

STEVEN KAKAYIRA



My name is Steven Kakayira. I am 29 years old and a third year student in a Bachelors of Arts in Community Leadership and Development (BCLAD) program at Uganda Christian University in Mukono. I have been able to take this program because of the generous heart of friends from Trinity Covenant Church, Lexington, Massachusetts USA, through the Hearts and Hands for Uganda ministry.

In 2001 I finished a Diploma in Mechanical and Production Engineering in one of the colleges of Uganda. I started looking for a job but for over four years got none. After this frustration I desired to go back to school and change my profession, therefore I applied to this university for enrollment in this program. I became inspired for a B.A in Community Leadership and Development through volunteer work with a Christian children focused organization where I realized the problems of our families and communities were calling for effective leadership and transformational development. Though a vision had formed in my life, I did not have funds to enroll in this program but I kept faith and

sought God's guidance. This time helped me to settle and become intensely involved in church ministry and outreach work.

In 2006 our Pastor Frank was blessed to make a visit to the USA where he met with our beloved friends whom God had called to answer our prayers. By 2007 I had saved half of the required money to register and enroll, though I started my school program with a lot of struggles. In mid-June our church hosted the first time visitors from TCC in Uganda where we met and realized the great need of church and communities for education. I happened to be among the first people to be sponsored in school by Mr. Todd Klipp; I will be graduating in May 2010.

Through this scholarship program I have been able to train and inspire many leaders especially from church and nearby communities for transformation through seminars, outreach and one-to-one interactions. I have encouraged leaders to test and influence unjust social systems and policies as a way to fight corruption and poverty.

I have gained skills of effective leadership, planning and mobilization, communication and advocacy through capacity building, networking, and project management which will help me in community development and organization. In my current position of leadership I have witnessed a change of approach to key dynamic issues, decision making, and a passion to change people's lives as I grow in winning people's trust.

After I receive my Bachelor of Arts degree I hope to go for further studies: a Master's Degree in Public Finance or Public Administration. I also hope to start community development programs and projects to help our people come out of poverty, to train and support leaders to influence national leadership to become majority focused for community transformation and development, and to continue exhibit leadership with high level honesty, integrity and commitment to community organizing to alleviate poverty, hunger and diseases.

“I have been able to train and inspire many leaders”