in Matthew 28:20.
- We know that there is no way to guard those whom we minister to against error and sinful life apart from them having the word of God richly in them. (Ps. 119:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:21)

Pray for us, that God would make his word our delight daily and give us wisdom and boldness as we bring it before young men and women to whom we minister here in Rwanda.

Thank you,

By Emmanuel Masengesho,
BTM Bible Study Leader and Curriculum Development

**Why do
we study
the Bible?**



We know that a refugee is a displaced person who has crossed national borders and who cannot or is unwilling to return home due to a well-founded fear of persecution.

From this definition we understand that this person is living a life that is often full of fear, hopelessness and rejection in a miserable state. The circumstances caused by the conflicts present opportunities for BTM to share the Gospel, which then leads to true and lasting transformation of people and even societies. When the Gospel is preached it both saves and equips. Ministering to refugees that have forcefully fled their homes teaches them about the only hope that can anchor the soul, regardless of one's circumstances.

BTM is doing discipleship with young men and women of the Mahama Refugee Camp in Rwanda where many lives have changed to Christ's likeness due to the influence of the Gospel. Those who were once living under the bondage of sin and hopelessness are now the children of God by knowing that true hope is in Christ Jesus.

In conclusion, the Gospel needs to be shared in a refugee camp because it is the only message that transforms people's life from darkness to light, which is true salvation.

Brian Kamusime,
BTM Bible Study Leader in the Mahama Refugee Camp

**Why do
we bring
our ministry
to refugee
camps?**



When you look around, evil seems more abundant than ever before. Additionally, children born in today's world have a million platforms where they can learn from. The question is not if a child will receive an education, but what kind of education he or she will receive. Is it the kind of education that can't define what "a woman" is? An education that tells children how people are born gender-undefined and then decide later? An education where everyone has their own truth therefore, never impose "your truth" to anyone?

The Christian must ask what kind of education they will expose their children to. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." This means much to the resurrected soul, because here you don't just give birth to, feed, clothe and play with your child; rather your child's soul is also in your accountability to the Lord. You are called to nurture and train a child in all righteousness.

An education that corresponds to biblical Christianity will present the true gospel to children, teach them God's design and purpose in all things, which will be contrary to what a secular education in today's age teaches. By the grace of God, who does all things according to His good will and pleasure, we pray children under a Christian education shall be saved from this evil generation; that they shall be men and women who fear God in their time.

The true gospel presented to a desperate sinner has, in itself, the power to deliver him from the darkness (Romans 1:16). If I am a parent, the best gift I can offer to my kids would be Christian education, where they will be in discipleship and training in righteousness.

By Jado Ntwali,
BTM Bible Study Leader and Principal of our future Homeschool Center

**Why is
Christian
education
important?**



I love people seeking God in his word (the Bible). I have a special love in particular with Rwanda and the friends I have met there — some who are classified as “refugees.” Since a lot of people who live in Rwanda have been displaced from their original countries, they feel that they do not belong. We who accept Jesus’ free gift as payment for our sins, now belong in Christ.

I first traveled to Rwanda in 2016 and visited a refugee camp, where a lot of my friends have lived for the past 20+ years. After several trips back, I started noticing that a lot of people in Rwanda say they believe in God, but don’t really know Him. Having been friends with Taylor and us realizing the spiritual need in Rwanda, I have tried to be a solid support to this mission.

My wife says that I have a good heart, and that may be true, but I think that I can be selfish. I want people to know Jesus. Everyone needs the peace that only God can give. My advice is be obedient to God, keep your head down and work hard; His kingdom is coming soon!

I am a native Kentuckian and have lived in Beaverton, Oregon since 2013. I have been married to my smart, beautiful, best friend, Limin, for 11 years and we have a goofy 2-year-old named Tao (and until recently, the best dog named Godard). At my job, I test Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity quality on devices from Silicon Valley tech companies. I have a love of the creative arts, recording music, film-making, graphic design, and chocolate milk.

Nick Oberg
Director of the Board

**Why
am I
a board
member of
Belong
Together
Ministries?**



Why Your Giving Matters

The Lord uses your gifts to sustain and grow Belong Together Ministries. Your contributions fuel all our programs, from Bible studies to our Christian Library, and support four families who make up our leadership team in Rwanda.

Recurring donations are a great way to help continue in our commitments in ministry...



Giving Why One-time Gifts are needed Right Now

Interest to participate in BTM programs in Rwanda is growing fast! We pray it's God's will for you to help us match this growth. Some of our specific needs are:



\$150/Month

Help Brian travel to the Mahama Refugee Camp each month for in-person Bible studies and discipleship with the 22 young men and women in our BTM groups. This covers a hearty lunch for everyone, supplies, and Brian's travel and lodging expenses to reach the camp, a 4 hour journey from Kigali.

\$40/Month

Jado is ready to begin helping parents who want to homeschool their children! This provides **homeschool materials for one student**. Two families are ready to join this year, and we hope to add many more as support comes in!

\$200/Month

Emmanuel is writing a new Bible study workbook in Kinyarwanda to use in our BTM groups and new Bible study groups are waiting to begin. **We need to rent an office space** to house our programs and where our leaders can work! This will cover rent for a humble office in Kigali.

\$2,000/Office Equipment

Desk (\$300) , **Printer** (\$350), **Chairs & Tables** (\$800), **Computer** (\$550)

\$4,000/Homeschool Center Resources

Bookshelves (\$500), **Books** (\$1,000), **Score Keys** (\$1,000) & **Supplies** (\$1,500)

To give, you can do so online through PayPal on our website
belongtogether.org/donate

Or, you can send your support via mail!
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