

Thankful

FOR YOU AND THE STORIES YOU MADE POSSIBLE!



Rehema is a church planter from Luwero district in Central Uganda, located 52km north of Kampala city. This district is remembered as the epicentre of the fierce insurgency and brutal counterinsurgency between the government and the rebel group national resistance army during the early to mid-1980's. This conflict left thousands of civilians dead and tens of thousands of children orphaned. The district still carries the scars of this war today. Rehema has a calling on her heart to minister in this community.

"I joined the training program to start new churches with other 32 members from my district after being encouraged by a fellow pastor who had previously attended the training. The conversation about how good and impactful the training had been prompted me to go to the vision casting meeting in the district.

I came for the vision casting meeting with high expectations as I had witnessed first-hand how the training had renewed my fellow pastor's ministry. After the meeting, I could not imagine missing out on what had been presented, and I was among the first people to register for the program!

The first module in the program was about evangelism, and I set my mind to go out and evangelize in this community where for so long the Lord had been prompting me to start a church. I had been hesitant because I did not have the money to start a church. But this training shared a simpler approach which involved establishing home churches or home cells which in turn would grow into the church I was envisioning.

The skills I learned included spiritual mapping, building relationships, finding a man of peace, follow-ups, and more. Equipped with Bibles, I set out to reach and evangelize in my community. I started a home cell with three members whom I had witnessed to. Among the three was a woman who had been heavily involved in witchcraft. Her conversion was instrumental and such a blessing. She regularly invited her friends, and some came to know Jesus! Some of the new converts joined the group while others joined other churches as I disciplined them in the Word. We were soon a church of 12 committed members.

A month later, we moved out of my house to a shelter the members had built nearby. The shelter was more spacious and had the capacity to accommodate more than my small house could. With this new development, I began a children's ministry program in the remaining space. At the beginning, the group only had my three children. However, as we engaged in reaching out to the children, over the weeks the numbers grew to an average of 16 children attending our Sunday services. Some were children of the members, while others came without their parents.

I am so thankful to God for how this program has impacted my ministry and personal life. Prior to participating in the training program, I was afraid of approaching people. I feared being challenged and when challenged I was angry. But through this program, I have gained so much boldness and understanding of what, when and how to preach the Gospel, building confidence in me. I thank God for this transformation!"

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 CORINTHIANS 15:57 (NIV)
