

PATRICE PADDY WALAKIRA



Dear Friends, greetings to you all. I am Patrice Paddy Walakira, a Ugandan of 29 years. I am a son of the late George William Kaleeba and my mum is Mary Namirembe. My mum has six children and my dad had 22 children. I was the youngest in my family so it was hard to get the necessities of life. When my dad died in 2000, it became harder for my mom. I could not get a job because I was not qualified.

I performed very well in my studies through my primary and secondary years. Then I joined the university, where I was doing a Diploma in Building and Civil Engineering. In 2000, when I lost my dad, things changed and I could not continue with my studies. I entered ministry, something I was doing part time before. I devoted all my time and energy to ministry even though I was not paid, but I trusted the Lord and I knew even in the midst of challenges that he was

faithful and there was hope. The more I served God, the more I sensed God's marvelous calling on my life to be an evangelistic pastor, and the more I felt that I needed to seek more knowledge about ministry and serving God.

I was serving God in Jesus Power Church, a ministry pioneered by Pastor Frank Mukiliza. I did liturgy, interpretation, and at times preaching in church. I also did a lot of administration and was involved with other young people in leading an interdenominational outreach ministry called "Works of Faith."

So it happened that after Pastor Frank visited the USA we hosted visitors from that country. I was blessed to stand with them on the pulpit interpreting for them. Before they left we talked and they encouraged me to continue my studies. By then my interests had changed and I wanted to study to become a better preacher. I hoped to study in America but failed because I was unable to get a visa. After some time we found a Bible college in South Africa, where I am pursuing my Diploma in Theology which I hope to finish next year. I can see that I am becoming a better preacher. At times I wonder what kind of preacher I used to be, because now I understand the Bible better, also homiletics and many other important things that pertain to ministry and God.

I can see that God really had good plans for my life. He has opened doors for me here in South Africa. I hope that God will open more doors to further my studies, though I can't wait to start serving God as a theologically qualified pastor.

I want to appreciate the generosity of Pastor Doug, Br. Todd, and the entire Trinity Covenant Church through which God worked to meet my need for theological training. I pray that the Lord will bless them abundantly.

**"The more I served God,
the more I sensed
His marvelous calling
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Thanks so much for reading. May God bless you.

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