

1 March 2016

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."  
Matthew 6:33*

## Why a Ugandan Bible School Director Roughs it in the Bush Between Terms

What does ITMI's [Muhindo Kawede](#) ("Kawede" as he is called by most) do with his "time off" between terms at the [International School of Missions](#)?

As the Director of the International School of Missions, his job of equipping pastors from all over Africa to lead God's people Biblically is demanding. He teaches classes. He takes the students to the streets of Kampala to share what they've learned about God in their studies. He manages finances and logistics. He oversees construction of school facilities. He even makes bricks for the ISM facilities - something that's unheard of for a "leader" in African culture.

If anyone deserves some rest and relaxation, it's Kawede.

(And no one is knocking rest. We all can - and should - rest when needed.)

But Kawede has a burning passion to train leaders to reach people for Christ. So Kawede uses the time between terms, 3 times per year, to head to rural villages where he addresses a great need by offering a "Portable Bible School."

In Africa, if you have any kind of training that could be remotely valuable to someone, you leave your rural community and head for the nearest city to make money with your credentials.

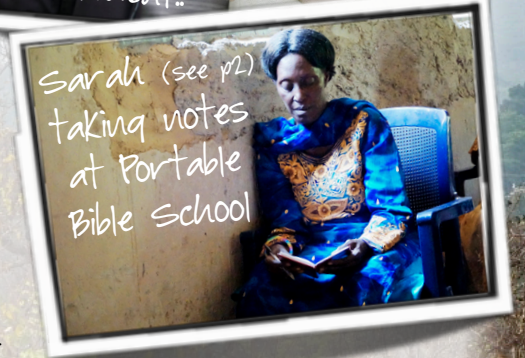
This means rural areas are a complete vacuum for information, knowledge and experience of any kind. - medical, business, economic as well as spiritual.

This is true in the churches, too. Often the local leadership will be some combination of grinding a personal axe instead of truly leading people, jumping up and down with hype and emotion but no substance, or just putting Jesus' name on practices that mirror the beliefs of the culture around them.

For example, in the rural area of Mabata, one of the big city "preachers" came to town and told the people they weren't flourishing because "you don't have anybody to pray for you and ask God to bless you. I'm here to fix that...for a price. Give me 6 cows and 10 goats and I will pray a prayer of blessing and this village will be blessed." So the people gave him the livestock, he prayed for his marks, then headed back to the city with his bounty. The village people don't know any different.

So Kawede sleeps on a blanket-clad concrete floor for 4-5 weeks away from his family to bring Biblical truth to marginalized villagers.

ITMI Director, [Steve Evers](#), called Kawede's sacrifice an "impressive demonstration of Kawede's self-less commitment to building the Kingdom of God."



During the Portable Bible Schools, Kawede teaches for 8 hours a day, in whatever conditions are available, to whoever from the village is interested. They come for varying reasons. Some to "go to school," some to get a certificate of any kind, and others out of curiosity.

But the result is that afterward, there are at least some people in the area who can help weed out heresy and superstition. There are some who know the basics of how to lead a church and are equipped to guide God's people.

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# Boys Lose Everything but Escape with their Lives

Mabuti is a teenager living in the subsistence world of [Stone Hill](#), where survival is tough even for adults. He is also providing for his younger brother.

The brothers were fast asleep in the wee hours of the morning on Sunday, February 14, when their neighbor's nearby shack caught fire.

A friend realized they were in danger and kicked down the door, rescuing them from the flames. It doesn't take long for fire to swallow such a tiny structure. The fire brigade arrived after the boys' home was leveled.

Stone Hill is a squatter's camp outside Durbanville, South Africa. ITMI's [Charl van Wyk](#) and [Mark Parris](#), along with a growing group of believers have adopted this community. They've found many, many ways to declare and demonstrate God's love for this



marginalized village where violence is a community staple and life is cheap.

What began as an outreach to young girls in Stone Hill has grown into a full-fledged ministry, including sport activities and camp for the boys, regular community events and outreaches, and improvements on many of the dilapidated shacks that make up the settlement. They've even constructed a ministry base that consists of 3 shipping containers where they can hold relationship-building and educational events year-round.

It is this facility that is currently housing Mabuti and his brother. But they can't stay there forever.

We'd like to help these boys with a new home. The believers there will do the labor, but they need to raise \$1120USD to purchase materials.

## From Miraculous Healing to Eating Garbage

*"Still, I'm ready to bless and reach others until He comes!"*

Without telling her husband, who was an Islamic Sheikh, Sarah attended the gathering of a local Ugandan church.

When she saw the beauty and selflessness of Christ's character that was so different from anything she'd known before, she received Christ. Sarah brought her son, Abdul, who had been diagnosed with brain cancer, to church. There, Abdul's condition was prayed over.

**When he returned to the hospital, they were told the brain cancer was gone!**

She refused to go to the Mosque and told her husband about her new faith. After a year or so of hostility and abuse, he eventually threw Sarah out and married another woman.

Surviving alone as a single mother in Uganda was difficult. Sarah scavenged for food in garbage pits to feed her



children. She found employment as a house-maid, but the mistress, who was "using demonic power" sent her away because she was a follower of Jesus. She called Sarah a "dangerous agent."

Sarah attended one of Kawede's recent Portable Bible Schools. She said that as a result, her understanding of the Bible grew and is transforming her life.

Sarah is excited to share what she learned from ISM with the world. After all she's been through, Sarah is committed to sharing Jesus with anyone who needs Him until He comes- even if it requires laying down her life.

Sarah shared the Gospel with her four children, and they have accepted Him, too. One of them

gave a speech at Sarah's graduation from Portable Bible School. He shared how his mother helped them know Jesus and looked after them in difficult conditions. He hopes to join ISM's degree program.



## From the Director

**Dear Team,**

"Catch a flight out of South Sudan as soon as possible." I was looking at a few-day-old communique from the US Government containing that warning for any Americans who might find themselves in South Sudan. There was even an offer to US citizens who "are unable to get a flight out, contact us and we will assist." I was scheduled to be on a flight to South Sudan that very week.

Our church planting and leadership development pastor and partner in Juba, South Sudan, **Jahim Buli** was the one who alerted me to the government's notice.

With much prayer and investigation through our own expert channels, we decided that it was not foolish to go serve and encourage our partners who survive in South Sudan year in and year out. I'm so glad that we were able to be in South Sudan last month, to see firsthand God's faithfulness in the lives of the church and in our partners who faithfully minister in challenging situations.

Allow me to remind you of seeds planted back in 2007, in the small mud hut village of Mundri, before South Sudan became separate from Sudan in 2011. ITMI's Board Member, **Robert Fulkerson**, and I had arranged with ITMI's **Vicky Waraka** to have a S.A.L.T. Leadership and Discipleship conference in Mundri for church leaders from all over the south-central region of Sudan. Due to the heat, the 30-40 attendees gathered under an expansive mango tree. Vicky and her friends Esther, Lazarus and Wycliffe, from Juba were in Mundri for another meeting. They weren't planning to stay for the conference, but in God's perfect providence, they couldn't get transport back to Juba, so they stayed for the conference.

The foursome committed to following God's plan for leadership, as taught in the [S.A.L.T. material](#), and were led to start a home Bible study back in Juba. Now, eight years later, the church (Revival and Fire Prayer Ministry Juba) that grew from their faithfulness is daily meeting the needs of the lost. Large crowds on Sunday are not unusual in many parts of Africa, but to have around 1000 people *faithfully* attend each Sunday in temperatures that would collapse most Americans - even us from Arizona - is noteworthy. Yet Sunday is not what impressed me the most about their faithfulness. It was the depth and breadth of ministry I saw them do the other days of the week.

There is no paid staff - not even the four who were the founders of this ministry. This is almost unheard of in Africa. Imagine 17 departments, from Women's Ministry, Youth Ministry, Counseling Ministry, Evangelism Ministry, Care for the Home Bound, and others - all directed by volunteers equipped from within the church. Those 17 directors oversee another 70-80 volunteers. Vicky shared with me that she "couldn't remember when the last time that there was a conflict [in the church]." She believes this is because God is blessing their desire to lead Biblically. The S.A.L.T. material strongly reminds us that we all have equal value to God as His beloved children. The leadership team at this lighthouse in a Muslim section of Juba is growing and impacting the Kingdom because they have truly committed to seeking "first His Kingdom and His righteousness..." and they are seeing "...all these things... added unto" them.

We must commit to be just as faithful as our brothers and sisters overseas, serving God as He leads them. May we be mindful that we have much to do. There are many more who need to know God's truth and God's desire to redeem them and bless them. May we at ITMI be faithful in helping you...help them...to be....faithful.

In His Service,



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ISM's mission is to equip leaders that can guide God's people through the minefield of heresy and superstition that Africa's people consistently encounter. To produce leaders that know God's Word and how to share it clearly. To equip pastors to lead from humility rather than the wielded strength of mystique and title. To produce shepherds that correctly interpret the Bible and its implications for God's people.

ISM owns some land outside of Kampala, Uganda, where instruction takes place. Kawede is working to make ISM as self-sufficient as possible.

Many ISM students have the opportunity to work the land and earn money for their studies in work-study programs planting plantains, corn or avocados on the ISM land. Kawede wants them to learn to make a living, too, so they can pastor and make a living at the same time. He is continually setting the example of hard work for his students.

To enrich the resources of the school, Kawede shared his need and an ITMI supporter gave the funds to help him build a barn where the pigs would live.

So the workmen assembled the materials and began to build the structure. Kawede left for a Portable Bible School. When he returned 4-5 weeks later, the ISM students deeply felt they needed to provide a place for the new believers



their street sharing had yielded - to grow, learn and be disciplined.

Kawede knows ITMI is always committed to using funds for the actual thing ITMI supporters believe they are giving to. He agonized over this decision, but in the end, he felt God leading him to convert the pig barn to a place where a church could meet.

Kawede has faithfully been working and guiding this ministry. He's been hard at work, doing what God called him to. And the evidence shows that people are hungry for Jesus. You can't stop it - and you wouldn't want to try. When God decides to grow a thing - it grows, matures and bears fruit.

Last month, Steve preached in that dirt-floored woodshed they call a church. And if you peered through a

wide gap between the rough beams, you would see that the space was almost filled with new believers, hungrily waiting to learn more about their Savior. It won't be long before this church outgrows the rough structure. Praise God!

These students are doing what they can - scrounging, working, scraping by - so they can be faithful to what God is calling them to do. If just a few of you feel led to help Kawede with the tuition for even a couple students (\$700ea./year) he could concentrate the schools resources on becoming more self-sustainable and equipping more pastors who can reach Africa for Him.

-Summer Kelley, Steve Evers

## For Praise

1. Poland - Congratulations to Tomek and Eliza Jezyk on the birth of their baby girl, Estera!
2. Poland - Jim LaRose - Praise for God's provision in the search for a new home and a smooth transition.
3. Zambia - Kellers - Baby Ian has doubled his birth weight!
4. South Africa - Charl VanWyk - Math lessons starting in Stone Hill that will help youth acquire needed skills.
5. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - Sending finalized entire Polish Bible Translation to the printer March 31.

## For Prayer

1. Poland - Jezyk Family - Continue to pray for health for Tomek, Eliza, Dawid, and baby Estera.
2. Uganda - Pray for the country as elections could spark violence in Kampala.
3. South Africa - Stone Hill - Provision of a home for Mabuti and his brother.
4. Zambia - Excellence Christian Academy - Pray for students as economical barriers keep them from attending school.
5. Poland - Piotr Zaremba - for "eagles' eyes" during proofing of the Bible Translation that it would be 100% accurate.



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