

# TLAfrica transformer

*Transformational Leadership in Africa*



*Dr. Faustin Ntamushobora*

## Life is about transitions!

Concerning work, I have resigned from teaching at Africa International University, Nairobi, Kenya, where I have been teaching for the last three years. This will allow me to focus on the vision and mission of TLAfrica, Inc. with the main task of developing Thousand Hills International University and the Ministry for Holistic Transformation. We are praying that the Lord may provide funds for Phase I of the university which will have: 4 Classrooms; 2 large offices; a library and ICT Center; Kitchen and Cafeteria; and a dormitory for 200 people. This phase will cost about U\$ 600,000. During the weekend of June 16-19, 2016, we had a historic event that brought together all the Board members of Kenya, Rwanda, DR Congo and two representatives of the US Board. The Board members agreed to work together to mobilize friends and funds for Phase I of the University. In addition to the meeting for all the Boards, Salome and I accompanied by Ivan Chung, Mary, Consolatrice and Pst. Alexis-Chair of the Rwanda Board were involved in conferences and visited some pastors and women projects in their villages. I invite you to read some stories from our visit in the pages that follow.

Thank you for your unwavering support in this transformational ministry!

Faustin Ntamushobora, PhD  
President & CEO

Recently I had a conversation with my children on Skype, and as they heard that we were planning to relocate to a new place in Nairobi, they began counting the many times we have relocated due to ministry. I reminded them that life is all about transitions! Truly, this year my family has had many transitions. One very important transition is that by the end of this year all our children will be done with University—praise the Lord! We pray that they get jobs and get connected to the right friends – some who may become their partners in life. Also, our grandson, Aaron's birthday is on July 15, 2016 – he will be one year old!

## Marriage Enrichment Conference- Musanze, Rwanda (30<sup>th</sup> May- 2<sup>nd</sup> June)

The need for the Marriage Enrichment Conference (MEC) was raised by Pastors and Church leaders that have over the years been graduating from

TLAfrica's Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI). These Pastors, appreciating that the family is their first congregation, expressed the need to learn how to work out their

marriages within Biblical principles while remaining relevant to their cultural context. Here are some testimonies from the inaugural MEC:

# Testimonies from Marriage Enrichment Conference

"It was a conference of many firsts for us. It was the first time my husband and I went out for a week! When we got home after the conference, it was the first time we called our children and had time to dialogue with them. We were open to them and this encouraged them to open up to us in return. We had a chance to apologize to them for times we have not been the best parents to them. They too apologized to us for their naughty moments. It was moving family time after which we agreed to revive our family devotions.

'I could not wait for Sunday, I was longing to share with women in the Church we serve about the deep, intense and real teachings we had. It was a mix of feelings among them; feeling counselled, challenged and wishing to attend the conference in future.' Pastor Meshack's wife. "It was the first step in the transformation of our marriage after all these years. We feel prepared to age together gracefully with our



*Pastor Meshack and his wife (second and first from right) with TLAfrica team at their home*

marriage impacting our children and the younger couples around us at home and in Church." Pastor Meshack.



*Evangelist Vedaste, his wife and their son*

On one of the lunch breaks, I (Mary) was enjoying some time with a very playful boy who had come with his parents to the conference. After some time, the parents came looking for him he needed to feed. This is how I met Evangelist Vedaste and his wife. They have been married for two years. "This conference.... He paused for a few minutes and faced down as though wrestling

some bout of emotion. After a few moments, he continued "...has impacted our relationship in ways you cannot imagine. We have learnt so many new things we never heard before. If these teachings were passed on to other Pastors in all the provinces, it would create a huge difference for families in Rwanda. We thank God for TLAfrica. We will continue praying for you."

# Healing, reconciliation and freedom prayer conference- Goma, D R Congo

Her husband loved her so much but his mother had never accepted her into the family. 15 years later, she chose freedom, she chose to



forgive her mother in law!

Here is the testimony as a narrated by her husband: "On the second day of our marriage, my mother urged me to get a second wife because she did not love my newly wedded wife. The fact that I was the first born and an only son, I was obliged to obey and listen to my mother.

**Freedom,  
15 years  
later**

However, I clung to my loved my wife and decided to move out my mother's compound to protect her from my mother. Over time, my wife lost weight due to the wound in her heart caused by my mother's hatred. My wife and I had never had an opportunity to be together for such kind of teachings



on forgiveness. Following the teaching in the conference, we had a private conversation and she told she had decided to forgive my mother!" To confirm her husband's testimony, she said, "I feel healed after forgiving my mother-in-law. I appreciate my husband for his love and fight for me over time. After this conference, I am going to visit my mother in law for the first time after our second day of marriage 15 years ago. I will let her know that I have forgiven her."



## A fresh start!



One of the pastors' wives testified "it is unbelievable seeing myself seating and talking with my husband, leave alone even hugging and kissing. It rarely happens. My husband goes for

a strictly couples' conference. In the session which we were told to discuss about our marriages and pray together, we were able to talk about how we live and have an evaluation of our relationship. We realised that we had failed in many areas. We asked each

seminars and conferences alone and when he comes back, he does not share with me what they learnt. We have little time together as a couple. I am glad that TLAfrica made it

other for forgiveness and prayed together. Our resolution was to love each other afresh, have time for praying together and have time for our children. The teachings here have been so impactful, I can feel our relationship will take a different direction. I appreciate TLAfrica for organizing this conference, it came to save my family!"



## I can now smile! Donata from Byumba, Rwanda

"I was living in extreme poverty." Recounts Nyirahabimana Donata. "I was living in my father`s house with my 3 children. After a while, my father died and I became the sole breadwinner for the whole family. It was not easy for me. You could not see a smile on my face. Through the TLAfrica Women Microfinance Program I was given 100 000 Rwandan Francs (US \$ 130) worth of capital to start a secondhand shoes business. The business is doing well and now I can save RWF 10,000 (US \$ 12) weekly. In addition to the shoe business, I started a farming business with 9 rabbits. Before long, they multiplied and I sold the bunnies to buy 2 goats. When the goats were grown I sold them and used the proceeds to buy a bull. Now I am looking forward to selling the bull



*Donata at her shoes stall in Byumba Market*

and add my savings from table banking in order to buy a dairy cow. Having one has always been my dream. Thank you TLAfrica for your support. I can now smile." Donata is the chairlady of a TLAfrica Women group of 10 in Byumba, Rwanda. With her leadership, the group has been able to fully repay the loan and are seeking for another loan from TLAfrica to grow their businesses.

## Water to the people! Kajiado, Kenya

Kajiado is a county in the former Rift Valley Province of Kenya. The greatest challenge for the people here is water. Infact, according to information on the county's website, people here walk as far as 10km in search of the much needed commodity. It is this need that TLAfrica, through an innovative youth group in the county sort to meet. The group of ten started a fresh water project in which they buy clean fresh water in bulk from the neighboring town of Athi River. They store the water in a rented underground tank and sell it to people in smaller quantities. Through the TLAfrica Youth Micro Finance project, the group was given a loan of US \$ 700 with which they bought a new tank to increase their water storage capacity to ensure the people get water as soon as they need it!



THOUSAND HILLS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

## A different approach

Every tick of the clock brings us closer to the realization of the vision of THIU. So much close that Carol Davidson from CrossBridge Community church is willing and ready to come in February 2017 to begin English classes, which are quite timely as Rwanda moves from French to English. We hope to launch a Bachelor of Theology (B.Th) later on in the year. About 100 of the 400 Pastors from our Pastoral Leadership Institute qualify and are willing to be pioneers of the program. It will not be just theology, but theology integrated with other courses. A lot of interest has been expressed in a minor in Interpretation and translation probably owing to the fact that Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, and the neighboring Kampala, Uganda and Nairobi, Kenya are

gradually becoming preferred venues for many international conferences. Interpretation and Translation is but one of the minors: we intend to have several others that will address the needs of the Church and Church ministers particularly in Africa while preparing them for mission work within and out of the continent. What will this mean to our graduates of B.Th? That they can gain other skills and be able to work outside their Church during the week and on Sunday serve in their Churches. This way, they are able to make a decent living even in cases where their Churches are unable to support them financially (there are many such cases). Don't you think that would be transformative?

## The joy of working together

Representatives from the all the Boards came together on 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June in Kigufi, Rwanda for a conversation on the way forward for the ministry, one of the agenda being fundraising for Thousand Hills International University, Phase I. Here are the photos from the conversation:



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