

JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER

BELONG TOGETHER

FISHERS OF MEN





TAYLOR'S NOTE

Meet the Fishers of Men

"While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him" (Matthew 4:18-20).

In reading the gospel accounts of Jesus calling his 12 disciples to "follow [him]," one thing that has always struck me is how these men -Andrew and Simon Peter, James and John- acted with urgency. They immediately left what they were doing to answer the call of Christ.

One could ask why they responded so quickly. Did they take time to question leaving their careers before making such a decision? Did they count the cost of leaving behind what had been normal and comfortable?

The reaction of Jesus' disciples was the only response one can have to the irresistible grace of God. Christ is compelling. And when he calls you, there is one response -- deny yourself, pick up your cross and follow Him (Matthew 16:24). In our salvation, the grace of God draws us to leave behind our old ways when we were once dead in our sins, and to walk in newness of life -- to go out and share the good news of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:5-6).

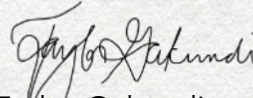
In this Quarterly Update, it's our joy to share with you about the men of Belong Together Ministries

whom God has allowed you to send into the harvest in Rwanda, planting seeds of Gospel truth in the hearts of young men and women from the Mahama Refugee Camp, to children and parents eager to begin homeschooling.

As you'll learn, the men who make up the BTM team come from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines, but they are all sinners saved by grace who feel deeply driven by Christ's great commission to go into the world and make disciples.

I pray it's God's will for you to join us, that these fishers of men may continue their work in ministry as God grows BTM in Rwanda!

With gratitude and joy in Christ,



Taylor Gakundi
Founder, Belong Together Ministries



Emmy

When did you start serving with BTM?

I started working with BTM in late 2019 as a volunteer, traveling to the Gihembe refugee camp to preach the gospel and help lead Bible studies with young men and women who were part of BTM. I came to serve full time with BTM from February 2020.

What BTM programs have you worked on thus far?

- Leading weekly Bible studies with the young men and women of Gihembe camp.
- One-on-one online Bible studies during COVID and a book group on "Thoughts for Young Men," by JC Ryle
- Leading the BTM Leaders Bible study since 2020.
- I developed the BTM Bible Study Guide (the guide we use for Bible studies today).

How are you serving in BTM in 2023?

This year, I am working on three main projects:

- Developing a second and more extensive Bible study material for BTM Bible studies.
- Helping train the BTM leaders in how to prepare and lead Bible studies, handling God's word accurately.
- Starting a new Bible Study group in the secondary school near our church.

Tell us a bit about you!

My name is Emmanuel Masengesho. I am married to my beautiful wife, Beatrice Wanjiku Masengesho. Together we have one daughter, Heather (who will be 2 in October), and a son, Johannes, who was born this June! I am currently serving part time at BTM, but also serving as the missionary pastor at Covenant Reformed Baptist Church-Kigali. I came to faith in 2016 while at University (I was pursuing a degree in Electrical Power Engineering).

The church I am pastoring is a Reformed Baptist Church (being planted by Kabwata Baptist Church, Zambia) with a membership of 101 people, all under 36 years old. The Lord has been helping the work, and we have about 20 people who will be baptized this month. I love reading theological books, watching documentaries and learning new languages.



Brian

When did you start serving with BTM?

I first started in BTM in 2018 as a volunteer and now I serve full time.

What BTM programs have you worked on thus far?

- Leading Bible studies and equipping believers for reading the word of God in the Mahama refugee camp. God has opened the ears for refugees to hear the gospel and among them 15 have believed Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.
- Leading an outreach and conference for young men and women in Mahama to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

How are you serving in BTM in 2023?

- God has brought a thirst for young men and women in Mahama to love discipleship, which has increased our Bible study members from 22 people to 80 people, making a total of six groups.
- Distributing Bibles and planning further outreaches to share the gospel in the Mahama camp.

Tell us a bit about you!

I was born in a family of 11 children, 7 boys and 4 girls. My parents are peasants who did not go to school. Among all their children, I am the only one who went to school. My studies were difficult due to lack of knowing the importance of going to school, but by God's grace I completed university.

I am married to Kamikazi Aline and we are blessed with a handsome son called Nganji Ike Lael. We thank God for his mercy and love. I came to know Jesus when I was in secondary school, but I believed the gospel in 2010, which changed my whole life from death to life. I attend Life Covenant Church where I serve as an administrator in the discipleship program. By God's grace, my family and I serve the Lord.



Jado

When did you start serving with BTM?

I joined BTM in April 2022, first beginning as a volunteer, though eager to dedicate my entire time and effort in the ministry. Soon after, I joined as a team member, and it has now been a full year.

What BTM programs have you worked on thus far?

- I serve as the leader of our Homeschool Center program, which is now just beginning. (BTM came to know me through the work I had done in schools in Rwanda using the Biblical curriculum we will offer to parents in our homeschool center, Accelerated Christian Education, A.C.E.)
- I disciple young men and women through regular Bible studies.

How are you serving in BTM in 2023?

- I will be working with our first family registered to homeschool their children, actively helping them to cope with the system since to them it is something new to them, through trainings, both on issues of academics and spirituality.
- After BTM has secured a new office, I will be managing our Christian Library and overseeing the space for training and teaching.
- I just began our radio broasting outreach of the good news in downtown Kigali.

Tell us a bit about you!

I am a husband to one wife, Grace Uwingabire, whom I married last year in December. We have a happy home and we praise God for joining us two, sinners saved by grace alone, for the purpose to glorify Him by portraying his love in our marriage. She loves God too; I bless the Lord for all encouragement she offers to me even when I am weary. We fellowship at Covenant Reformed Baptist Church – Kigali. We expect our first born in October 2023 and we look up to God for wisdom, strength, and all that it takes for us to be faithful parents.



Join Us!

The Lord uses your gifts to sustain and grow Belong Together Ministries. Your contributions support Emmy, Brian and Jado to share the Gospel in Rwanda through our programs like Bible studies, curriculum development and our Homeschool Center.

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

One-time Gifts to Cover Specific Needs

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:

\$200/Month

Help Brian travel to the Mahama Refugee Camp each month for in-person Bible studies and discipleship. \$200/month 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 soon to start training our first family committed to homeschool their children! \$40/month provides **homeschool materials for one student**.

\$300/Month

Emmy 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 have secured a much needed office space** for BTM in a central part of the Kigali! \$300/month will cover our rent and utilities this humble space.

\$2,000/Office Equipment

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

\$3,000/Homeschool Center Resources

Bookshelves (\$500), **Books** (\$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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