

# BELONG TOGETHER MINISTRIES

Summer 2022  
Quarterly Update





# TAYLOR'S NOTE

They say having a child changes your life.

And until you have a child, I don't think you realize how all-encompassing this statement is.

A child *does* change your life. Nursing. Diapers. Spit up. Those giggles! Did I mention nursing? Changes that drive you into deeper dependence on God, and create in you a capacity to love more than you knew you could.

Though it has only been five months since my son, Jackson Gakundi Jr., "JJ," was born, the Lord has already graciously taught me many lessons. One of those lessons is about priorities.

A day looks different with a little one. The same amount of hours pass on the clock, but not all the things you used to do will get done. That's okay, but it means one must learn their priorities.

Recently, my husband and I talked about and prayed over our family's priorities. Bible study and family worship, keeping the house clean, exercise and wholesome meals, to name a few.

But another priority for us is part of God's great commission: **to share the Gospel**. To, as Jesus said, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"* (Matthew 28:19-20).

As Christians, the first person we are charged to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with is our children (Deuteronomy 6:7). Our mission field is our children. As vital as nourishing our son's physical body is nourishing his spiritual body, for we know he not only possesses a mortal body but an eternal soul. While it is God's will what happens to our son, He has put us in a position of great responsibility to diligently teach His Word, that our son may one day come to faith in Christ (Romans 10:17).



We are not alone in the burden of this priority. The church in Rwanda is filled with parents (and young adults who pray to one day become parents) whose call is to share the Gospel to their children and instruct their sons and daughters in the way of the Lord. One of the avenues they hope to do this is through homeschooling their children with a Biblical curriculum, just as we hope to do for our son when he is old enough.

By God's providence, He has given our family a deep connection with Rwanda. In a time when we are learning the weight and joy of raising our son to know the Lord, we thank God He has put us in a position to shepherd the ministry of Belong Together in Rwanda, to serve His flock, and share the Good News to the lost in that nation. Through the Homeschool Center we hope to begin soon, we pray God supplies resources for the families we serve to be equipped to take responsibility for their children's education and to grow in their faith in Christ. More on that in the pages of this Quarterly Update.

As we look back to the year God allowed Belong Together to begin in 2018, we are grateful for those He has used in the founding and growth of this ministry. And as a new parent speaking on behalf of young families in Rwanda, we pray His will is to involve you in helping share the Good News of Jesus Christ in this nation, and especially to our children.

With gratitude and joy in Christ,



Taylor Gakundi  
Founder, Belong Together Ministries





# Newest Project, our Homeschool Center

The Bible speaks to parents' responsibility to teach their children God's commands (Deuteronomy 6:7) and to train them in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6). After hearing from young Christian families in Rwanda about their desire to see their children learn all facets of their education from a Biblical lens, we have decided to open a Homeschool Center to help equip parents to educate their children!

We wanted to share with you a little more about BTM's Homeschool Center that we hope to open soon, Lord willing, with your help!

- Our inaugural homeschool group will consist of 10 families, but our capacity with one trainer can reach up to 50. Unlike traditional schools, homeschooling keeps the "teacher-to-student ratio" as low as possible. And who could have more incentive for their child to succeed in their education than their parents?!
- BTM's Homeschool Center will offer Accelerated Christian Education curriculum (A.C.E.) which is used in 145 countries and can begin with children as early as 3, up to Grade 12. Parents can trust they are using a curriculum accredited in Rwanda that is self-paced and incorporates the Bible in every subject.





- Of the parents we've spoken to, the primary reasons they want to homeschool their children are to educate their sons and daughters with a Christian curriculum, to have their children in a safe environment, and to take direct responsibility for their education as the Bible teaches.

- Some of the top concerns parents have about homeschooling are that the concept of homeschooling is new to them, they are unsure what to do if they get stuck on material they don't understand, and their need for a community for support, interaction and prayer.

At BTM's Homeschool Center, parents will receive thorough training before beginning their homeschool venture, as well as support and regular check-ins throughout the year. Additionally, the center will serve as a place where homeschool parents and students can interact, attend special classes and events, and have access to a library of resources. Lord willing, as the center grows and students move on to more advanced subjects, we will have co-op style classes and labs where experts can teach students in areas beyond their parents' skill level – like quantum physics! :)

- Some of the activities we plan to have for homeschool families in our first year are clubs like French, Reading and Sports!

In addition to making a financial gift to BTM's Homeschool Center, we also have an Amazon Charity List with books we would love to have in our library specifically for students and parents. You can view our list and purchase those books from the link on our donate page: [belongtogether.org/donate](https://belongtogether.org/donate)





# BTM Bible Studies

We thank the Lord for how He has grown BTM's Bible Study Program in Rwanda where our team leads studies for young adults in the capital city of Kigali and the Mahama Refugee Camp. Using a Bible study guide in Kinyarwanda written by BTM leaders, our goal is to share the Gospel, study the scriptures, and answer questions members have about the Christian faith.

We're excited to share updates with you from two of our Bible Study leaders!





# Kigali Bible Study Update

“Since the start of 2022, we have been blessed by the Lord to have a new BTM Bible Study group from Kigali made up of 12 people. We have been using the Belong Together Bible Study Guide since the early days of our meeting and we have seen a lot of progress in our studies.

We thank the Lord that we can testify to the conversion of one member of Belong Together, Clarisse Uwineza, and another sister, Kessy Ishimwe, who came to full assurance of her salvation after so many months of struggling with it.

We thank God that people are still committed to attend the studies, both Thursday evening online study, as well as the Sunday evening in person study.

We have also been blessed to have brother Jean De Dieu Ntwari (Jado) join us, which has been of such a great encouragement to us. We continue to pray for all who receive the word of truth, that God may open their eyes to salvation and growth in Christ.”

Soli Deo Gloria – Emmanuel Masengesho,  
BTM Bible Study Leader & Curriculum Development





# Mahama Bible Study Update

"After a long period of doing online Bible studies because of covid travel restrictions, we have been blessed to visit the 22 members of BTM Bible study groups in the Mahama Camp this April. We shared the word of God and members had opportunities to share their testimonies of the importance of doing BTM Bible study.

Here is what some of the Mahama members shared about what God has allowed them to learn:

- Freedom from fear of homelessness by understanding eternal hope (Phil 3:20).
- Healing of spiritual wounds through receiving the work of reconciliation through Jesus Christ.
- Understanding God's plan of redeeming humanity.
- Assurance of eternal life presented in the saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We thank the Lord for TUYIKEZE Innocent, MANIRABONA Malachie, NIKUZE Belise, NKURUNZIZA Medal and HAKIZIMANA Grace who have come to true salvation after many years of struggling with power Gospel."

– Brain Kamusime, BTM Mahama Camp Bible Study Leader

The young men and women of the Mahama group would love to have access to Christian books to further edify and encourage them in their saving faith. We pray, by God's grace, He will allow BTM to help provide those books.





# Meet Jado, BTM's newest team member!

In 2015, after joining university, Jean de Dieu (Jado) Ntwali met friends from the evangelical movement called "Groupe Biblique Universitaire" which was reaching students with the gospel of grace of Christ. Long after many years of self-deception and thinking that being kind to people, being active in the local church, and helping the needy would advocate him before God, he realized only the grace of God would save him. It was then he came to saving faith.

Jado is a reformed Christian who is passionate about preaching the Gospel of Christ, serving in his local church (Covenant Reformed Baptist Church – Kigali), and helping its elders to teach the word of God both locally and in other areas across the country.

At university, he studied Translation and Interpreting. His passion is impacting children through Christian education, which he has done professionally and by the grace of God, will continue to do so in Belong Together Ministries' Homeschool Center.

Jado is engaged to Grace Uwingabire and they plan to be married in December 2022, if the Lord grants. He enjoys traveling to new places, meditating on nature and reading books.





# Praising God for Emmanuel's Ordination!

Since BTM began, the Lord has greatly used Emmanuel Masengesho, who has led multiple Bible study groups and weekly Bible studies for the BTM team. While Emmanuel has been serving in the ministry, he is also an elder of Covenant Reformed Baptist Church – Kigali. In June, he was commissioned by Kabwata Baptist Church in Zambia in his role as pastor in Rwanda!

We pray in thanksgiving for this calling He has given to Emmanuel and pray the Lord may continue to use him to share the Gospel in Rwanda and to edify and encourage the saints there!





## PARTNER WITH US

If it is God's will for you to be part of Belong Together Ministries in a financial capacity, we thank God for what He has given you, that you would share with us for the furthering of the Gospel in Rwanda.

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

**\$40**  
**Month**

*Provides homeschool materials for one student*

**\$120**  
**Month**

*Provides for 22 people in the Mahama Bible study group*

**\$200**  
**Month**

*Provides rent expenses for the Homeschool Center*

One-time gifts make a huge difference!

**\$550**

*Computer for our Homeschool Center's Administrator*

**\$1,300**

*Registration fees for the Homeschool Center*

**\$2,000**

*Equipment for the Homeschool Center*

---

To give, you can do so online through PayPal on our website

**[belongtogether.org/donate](https://belongtogether.org/donate)**

Or, you can send your support via mail!

**Belong Together**  
**6670 Gulf of Mexico Dr**  
**Longboat Key, FL 34228**

Our Tax ID number is 82-4357562