

Cornerstone

Newsletter & Magazine July 2026

A Family of Friends - Developing the Cornerstones of Africa's Next Generation



THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Every transformational leader, like Jesus, addresses what is broken in the world and presents a vision for a better way forward. For Jesus, the phrase that most clearly captured his mission and dominated his teaching was the good news of the Kingdom of God coming on earth.

Jesus explicitly described proclaiming the Kingdom as one of the purposes for which he was sent: "I must preach the good news of the Kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose." (Luke 4:43).

Consider how central this theme was to his ministry:

1. It was the first message he proclaimed after his temptation in the wilderness: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand."
2. It was the subject of his teaching during the forty days after his resurrection: "He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God." (Acts 1:3).
3. The Kingdom of God (or Kingdom of Heaven) appears more than 100 times in the Gospels.
4. It is the theme of most of Jesus' parables.
5. It is what he commissioned his disciples to preach as they healed the sick (Luke 9:2).
6. It stands at the heart of the Lord's Prayer: "Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."
7. The Bible concludes with the promise that "The kingdoms of the world have become the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." (Revelation 11:15).

Although Jesus never offered a formal definition of the Kingdom, he showed that it means replacing the brokenness of humanity and the world with God's righteousness, peace, and joy. He demonstrated its reality through miracles and illustrated its nature through his parables. Since this was the message he proclaimed and entrusted to his disciples, this newsletter seeks to explore what it means for us today.

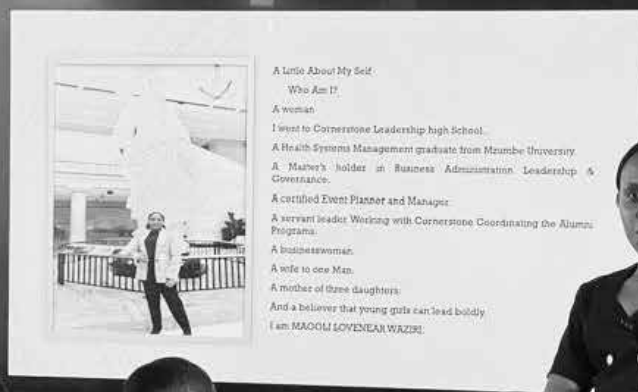
Inside



and...

- * Updates on various programs around the region
- * Centerfold pictorial
- * Thoughts from Tim

Magoli Waziri engaging a class with the Highschool Leadership Development outreach program (HLD) in Arusha, Tanzania.



A Little About My Self:
Who Am I?
A woman
I went to Cornerstone Leadership high School.
A Health Systems Management graduate from Mzumbe University.
A Master's holder in Business Administration Leadership & Governance.
A certified Event Planner and Manager.
A servant leader Working with Cornerstone Coordinating the Alumni Programs.
A businesswoman.
A wife to one Man.
A mother of three daughters.
And a believer that young girls can lead boldly
I am MAGOLI SOVEYER WAZIRI.



Cornerstone Development Africa

Our Vision: *An ever-expanding movement of transformational servant leaders in Africa, building a better world.*

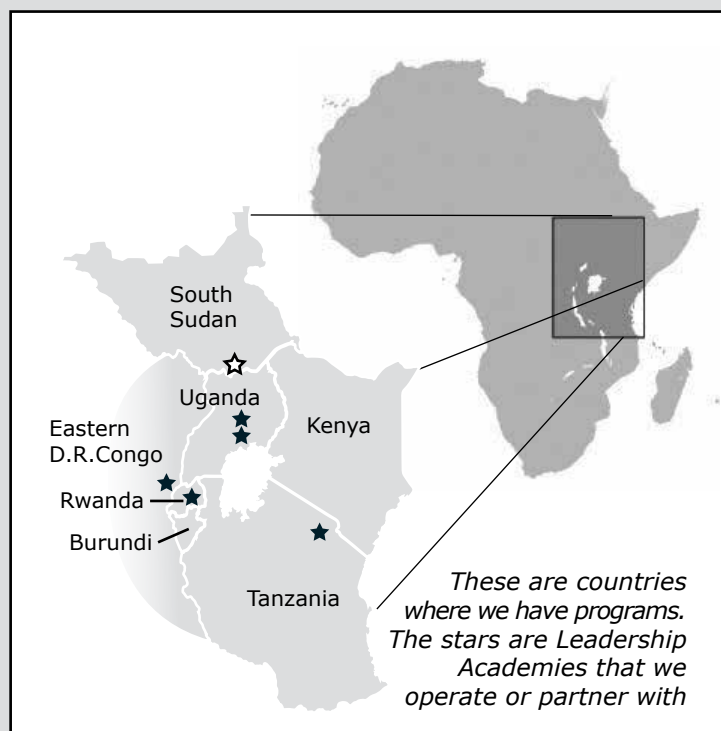
Our Mission: *To be a family of friends in the Spirit of Jesus working together to develop generations of young leaders with vision and purpose, personal integrity, and committed to unity, reconciliation, and long-term relationships.*

Cornerstone Development was established in Uganda in 1988 to help in the rebuilding and development of the nation as it was emerging from a turbulent past. In recent years we have expanded to Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi, South Sudan, and D.R. Congo. All our programs are directed towards helping under-privileged children, with a special emphasis on youth leadership development. Since its inception the work has steadily expanded to include over 2,000 young people today- in a variety of programs including seven schools, five homes for at-risk youth, five hostels for university students and sports programs - all designed for providing love, education and character formation.

Our core focus is on "Developing the Cornerstones of Africa's Next Generation". That is, to raise up future leaders with a shared vision of positively transforming their communities and nations, as an outgrowth of their own personal transformation. Our approach involves creating loving, family-like environments in our schools and other programs for under-privileged young people, while empowering them with education and character formation in order for them to become leaders. Furthermore, the young people coming through our programs are forming a movement that seeks to make a contribution to the better-

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ment of society while promoting reconciliation across



all that is dividing humanity. We as a community are a living model of this kind of unity in diversity, in that we are composed of all the different tribes, nationalities, cultures and religious backgrounds found in this part of the world.

In our character development curriculum we teach the timeless, universal principles of forgiveness, honesty, integrity, compassion, kindness, hard work, humility, and of service to the less fortunate, as exemplified in the teachings of Jesus and the perennial wisdom of all traditions, but without affiliation to any one institutional religious group.

See more online: www.CDAfrica.org

Our core focus is 'youth leadership development' after the model of Jesus. So, in addition to our schools, all the various programs we run serve this focus by providing a practical "training ground" where graduates of our schools can learn to serve and pass on what they have received. Each year we put out two magazine's like this one. At the end of last year, we highlighted our work and PROGRAMS in general, and now in this current edition, we turn to highlighting several of the PEOPLE in our community.

What have we been up to?

As we reach the mid-year mark, we look back on an inspiring and transformative first half of 2026. Across our various programs, we have nurtured emerging leaders, strove for academic excellence, and witnessed deep community impact from Uganda and Tanzania to Rwanda, DR Congo, Kenya, Burundi, and South Sudan. From an administrative perspective, we celebrated the opening of a new office facility in Goma (see pic below), which serves as a bustling center for our Jesus-centered community and youth-leadership development work in DR Congo.

Stage 1: Schools and Leadership Academics: Our academies have been centers of focused learning and character development. At the beginning of the year, we received the good news that our students excelled in national examinations (held at the end of 2025), with many celebrating high rankings - putting our academies among the best-performing schools in their respective countries. Beyond the academics, students engaged in discipleship classes, participated in community outreach, and were involved in practical life skills training, including financial literacy and leadership workshops.

Stage 2 & 3: University and Alumni: In Stage 2, university students have balanced rigorous academic schedules with active hostel fellowships, career mentorship, and vital work-readiness support. We are proud of the scholarship achievements and leadership roles many students have secured. Our Stage 3 community has continued to mature, focusing on professional development through the Advanced Leadership Initiative (ALI) and fostering family strength through regular couples' fellowships. Alumni homecoming celebrations in Rwanda and Uganda were true highlights, reinforcing the bond of our "family of friends" as we support each other's professional and personal journeys.

Outreach and Youth Corps: Our outreach programs—AYLF, HLD, and Salaam Mentoring—have been instrumental in fostering leadership among emerging leaders across the region in East Africa. Through leadership summits, regional vision conferences, and campus small-group fellowships, we have empowered thousands of young people to embrace integrity and purpose. Simultaneously, our Youth Corps department has remained dedicated to the holistic well-being of the most vulnerable, providing academic support, mental health awareness, and safe, nurturing environments through partnerships with organizations like Rescue 1 More.

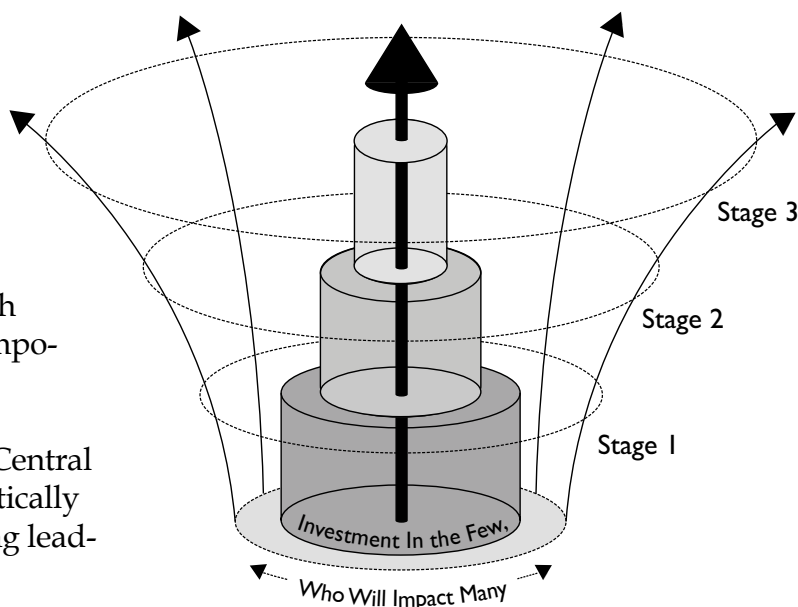


New Office facility in
Goma, D.R. Congo!

Moving forward into the second half of the year, we are energized by the progress made in our programs and the relationships that have been strengthened across our community. We remain deeply grateful to our staff, partners, and the students whose commitment to transformational servant leadership drives everything we do. Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we empower the next generation of African leaders!

In its broadest aspect, our work is linked to a world-wide family of friends who seek common-ground around the principles, precepts and person of Jesus. We seek to do this in a way that transcends differences of race, tribe, religious or political affiliations. We also put a lot of emphasis on long-term commitments to each other, rather than seeing relationships as temporary conveniences.

Our community and programs in East and Central Africa are structured in three stages of a vertically integrated investment in the young emerging leaders we work with:



STAGES OF OUR WORK



STAGE 1

This stage is the entry point to our movement and it involves creating life-transforming learning environments in our mentoring homes, schools and Cornerstone Leadership Academies. This provides a core from which we impact many other schools in the region through various other programs.



STAGE 2

This stage supports our young leaders during their college years and their involvement in various career development initiatives that will enable them to move into key positions of influence within society. Through these individuals and initiatives we impact thousands of other students on many of the most prominent university campuses across the region.



STAGE 3

This stage is about maintaining ongoing fellowship/support groups after college that support the personal and spiritual growth of our alumni so that they go through life aligned with the best values and principles. Through this, we support these relationships and networks to cultivate an innumerable amount of life-transforming grass-roots initiatives that have impact on all sectors of society.



OUTREACH

Our 'outreach' programs are platforms for impact beyond our core programs (Leadership Academies, and alumni) - empowering the youth we work with to then run clubs and small groups with their own circles and spheres of influence. In doing so, they pass on to their peers what we have invested in them, and add an exponential component to the impact of our work.



Faith Nassolo

COSA (CLA Alumni) / AYLF - Uganda

Community

Service

Mentorship

Serving in COSA Stage 2 and coordinating the AYLF Makerere University chapter stretched me immensely. Leadership moved from a textbook concept to an active daily reality. I realized the Kingdom is often found in this “middle space” of growth, responsibility, and service where character is refined.

Over the years, meeting regularly with mentors for conversations about life, purpose, leadership, and faith has deeply guided my journey. I also experienced peer mentorship through AYLF small groups, where young people gathered every Thursday with openness, honesty, and commitment. These accountability spaces became sacred for our growth, helping us live out values like love, integrity, excellence, and service.

In those moments, the Kingdom of God feels tangible and present—in our conversations, our accountability, and our shared commitment to becoming a new generation of leaders grounded in Jesus-centered values. Cornerstone remained a consistent pillar through monthly fellowships and retreats, fostering renewal and deeper connection within our Family of Friends. Together, we are building a lifelong sisterhood and brotherhood united in Jesus, advancing a movement of integrity and virtue in East Africa.

As a leader, I increasingly see the Kingdom reflected in the calling to be salt and light in the world. Matthew 5:16 reminds us: “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

For me, this means allowing God to work through my life so that my actions, relationships, and leadership become vessels of His love, truth, and grace. I am deeply grateful for how this community shaped me, proving that the Kingdom is alive wherever people live out Christ’s values.

Moving forward into new careers and relationships, I carry this desire to serve, mentor, and walk alongside others. Ultimately, the Kingdom of God is not simply something we speak about—it is something we intentionally live out every single day.

To me, the Kingdom of God is neither distant nor abstract. It is something I have experienced steadily unfolding in my life over the years—through community, mentorship, service, and personal transformation. My understanding of the Kingdom has been deeply shaped through my journey with Cornerstone, a true “Family of Friends.”

In Luke 17:20–21, Jesus says: “The coming of the Kingdom of God is not something that can be observed... because the kingdom of God is in your midst.” Reflecting on my own journey, I see how true this is. The Kingdom reveals itself not through grand moments, but through relationships that shape who we are becoming.

My journey began nearly six years ago at Cornerstone Leadership Academy – Girls in Uganda. Before then, faith was a personal belief system, but there I encountered a community modeling love, discipline, purpose, integrity, and truth in everyday ways. Through care groups and character development, our life revolved around fellowship, accountability, and shared responsibility. Teachers, staff, and students from diverse backgrounds walked alongside one another with genuine care. This was my first glimpse of the Kingdom of God—expressed not through sermons, but through relationships lived in daily love and service.

As I transitioned to university, my understanding of the Kingdom continued to deepen, especially through the call to serve others. Matthew 20:26–28 became a guiding scripture: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.”



Ronald Mukasa

CLA Rwanda

The Way We Live, Serve, And Relate, To One Another

This perspective is deeply aligned with Romans 14:17: “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

As an educator, Paul’s reminder shapes how I approach character development. Our legacy as an academy is not built merely on the high grades our students achieve, but on the righteousness, peace, and joy they bring into their communities.

In our daily discipleship spaces, we emphasize that personal success gains its deepest meaning when it is used to serve and uplift those around us. Great leaders are grounded in service, as their primary motivation. With this mindset, great leaders do not create passive followers, but instead, they empower and create more leaders by opening doors, sharing responsibility, and standing beside them in service rather than above them as masters.

Alongside service, cultivating a spirit of deep understanding is central to my work. Every day, I witness how conflicts, tribal prejudices, or personal biases can create division among young people. In these moments, I often pray the words of Psalm 119:34: “Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart.”

In our mentoring sessions outside the classroom, we teach that understanding is the critical first step toward acceptance, forgiveness, and reconciliation. When a student learns to seek understanding before reacting, judgment softens into compassion, and suspicion turns into connection.

Ultimately, the training at CLA Rwanda seeks to model how a community divided cannot stand. By prioritizing values like humility, service, understanding, and reconciliation in our everyday routines, we actively participate in God’s ongoing work. The Kingdom of God is not merely something we await in the future; it is a living reality we build today, one student and one act of faithfulness at a time.

As the Director of Studies at Cornerstone Leadership Academy in Rwanda, my daily work involves more than just managing timetables, tracking curricula, or analyzing exam results. My work in this unique community goes beyond these typical duties and has become an intentional effort to cultivate an environment where the Kingdom of God is revealed through the way we live, serve, and relate to one another.

In our classrooms and mentoring groups, we see this Kingdom come alive whenever we choose humility over pride, understanding over judgment, and service over self-interest. My role as a teacher and leader is to anchor these philosophical reflections into the practical, daily realities of our students’ lives and character formation.

In my interactions with students, I am constantly brought back to the words of Jesus in Matthew 23:11: “The greatest among you will be your servant.” This teaching forms the bedrock of our classroom dynamics and our entire leadership philosophy at CLA Rwanda. In a world that often measures greatness by status, power, or personal accumulation, we challenge our students to embrace a counter-cultural truth: true greatness is found in our willingness to serve others and help them flourish.

Practically, this means teaching young men and women that their education is not a tool for self-elevation, but a platform for lifting others. True leadership begins when a student decides to help a peer succeed, whether through a difficult academic concept or an emotional challenge.

The Kingdom of God Is In Our Midst



Naome Nabasa

Outreach Administrator - CDA Rwanda

When I think about the Kingdom of God, I no longer see it as something distant or reserved only for the future. Through faith and daily experience, I have come to understand the Kingdom as a present reality, quietly unfolding within people, relationships, and ordinary moments of life. Jesus reminds us in Luke 17:21 that “the kingdom of God is in your midst,” a truth that profoundly shapes my view of both life and leadership.

One verse that continues to guide me personally is Matthew 6:33: “Seek first the Kingdom of God.” For me, this means seeking the rule, presence, and heart of Jesus first in my thoughts, decisions, relationships, and conduct, placing God’s will above personal ambition. Over time, I have realized that the Kingdom begins within us through obedience, integrity, humility, and an intentional decision to live according to Christ’s values.

Working closely with young people in our programs has taught me that the Kingdom rarely appears through dramatic or extraordinary moments. More often, it grows quietly through patience, trust, compassion, and consistent presence. I experience it in simple yet meaningful moments: walking alongside a struggling youth who needs someone willing to listen, encouraging an individual doubting their potential, or witnessing reconciliation replace hurt with healing and hope. It becomes visible as a young person begins to discover their gifts and sense of responsibility.

These experiences have deeply transformed my understanding of leadership. The model of Jesus Christ was never centered on power, recognition, or control, but on service, compassion, and empowering

others. This challenges me to lead relationally, to genuinely see and value people, helping them recognize the light already placed within them by God. When Jesus says, “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14), I see both an identity and a call to responsibility. Leadership is about creating environments where others can flourish.

In my own work, this means intentionally creating spaces where young people feel safe enough to grow honestly, ask questions, and discover purpose. It means encouraging truth and integrity where compromise is often normalized, and promoting reconciliation where conflict and division exist. Most importantly, it means reminding them, and even myself, that love and forgiveness are not signs of weakness, but expressions of courage, humility, and strength.

At the same time, this journey is not always easy. Many young people today carry heavy, unseen burdens: loneliness, addiction, broken families, and immense social pressure. Walking closely with them has taught me that transformation takes time, and when progress feels slow, discouragement can creep in. Yet, despite these challenges, I continue to witness signs of the Kingdom unfolding as once-doubtful youth become compassionate leaders, broken friendships are restored through forgiveness, and hope returns because someone consistently believed in them.

These moments continually remind me that God’s Kingdom advances through small acts of faithfulness rather than grand achievements. Like a seed planted in the ground, growth requires patience, nurturing, and time; my role is simply to cultivate environments where truth, grace, and love can flourish. Whether the impact is visible immediately or much later, every act of service and every conversation that restores hope contributes to God’s ongoing work in the world.

Today, I see the Kingdom of God not merely as a future promise, but as a present reality revealed through everyday life. Whenever compassion overcomes indifference, truth rises above fear, reconciliation replaces division, and a young person discovers hope, the Kingdom is among us. The CDA vision continues to shape my mission: to reveal God’s love in the world one life, one relationship, and one transformed heart at a time.



A Heart Shaped

By Service

Akut Majak Ngueny

LASS Alumni / Salaam Mentoring

In my life, I have learned that the Kingdom of God is something we live — here and now — through daily service, reconciliation, and intentional mentorship. I have seen this Kingdom manifest practically through character formation, clean water from boreholes, educational opportunities for the underprivileged, and long-term relationships reflecting the heart of Christ. It is the living answer to Jesus' prayer: "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

My own journey of service began in 2020 at the Leadership Academy of South Sudan, made possible through a scholarship from Lead4Africa. Coming from diverse tribes across South Sudan, we learned to be our brother's and sister's keeper in care groups that challenged our deeply ingrained prejudices. In that transformative environment, my closest friends became those I once viewed with suspicion. We spurred one another toward academic excellence and discovered the true meaning of reconciliation. During school, I connected with students from sister leadership academies across East Africa, forming a vibrant community we call a "family of friends."

After graduating, I attended university, and from 2023 to 2025, I had the privilege of coordinating the Salaam Mentorship Program, an initiative bringing Muslim and Christian youths together to see the good in one another. Within our family of friends, tribal and religious discrimination have no place; instead, there is security, love, and mutual mentorship. Following Hebrews 10:25, we meet consistently, expressing practical love by raising medical funds and visiting one another during seasons of grief. Through monthly fellowships, retreats, and daily WhatsApp connections, we actively bring the Kingdom of God closer to earth.

When I joined Makerere University, my desire to serve only grew deeper. I became Class Representative, a Peer Buddy, and eventually served as the International Students Representative on the Guild Representative Council. In every role, my prayer was to put the students' interests first, guided by humility, integrity, and accountability. Despite intense pressures to compromise, these values kept me steady, culminating in public recognition by the university leadership as an outstanding cabinet member. For me, however, the truest validation of this Christ-centered example has been supporting and watching over sixty peers step into their own leadership roles.

The Kingdom also shows itself through practical, life-changing outreach. As President of the Makerere DAFI Club, I led a three-day mission to Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in Yumbe District, sharing vocational skills and mentorship with refugee students — a relationship that has since helped twenty students secure academic scholarships. I also shared opportunities like the Aspire Leaders Program, enabling over seventy low-income youths to access professional training. In October 2025, the Women's World Summit Foundation in Geneva, Switzerland, awarded me for empowering school dropouts and women. This honor confirmed that work done from the heart carries weight in the Kingdom, as Colossians 3:23 reminds us: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord."

Serving as a Peer Buddy is rewarding yet comes with real challenges. I walk closely with students carrying heavy burdens, including suicidal thoughts and financial strain. I must gently redirect those who try to make me their sole role model, reminding them that Jesus alone is our ultimate exemplar. Additionally, overcoming the generation gap is difficult when older individuals hesitate to receive guidance from a peer. Yet, we are all called to learn from one another. Through Lead4Africa, the Leadership Academy of South Sudan, and our beloved family of friends, I have realized that we solve society's deepest problems by obeying the simple command to love and serve. By choosing reconciliation over division, we make the prayer "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" a reality, one act of service at a time.



Ishemezwe Florentin

CDA Burundi Office

We Are Part Of Something Much Larger Than Ourselves

a window into the quiet, courageous work our youth leaders are doing on the ground.

Kingdom leadership, which we seek to model, stands in sharp contrast to the models the world celebrates. It is not defined by position, status, or control, but by influence, service, and character. In my day-to-day communications work, I am constantly looking for those moments of true leadership: the student who organizes a peer support group, the young leader who refuses to compromise on ethics, and the community member who prioritizes restoration over reputation. As leadership author John Maxwell observed, “A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” Kingdom leaders do exactly that—they walk in love, pursue truth, and inspire transformation through their example.

This vision is the foundation of the work we do. Every mentorship conversation, every outreach project, and every act of service becomes a seed planted in the minds of those who see them. Over time, those seeds grow. They inspire purpose, strengthen convictions, and remind us all that we are part of something much larger than ourselves.

The Kingdom of God does not advance through spectacle—it advances through consistency. It grows through ordinary people who choose to live differently, love deeply, and lead courageously. It is revealed through lives marked by integrity, humility, service, and faithfulness. Ultimately, the question is not whether the Kingdom of God is present; the question is whether we are choosing to participate in it.

As we continue this journey together in Burundi, may we remain committed to being the light in our communities. May we build lives that reflect God’s love, truth, and purpose. And as we do, we will continue to witness the Kingdom of God unfolding—quietly, powerfully, and unmistakably—in our midst.

At the heart of our mission in Burundi lies a profound truth: the Kingdom of God is not merely a future promise—it is a present reality, alive and at work among us. As Jesus declares in Luke 17:21, “The kingdom of God is in your midst.” This powerful statement shifts our focus from simply waiting for change to actively embodying it.

The Kingdom of God often unfolds quietly, yet its impact is unmistakable. It is not advanced through force or recognition, but through transformed lives. Every day, it grows through individuals who choose love over hatred, truth over compromise, and reconciliation over division. In this way, the Kingdom is not merely an institution or idea; it is a culture shaped by the values and example of Jesus.

As a communications officer here in Burundi, my unique vantage point allows me to witness this culture taking root every single day. My role is not simply to document programs or capture photos of an event; it is to witness the movement of the Spirit in real-time. Whether it is in the story of a student who has chosen integrity in a system where shortcuts are often the norm, or a fellowship gathering where barriers are broken and genuine bonds are formed, I am capturing the light of Jesus breaking through the darkness.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 5:14, “You are the light of the world.” Light does not struggle with darkness; it simply shines, and the darkness retreats. This is the calling of every leader and every young person we seek to develop, and my work is to help amplify that light. Through the stories I share, I am aiming to provide our partners and supporters with

Cornerstone

Newsletter Pictorial



Free time fun and games at the family of friends retreat in Burundi



Regional Vision Conference in Rwanda



HLD Weekly session going on in Tanzania



AYLF Retreat in Goma, DR Congo



Xavier Ejoyi speaking at ALI in Jinja, Uganda



Campus fellowship at Institute of Social Work, Tanzania



Friends re-uniting at the COSA retreat in Uganda



An Annual General Meeting for AYLK Kenya, including stakeholders, secretariat, alumni, Sr. friends, and others



Key Board Music Class at a Youth Corps Home, Uganda



Philip Ojok meets staff members in Goma, DR Congo



Morning devotion during the YIM coordinators retreat, Rwanda

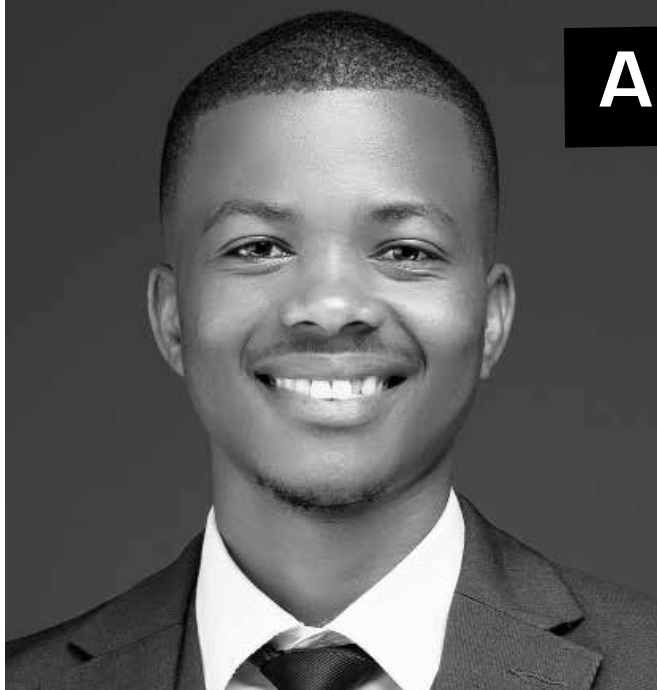


Pascal facilitating a finance class in Rwanda



Students, teachers and alumni play at-CLA Rwanda

A Family of Friends!



Emmanuel Mutua

AYLF Kenya

A Movement We Actively Participate In, Build, & Embody

These practical realities are particularly evident among the young people we serve in Kenya today. Our young leaders care deeply about governance, accountability, justice, and integrity, yet they are growing up in environments where trust in public institutions is fragile and discourse is highly polarized. As a result, hope and disappointment exist side by side.

Through AYLF Kenya, we spend significant time listening to what these youth are wrestling with. They are asking serious questions about ethics, democracy, and the kind of leaders they hope to become. This reflects how the Kingdom works: a quiet, inner formation and transformation that must take place before any public influence or outward leadership can occur.

Therefore, when I think about loving God and loving people today, my mind no longer goes to grand acts or dramatic sacrifices, but to ordinary relationships and everyday faithfulness.

I think of the real-world activities within our AYLF community: a mentor who stays behind to encourage a struggling student, a youth leader who refuses to misuse resources even when no one is watching, or a friend who chooses difficult honesty over comfortable silence. These moments are where character is formed. It is where spiritual gifts—like wisdom shared at the right moment, deep listening, and humility—strengthen community and restore trust.

My years with AYLF Kenya have made me deeply hopeful. I have watched transformation happen slowly and witnessed friendships form across tribal or political differences. The Kingdom of God arrives in ways we almost miss: whenever love overcomes self-interest, leadership becomes service rather than status, and ordinary people use their unique gifts to care for others.

If loving God and loving people remain at the center, the Kingdom is already here, quietly unfolding through imperfect people who choose to show up and serve faithfully day after day!

We often talk about loving God and loving people. These words are repeated so frequently that we sometimes stop considering what they truly ask of us. Yet, the more I sit with the teachings of Jesus, the more I realize this repetition exists for a reason. Jesus continually brought people back to these two profound commands. It sounds straightforward until life becomes complicated, relationships grow difficult, leadership becomes messy, and people disappoint us.

What Jesus suggested was both beautiful and deeply challenging: if we genuinely love God and one another, the Kingdom of God becomes a present reality visible among us, expressed through ordinary individuals making difficult, unseen choices every day.

In Luke 17:21, Jesus states, “The kingdom of God is in your midst.” For a long time, I understood these words through a distant lens, viewing the Kingdom as a future promise beyond reach. However, walking alongside young leaders through our programs with AYLF Kenya has gradually reshaped my understanding. Today, I see the Kingdom not simply as something we wait for, but as a movement we actively participate in, build, and embody. Because God chooses to build His Kingdom through people, we become instruments in His hands.

This process inevitably transforms the builder; it stretches our patience, exposes our weaknesses, and forces us to confront difficult choices. Loving people is beautiful until disappointment occurs, and service is noble until sacrifice becomes inconvenient or recognition disappears.



Peninah Laizer

Cornerstone Leadership Academy, D.R. Congo

Called Much Further Than I Had Planned

has felt like the most purposeful work I have ever done.

Watching young people grow — in confidence, in character, in their understanding of who they are and who they are called to be — is its own kind of wonder. God told Jeremiah: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I set you apart.” That truth is not only Jeremiah’s. It belongs to every young person I have had the privilege of walking alongside here. Each of them was made for something. My role is simply to help them see it.

The Kingdom, at Work in the Ordinary

I traveled this far for one person — the one who needs a shoulder, a mentor, a cheerleader, or simply someone willing to listen without rushing to leave. I have had the privilege of being that person again and again. And every time, I come away more convinced: the greatest among us must be servants. There is a fulfillment in this kind of service that no title or achievement can replicate. But it requires love — genuine, patient, self-forgetful love — as its foundation.

A student once asked me how real change is even possible — how someone can genuinely live out the values Cornerstone teaches, not just profess them. I thought of the metaphors Tim uses: salt, light, yeast, the mustard seed. Small. Quiet. But transformative far beyond what their size would suggest. We talked honestly, with Jesus as our common ground. She left with renewed courage. Later, she shared that following through on small, daily commitments had built something in her she had not expected: a character she could trust.

The Kingdom of God is not far off. It is at work here, in conversations like that one, in communities like ours, in the daily choice to show up and serve. We are called to be salt and light — not because we have everything figured out, but because the world needs people who are willing to shine. As Matthew 5:16 puts it: “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

That is the invitation I accepted when I said yes to Goma. It is the one I keep accepting, every day.

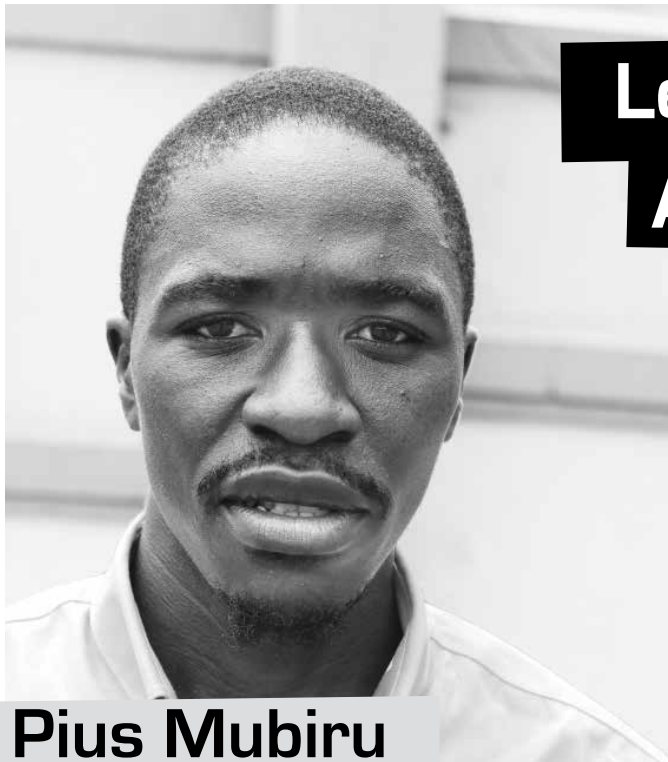
Life is best lived not in isolation, but in deep, committed relationships — where people walk with each other through both the joys and the struggles. We support one another morally, spiritually, and physically, navigating life’s journey as a family.

There is a unique beauty in being surrounded by people who share your passions, your values, and your vision. Being part of the Cornerstone family — first as a student, now as a team member working to extend that vision — has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. It is the kind of community that does not simply prepare you for a future somewhere else. It sends you into it.

Before I moved to Goma, I wrestled with the questions that come with any significant step of faith: Why this place? Why now? What am I being asked to give up, and is it worth it? With the counsel of my mentor, Mr. Julius Ejalam, I brought those questions to God — and while I did not receive a detailed answer, I received something more reliable: a conviction. I committed to three months, perhaps six. Almost three years later, I understand why I needed to stay.

A People Worth Showing Up For

The people of this part of Africa changed me. There is a warmth and a resilience here that is difficult to put into words — a quiet, unshakeable glow that hardship has not dimmed. Every person I work with carries a genuine hunger: to learn, to grow, to contribute something meaningful to the world around them. Working alongside them toward their dreams has not felt like sacrifice. It



Pius Mubiru

Cornerstone Leadership Academy, Uganda

Leadership: A Journey of Transformation

must give up your life to find it,” he was inviting us to lay down our selfish ambitions. When the disciples argued over who was greatest, he showed that service is the natural fruit of having surrendered our limited sense of self: “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant” (Mark 10:43). It is not about climbing a ladder; it is about washing feet, for we recognize that we are not separate from those we serve – we are their brothers and keepers.

The heart is the center of our desires and motivations – a truth that becomes visible in our daily classroom dynamics here at Cornerstone Leadership Academy in Uganda. Like a lamp carrying the flame of life, the heart becomes the channel through which the light of Christ is expressed. A transformed heart – one awake to this deeper union – allows a leader to become a source of peace and guidance rather than pressure.

This is why leadership formation in our classrooms must go beyond textbooks. Our work is about shaping young people who have moved beyond the smallness of personal ambition and embraced the expansive reality of the Kingdom. As teachers, we are mentors and torchbearers, passing on values and faith to the next generation. As our students grow, they learn that true impact comes from reflecting the character of Jesus, not as an external role to perform, but as their own authentic way of living.

True leadership seeks the good of the other before the self. It manages relationships with kindness and self-control. Without this foundation of love, power is easily misused. Jesus shapes leaders to nurture rather than dominate, to serve rather than exploit, and to bring out the best in those around them by recognizing the Divine spark in everyone.

As a community at Cornerstone in Uganda, we remain committed to raising leaders who do not operate from a place of separation, but from the realization of their union with the Divine. Our desire is to invest in young men who have moved beyond the ego and have embraced the expansive reality of the Kingdom. In many ways, teaching is the passing of this light – inviting the next generation to live from that same oneness that Jesus modeled.

Leadership, in its truest form, is not merely about position, influence, or authority. Instead, it is a transformative journey that begins with a paradigm-shift, to see the world in a new way. As Jesus said, “Unless one is born from above, one cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). To lead as God intended, we must first learn to see from this higher perspective, moving beyond the ordinary human way of thinking.

Before Saul became the first king of Israel, God prepared him for this responsibility by changing his heart. His story in 1 Samuel 10:9 offers a lesson on identity and formation: “As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul’s heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day.” Before Saul was entrusted with leading a nation, God began by transforming his heart from within. This is fundamental because leadership always flows from the inside out; it is the quality of our inner life – the state of our heart – that determines our integrity in the community.

However, as we look to cultivate leaders today, we look beyond the life of Saul to the ultimate model: Jesus Christ. If Saul represents the beginning of leadership, Jesus is the culmination – the one who lived in perfect union with the Father, declaring, “I and the Father are one.” While Saul often wrestled with the constraints of his own identity, Jesus lived beyond the human mindset of separation, operating from a oneness that transformed every person he met.

74 Jesus redefined greatness by calling us to a fundamental shift of identity. When he said, “You



Bringing Jesus' Light In To The World Around Us

Rogathe Severe

COSA (CLA Alumni) - Tanzania

The Kingdom of God is a deeply personal and transformative reality that I have come to understand in an entirely different light over the years. While many imagine it as distant or reserved for the future, I believe it is already here—in our midst, working through us.

My understanding of this truth began during my time as a student at the Cornerstone Leadership Academy in Tanzania. Those early experiences of leadership, mentorship, and community laid a foundation that has deepened as I navigate leadership roles today.

Through that journey, I learned that living in the Kingdom is about continually seeking the heart of God in every situation. It is not enough for our actions to simply appear good; true Kingdom living requires that they flow from the Father's heart. We are called to embody His character and reflect Jesus' love through virtues like truth, justice, humility, integrity, and reconciliation in everyday life.

When it comes to leadership, some things are "easier done than said." Actions communicate more powerfully than words; our choices, habits, and character leave a lasting impression long after advice is forgotten. Striving to influence others positively has become a refining process that shapes every area of my own life.

Professionally, I work in human rights and social justice. I once wondered if my vocation and faith stood in tension. Could advocacy for justice align with my identity as a believer? Through reflection, I realized they are deeply connected;

I am a conduit for God's Kingdom. Central faith values—love, integrity, humility, and reconciliation—are practical tools for navigating the complexities of leadership and social change. Love enables us to see the full humanity and dignity of others, while reconciliation calls us to restore relationships damaged by injustice and inequality.

One of the most meaningful ways I express the Kingdom is through mentoring young people. As a Cornerstone alumna, I trace the profound influence mentorship has had on my life. From my years as a student in Tanzania to my involvement in the youth leadership movement through the Africa Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF) at the University of Dar es Salaam, and ongoing growth within COSA, I have consistently benefited from leaders who invested in me. I especially treasure the annual COSA gatherings; they encourage me, ground me, and help me chart my course forward, reminding me of my identity as a child of God.

Because mentorship and intentional community were so vital in my journey, I feel a deep responsibility to pass these gifts on. I am particularly passionate about investing in young women, helping them discover purpose, grow in confidence, and step boldly into leadership.

The Kingdom of God does not arrive only in a perfect world, but in imperfect moments of transformation—whenever people choose growth over stagnation, perseverance over despair, and reconciliation over division.

As we find security in our identity as children of God, we are called to bring Jesus' light into the world around us. We are invited to participate in a quiet revolution that transforms lives through everyday acts of love, integrity, truth, humility, and reconciliation. Every act of service, commitment to justice, and life invested becomes part of God's ongoing work. And perhaps that is the greatest invitation of all: not simply to believe in the Kingdom, but to live it.



One Life

One Act of Faithfulness

At A Time

Michael Cadary

CLA Tanzania

The Kingdom of God is not an abstract idea reserved for the future. It is not something we wait for—it is something we step into. As Romans 14:17 reminds us, the Kingdom is “righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” It is a present and living reality, unfolding wherever love displaces hatred, where dignity is restored, where reconciliation heals what conflict has broken, and where leadership takes the shape of service. Jesus said it plainly: “the kingdom of God is in your midst” (Luke 17:21). It is visible whenever light overcomes darkness.

At Cornerstone Leadership Academy (CLA) Tanzania, this is not merely theology; it is a lived experience. It is seen in transformed lives, restored purpose, and a community shaped daily by the values of Jesus.

The Kingdom shows up in the ordinary rhythms of life at CLA. Students gather for Progress in Christ (PIC), a regular time of studying Scripture and learning to pray together. Each year, they organize an outreach to a local orphanage—a simple act of compassion that reflects God’s heart for the vulnerable. A student-founded initiative called Builders of Hope in Africa welcomes children from the surrounding community every Saturday for discipleship and school supplies. Furthermore, our mentorship program pairs students with CLA staff, creating relationships of mutual trust and growth. These are not programs running alongside the Kingdom work; they are the Kingdom work.

My own journey with CLA began in 2012 as a student. I arrived carrying potential, but like many young people, I needed guidance, structure, and someone willing to believe in me. Through the discipleship I received, I graduated in 2014

and proceeded to the University of Dar es Salaam. Before I left for university, CLA entrusted me with a five-month role as a mentor to younger students. That season planted something in me that academic achievement alone could not: a calling to invest in others. When I completed my degree in 2017 and returned to CLA, I chose to give back what I had received—first as an intern, then as a volunteer.

In 2019, I was formally employed as a teacher of Geography and Kiswahili. Over the years, responsibility grew: Deputy Academic Master in January 2025, and now Deputy Headmaster as of April 2025. Looking back, I recognize a Kingdom principle quietly at work across that entire journey: faithfulness in small things opens the door to greater ones.

At CLA, the Kingdom of God looks like transformation from the inside out. It is not only about academic excellence; it is about shaping character, awakening purpose, and restoring identity. It becomes visible when a student discovers their own worth, when a young person chooses integrity over compromise, when a community learns to serve rather than compete, and when leaders choose to raise others rather than elevate themselves.

The aspect of Kingdom life that resonates most deeply with me is stewardship. The values I try to embody are how the Kingdom becomes visible in ordinary daily life. Mentoring young people carries both deep rewards and real challenges. It is difficult to help students believe in a future they cannot yet see, especially when many arrive from environments where hope has been scarce. Walking with them requires patience, consistency, and genuine care. Yet, the rewards are immense. I have watched students move from uncertainty into confidence, their purpose awakened. These are the quiet acts of the Kingdom, unfolding over time.

Every person here who gives generously, mentors faithfully, or embraces transformation is participating in something larger than themselves. The Kingdom of God is real, active, and accessible—expanding one life and one act of faithfulness at a time. It is already here.



Peter Segawa

CLA Alumni / Youth Corps Uganda

Reconciliation Is At The Heart Of What We Do

angry, resentful, and struggled to trust anyone. Years of hardship had taught him to survive through isolation and frustration.

Through counselling, discipleship, and genuine care from our team, he slowly began opening his heart. Week by week, we saw hope replace despair and trust begin to overcome fear. As he embraced God's love, his outlook on life changed, and with it, his relationships and sense of purpose. Today, this young man is no longer defined by the pain of his past. Instead, he has become passionate about mentoring other young people facing similar struggles.

This young man's story is not unique. There are many other young people whose lives are being restored through this ministry. Some have returned to school, others have reconciled with their families, while many are discovering confidence, purpose, and hope for the first time. These transformations may never make headlines, but each one reflects the quiet, life-changing work of God's Kingdom.

The work we do is deeply rewarding, but it is not without challenges. Ministry requires patience, perseverance, compassion, and faith. There are moments when progress feels slow and situations appear impossible. Some young people struggle to break old patterns, while others experience setbacks along the journey. At times, even those serving in ministry can feel discouraged.

Yet we continue because we know God is faithful. His work often unfolds gradually, and every step forward matters. Like a seed growing beneath the soil, transformation is sometimes invisible before it becomes visible.

As a Coordinator of the Youth Corps Community Outreach Program, this understanding continues to keep me grounded. Our goal is not simply to run successful programs or gain recognition, but to faithfully create spaces where love, truth, healing, and hope can take root. We may not always see immediate results, but every conversation, every prayer, and every act of kindness carries the potential to change a life.

The Kingdom of God is not something distant or abstract. In our work with young people at Cornerstone, we see it revealed in quiet yet powerful moments where love, truth, and integrity take root in everyday life. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is in your midst" (Luke 17:21), and "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). These words have become a lived reality through the work of the Youth Corps Community Outreach Program.

For me, the aspect of the Kingdom that resonates most deeply is reconciliation. At the heart of our ministry is this message of healing, restoration, and peace that Jesus offers humanity. We have witnessed young people encounter hope after seasons of rejection, brokenness, and despair. Though these moments may seem small to the world, they are clear signs of God's Kingdom quietly growing — much like the seed Jesus described in His parables.

Working closely with young people has shown me that many carry burdens that are not immediately visible. Some come from broken families, while others struggle with poverty, addiction, violence, or emotional wounds caused by neglect and disappointment. Many feel forgotten by society and uncertain about their future. Yet even in the midst of these challenges, we continue to see God at work through simple acts of love, listening, prayer, and encouragement. Sometimes transformation begins simply because someone finally feels seen, valued, and cared for.

One story that continually reminds me why we do this work is that of a young man from the Kivulu slums. When he first joined our program, he carried deep emotional pain and social distress. He was

Entering the Kingdom

heart of Jesus' teaching is the phrase: "the kingdom of God" or its equivalent "the kingdom of heaven." But, he spoke less of the Kingdom as a destination after death than of it being a transformative reality breaking into the world and our lives here and now.

To describe this, he used the metaphors of yeast, salt, light and good seed sown with the bad - to portray how it silently but progressively creates transformation in our personal lives and on a social level in our world. It unfolds within and around us, much like the way a flower grows from a small shoot but then blossoms and expands until its scent permeates the air.

When someone uses a particular phrase over and over - it shows how important and central that concept is to their mind-set and teaching. Clearly for Jesus this phrase was 'the Kingdom of God' as seen in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

But, although the word 'kingdom' appears 100 times in the first three gospels - it only appears 5 times in the Gospel of John. And, only 8 times throughout Paul's epistles, then twice in the Book of Acts, in reference to Paul's preaching. So, it used to puzzle me why the term 'kingdom' was not given the same high profile in the gospel of John and the letters of Paul.

Some suggest it is because the phrase 'kingdom of God', while commonly understood by Jews - did not resonate in the same way with a wider audience that perhaps John and Paul were targeting. This may well be true, but I have also come to understand that what matters most is not the terms themselves, but the reality beyond them to which they point.

Words are like signposts, whose purpose is to direct our attention beyond themselves to the living reality they signify. And I have come to believe this 'mystery of the kingdom' is the same as what the Gospel of John and the writings of Paul were seeking to address - only using different terms.

In the Gospel of John, the key phrase or word is "Life." He uses it 55 times and it runs throughout the text much like Jesus' term 'the kingdom' does, like a central theme in the first three gospels. However, when we hear the term 'entering Life' or 'eternal Life' we often interpret it only from the angle of going to heaven - which is part of the story and of course what we all want, but there is something more to which those phrases are pointing.

In support of the idea that 'entering the kingdom' and entering eternal life are really about

the same thing, we can see in Mark 9, the expressions "to enter life" (v. 43) and "to enter the kingdom of God" (v.44) are placed in parallel. They both describe one new, experiential reality.

To better capture the depth of what Jesus meant by using the term "Life," I find the expression used by Dallas Willard particularly helpful. He came up with the phrase: **"the eternal kind of life."** This shifts our perspective beyond the idea of life merely continuing after death and points instead to a divine quality of existence that can be experienced here and now, while we are still living in our earthly bodies.

In the gospel of John, Jesus defines eternal life as: "...that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" (John 17:3). The word 'know' used here has a broad range of usage but includes intimate communion within a relationship - rather than mere intellectual knowledge. As in, "Adam knew Eve." (Gen.4:1)

In support of this particular interpretation, Paul wrote: "The two shall become one...this is a 'mystery' but then he says he is using this term, often associated with union within marriage, to describe union between us and the divine. (Eph.5:31-32, I Cor. 6:17) So, to enter eternal life, therefore, can be understood as entering into the experience of restored union with God.

With the writings of Apostle Paul - we see the key phrase he really uses a lot is: being "in Christ." It appears about 165 times when you count "in the Lord" and "in Him". And, here again he clearly is pointing to a higher quality of existence that begins here and now while still in a body on earth.

Paul explicitly describes "this mystery" as: "Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27) To me this signifies the indwelling divine life which a person enters into as their true identity and it's really describing the same new, inward spiritual reality that Jesus meant with the term 'entering the Kingdom of God'.

So, although Paul seldom uses the term "entering the Kingdom" - he repeatedly uses the term, being "in Christ." And, he describes being 'in Christ' as participating in Christ's own relationship with the Father. Thus, entering the Kingdom as proclaimed by Jesus becomes, in Paul's language, life lived in union with God by being 'in Christ'.

The word Christ in Greek originates from the word "anointed." From that, we could say that being in Christ is like operating 'in the anointing' - a way of being in the world while under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Practically, this translates to living an empowered life, a guided life, expressing the fruit of the Spirit and serving a divine purpose.

The Key to Entering the Kingdom - Realization of Oneness:

In summary, I am proposing that: "entering the Kingdom," "entering Life" and being "In Christ," or other complementary expressions like being born of the Spirit, abiding in Christ, knowing God, receiving eternal life - are just different windows into the same mystery: humanity's conscious participation in the divine life revealed in Christ or what some refer to as divine union.

Jesus' invitation to "enter the Kingdom of God" is fundamentally an invitation for us to enter into a living realization of our union with God. Here, the heart and example of Jesus' own life (which serves as a pattern and prototype for us to follow) is a life fully grounded in his unbroken sense of oneness with the Father.

In Jn 14:10 he declares, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me" and he lived out of this realization of oneness. But in Jn. 17 this takes an interesting shift when he prays: "Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us." So, here again we see the mystery: humanity is invited into a life of oneness with God. We too are meant to develop the mindset, the consciousness that Jesus expressed as: "I and my Father are one."

The realization of this, to me, is the key we must use to enter the kingdom. In other words, if we are to think like Jesus, act like him, talk like him and have his likeness - we too must 'have this mind which was in Christ Jesus' and the revolutionary awareness that: "I and my Father are one." Of course, this is not from the egoic sense of self but rather, as Paul explained: "For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection." (Rom. 6:5)

In Conclusion: This 'mystery' Jesus and Paul talked about; I have come to understand is actually the ultimate goal of our entire spiritual journey which I would put like this: *Awakening to the reality of our union with God as revealed in Christ.* I was exposed to this early in life but it was a little beyond me, so it's only in recent years that it's really landing in my awareness.

Even if we grasp intellectually the theological truths of all this, to really integrate and anchor this as our default mode of operation is a whole different story. And yet, it is our greatest life task: Learning to abide in a conscious awareness of this union, rather than going through our day with the prevailing human mindset that operates largely from a sense of separation from God. This is a mindset that functionally lacks the awareness that "in Him we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28) Consequently, we often operate as if we might as well be atheists.

Here are 3 final points in regards to the mystery of 'entering the Kingdom':

1. It begins with a fundamental shift of consciousness: Unless one is born from above or born again, they cannot "see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3). The word 'see' here in the Greek signifies perception. And then Jesus goes on to say, unless one is born of the Spirit 'they cannot enter the kingdom of God.' (John 3:5). So, one first sees the Kingdom, then enters it. This suggests a paradigm shift and regeneration into a reality that perhaps was always present but previously hidden.
2. It involves a fundamental shift of Identity or Sense of self: As Jesus said "You must give up your life to find it." Paul said "I no longer live but Christ lives in me." This signifies that entering the Kingdom is an exchange of an old identity or sense of self - for a new one. It's like one version of you steps back, or takes a back seat and allows a new version to take over the governing role. So, being 'in Christ' is where the egoic-self is no longer the dominant expression of our personality.

3. It requires living from a realization of union with the Divine rather than from the ordinary human mindset of separation: Jesus said "I and the Father are one." And Paul wrote, we should have this very mindset of oneness in us - which was in Christ Jesus. For, "He who is joined to the Lord is one with him in spirit." I Cor.6:17

But what does this realization actually change? What does that look like in ordinary life? Basically, it translates into a greater mindfulness of the presence of the Divine in all the spaces of my life and with all the people in my life. And, this realization helps infuse all my activities and encounters - with the divine Spirit: bringing to bear more faith, light, kindness, and joy. In other words, the more we realize, affirm and walk with this sense of oneness with the Father and our union with Christ - the more this divine 'eternal kind of life' gets activated and integrated into our daily life.

So, "Seek first the kingdom of God." (Mt. 6:33). And, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Lk 12:32) And, "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. (Jn.14:20).

In closing, I would recommend to you to try repeating this phrase through-out your day: "I and my Father are One." Make it your moment-by-moment affirmation until it becomes your mindset. And, observe what changes within you. For, this is the mystery that was hidden but now is revealed.



The Mystery of Entering the Kingdom

Reflections From Tim

"And he said unto them, 'He who has ears to hear, let him hear... Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God.'" - Jesus, Mk. 4:9-11.

The vision of 'the coming of the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven' has always served as a major motivating theme in my life. And I have chosen to invest my life in support of this, what I see as the overarching plan of God for humanity and our planet.

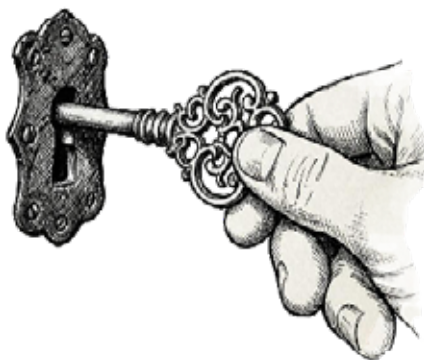
To do justice to all of Jesus's teaching on the Kingdom of God and what this multi-layered concept involves, here are three essential aspects, I see:

1. The Heavenly Realm: The Kingdom of God exists as the higher, eternal realms where God's divine reign is perfectly expressed through love, joy, peace, beauty, order, and truth. It is this heavenly reality which we will enter beyond this earthly life.

2. The Kingdom is meant to come on Earth. Our world systems are out of alignment with the transcendent values of the divine order and need to be brought into alignment with it, which involves social transformation.

3. The Kingdom is meant to unfold within us. The unredeemed hearts and minds of humanity are also out of alignment with the divine order and its values, which necessitates a profound personal transformation.

At times followers of Jesus tend to only emphasize one or two of these aspects. E. Stanley Jones, an early leader in the Prayer Breakfast movement challenged this prevailing mindset during his time, whereby many churches viewed the "kingdom of God" purely in terms of personal salvation. Jones argued that it also extends to the transformation of the lives of the poor and the suffering around us. He wrote:



"Jesus believed in life and its redemption. Not only was the soul to be saved - the whole of life was to be redeemed. The Kingdom of God coming on earth is the expression of that collective redemption. The entrance to the Kingdom of God is by personal conversion, but the nature of that Kingdom is social."

Entering the Kingdom: For the purposes of this article, I want to explore the mystery or the deeper significance of what Jesus may have meant by the phrase "entering the Kingdom of God." I want to propose that this term points to the possibility of entering into another way of living - another mode of being and operating. In contemporary language, it might be described as living from a higher state of consciousness.

Just like every song can be sung in a higher octave, there is another way of doing life that is more joyous and harmonious - based in a heartfelt, connection with our source. Living our lives from within this higher, divine reality - is what Jesus modeled in his life and what I believe he calls us to enter into. To me, this is what I am proposing here as the deeper meaning of 'entering the Kingdom.'

I have had days and even a few weeks where I have experienced living from this higher dimension with some noticeable physical effects: my breathing rate slows down and deepens, my pace of walking also slows and I feel more connected to the souls around me. I also feel more settled within me, more patient with others and I have greater awareness of the presence of God in all the situations I am in.

But then, I get pulled back into habitual modes of operating - dealing with the urgencies of responsibilities, my mind preoccupied with challenges and I lose this way of being. Nonetheless, the unmistakable taste I have had of this 'better way' - keeps calling me back to 'enter into' it and stabilize this within my daily experience.

Harmonizing the key terms used by Jesus, John and Paul which point to this: In the first three Gospels, we find the constantly recurring term at the