

# Imperishable Seed

## *Uganda*

September 2018

How many people have accepted Christ this week?!

If only ministry success was that easy to define. The longer I live overseas the more I see how daily life relationships are the most powerful ministry. This is exactly what Jesus modeled for us.

This is why I would like to share something I asked my friend Hassan to write. I have known him for a couple of years now as part of the weekly Bible study that I host. His integrity and deep desire to serve God in all things have really struck me. I have had a chance to encourage and support him as he reaches out to the communities around him. He is the same friend who came to witness to Ibrahim after he stole my guard's laptop (see April 2017 letter).

Hassan is a brilliant bridge and partner for me in ministry and Ugandan culture. We both share the desire to avoid creating dependency, which is challenging at times for me being a white female. Robert Reese defines dependency as *“the unhealthy reliance on foreign resources, personnel, and ideas, which stifles local initiative. It is expecting someone else to do for you what you could do for yourself”*. I asked Hassan recently what he would like to share with my friends and ministry partners in the USA. This is what he wrote...

### **FROM ISLAM TO CHRISTIANITY**

My name is Hassan Mwanje, 27 years old, and I come from Uganda on the Eastern side of Africa. I became a Christian in 2011. I became a Christian because I was inspired by the Christians who were doing evangelism and the love they had for others (us), even when we persecuted them by stoning and abusing them as they shared the Gospel with us (me).

Their commitment for Jesus encouraged me to draw close to them just to know where their source of strength is from and find more ways to mock them. However, they were patient with me and endured our (my) persecution and that made me listen to them more and more.

Finally, they won me over to Jesus Christ. But my challenge was to know how to read the Bible for myself and interpret it because in Uganda false Gospel is too much. For example, the “pastors and prophets” give people “holy water, handkerchiefs, rings, make them eat grass and many other things as a way of solving their problems, but they do not point people to God.

This kind of Gospel made me to pray earnestly to God to open up a door for me to know whether the false preachers are right. The people who led me to Christ tried to help me understand the Bible and support me because I was chased away from my parents' home. I used to depend on my parents, but they couldn't do much to help me after I became a Christian.

Late 2012, I joined Veritas College; it's an NGO (non-governmental organization) which teaches Bible interpretation to the local church leaders. It has 4 modules: 1 is about Paul's letters, 2 the Old Testament Narratives books, 3 the Poetic books and 4 the Gospels. This has provided me an opportunity to study the Bible in depth through the steps of exegesis and I can facilitate module 1&2 while studying module 3 now.

Emily Arndt has been very supportive every month to me and the organization since we depend on the support (MPD) raised by the staff. Her support begun around 2016 up to date and she has never skipped a month

without giving. She also supports the needy if we find out that we really should intervene and I act as a mediator between her and the person who receives the support. The reason why we do it this way is that we don't want to create dependence syndrome for the people once the problem has been solved. For this same reason, our support also ends. For example, currently we have been supporting a young boy who was burnt by fire on his entire chest. He is improving, and we thank God for that. Besides that Emily hosts a Bible study at her house every Tuesday and we enjoy it with the music and some food.

Emily is a gift to us and we pray that we can get many who are like her to change the world

Mark 6:7-13.

I thank Hassan for his willingness to share and to give you a glimpse of how my ministry, with your support, is making an impact. May all of our lives lead others to Jesus Christ. Hassan chose Jesus over everything else in his life. This includes many members of his family who won't talk to him, even his own mother. It reminds me of one of my favorite quotes from Corrie Ten Boom, *"You may never know that JESUS is all you need, until JESUS is all you have."*

Please keep Hassan in your prayers as he pursues full time ministry. He is currently developing a pig rearing project to create sustainable income for his ministry. If you ever want to make a gift to him in the interim, I'd be happy to make sure he receives it. He is the real deal.

In other news, my time in the states, albeit too short, was amazing. It was a great time of rest, work, family, friends, and Jesus. Now I am back to see what this next year in Uganda will hold.

To God be the Glory,



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