

# The Apprentice

A monthly Publication of iServe Africa

## Celebrating Gospel Partnerships...

### Its about you.

Many Christians do not view mission support as an integral part of their stewardship. Can we support those going out from among us to serve in missions? Can our giving be more consistent? These are some of the questions we will try to address during our upcoming partners day on 5th June.

Gospel Ministry is about partnership which means working together towards a common goal. It is in this working together that the Lord is honoured and His kingdom grows.

**But why?** Sometimes you may wonder why partnership is *the* model of resourcing gospel ministry, could there be any other way? The answer could be yes, but the biblical model has always been

through partnerships with other Christians. iServe Africa seeks to support all its operations through partnerships. One of the major reasons is that it gives the partner a chance to participate in ministry.

Through your support you actually affirming the work and your act is of no less valued than the apprentice who steps out to Wajir. Here are some reasons why we believe in partnerships.

1. Partnership enhances accountability. We are accountable to our partners on how we use the gifts they send us.
2. It promotes unity in the body of Christ.
3. It is ordained by God as a means of resourcing his work.
4. It brings about fellowship and encouragement.

5. It promotes synergy, teamwork and efficiency in ministry.

Although sometimes seen as transactional, partnership is relational and that is why it goes beyond money. In iServe Africa we value partnership in three fronts— Prayers, Good-will/Encouragement and Finances. We value the partner more than the gift and aim to relate with them as such.

**Thank you!** It is great to meet with people who support us and make our ministry possible, we are really honored to have you in this program. *We always rejoice...Because of your partnership in the Gospel" - Philippians 1:5*

## What is iServe Africa?

iServe Africa is an emerging mission movement that exists to promote apprenticeship as a model of training for christian ministry. Through our apprenticeships we facilitate fresh Christian graduates to develop a deeper mission, vision and commitment to gospel ministry through training and placement in a local church, Christian organization or mission agency.

### Vision and Mission

The vision of iServe Africa is that many gifted and godly men and women would be identified, recruited, trained and sent out to handle the gospel of Jesus Christ faithfully, confidently, clearly and relevantly in Africa and beyond. We visualize a time when every evangelical church in Africa will have an apprentice and majority of full time, paid christian workers will have done an apprenticeship to acquaint themselves with skills for ministry.

### Operations

iServe Africa welcomes fresh graduates who are keen to test the waters of Christian ministry as well as those who are eager to exercise their calling to serve. After their year of apprenticeship with us some might go into longer term mission work, others might seek ordination, some might go into theological studies and others go into the market place to bear witness to Christ there. Either way The experience is life transforming, character building and disciple making.

### Objectives;

We exist to meet the following objectives;

- \_ To raise a generation of gospel workers through apprenticeships.
- \_ To serve the body of Christ with trainings on faithful Bible preaching and leadership.
- \_ To supplement the ministry of the local church/Christian organization through placement of apprentices.

- \_ To be a structure in which apprentices can learning and contributing meaningfully in Gospel Ministry.
- \_ To promote volunteerism as a means of resourcing gospel ministry.

### Profile

We praise God that for the current 23 apprentices in different placements across Kenya and 4 in the UK. Some of our placements include The Sheepfold Ministries (Nairobi, Wajir and Garissa), FGCK Imara Daima, ACK's Carlile College, Kileleshwa Covenant Community Church, St. Anna Centre in Muranga, Life in Abundance (LIA) Thika, Deliverance Church Kahawa Sukari, Agape Fellowship Centre in Madaraka, Nairobi Missions Church in Kawangware, DC Kikuyu Road and ACK Diocese of Trans Mara. This year we hope to send out about 30 apprentices including sending 5 overseas and receiving 5 internationals into Kenya.

## What HE made me...

Jeremiah Otieno Oluoch

Since my High school days, I always heard the Lord calling me into ministry. So when I joined Carlife College to study Urban Ministry, It was to attain skills and knowledge to strengthen and affirm that call. After my 3 year training, I applied for an apprenticeship with iServe Africa in order to steady my hand in my vision for future involvement.

I'm placed at **Imara Daima Worship Center** in Nairobi. My job entails helping with book keeping and administration in the church office, preaching and teaching teens and Youth a discipleship Programme. I am very grateful to God for all that He is doing in and through my life in my placement.

Despite the challenges I face, serving God always refreshes my moments and gives me some sense of satisfaction that usually encourages me to carry on no matter how bumpy the road becomes. *God has been teaching me to rely on Him and to trust Him.*

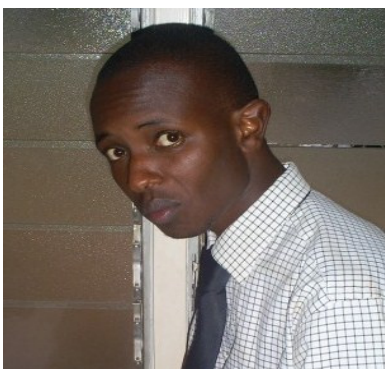
Being an iServe Africa apprentice can have its pressures occasionally especially when the needs seem great. Furthermore raising support from partners and friends has not always been easy. This is when God has often reminded me that it is not about what I can do or have as an individual but what He can do through me if I will only trust and obey. I've learnt to trust God in both the "wilderness" and the "Canaan" experiences. I'm looking forward to another year of apprenticeship overseas, starting September.

iServe Africa has given me a chance to grow in ministry. It offers a great opportunity to explore different areas of Christian work in different contexts and build up one's gifts. I recommend iServe Africa to anyone with the heart to support Christian ministry because support-raising is a biblical and practical method for sustaining gospel ministry. The Lord has made me his vessel through this program. Glory to His name.

## News & Updates...

iServe Africa is currently going through a series of transitions. Over the last 3 years, we have been kindly incubated by Mission Together Africa in an arrangement that started in 2007. We thank God for the amazing benefits that we have drawn from this partnership. With growth comes the need for structures and systems to support the work. To that effect, we are putting in place a board of directors and working round the clock towards an efficient organisational framework that will carry the vision to the next level. Please pray for us in this crucial time as we engage new staff, mobilise resources and set up all the other systems in readiness for September. We will keep you posted with further news and developments in the coming months. We will unveil the new board, corporate identity and strategic plan during the convocation on 23rd August. Be there!

## When I grow up... Benard Kariuki



I am the first born in a family of four. I am placed at the Deliverance Church-Kahawa Sukari, where I work with the youth/teens, local schools and in music.

Growing up in Naivasha, I used to attend evangelistic crusades and revival meetings, later on I would go home and do what I saw happening in the meetings. I would gather kids around, pray

for them, imitate the tongue-speaking preachers and tell the kids that when I pray for them they should all fall down to the ground as if under the power of the Holy Spirit.

Elsewhere in school, my Swahili teacher used to ask the class **what we wanted to become when we grow up, my answer as was always that I wanted to become a pastor.** Though having had such ambitions, in my teenage I tried to lead a life away from Christ. But he caught up with me in my first year in high school when I was 15.

My Journey in Christ has been bright to say the least. Sometimes I wonder where I would have gone and been to date if it were not for Christ. It's from my walk with Christ that I have developed a desire to see a generation of young people disciplined and mentored in for service.

This is my second year in short term ministry after having worked with the national student movement (FOCUS Kenya) on STEM program. These two experiences have been transforming.

I have learnt the importance of Inductive Bible study, where as a Christian and a preacher I have to put the bible into proper interpretation without forcing meaning into it. I have learnt to serve for the right motives, I have picked the skills required for friendraising and my passion for purpose driven local churches has been rekindled. The list can go on and on.

After my apprenticeship in iServe Africa, I am trusting God to join a music school for a degree in music/youth work. I praise God for giving me hope in the present, surrounding me with friends/mentors/partners and family who support me.

## From the horses' mouth...

"After 9 months in this programme, I am convinced that this is where the Lord wanted me to be at such a time like this. Much of what is happening in me is 'being' rather than 'doing'. I



really bless the Lord for iServe Africa. My prayer is that the Lord will direct me in these remaining six months on which step to take after August. I am open to His will and I am in"

-James Olare Imbo, iSA Apprentice @ Carlile College,

*"It's been interesting to see most of my expectations come to pass. One of the major resolutions was to better my personal walk with God and to develop strict disciplines in the areas of Bible study and prayer. I'm amazed at how faithful God is. Through daily prayer and Bible study, God has led and corrected me in my daily walk with Him. It's not been all smooth but He has done it!"* Justus Nzioki iServe Apprentice @ Agape Worship

*"I have been greatly impressed by the calibre of young people involved in the iServe Africa and the contribution they make to the life of their placement. Pioneering and innovative, iServe Africa provides a great opportunity for college and university graduates to serve local churches and Christian organisations while being encouraged and mentored in their faith. I highly recommend it to anyone who is ready to set aside a year to volunteer their time and explore their vocation in gospel ministry"*

Rev. Dr. Colin Smith, Centre for Urban Missions, Kibera.

My Name is Pastor Peterson Rukenya of Nairobi Missions Church. I first got to know about iServe Africa through their publicity materials and subsequent email communications with the office.

We considered a partnership with them because of the role iServe would play in our young church, that of identifying, training and managing the whole recruitment process thoroughly to ensure quality. Last September, we were for the first time going to receive an apprentice from iServe Africa. Levis Maina joined us in our church and this far the experience has been very encouraging and fruitful. Levis works in student's ministry, a program that is run by the church. Initially we expected to work with five high schools but we are now actively and effectively involved in ten high schools, PRAISE THE LORD! Our expectations have not only been met but surpassed.

I consider iServe Africa a very applicable and relevant tool in raising laborers for the church. This opportunity has given us a chance to mentor the apprentice and it has been a great joy to see not only the ministry grow but also Levis grow holistically. This was one of the best decisions we made as a ministry.



## iServe Africa unveils International Apprenticeships Scheme

iServe Africa is pleased to announce *iApps*, our International Apprenticeship Program designed for the international exchange of fresh graduates from other countries to do apprenticeships in Kenya and vice versa.

We believe Kenya has a lot both to offer and to learn from her neighbors – socially, culturally and in gospel ministry. We have therefore developed *iApps* as a platform for that exchange as a step towards mutual benefit to the person, their country and to Kenya. The goal of *iApps* is to help African Christian graduates to develop a vision & commitment to global mission through cross-cultural ministry apprenticeships.

Through *iApps*, we hope to spread a passion for faithful Bible teaching and equip others to serve their countries upon their return.

The programme has already been piloted and will be rolled out in phases with phase one beginning this September. We look forward to welcoming 5 international apprentices from Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Zambia and Mozambique as well as send 5 Kenyan apprentices to the UK. In the next phase, we hope to send and receive apprentices from other countries in Africa and beyond. Please check out our website for more details—[www.iserveafrica.org/international](http://www.iserveafrica.org/international).

# An invitation to partnership...

iServe Africa welcomes those the Lord bring our way to stand with us through prayers, gifts and encouragements. As a faith movement, we trust to God to bring our way individuals to support us financially and in kind. Could you be one of those the Lord might be challenging to stand with us this year? Please contact us on the details below. We will send you a partnership commitment form which you will need to fill and send back to us. You may use the details on the right to send support.

We highly value the contribution of those who partner with us in prayer and invite those who are yet, to consider standing with us in prayer so that the work may reflect the Glory of God and that it will be done to accomplish His purposes for His people. If you are in or around Nairobi, you could join us every First Sunday of the month as we hold a prayer meeting – First Priority – at All Saints Cathedral Kindergarten in Nairobi from 3.00 to 5.00 PM.

We gladly welcome to this partnership in the Gospel.

## How to send support

Bank Deposits: Deposit your gift at any Barclays Bank to A/c No. 094 825 1523.

By M-Pesa: 0710 29 30 90.

ZAP: 0732 29 30 90.

Please inform us of your gift so that we acknowledge it appropriately. Thank you.



## Reflections from a Mission Partner

My name is Lydia Chemei. I studied theology and St. Paul's University Limuru. I am currently teaching in Carlile College and I fellowship at the Reformed Church of East Africa (R.C.E.A.)

I knew about iServe Africa in August 2009 when I got a job in Carlile College to teach Biblical Studies. At the time, 3 apprentices were coming to the close of their apprenticeship. And we were soon going to receive a new group. I attended the convocation of the first group and got interested in other activities conducted by iSA.

In iServe Africa, I saw a genuine work that existed to promote the kingdom of God and so when I was approached to be partner, I happily committed to it. My greatest motivation in partnering with iSA is my Christian call. The Bible explicitly instructs believers to build strengthen and support Gospel ministry.

Apostle Paul in his second letter to the Corinthians exhorts us with these words: "But just as you excel in everything - in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us, see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (II Cor. 8:7.)

Giving as presented in the Bible is not at all limited to money! We are called to give our time, energy, skills; our very lives to God. Our giving should be motivated by our love for God and for His people. In fact, this was modeled by God Himself who *loved* the world that He *gave* His son to die on the cross so that those who believe in him can have eternal life.

Having said that, my experience as a partner has not been without challenges. I have gone through some low moments when I have not been able to give support as pledged. But this has taught me to depend on God and acknowledge Him as the ultimate provider. Even though our resources are limited, this will never be the case for Him. It is a delight and privilege to support His work.

The ministry of iSA is timely specially because it equip young people for Christian service. I encourage us to continue supporting this noble cause in different ways that God will enable us; financially, in goodwill and prayer. Let us also give our exertion on how to expand iSA even further so that more young people will be reached through this programme.

*Contact us...*

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