

THE PIPELINE



UNPRECEDENTED LEADERSHIP

*How God Used the
Unlikeliest of People to
Lead Her Village*



A Letter from Pastor Samuel

Executive Director; PIPES International

After years of work among the pygmies in Congo, it was time to serve our pygmy brothers and sisters in other countries as well. We chose to start from a neighboring country, Rwanda.

In December 2018, Bishop Joseph Kamanza drove us from Kigali city to Ruhuda village in the outskirts of Butare, near the Rwanda-Burundi border.

On arrival, we were met with music and dance by an enthusiastic team of the indigenous Twa of Rwanda. This small community of the pygmy people has settled in a remote place, which is very difficult to find. Our guide introduced the village leader to our team. Against the normal in most African villages, Chief Josephine, the community leader, took her turn to welcome us and introduce the rest of the community members.

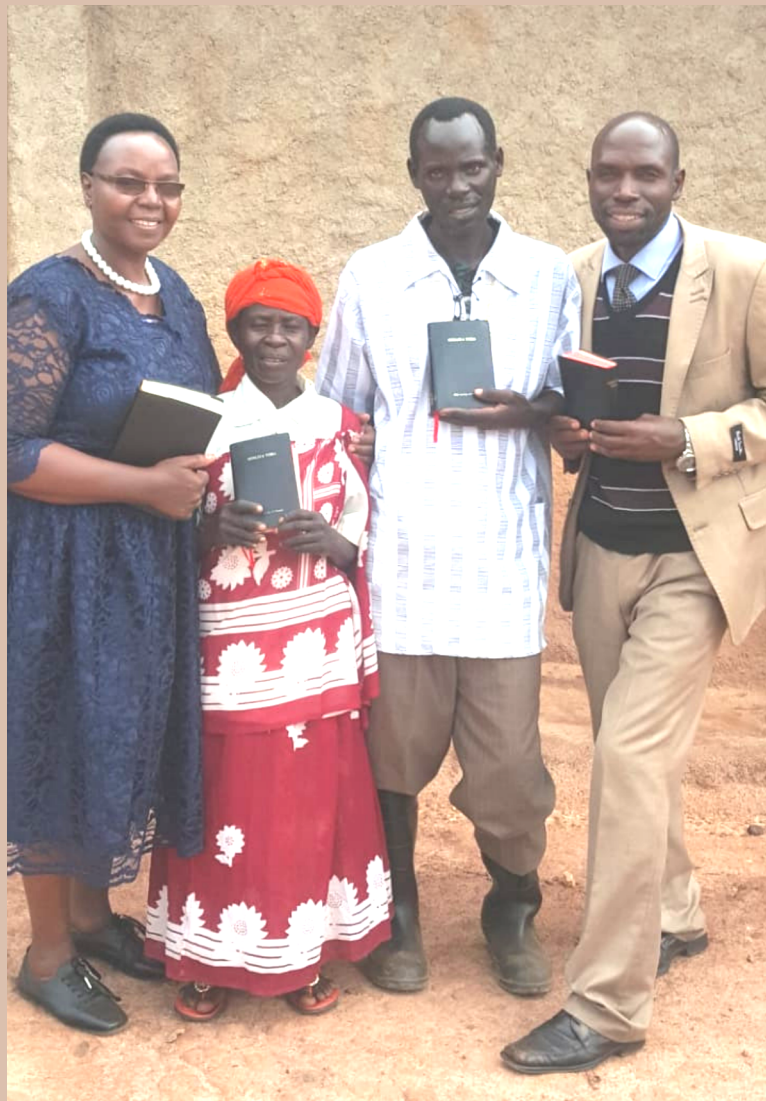
In a culture that is predominantly patriarchal social system, it was an outstanding observation that a woman chief led the community. And yes, this was unprecedented leadership, and the men did not hesitate to obey her orders.

Chief Josephine still does house chores and takes care of her children besides the added responsibility to lead her community. She takes care of ten households with about 60 people. She organizes meetings, receives guests, and reports to the local government authorities.

A few months later, our team joyfully led Chief Josephine to Christ, thus enabling her to be a Christian leader in this community. Today, our staff has trained chief Josephine on good hygiene and sanitation, jigger treatment, and prevention, among other skills. She is usually assigned roles by PIPES staff, which she accomplishes with dedication. She is now a great example to the community, and apart from being a chief, she is a spiritual leader.

Unprecedented Leadership

How God Used the Unlikeliest of People to Lead Her Village



THE UNIQUE PYGMY WOMAN CHIEF.

Africa is predominantly a patriarchal social system. Men hold primary power and dominate in most of the significant roles. In the village, women are usually assigned the family role of taking care of children, cooking, fetching water, and doing manual jobs to feed to family. Among all the pygmy villages we interact and serve, men take the leadership role, and women follow the directions.

However, it was different for Ruduha village in Rwanda, where we found a woman leader, Chief Josephine. Her story is one of pain, poverty, and finally hope. Josephine Mukambibi is the chief of the Pygmy community in Ruduha, Rwanda. In her marriage life, Josephine was a victim of domestic violence. The situation is made worse because she is from the Twa tribe or commonly know as the pygmies, a community that lives in abject poverty. Her difficult circumstances made her a bitter woman.

After the death of her husband, Josephine had to bring up her children as a widow. She takes care of her six children and grandchildren. Owing to frustrations in her life, Josephine turned to alcoholism. She became a drunkard and an immoral woman and made enemies with those she disagreed with. Josephine attributes her behavior to the abuse and bitterness she experienced in her painful life. She has been through thick and thin.

Thanks to God, today, she is the chief of her community, leading ten households and 60 people. She is also the link between her community and the local government authorities.

HOPE AT LAST

Our first interaction with the first female chief was in December 2018. Later, when PIPES International came to her village in March 2019 with the good news of the Kingdom of God, she was among the first people who gave their lives to Jesus, and to date, she has kept the faith.

She has opened her house to be used as a fellowship place during their weekly prayer and Bible study. She did this to seek solace and prayer amid all the turmoil in her life.

Josephine had a son who had signs of mental sickness. She sold all she had to take him to traditional doctors without any success. After getting saved, members of her Christian support group prayed for him, and today, he is of sound mind, and he brings great joy to the family.

Today, Josephine is a changed woman. She is a servant leader with a great heart besides being a women leader in her local church. She is hardworking and feeds her children without depending on handouts, as she did before. Josephine has walked with PIPES in accomplishing our mission in Rwanda. Our staff has trained her on good hygiene and sanitation, jigger treatment, and prevention, among other skills. She is usually assigned roles by PIPES staff, which she accomplishes with dedication. She is now a great example to the community, and apart from being a chief, she is a spiritual leader and a great example to others.

THE PIPELINE

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UNDERSTAND THE POWER OF PRAYER

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PIPES ANTI-JIGGER CAMPAIGN.

Jigger treatment in Rwanda and Burundi has been very successful. We praise the Lord for the progress made and the lives that are being changed. We are continuing from village to village, treating and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. In the last two months, we have treated over 220 children and their parents.

During treatment sessions, our local partnering organization, Burundi Community Outreach Mission (BCOM), shares the gospel every day with several people giving their lives to Jesus.

In Burundi, for example, seven people got saved in the first two weeks of treatment. With your support, we continue to thank God for the opportunity to share God's love and bring hope to many families.



DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM USING OUR DISCIPLESHIP WORKBOOK.

Pastor Isaac, the PIPES Coordinator in Africa, has been very busy in recent weeks, teaching groups using the new Discipleship Pathway Workbook amongst partnering churches and the indigenous villages. By the grace of God, hearts are being molded into spiritually mature followers of Christ Jesus. Bwana asifiwe!

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY EVERY MONDAY

Discipleship Pathway-Global Bible Study.

EVERY MONDAY, 7 PM (- 8PM Central Standard Time).

Day 1: Monday, November 2, 2020 at 7 PM - 8PM (CST)

Join Zoom Meeting using the link below or by entering the meeting ID provided.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87552452496>.

Meeting ID: 875 5245 2496.

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdSiVo0y2c>

DISCIPLESHIP WORKBOOK FACILITATOR'S MANUAL

Get a free copy of the Discipleship facilitator's manual on our website-
(under MISSION & DISCIPLESHIP) or use the link below.

<https://d9e1d7da-6033-42b1-898a->

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IMMEDIATE PRAYER AND NEEDS.

Please continue to pray for our ongoing initiatives.

1) Our students at HOPE ACADEMY in DR Congo are back to school. Pray for financial provision to continue supporting students, paying our staff, and purchasing school supplies.

2) Thank God that the URDU Discipleship workbook is completed, and several Bible study groups are using the workbook in Pakistan. One hundred people are now using it in Karachi and Gujranwala cities, and the number is growing daily.

3) Pray for success in the ongoing translation and publishing of FIVE local languages. We hope to complete Kiswahili and Kirundi versions in three weeks.

4) Having treated over 220 people in the last two months, we trust God for funds to help treat more and provide shoes for the children.

5) Pray for continued financial provision for PIPES to support our programs, pastors, and educate and feed orphans and pygmy children.

Thank you most sincerely for choosing to partner with us in the work of fulfilling the Great Commission.

WE PRAISE GOD FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

DONATE NOW AND CHANGE LIVES!

www.pipesinternational.org/donate

(ASANTE SANA! Thank You! - Swahili)

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Want to know how you can partner with us?

- Join our PIPES Partner's Family by giving monthly to support our programs.
www.pipesinternational.org/donate
- Become a PIPES Prayer Partner
www.pipesinternational.org/pray
- Join us for a life-changing trip to Africa or Asia
- Spread the word of God whenever you get an opportunity.

Learn more at:

pipesinternational.org/getinvolved

PIPES International is a global organization that partners with indigenous people groups to make disciples of Jesus Christ and end poverty. PIPES advocates for the basic human rights of all peoples that we serve.



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