

# Cornerstone

Newsletter & Magazine December 2017

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

## Balancing the Spiritual and Material Aspects of Life

In our Cornerstone community, we inspire young people to live lives of influence and not to just look at chasing after money alone. So, I see our members struggling to balance these two major life-concerns:

1. How to establish themselves materially/financially so as to create a comfortable life - through completing their education, getting a good job or starting a business, and (for most) settling into a good marriage.
2. How to live a life that counts for something in the greater scheme of things - making our contribution toward a better world or what Jesus called the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

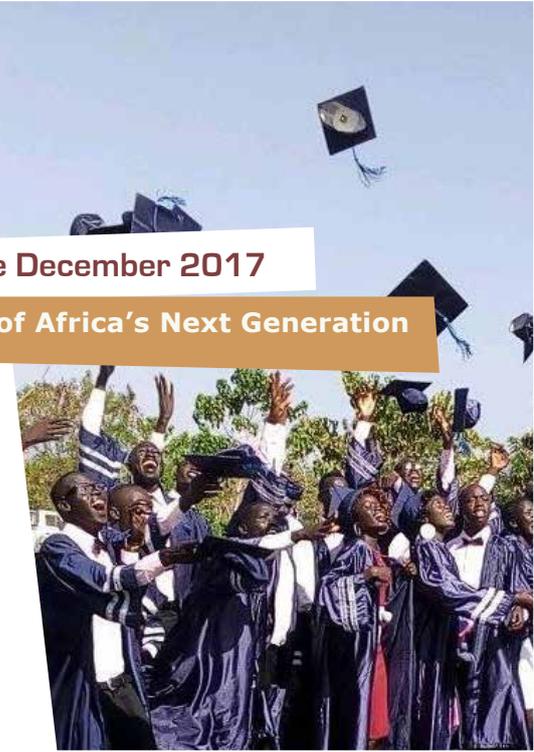
Finding this balance between addressing the day-to-day practical concerns of life while still keeping in mind the big picture or spiritual concerns was something that the very first disciples of Jesus struggled with and it continues up to today. Jesus spoke to them about this in Matthew 6: "So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

These are tough words to live out and each of us has to wrestle with them in our own way. But, they do contain a promise that I have tried to live by, nearly all my life. The promise is simply that if we dedicate ourselves first and foremost to supporting the coming of the kingdom of God, His values and ways of living - into our world, He will support us in the area of our material needs. But, when I am teaching about this I often point out that Jesus used the words "seek first" not "seek only." Because we still need to be realistic and wise about attending to the practical matters of life, but without letting them completely eclipse the bigger spiritual matters - as tends to happen with so many. That is the balance that all of us must struggle to find. But it only makes sense that if we align our little lives with the central purpose of the universe - we will be divinely supported.

The promise has proved true in my own experience, over several decades.

From an early age, I came up with the idea that I would try to invest my whole life in the Kingdom of God because I saw it as the main vision of Jesus. But, I also worked on making financial investments and learned how to manage money and material assets. It has not always been easy and I am still working at it. But I hope this magazine helps you as you also seek to find that balance.

-Tim

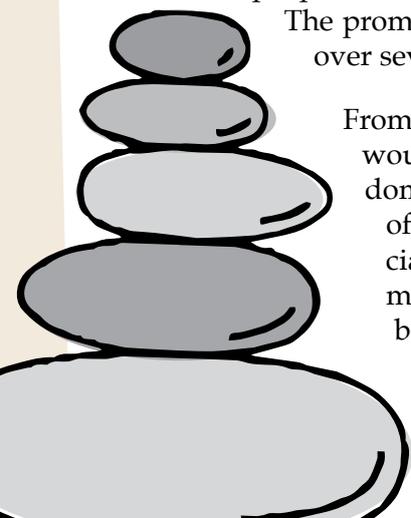


### Inside

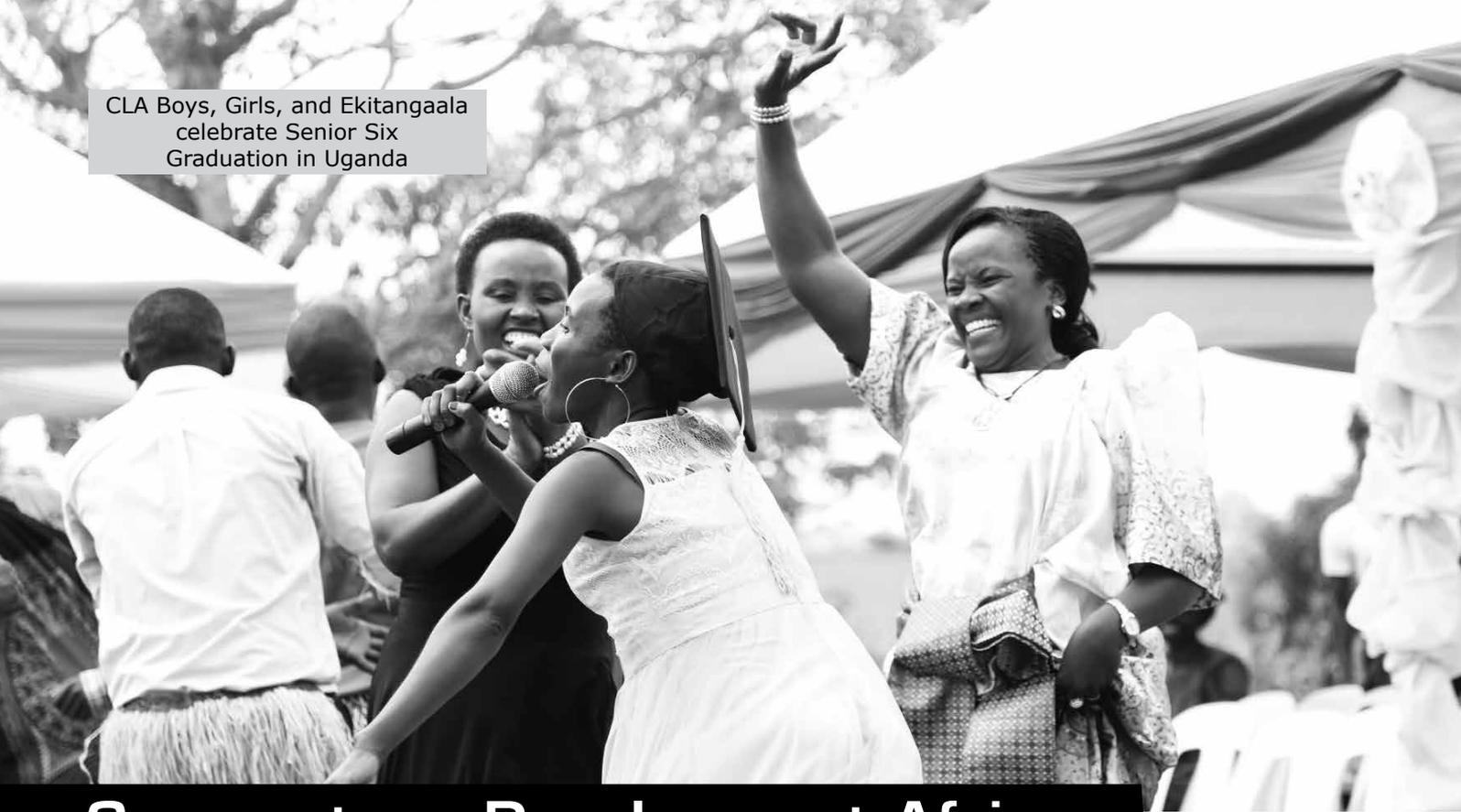


and...

- \* Overview of REVISED Curriculum
- \* Centerfold Pictorial
- \* Thoughts from Tim



CLA Boys, Girls, and Ekitangaala  
celebrate Senior Six  
Graduation in Uganda



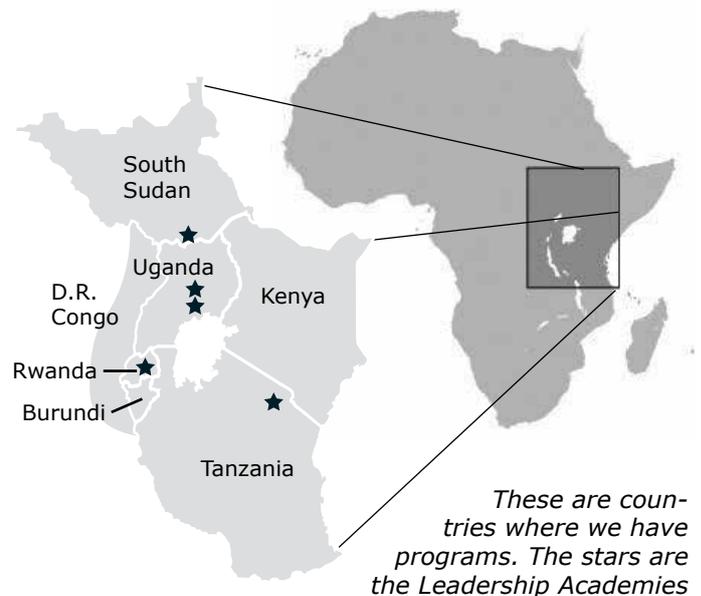
## Cornerstone Development Africa

**We are a family of friends in the spirit of Jesus committed to:**

- \* Equipping and advancing a movement of servant leaders with a shared vision for the positive transformation of their communities, nation and region.*
- \* Compassion for the poor with a focus on young people.*
- \* Working across the lines of culture and faith differences.*
- \* Maintaining a long-term partnership with each other.*
- \* Loving God and neighbor.*

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, Burundi, Kenya, Congo and South Sudan. 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 five schools, ten homes for homeless kids, 4 homes for university youth 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



betterment 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.

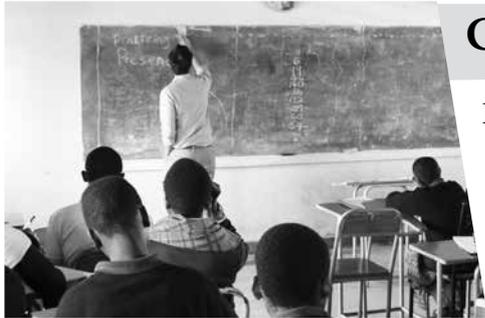
In our character development curriculum we teach the timeless, universal principles of forgiveness, honesty, integrity, compassion, kindness, hard work, humility, and of service to the less fortunate, as exemplified in the teachings of Jesus and the perennial wisdom of all traditions, but without affiliation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

See more online:

[www.CornerstoneDevelopment.org](http://www.CornerstoneDevelopment.org)  
[www.CornerstoneSchoolsAfrica.org](http://www.CornerstoneSchoolsAfrica.org)

# Contents

Our core focus is 'Youth Leadership Development' in the spirit 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 and learned. Each year we put out two magazine's like this one. In the middle of this year, we highlighted the programs we implement. This newsletter will highlight the PEOPLE who are truly the center of our transformation in East Africa.



## CORNERSTONE SCHOOLS

In our schools (**Leadership Academies** and **Ekitangaala Schools**, etc.), we seek to create a life transforming learning environment that molds young men and women into leaders whose lives reflect the qualities and principles embodied in the life of Jesus. We mold young people coming from humble backgrounds, but with high potential, into responsible leaders in all fields and disciplines who will be able to serve society beyond their own self interest. Read more from Babu (P. 6), Beatrice (P. 9), and Charles (P. 10).



## ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS

This aspect of our work (i.e. COSA, EKOSA, LAOSA.. etc.) aims at creating long-term relationships with students who have graduated from our schools and have joined post secondary institutions of higher learning. This is done through frequent fellowships, maintaining intentional relationships, and continual mentoring. Our real impact will be measured when these graduates make a difference in their nations. Read more from Waziri (P. 7), Modeste (P. 8), and James (P. 11).



## OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Through the **Africa Youth Leadership Forum**, **High School Leadership Development** initiative, and **Salam Mentoring Program** (engaging Muslim & Christian youth), among others, we empower youth we have invested in to reach out to broader spheres. We seek to create a movement of transformational servant leaders by promoting vital relationships, unity and reconciliation, vision and purpose, and personal integrity. Read more from Matanda (P. 4), Martha (P. 5), Gabriel (P. 14), Baraka (P. 15), and Keith (P. 16).



## YOUTH MENTORING

In our **Youth Corps Homes**, we empower young people whom we have invested in at the schools, to reach out to the next generation and pass on what has been given to them. It is a practical training ground where they begin exercising leadership, and cause meaningful change in communities. These homes provide at-risk youth with a sense of family, while meeting their basic needs of love, food, shelter, and guidance. Read more from Jane (P. 5).

### THE UNITY INITIATIVE

A new event bringing together people from the Middle East, the West, and East Africa in the spirit of Jesus (P. 17).

### DISCIPLESHIP CURRICULUM

An overview of a revised version of our Discipleship Curriculum. Explore the updated topics taught at our academies (P. 18).

### MILESTONES

A new section of our newsletter where we celebrate milestones within our Family of Friends (P. 20-21).

### THOUGHTS FROM TIM

Tim Kreutter explores the balance between our spiritual and material lives (P. 22-24).



**Youth Corps** Mentor training on Youth Home Standards in Uganda

# UGANDA



**Abubaker Matanda,**  
Salam Mentoring Program

As we reflect on balancing between the spiritual and material we may ask ourselves: What is more important? This I think is a crucial question especially at a time when the world seems fixated on gaining material wealth. Many of us have even lost our spiritual compasses. What is more frightening is that at times, because of the noise around us, we do not even recognize that we are off track. Woe unto us if we do not keep trying to reconfigure ourselves. My approach to strengthening my spiritual life is rooted in these Islamic teachings and philosophy:

1. My stay on earth is temporal, and at the end of my life, what will matter most is not how much I have accumulated, but how much I have touched the lives of others.

2. If I align the spiritual well, the material is automatically sorted; but, the reverse is not true. This

is further grounded by the faith that there is a higher force that, once you are spiritually well tuned to, makes everything clear to you.

With the above in mind, I take spirituality as the worship of God which moves beyond prayer and fasting. I seek to serve others first and to earn wealth and respect among men second. I employ the Islamic teaching that every action or inaction that a human being does or does not do, can be an act of worship. An act of dishonoring God depends on the intention. Rather than compartmentalize my life into what is for the spiritual upliftment and what is material, I do everything deliberately with the aim of service. So, for instance, if I'm paid to speak to a group of students, I do not do it as work that is paid for. Rather, I take it as a spiritual obligation and therefore do my best beyond the pay check for spiritual benefit. My approach is to seek to thin the line between what is spiritual and what is material. We perform better inevitably, in my view, if we look at every act as an act of kindness.

So I ask the question before my deeds; "How can I be spiritual in this task?" This is because I interpret spirituality as essence, as meaning, as service to others and the universe at large. There are times however, when I used to think, before I became liberated, that I would first seek the

material, then use it to pursue the spiritual. This however changed with my encounter with Cornerstone initiatives.

First, through the Africa Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF) when I realized through the sharings of Uncle Tim and others that I had no certainty about how long I will be on earth and how much material success I will have, but also that I did not need any material thing to be spiritually useful. Then more recently, with our work in the Salam Mentoring Program, where we are attempting to bridge the Muslim / Christian divide by focusing on our common ground in Jesus, and also reaching out to mentor the next generation with a message of peace and reconciliation. So, even a smile to a destitute person or a Facebook post to motivate those in despair is an act of spirituality. Going forward, I realized that as you start with the spiritual, it opens up gates of the material, this time with essence.

My understanding of bringing the kingdom of God on earth as a Muslim is in living, as deep as we can, the timeless principles which have been echoed by all traditions throughout the story humanity seeking for and encountering eternal truth. From Jesus' teachings, through the Islamic teachings, (Continued on next page.)

# UGANDA

to indeed all wise teachings, there is one message being echoed; that is LOVE. "Love your neighbor as you love yourself", "Do unto others what you want done unto you."



Jane Banadda  
Youth Corps Uganda

**M**y name is Banadda Jane and I am proud to be a Muslim follower of Jesus who relates freely with Christian friends in all dimensions of life. As a mother of two and current student pursuing an advanced degree in Counseling, I often find myself busy with my daily routine. Sometimes, this makes me feel self-



Martha Ntakirutimana, High School  
Leadership Development Uganda

**T**o be optimally effective, in whatever walk of life, the spiritual and material spheres of life ought to be balanced. Balancing in this context, does not mean moderating each one of them, nevertheless it means maximally utilizing each one of them, stretching each of them to the fullest. But between the two; the spiritual life and the material life, which one

These are the tests I continuously subject my actions and words to, to stay on course because I, too, sometimes veer off and get lost in the noise. Ultimately, balancing the spiritual and material is a continuous struggle with self that we call ji-

ish because I recognize that I forget to do the little things that can bring us closer to Allah while simultaneously achieving material success and remaining in positive relationship with those around us.

In pursuit of a greater balance of the spiritual and material in my life, there are little things I try to do on a daily basis. For example, I try to stay in the present moment, laying down my speculative imagination and remaining with a sober mind. I try to remain humble when relating with clients and friends and always believe the best in them.

As a counselor for underserved youth in our Youth Corps Mentoring homes, I am doing what most people would call small things with great love. I try my best to

should take precedence? Which one sets the foundation upon which the other sits upon?

Spiritual life, which is characterized by a belief in a divine being, on what you don't see or touch physically, is what comes first. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit Life (Galatians 5.25), Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Ephesians 1.3) These verses remind us that no material life exists without a spiritual cultivation, every happening and every event in this material life are timed by the heavens. When we are granted material things, we are required to be good stewards of those things. That is how we can bring the material and spiritual together. Let us look at Jesus, whom almost the whole world looks up to, the centre of history, and a man

had in the Islamic faith (contrary to the common usage or misuse). It's the struggle to keep on course and an attempt to live as a whole and balanced human spirit.

*By: Matanda Abubaker*

love and understand my clients and friends unconditionally as I do my professional job. Bringing this passion into my job is how I find balance between the spiritual and material.

Growing up as a Muslim taught me not to hate. As a young girl I was always taught, "Love for all, hatred for none- regardless of who other people are." As a mother, I try to be an example to my children through the way I dress, talk, and behave. Through my religion and motherhood, I have learned how to balance the spiritual and the material, bringing faith into my daily work. In this way I see the Kingdom of God manifested in my family and the world at large.

*By: Banadda Jane*

in the Spirit. Luke writes about him saying, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour of God and man" (Luke 2:52)

Here you see Jesus is truly in the Spirit because he balanced both the spiritual life and the material life. Jesus increasing in wisdom is spiritual while Jesus increasing in stature and in favour of God and man is material. He provides an example for us of balance. We should stop the misconception that material life and spiritual life are separate. We are taught in High School Leadership Development that each one of us was born for a purpose and we ought to set a vision for our lives. This is done through applying spiritual principles into our daily life (material life). In this kingdom, we need both the spiritual and material lives as one life to live.

*By: Martha Ntakirutimana*

Discipleship class  
at CLA TZ



## TANZANIA



Abdallah Babu  
CLA Tanzania

While spirituality means different things to different people, I look at spirituality as something that brings meaning to almost everything that I do in life, including work. I have determined that whatever I do here on earth was already done by myself in the spiritual realm. I began thinking in this way during my secondary school days. As a young boy, I wasn't very concerned with producing excellent work. Rather, completing the job was what I focused on. It's no wonder my handwriting was not impressive. All I cared about was writing the correct word and the correct spelling. So long as the teachers could read what I had written, my business was done. I really wanted to finish the work and be on my way. The moment that I began to become concerned with the beauty and style of

things was when I was learning soccer drills with Coach Stone Kyambadde who was one of my mentors and coaches. He would demonstrate various soccer skills for us and I remember the way he performed so perfectly. The more I practiced, the more I got it right. After some time, I began doing it beautifully and perfectly, too. I started teaching soccer skills and felt as if I was teaching for God. I thought to myself, "perhaps even my Creator enjoys seeing me doing this perfectly."

Another mentor of mine, John Riordan, taught me something that has remained with me ever since. He taught me to do work as if you were working for God. He would say to me, "even when no one is watching and praising what you do, God Himself will be watching and enjoy your good work." Whenever we worked together, I saw him living out these teachings. Once, he drew the map of the world on the wall of one of the classrooms at Ekitangaala Primary School with excellence and a sense of perfection.

He always emphasized Godliness in all that he did and this helped me begin to understand the relationship between doing physical work with a spiritual connection.

Today, in the work that I do with Cornerstone Leadership Academy Tanzania, I work as if I am doing work for my Creator Himself. I have been working in this way for a number of years now and although the amount of time and energy I spend in doing something is great, the most important thing is the Spirit behind what I do. The Spirit of Jesus counts most. Every time I stand before students at Cornerstone, sharing with them knowledge, I do it with respect to my Heavenly Father. Anything I share with them for their transformation comes deeply from a spiritual connection with God, the one who gives us strength in whatever we do as we serve Jesus' vision through Cornerstone.

A major part of my work is building healthy relationships between Muslims and Christians. I love doing this work because one thing I know for sure is that the God we serve is not a God of Division. God does not clap his hands when hearing his name promote division, He does not rejoice when people spill blood over disagreements. The Holy Quran teaches about the sanctity of life: "If anyone kills a person it would be as if he killed all mankind" - Surah 5:32." (Continued on next page.)

# TANZANIA

The Holy Bible also encourages us to love one another, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Luke 6:31). All prophets sent by God emphasized love for God and for one another as self. Worshipping one true God. Therefore, every time I read these scriptures from the

Bible and the Quran, I see the need for promoting peace and oneness in societies irrespective of our religious backgrounds. I don't just do this kind of thing because Cornerstone loves this kind of work, I do it because this is a noble thing to do in the eyes of people who love God. All the prophets of God did the same

thing for humanity. It right and worth doing in the eyes of our almighty God, our Creator. Doing these things out of a Divine inspiration upholds me both materially and spiritually. The more work I do in honor of God, the more I recognize the material and the spiritual cannot be separated. *By: Abdallah Babu*



Waziri Mangoli  
COSA Tanzania

It is not easy to balance the spiritual and the material. Both the spiritual life and material life are part of human nature. They are inseparable and we each need both of them to succeed. Spirituality helps one center oneself and connect with the inner Self that we may call the spirit or the soul. I have tried to balance my spiritual life and material life and

have found that it requires a lot of sacrifice. The material life demands that I fulfill my desires, while the spiritual life demands that I let go of them. At times, I find myself allowing the material life to take precedence over the spiritual by allowing the desires of life, such as working hard and acquiring money, to overtake my spiritual growth. But, at times, when I recognize this is happening, I come back to my senses and look for ways to come back into balance again. When I begin to feel that my spiritual life has gone off balance, the first thing that I do is pray. I ask for forgiveness and look at the teachings of Jesus. The bible tells us, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and all other things will be added unto you." To me, this means that if I focus on put-

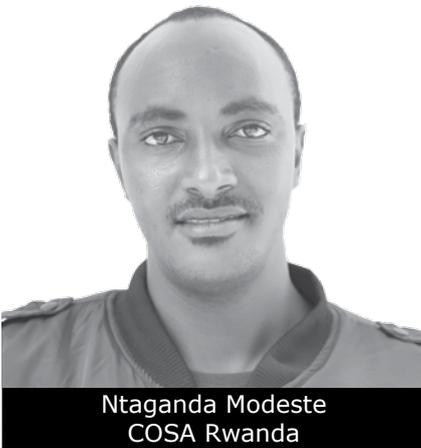
ting my spiritual life above all else, the other things will fall into place. Another practice that helps to keep my spiritual life on track is spending time in scripture. This guides my prayer life and it is what I do most often to make sure that I am using each day as a chance to grow spiritually. A balanced life requires a lot of effort and we will each find that at times we excel in one area of life more than the others. But, if we stick to our spiritual practices and enhance our relationship with Jesus, we will find that all the other spheres will come naturally. *By: Waziri Mangoli*

Students in class  
at **CLA TZ**





## RWANDA



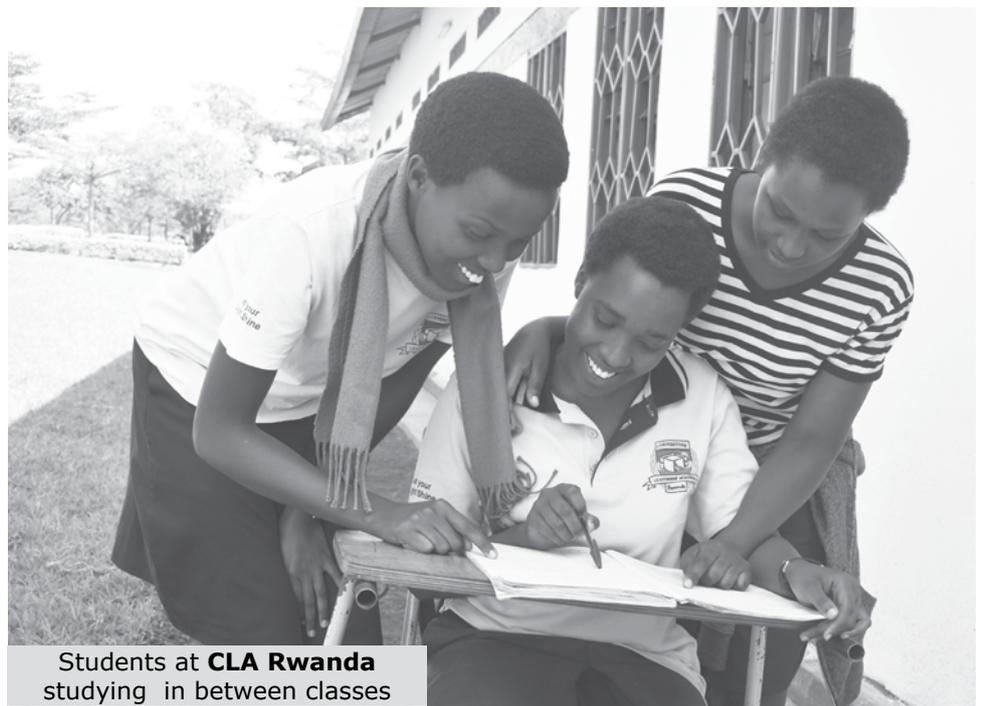
Ntaganda Modeste  
COSA Rwanda

I used to think that a successful life meant having every material thing at your disposal. But, after going through Cornerstone and learning about the principles of Jesus, I had a paradigm shift. I came to know that it is not about success or what you can do for yourself in a material way, but rather life is about significance and what you do for others. Yes, it's good to have all that we need for ourselves, but there is a Divine satisfaction that comes from serving others that fills a void in our hearts and brings light to our life.

In 2009, after graduating from Cornerstone Leadership Academy, I started serving at Cornerstone thinking that when I graduated from University I would look for a better paying job; but, after finishing my engineer-

ing course at University and being offered a job that paid much more money as I had originally desired, I realized that the relationships I had at Cornerstone were much more valuable to me and I decided to stay. These meaningful relationships I had made through Cornerstone have actually helped in a material way as well as leading to spiritual growth. My seeking spiritual growth alongside these friends means much more to me than seeking wealth. In Matthew 6:33 we are taught to seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and then all other

things will be added unto us. So, at the end of the day, it's not about how big or small the take home pay is. It's about the quality of our service to mankind. It's about the value we add to someone's life. It's true that man needs materials, but these are for helping us grow spiritually. When we focus on the Kingdom, there is a way that God provides for the material. So to me, it's about my contribution to the Kingdom of God and knowing that I am serving Jesus while serving others. This has allowed me to do the work that I do better. *By: Ntaganda Modeste*



Students at **CLA Rwanda**  
studying in between classes



Beatrice Nyakato  
CLA Rwanda

During this time of year, the students here at CLA Rwanda are spending their sleepless nights studying and praying while they prepare for their national exams that will happen at the end of November. The balance between praying and studying fits well with this newsletter's theme: Balancing the Spiritual and the Material. While trying to balance the spiritual life, one may ask themselves, "how can I be in the world, but not of it?" How can followers of Jesus live out this message? As followers of Jesus, we are set apart from those

who do not follow Jesus as we learn in John 17. As believers we should set apart from the world. As followers of Jesus we are meant to bring Light, good deeds, and fruits of the spirit into the world. We should exhibit the fruits of the spirit within us, "By their fruits we shall know them." I've learned that in order to not be taken over by the material and earthly things, I have to create ample time to work on my spiritual life. We can do this through meditation. One of the main reasons I meditate is because it creates space around me to focus on my inner being and renew my spirit. It helps me to not be so reactive to life. During meditation I think of compassionate and loving acts I could extend to people around me, friends, workmates, or even the community I live in. Sometimes this may simply be putting a smile on someone's face. To me, these acts of love define my spiritual life. Another way we can enhance our spiritual lives is through offering gratitude. Personally, I count my blessings

and think of how grateful I am for Cornerstone and for being a member of the CLA Rwanda staff. These blessings surround me and through them I have grown spiritually through fellowships, prayer, and our gatherings where we encourage one another. This blessing has not only allowed me to grow spiritually, but also materially. We have had many workshops that have taught us how to manage our finances through savings. In addition, I have also grown physically through games and relaxing moments that we share as a team. As a team we create intentional time to grow spiritually and materially. This has allowed us all to become happier and healthier in a whole way. These areas of growth support each other. As I wind up, I would like to send a note of thanks and sincere gratitude to all those supporting our programs through unconditional love. "You have never really lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you." Mother Theresa

*By: Beatrice Nyakato*



**COSA Rwanda** members celebrate graduation from University with Michael & Nancy Timmis and Mary & Dabbs Cavin

LASS Girls in walking competition



## SOUTH SUDAN



Charles Labalpiny, Leadership Academy of South Sudan

In my life I have found that it is not practical to dedicate my life completely to spiritual practice and ignore my material needs. Being in the world, to me, means striving to bring the Kingdom of God to Earth as it is in heaven. I've found that I must discover how to do this not only through spiritual practice alone, but how to bring this spirit into my responsibilities such as career preparation, my job, and my family.

Some things I do in order to try and bring spirituality into my everyday life include praying in the morning at home, having fellowships with others weekly, reading the Bible, attending Sunday service, and going to Bible study.

By doing these things I am able to have a spiritual aspect to my time with my family, my

work at the Leadership Academy of South Sudan, and while helping and supporting others. I believe that all that I do helps to create a balance between the spiritual and the material and that this balance does not come overnight. It is a difficult balance because I have a career, a wife, two children, and other responsibilities. I am raising my children, supporting my children to study in good schools, and soon I hope to construct a house.

I strive to balance between the four spheres of life in order to create a revolutionary change in the Kingdom of God. Physically I make sure that I carry out enough exercise and eat well. These things help me to have the energy I need to carry out all my responsibilities. To enhance my mental life, I read inspirational books and I am also pursuing a post graduate diploma in Education. In the social area, I try to meditate on things such as loving my neighbor as myself, encouraging others, and cultivating thriving relationships with friends. In the spiritual area I try to foster the nature of God in me through prayer, meditation, and reading the Bible. This balance helps to bring a spiritual awareness into my

day to day work. In addition, I try to surround myself with like minded people, to respect myself, others, God, and nature, and practice daily meditation. I find that when I work with all my energy and soul, not for earthly gain, but for God's purpose, I become more mindful in pursuing the Kingdom of God. This makes me feel balanced between the spiritual and the material.

*By: Labalpiny Charles*



Senior 5 students during praise & worship before Discipleship Class



Kamanda James, Leadership Academy Old Students Association

There is a spiritual principle that says, "If we are faithful with the little that has been given or entrusted to us, more will be given." Luke 12:48 says something similar, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded- and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked." Personally, taking up the great opportunity of leading and coordinating my fellow brothers and sisters from the Leadership Academy of South Sudan has been a great learning experience. I have realized that life is not all about my

personal achievement or success, but to serve God's purpose. I believe one of the best things we can do to develop our spiritual life is to give back to others. The verse above keeps me feeling energized in whatever I do. Cornerstone has given me much, as have mentors and people around me. I question, what can I give back in return? The opportunity I have now as a coordinator may be a starting point in giving back some of what has been given to me. Part of being a coordinator involves loving others unconditionally and forming personal relationships with the students. I have found that in this work you cannot separate the spiritual and the material. I strengthen my relationship with others and God while also improving my level of confidence in effective communication, leadership, problem solving skills, and more.

As I reflect on the balance in my life and work in terms of the spiritual and material there are a few things I do to keep that balance

and connect with the Source of Life. I pray, participate in fellowships, go to church on Sundays, involve myself in other fellowships in order to serve God while I improve my spiritual life. These things greatly expand my spiritual life, but I also realize I need to focus on improving all areas of my life: physical, social, mental, and spiritual. So, I am intentional about balancing my diet, exercising, relating with others, belonging to groups of people who add value to my life, communicating with God on a daily basis, and reading interesting news stories.

The nature of my work requires me to build relationships with people and know what is happening in their lives. I've found this work builds my spiritual life while also building my material life. Through my work that supports my material needs, I am learning how to better love my friends and love God.

*By: Kamanda James Amos*



LASS Football Club Won Division League in Nimule, South Sudan

# Cornerstone

## Newsletter Pictorial



Senior 5 Students in Discipleship Lesson on "Personal Integrity" at CLA Uganda Girls



Senior Six Graduate speaking at Leadership Academy of South Sudan



Participants at Advanced Leadership Gathering in Entebbe, Uganda



Cornerstone members at Transform Leader's Gathering in Uganda



Youth Corps First Aid training



Nancy & Michael Timmis visit Cornerstone for the **30th year**



Mary & Dabbs Cavin help celebrate opening of new bore hole at Ekitangaala Transformation High School



Cornerstone Staff at training in Tanzania



Care Groups at Leadership Academy of South Sudan



Girls from Youth Corps Home in Gulu, Uganda



Phillip & Sarah Ojok standing in solidarity with Ethiopian friends at Ermais' funeral.

*A Family of Friends!*



## KENYA



Gabriel Achayo  
AYLF Kenya

Currently, my faith is in a stage that I could call the: 'Do it for the relationship' stage. I deliberately work on cultivating a good relationship with God through Jesus. I understand I am loved by God and He has given me wisdom. It is a relationship and it is not dependent on my actions. My favorite verse is Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." While life is busy maintaining the material things, I wake up each day knowing it is another opportunity to work on my relationship with God through Jesus. I continually ask myself: Am I acting justly? Is the way I treat my wife, my two boys, my family just? Do I love my neighbor as myself?

The other question is mercy...Am I merciful? To love mercy is to

love compassion, forgiveness, to be human, to show care, and to be kind. I look at it as making others experience something better than what they would ordinarily experience. To make their lives better. This is not easy, but as a follower of Jesus I am called upon to love mercy.

I spend my days working with young leaders who often exhibit behavior that is very difficult to handle. But, through my spirituality I find it in my heart to be there for them, to be their confidant. I want to let them know that no matter what they do or how people view them, they can count on my friendship.

Finally, the last question is walking humbly with God. To me, this means to continually strive to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and strength. I fall short on this on many occasions. This is where my material and spiritual life meet. I try to bring awareness to the way I cultivate my understanding of His word, what He has called me to do, how I live my life at home, at work, how I drive on the roads, pay my bills on time, take care of my responsibilities, how I serve my wife and children, etc. How am I honoring God in my decisions, work, family, and other activities? I believe God has given us wisdom to make the choices that are good for us, but as I make

these choices am I cultivating my relationship with God? This season of Kenyan politics has tested my spiritual life. I am tempted to give up faith for a better world. How do I remain hopeful that love conquers all? How do I enact reconciliation as we teach our youth to do in Africa Youth Leadership Forum (AYLF)?

I have learned the hard way that God, in his own way, will help us deal with all these things. I have learned to create space for those who are going through similar struggles. What keeps me rejuvenated as I continue to serve in AYLF is to work daily on the balance between my spiritual, mental, physical, and social areas of life. I spend time every evening reading scriptures, praying with family, and listening to spiritual songs that build my spirit and feed by mind with positive thoughts. On my mental side, I focus on reading and journaling. I also spend the evening reflecting on my day and writing down thoughts that come up. For the physical side, I try to eat healthy. For the social side I have a great community of good friends, both young and old. This balance is what makes life worth living. And balancing becomes easier when you know you have good people to walk this road with you.

*By: Gabriel Achayo*



**AYLF** members support Junior Bwanza at his wedding in Bukavu

## DR CONGO



Baraka Emmanuel  
AYLF Congo

Being raised in a Catholic family, I thought the ticket to a good life was becoming a Priest. I saw priests that had respect from the community and my parents told me this was the best sacrifice you could make to serve God. But, in 2010 my plans of going to seminary changed as I began to change my way of thinking when I came into contact with Africa Youth Leadership Forum.

I realized that life is made up of many aspects: social, economic, physical, and spiritual. I began to realize that for me, being a Father could limit my growth in developing some of these areas and using them to serve God. I was supposed to join seminary in 2011, but instead I began volunteering for an organization called CIYOTA full time. As a volunteer I was not being paid, but out of the love I had for the vision, I

invested my time, energy, and money. Eventually this became unsustainable for me and I lacked money for food. I decided to go back to the village and work in the garden. My village did not have water so I created a tank that could collect rain water and then in dry season I would sell the water at a cheap price. This helped the community to survive and we were all happy.

I started to see how you could combine the material and spiritual aspects of life. Shortly after, a war between the rebel group M23 and the government started, I was forced to leave the village and go back to town. In town, I started training young people in entrepreneurship and leadership with the support of Congo Leadership Initiative. At this time, I was receiving a little money to survive, volunteering at CIYOTA as a country Coordinator, and had the responsibility in church as a Diocese Youth. There was a lot on my plate and I began lacking time for myself, for friends, and for family. I got married and this made me feel more responsible and engaged. I learned how to balance my time and expenses. I realized that it is never easy to accomplish exactly what you need and when you focus on one area another will suffer, but my spiritual life helps me to be connected to Jesus' perfect love. You can

try to invest in many things, such as income and farming, but in the end you'll find you need to invest in people. Investing in people will come with its own strains and the balance is not easy, but this will further connect you to Jesus' perfect love.

I went to a retreat at a seminary once that taught me something important about balance. I've learned the secret to balance lies in how you use your time. We are each given 24 hours in a day. You should divide it in three: use 8 for work, 8 for sleep, and 8 for prayer. If you do this, you will find yourself with few problems.

I have also realized that each area of our life supports the other. For example, when I realize that I am not having much time with my family, I raise some money and go with them for a retreat where we have more time to spend and pray together. When I realize I am not saving, I take a loan and invest in something. When I realize I am not concentrating in Prayer, I fast for a few days and remind myself that my relationship with Jesus is essential. This balance will always be a struggle, but what I know is that all is possible when you aspire to get there with God's help. *By: Baraka Emmanuel*



# BURUNDI



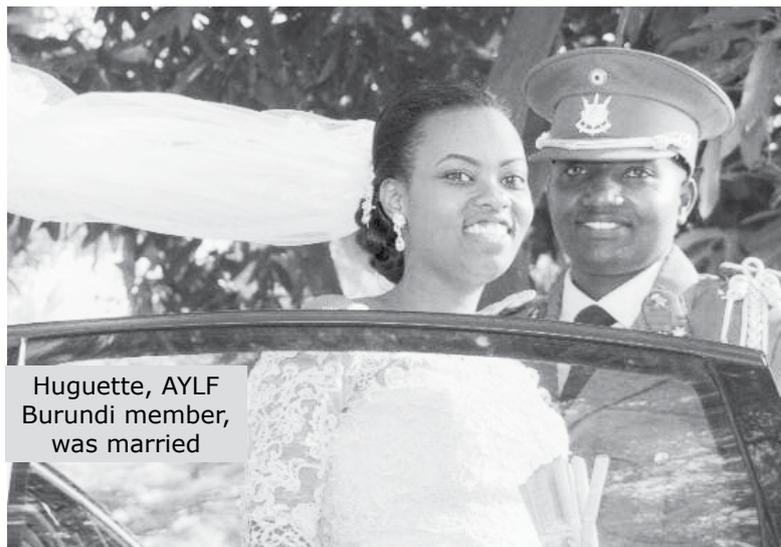
Keith Burikukiye  
AYLF Burundi

I am a spiritual being that was made to bring the Kingdom of God on earth. The mindset I have is from heaven because this is where I came from and it is where I will go back to after this life. Each of us bears a spiritual and material side. Throughout my life, I have understood my spirituality to mean being rightly related to my Creator. God created me with a purpose to contribute and invest my life in things that really matter, in things he planned for me before I was born. I am meant to leave a legacy as it is written in Ephesians 3:10. I believe I am contributing to this legacy through my work with Africa Youth Leadership Forum in Burundi. The material side was created for me to be able to access things that will allow me to achieve the goals that I set. God has appointed

16

these simply as tools (food, clothing, etc.) Material things are necessary and there are times when I lack them, but this doesn't change the way I view my spirituality. I know there is something greater in God's Kingdom. I know that focusing purely on an earthly mindset will cause me to lose the sense of purpose that gives meaning to my life. I often remind myself that I can rely on the trust I have for God and use what I do have to show His love to others. I was made as a co-creator with God, so my goal is to use everything in my possession to glorify him. In this way our spiritual and material lives are intertwined. One example of this is when I wanted to pay transport fees for 20 students from the countryside to come to a conference. However, I only had enough money for 15 of them. I tried raising money from friends, but it didn't work out. I prayed for God to provide for me because I was at the end of my efforts. Trusting that God would provide, I kept telling the students to come to the confer-

ence even though at that time I did not have enough money for them. In the end, God provided wisdom for how to raise the money and all the students were able to come. When you trust in God's provision, anything is possible. My spiritual life guides me in everything I do. I get wisdom for life from my relationship with God and this helps me to use the resources that I have and have a positive outlook on life's challenges. I remind myself that my life is fulfilled if I use what God gives to make a contribution toward things that matter in the eternal scheme of things. My principle is, "It is in giving that we receive." As we give, sometimes materially, our spiritual needs are met and we find that we are investing in things that really matter and will leave a legacy. *By: Keith Burikukiye*



Huguette, AYLF Burundi member, was married

Participants from 5 different countries at **Unity Initiative**

## THE UNITY INITIATIVE

*At the inaugural Unity Initiative, 34 participants gathered in Uganda from 12 countries including: the United States of America, Austria, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Jordan, Lebanon, New Zealand, Palestine, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Participants represented a wide array of cultures, languages, and religions. Seeking to foster relationships across cultures, The Unity Initiative brought together young professionals from the Middle East, East Africa, and the Western world for a one-week gathering in Uganda. The event was based on the belief that the life and message of Jesus of Nazareth (Nbi Isa) is both a radical and practical example to heal the divisions of our world. During the event, participants explored principles such as nonviolence, compassion, and forgiveness exhibited by Jesus of Nazareth. The hope was for participants to build relationships across divisions while sharpening their abilities to approach all cultures and people with a sense of openness and acceptance, in the name of Jesus, in order to cultivate a more peaceful future.*



Juliana Pita, AYPN Uganda

At first, I thought the Unity Initiative was simply going to be a much needed holiday for me. In the midst of all the busy-ness of life, I did not expect to unearth so much about myself during the week of the event. The first night was overwhelming, so many different people, nationalities, races, and religions, and even different sects under the different religions. The complexity of the Unity Initiative became apparent then. How was I going to relate with all these different people on a personal level? At the beginning of the event, I was tempted to stick with the people who were familiar to me (the East Africans). But, as the days went by I was able to connect with people who were the most different from me. My first friend from the Unity Initiative was named Mary. She shared very openly with me about her family, which is a core part of my life as well. We bonded very quickly over this. My second friend was Stefania, a power woman from Austria who was living in Jordan at the time. We spoke about everything and enjoyed plentiful laughs over karaoke. One lesson I will always carry with me from the Unity Initiative is that diversity is beautiful. The friendships I built and the connections I have made remind me that we

truly are one in Jesus. His love is the glue that keeps us together. His love makes all differences that the world has built around us irrelevant.

**By: Juliana Pita**

Participants from Jordan & Uganda



# Discipleship Curriculum Update

Four years ago we embarked on the process of revising the discipleship curriculum used at our schools with a focus group of vision bearers and stakeholders. After much collaboration amongst the headmasters, discipleship coordinators, and head office, we began implementing a draft of the new version of the curriculum earlier this year. In this time, we have held trainings in many of our program countries to help familiarize our teachers and wider community with the new material. The new curriculum consists of three core pillars of our work: character development, spiritual formation, and leadership empowerment.



Alfred Edakasi training staff on new curriculum in Uganda

These are spread across two year, 50 sub-topic curriculum. Most of the topics have been drawn from the old curriculum, while other topics have been combined or incorporated into new lessons. Anyone familiar with our content, and the transformational culture in our community, would say that, “none of this totally new,” as it remains entirely true to the spirit of our work. It is only updated, more articulate, and more helpful for lesson facilitators. The curriculum will continue to be under review as we work with our schools this next year to ensure we are capturing all we want to teach our students in this phase of our work. You can see an overview of the revised curriculum below:

Spiritual Formation	Character Development	Leadership Empowerment
Orientation Week (Orientation to Cornerstone, Orientation to the Curriculum, Orientation to our Philosophy of Leadership)		
<b>Discipleship Foundations</b>  1.0 Intro to Discipleship 1.1 Prayer 1.2 Scripture 1.3 Fellowship 1.4 Witness 1.5 Kingdom of God 1.6 Five Streams of Faith 1.7 Practicing the Presence	<b>Ten Core Principles</b>  1.0 Intro to Principles 1.1 Being Jesus Centered 1.2 Vision & Purpose 1.3 Respect & responsibility 1.4 Hard Work / Excellence 1.5 Resourcefulness 1.6 Stewardship 1.7 Covenant Relationships 1.8 Mentorship/Small Groups 1.9 Forgiveness & Reconciliation 1.10 Balance	<b>Inside Out Leadership</b>  1.0 Leadership Perspectives & Theories 1.1 Life Mapping 1.2 Self Awareness 1.3 Personal Integrity 1.4 Emotional Intelligence 1.5 Finding your Place
<b>Virtues of the Heart</b>  2.0 Introduction to Virtues 2.1 A Virtuous Man/Woman 2.2 Righteousness & Peace 2.3 Faith & Courage 2.4 Kindness & Humility 2.5 Joy & Gratitude	<b>Seven Habits of Highly Effective People</b>  2.0 Intro to Seven Habits 2.1 Be proactive 2.2 Begin with the end in mind 2.3 Put first things first 2.4 Win-win 2.5 Seek first to understand... 2.6 Synergy 2.7 Sharpen the saw	<b>Practical Leadership Skills</b>  2.1 Exemplify 2.2 Envision 2.3 Engage 2.4 Equip 2.5 Empower
Capstone Essay/Project		

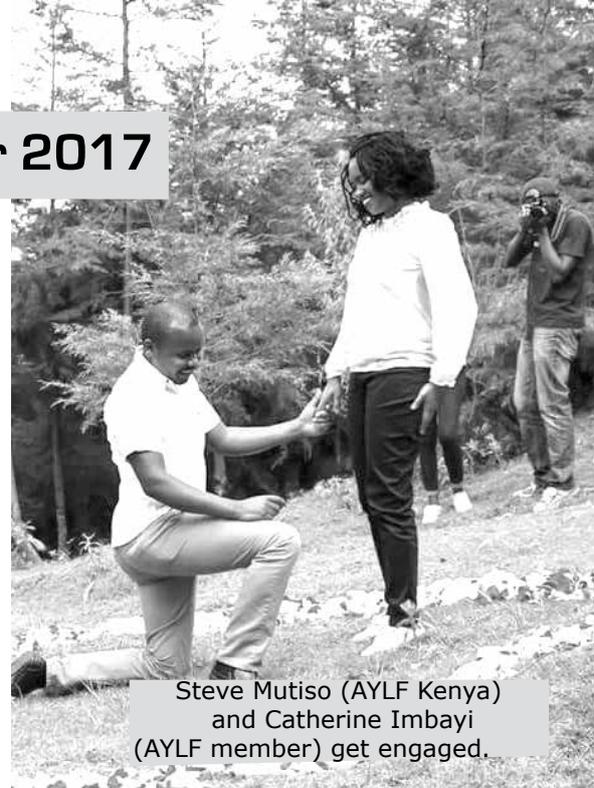
# The 10 Commandments of Building Wealth



- 1. Find a Deeper Motive:** Money alone is often too shallow a goal to motivate you to overcome all the obstacles that stand between you and prosperity. When you find a deeper motive like providing for your family, personal freedom & growth, or a charitable cause, then you'll have the internal motivation to persist and succeed.
- 2. Give More Value Than You Take:** When you live to give value to others then your financial success can be seen as a measure of how much you have given to the world. It's a satisfying way to live. When you live in this way you are aligning with a divine principle of: "It's more blessed to give than to receive."
- 3. Live with 100% Integrity:** Don't lie, insult, or cheat in pursuit of financial wealth. Don't cause harm, encroach on others property, violate moral law, or damage the environment - you will be violating divine laws. Integrity is non-negotiable because no amount of money can replace a good night's sleep, a clear conscience, and a peaceful mind.
- 4. Be Courageous:** It takes courage to be a self-starter and be self-responsible. It takes courage to walk new paths and develop new skills. It takes courage to stand out from the crowd. It takes courage to put out the extra effort when others don't. Wealth results from doing things what others won't do.
- 5. Be Disciplined:** Life will conspire to distract you from achieving your goal. Only the disciplined will stay the course with consistent enough action to get results.
- 6. Avoid Excessive Consumption:** Nobody ever spent their way to financial freedom. Every day you make choices between consumption today or wealth for tomorrow.
- 7. Develop a Supportive Lifestyle:** Life provides an endless stream of distractions to sidetrack your plans for wealth. The solution is to create support systems out of family environment, relationships, work environment, financial habits, daily rituals that support and reinforcing your plans.
- 8. Apply Leverage:** Leverage is when you are able to use other people's money, networks, knowledge, resources, time or skills to enhance your own. It often separates those who achieve wealth from those who don't. You can't do it all yourself you need leverage. A partner or a mentor can be looked at as leverage.
- 9. Treat Your Assets Like a Business:** As much as possible try to get everything you own to either save you money or make money. If you have more than one house - see if you can find a way to rent what you are not living in. If you have a car - see if you can find a way that it can make money for you.
- 10. See yourself as a Steward of Wealth:** Through wealth, you have the opportunity to bless yourself and your family's life now and in the future. But, you are also in the unique position to organize charitable programs that can do great social good. The fact that you can't take it with you means wealth is a gift to be shared. Money is little more than a tool that comes with the responsibility to use it wisely. It's not something you possess, but something that passes through you.



In the spirit of celebration, we are adding a new section to our newsletter. We are calling it "Milestones." It is a chance for us to celebrate the significant moments and milestones happening in our community. We believe that significance comes in many forms, from the life changing events to the small moments in our connections with others. Throughout the rest of our newsletter, we celebrate many of the small, but significant everyday moments. This section is a space where we can record and celebrate larger events, best efforts, milestones, and accomplishments in our "family of friends." We want to celebrate weddings, leadership posts, jobs/internships/promotions, published books/music albums, academic results, and more! We are not only mentioning successes, but also valiant efforts that align with our core values. Please note that this section is just a small glimpse of the accomplishments in our community across East Africa. If there is something significant you'd like mentioned in the next newsletter for yourself or another member of the family of friends, please email: [cstonemedia256@gmail.com](mailto:cstonemedia256@gmail.com).



Steve Mutiso (AYLF Kenya) and Catherine Imbayi (AYLF member) get engaged.

### Academics

- Belyse Niyukwizera (BU-AYLF) is pursuing a Master's Degree in Cameroon
- Irina (BU-AYLF), Ishara (BU-AYLF), Keith (BU-AYLF) completed studies at International Leadership University and University of Bujumbura
- The following students from Rwanda will be pursuing studies at various Universities:
  - Batamuriza Diana (RW-CLA '16) Mass Communication at University of Rwanda
  - Linca Stella Matutina (RW-CLA '16) International Business & Trade at African Leadership University
  - Uwamahoro Charlotte (RW-CLA '16) Medical Imaging at University of Rwanda
  - Asante Ruth (RW-CLA '16), Ingabire Ruth (RW-CLA '16), Mukamurigo Odeth (RW-CLA '16), Isimbi Leah (RW-CLA '16) Finance at University of Rwanda
  - Ngoga Peter (RW-CLA '16), Muhire Faustino (RW-CLA '16), Mugabo Mike (RW-CLA '16), Gikundiro Penninah (RW-CLA '16), Ishimwe Deborah (RW-CLA '16) Bachelor's of Law at University of Rwanda
  - Gasagire Anitha Merci (RW-CLA '16) Global Challenges at African Leadership University
  - Mahe Desanges (RW-CLA '16) Statistics at University of Rwanda
  - Kanyanja Ingabire Levia (RW-CLA '16), Uwera Ruth (RW-CLA '16), Umuhoza Simbi Fanique (RW-CLA '16), Uwase Gertrude (RW-CLA '16), Mukiza Ivan (RW-CLA '16), General Medicine at University of Rwanda
  - Mutoni Diana (RW-CLA '16), Business Management and Logistics at Kepler
  - Komungaro Sharon (RW-CLA '16), Business Information Technology at University of Kigali
  - Muberarugo Jacky (RW-CLA '16), Public Administration at University of Kigali
  - Bahirwe Ange Gloria (RW-CLA '16), Mechatronics at Wyższa Szkoła Gospodarki University of Economy
  - Mukashyaka Irene (RW-CLA '16), Procurement at University of Kigali
  - Kabera Nithia (RW-CLA '16), studying Law in France
  - Ruzirabwoba Pacific (RW-CLA '16), Izampabyose Innocent (RW-CLA '16), General Nursing at University of Rwanda
  - Nsengiyumva Salomon (RW-CLA '16), Dental Surgery at University of Rwanda
  - Giribuntu Aime Stephen (RW-CLA '16), Iradukunda Pacifique Mukiza Ivan (RW-CLA '16), Business Studies at Kepler
  - Barahirwa Jean Claude (RW-CLA '16), Medical Psychology at University of Rwanda
  - Dusabimana Emmanuel (RW-CLA '16) Business Administration at Gulu University
  - Kigundu Emmanuel (RW-CLA '16), Clinical Psychology at University of Rwanda
  - Mugabo Daniel (RW-CLA '16) Marketing at University of Rwanda
  - Iradukunda Patrick (RW-CLA '16) Agribusiness at University of Rwanda
  - Imanaturikumwe Emmanuel (RW-CLA '16) Anesthesia at University of Rwanda
  - Manishimwe Jean Pierre (RW-CLA '16) Education at University of Rwanda
  - Niyomukiza Olivier (RW-CLA '16) Biochemistry at University of Rwanda
  - Murenzi Ashimwe Jean Claude (RW-CLA '16) Military Academy Rwanda
  - Nshimiyimana Alex (RW-CLA '16) Economics at University of Rwanda
  - Kwizera Isaac (RW-CLA '16) Pharmacy at University of Rwanda
  - Mushabe Ronald (RW-CLA '16) Food Science at University of Rwanda
  - The following students from Rwanda will graduate from University programs this year: Umuhoza Beatrice (RW-CLA '12), Maniriyio Emmanuel (RW-CLA '12), Mugwaneza Jeannette (RW-CLA '12), Muyoboke Fabrice (RW-CLA '12), Namanya Gloria (RW-CLA '12), Uwambaje Annet (RW-CLA '12), Kabatesi Peace (RW-CLA '12) Finance at University of Rwanda. Arinaitwe Enoch (RW-CLA '12) Microbiology at University of Rwanda. Baruta Patrick (RW-CLA '12), Matsiko Dennis (RW-CLA '12) International Economics at University of Rwanda. Kamariza Christina (RW-CLA '12), Kayitesi Jescah (RW-CLA '12) Agro-Veterinary at University of Rwanda. Karongo Phionah (RW-CLA '12) International Relations at University of Rwanda. Masengesho Marcel (RW-CLA '12) Biotechnology at University of Rwanda. Mutenda Ngabo Ezra (RW-CLA '12) Business Computing at Christian University. Ndahimana Jean Batista (RW-CLA '12), Nkizingabo Eric (RW-CLA '12) Insurance at University of Rwanda. Ngesonziza Enock (RW-CLA '12) Banking at University of Rwanda. Nkomeje Bonny (RW-CLA '12) Monetary Economics at University of Rwanda. Nyangoma Hope (RW-CLA '12) Finance at University of Kigali. Uwamurera Patience (RW-CLA '11) Banking and Finance at Kim University
  - Akech Nancy in Kumi (SS-LASS '16) received a scholarship from African Inland Church
  - Kiden Josephine (SS-LASS '16) is pursuing Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences at Makerere University and coordinates the MasterCard Scholars
  - The following students from South Sudan received MasterCard scholarships: Juan Jane (SS-LASS '16), Awat Lona (SS-LASS '16) pursuing Bachelor's in Business Administration, Ajwok Mary (SS-LASS '16) pursuing Bachelor's in Journalism, Maneno Stella (SS-LASS '16) pursuing Bachelor's in Social Sciences
  - Upendo Mollel (TZ-CLA '16) received a scholarship to pursue a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Japan

- Mugwanya Elimia (UG-ETHS '13) received a scholarship to study in Israel
- Lubwama Javis (UG-ETHS '07) was accepted to participate in an Advanced Leadership Training at Haggai Institute in Hawaii, USA
- Yusuph Athuman (UG-ETHS '13) completed his studies in Development Studies at Makerere University
- The following students from Uganda received MasterCard scholarships: Nabisaso Winy (UG-CLA '16), Yeko Joan (UG-CLA '16), Ocen Patrick (UG-CLA '16) and Nakayima Stella (UG-CLA '16)
- Achola Brenda (UG-CLA '16), Nabatanda Gloria (UG-CLA '16) and Ayinomugisha Rita (UG-CLA '16) received a Government Scholarship
- Nakawesi Gloria (UG-CLA '16), Kiiza Vincent (UG-CLA '15) and Ssekito Patrick (UG-CLA '15) got a scholarship with Madivani

## Leadership & New Initiatives

- Khemis Zakaria (SS-LASS '15) was elected MP for School of Management Bugema University
- Juma Tom Majid (SS-LASS '15), Alier John (SS-LASS '15), Poni Annet (SS-LASS '15), Pita Phillip Ladu (SS-LASS '15), Omelson Charles (SS-LASS '15), and Loro Ronald (SS-LASS '15) have been elected to Students Guild Council at Livingstone International University
- Okwera Francis (SS-LASS '15) was elected as Class Representative at Kyambogo University
- Okwera James (SS-LASS '15) is the coordinator for AYLAF African Renewal University chapter
- Loro Ronald (SS-LASS '15), Pita Phillip (SS-LASS '15), Alier John Panchol (SS-LASS '15), & Loro Stephen (SS-LASS '15), created initiative called Diverse Peace, Reconciliation, and Leadership Development to promote peaceful co-existence and create conducive environments for development and transformation of communities
- Utyera Lazarus (SS-LASS '15), Omelson Charles (SS-LASS '15) volunteer with Seeds of Hope helping orphans in Kyirandongo Refugee Settlement
- Joshua Luyonza (UG-ETHS '11) was selected to speak at Nehemiah Gateway Annual Leadership Summit in Germany
- Duncan Baraha (UG-AYLAF) was elected as the Guild President of Uganda Christian University
- Teacher's saving scheme, CONADEF, at CLA Girls has raised 68 million Ugandan Shillings
- Lydia (UG-CLA '08) and Emmanuel Bwanga (UG-ETHS '08) held outreach program empowering youth in Luwero, Uganda
- Sabiiti Sylvester (UG-CLA '13) was elected the Information Minister at Makerere University
- Ahabwe Jacky (UG-CLA '14) was elected the Finance Minister at Kampala International University
- Katete David (UG-CLA '13) was elected the Minister of Integrity and Ethics at YMCA
- Eliya Fredrick (TZ-CLA '13) elected as Ward Counselor in one of the wards of

## Kakonko District

- Joram Nkumbi (TZ-CLA '13) initiated Salaam Mentoring program and uses radio to teach leadership
- Joel Kihongoa (TZ-CLA '13) Minister of Education at Jocuco University
- Daniel Ngowi (TZ-CLA '14) Class representative for theology students at University of Mount Meru
- Gift Ngumuo (TZ-CLA '14) Marketing Director for Builders of Future Africa
- Loserian Mollel (TZ-CLA '14) Working with Builders of Future Africa
- Judith lazier (TZ-CLA '14) started initiative called Mesisisi to design head wraps
- Frank Sakalani (TZ-CLA '15) Parliament Secretary in the Institute of Students' Representative Council at Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology
- Robert Jambia (TZ-CLA '15) Member of Parliament in the Institute of Financial Management
- Hellen Mtui (TZ-CLA '15) Member of Parliament at the University of St. Joseph
- Ombeni Serley (TZ-CLA '15) Assistant Bible Study Coordinator at the University of St. Joseph
- Maryam Maganya (TZ-CLA '15) excom financial coet at the university of dar es salaam
- Andrew Chausa (TZ-CLA '15) Member of Students' Parliament at the University of Dar es Salaam
- Winfrida Kaaya (TZ-CLA '15) Secretary of Undergraduate and Post Graduate Economics Association in the University of Dar es Salaam
- Felista Moses (TZ-CLA '15) Minister for Accommodation at Dar es Salaam University College of Education
- Elizabeth Njau (TZ-CLA '15) Treasurer for Builders of Future Africa
- Elpidius Mulokozi (TZ-CLA '15) Assistant Treasurer for Builders of Future Africa
- John Mkasu (TZ-CLA '15) Deputy Security Minister at the University of Dodoma
- Wivini Mtende (TZ-CLA '15) Class Representative for third year students at the University of Dodoma
- Regan Richard (TZ-CLA '15) Class Representative for third year students at the University of Sokoine
- Elvis Elfazi (TZ-CLA '15) Facilitator for High School Leadership Initiative Development
- Vicent Kuley (TZ-CLA '16) General Secretary of Tanzania Horticulture Students' Association
- Elisante Ephraim (TZ-CLA '16) Director General of Africamoja Youth Society and President of Builders of Future Africa
- Elvis Namajojo (TZ-CLA '16) Chairman for Christ Ambassadors Student Fellowship Tanzania
- Janeth Mathayo (TZ-CLA '16) Treasurer for The Christian Union at Mount Meru University
- Mathew Bussu (TZ-CLA '16) Class Representative for Second Year Students at The University of Mzumbe
- Christopher Wilson (TZ-CLA '16) Class Representative for Second Year Students at National Institute of Transport
- Nisya Silvanus (TZ-CLA '16) Music Director for Catholic Fellowship Group at

## The Arusha Institute of Accounts

- Benedict Jonathan (TZ-CLA '16) Coordinator for Discovering Bible Study Fellowship Group
- Branly Madati (TZ-CLA '16) Assistant Coordinator for Discovering Bible Study Fellowship Group and Class Representative for Counseling Students at University of Mount Meru

## Jobs

- Cornerstone Employment Agency started operating and has connected eight of our members to employment opportunities thus far
- Ishara (BU-AYLAF) job at KCB Bank
- Miranda (BU-AYLAF) job at media center called Akeza.net
- Isaac (BU-AYLAF) job at a local youth organization
- Huguette (BU-AYLAF) job at an initiative that promotes women's development
- Mugabe Moses (RW-CLA '09) job as a tech engineer at Hope International
- Tumusime Fred (RW-CLA '11) job as an accountant at Christian Life Assembly
- Maniriyio Emmanuel (RW-CLA '12) job as an auditor PKF Auditing Firm
- Aaron Tumusiime (UG-ETHS '13) Job with Natural Care Uganda
- Kisake Eve (UG-ETHS '10) and Oroma Doreen (UG-ETHSA '11) started fashion and design shops
- Nelly Senyonyi (UG-ETHS '09) started Interlocking Bricks Construction for poor families

## Marriage

- Robinah Mutesi (RW-CLA '10) married Livingstone in October 2017
- Sibio Jude (RW-CLA '09) married Kayitesi Jescah (RW-CLA '12) in November 2017
- Uwamurera Patience (RW-CLA '11) married Karangwa Jean Boschin in November 2017
- Twongirwe Peninah (RW-CLA '13) with Mugume Sargin
- Huguette Charnella Girumubanyi (BU-AYLAF) married Therenca in November 2017
- Steve Biko Irakoze (BU-AYLAF) married Lydia in early 2017

### COUNTRY ABBREVIATIONS

**UG:** UGANDA, **RW:** Rwanda **KA:** Kenya, **TZ:** Tanzania, **SS:** South Sudan, **BU:** Burundi, **DRC:** D.R. Congo

### PROGRAM ABBREVIATIONS:

**CLA:** Cornerstone Leadership Academy, **LASS:** Leadership Academy of South Sudan, **ETHS:** Ekitangaala Transformation High School, **AYLAF:** Africa Youth Leadership Forum, **HLD:** Highschool Leadership Development, **YC:** Youth Corps

## Balancing the Spiritual & the Material

a very competitive scenario where our social status is largely being measured by how “successful” we are at accumulating money and various assets like cars and houses. So, it’s not surprising that “Survival” and then “Success” have become the totally overwhelming preoccupation of most humans on the planet. And this is exactly why our sacred texts and wisest sages are constantly reminding us to look beyond spending our lives solely on selfish material pursuits that will be worthless to us when we transition out of these physical forms in a short time.

Jesus spoke more about money than any other subject besides the “Kingdom of God.” And, a lot of what he had to say about money was in the form of serious warnings not to get caught up in pursuing it alone. In the parable of the Farmer who was sowing seed, Jesus says, “...like seed sown among thorns, are those who hear the word; but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.”

East Africa, has one of the highest percentage of youth as compared to anywhere else on the planet and I am constantly speaking to groups of young people here – often on the big picture: the spiritual perspective to life that Jesus gave us. But, the reality is that about three quarters of the African population still lives on less than \$3 per day. So, lately I have been half-joking with my staff that while I am expounding on lofty spiritual themes – if there was an optional, lecture next door to mine on how to do some small business that could earn \$100 per month, half of my audience would opt to leave and attend that one.

I say “half-joking” because I know that soul-degrading poverty can rob the potential of the youth, drive adults to desperation and sometimes costs a life when medical care or food cannot be afforded. And, I greatly sympathize with the cry of the many who are trying everything they can to break out of the poverty cycle.

No wonder that many of the churches here now focus on the “prosperity gospel.” (The belief that financial blessings are the will of God for everyone and that faith, positive speech, and donations to the church will increase your wealth.) Some of it is off-balance but without a doubt, it’s very appealing to those who have experienced much poverty and it gives them hope. So, how does one find the balance? How does one reconcile Jesus’ statement that he came that we might have life – and have it abundantly, with other statements like: “You can’t serve both God and

will spend our entire lives trying to figure out. And, I don’t have all the answers but let me share some of what I have learned about healthy attitudes on finances. Sometimes, it’s good to begin with looking at the causes of behaviors, which are our internal beliefs before we work on behaviors. And foundational to financial health is the basic attitudes we hold in our mind about money. These attitudes are largely absorbed or programmed into us in three primary ways:

**1.Verbal Programming:** What did you hear about money and wealth when you were growing up? “We are poor,” “We can’t afford it,” “All rich people acquired their money in wrong ways” and so on. Such statements can remain in the back of your mind and don’t support your own healthy attitude toward financial well-being.

**2.Modeling:** How did your parents manage money? How did they deal with the lack of it? (Alcohol, theft, domestic violence.) All these things matter a lot, because as kids, we learn just about everything from modeling.

**3.Personal Experiences:** Did you miss going to school because of money? Were you embarrassed by not having enough clothes or scholastic materials? Did money come easily in your family or was it always a struggle? Was money a source of joy in your household or the cause of arguments? Such experiences shape the attitudes we now live with.

Next, here is a list of some contrasting attitudes and actions associated with “abundant life” v. those that result in a life characterized by lack:

Attitudes & Actions that lead to Abundance v. Attitudes & Actions that lead to Lack:	
Invest first and live on what’s left.	Spend first and invest what’s left.
“I create my life.”	“Life happens to me.”
Focus on opportunities.	Focus on obstacles.
Respect those who have succeeded.	Resent rich and successful people.
Constantly keep learning new things.	Tired of trying to learn anything new.
Associate with positive people.	Associate with negative people.
Accept to get paid based on results.	Want to get paid only based on time.
Are courageous enough to try their ideas.	Let fear paralyze them.
Manage money carefully.	Manage money carelessly.
Spend less than you earn and invest the rest for the future.	Spend everything you earn when you get your salary so that you enjoy today.

I once asked a local bookshop what was their top selling book. They told me it was "Rich Dad, Poor Dad." This book describes how strong personalities types like US President Trump (who the author said was one of his inspirations) got rich and advises the reader to copy them. Yes, there is some good advice in it, but some that is not for everybody. For instance, he argues against education and for entrepreneurship. Yet studies show that only about 1/3 of people have entrepreneurship skills or interests and 2/3 do not. So, if you are feel you are among the 2/3rds group, education will still be important for you.

The author of "Rich Dad Poor Dad," also exchanges the Bible adage: "The love of money is the root of all evil" with the statement that: "The lack of money is the root of all evil." Well, if you grew up in poverty you might think that money is the solution to all problems. But, those who grew up in rich families know that much wealth can bring a completely different set of problems.

In any case, there are things that money can't buy which you can choose to work on right now: Manners, morals, good work ethic, respect, character, common sense, trust, patience, class, integrity, honesty, creativity, confidence, joy, gratitude, positive attitude, kindness, faith and many more. And interestingly, even though you can't buy these qualities, people who develop them will tend to attract more prosperity into their lives.

Well, it's also not very encouraging that the author of the book recently had to declare bankruptcy but here are three good points that I found in the book:

1. Find a reason greater than survival to motivate you.
2. Feed your mind, research and get information on the area where you want to invest. Try to master one field of business or investment option thoroughly so that you can deal in it effectively.
3. Choose your associates carefully. Avoid people who are pessimistic about life and making money - instead spend time with people who are positive about money matters. Moving beyond that book, much of the writings about financial literacy can be condensed into these classic, four main principles for financial independence:

**1. The Principle of Thrift:** Do things inexpensively where possible and don't waste money extravagantly.

**2. The Principle of Industry:** This means being hard working at all times, busy and productive.

**3. The Principle of Saving so as to Invest:** Set aside part of everything you earn no matter how little and find a way to invest it.

**4. The principle of Earning interest rather than paying it:** Financially literate people use debt only when it leads to increase in earnings or to acquiring assets which gain value faster than the interest on the debt. Financially in-disciplined people use debt to buy things quickly that they should have patiently saved up to buy - especially things that have no income potential or that decline in value over time.

My final observations are more specific to the African context. There are thousands of ways to make money and invest it, but investments that I see working out are land/properties and sometimes cows for those that come from cattle keeping cultures with up-country relatives that can watch over them. For many other forms of investments, what is known locally as SACCOS (small 'Savings and Credit Cooperatives') that have exploded in popularity all over the region, are often the best route. When they are organized well, they tap the power of synergy for investing and also provide a safe place to put money that cannot be easily removed. In this way, they have helped people overcome the common cultural expectation whereby when any relative comes asking for money and you have spare cash on hand or even in the bank - you can feel obligated to give it.

#### Conclusions:

**1** We are here on earth for a human experience that has value for our spiritual formations as eternal souls. Life is a gift and not a punishment.

**2** To live well, we must try to master the mechanics and dynamics of this system we find ourselves in and that involves dealing wisely in the areas of finances, health, relationships and learning.

**3** Life is very unpredictable and often does not seem fair to us. Still we must play that game as best we can with the cards we have been given.

**4** Despite trials and tribulations, when we embrace our relationship with our Creator who is also the Creator of the system (and who called it good, Genesis 1:31) we can find a joy and peace that transcends whatever is taking place currently in our daily journey, as we walk the way of Jesus.

**5** There are consequences beyond this lifetime as to how we use the time, treasure and talents that have been entrusted to us. (Matthew 25) And, "To whom much is given- much is expected." Luke 12:48

# Balancing the Spiritual & the Material

## Thoughts from Tim

There is a thought-provoking saying that goes like this: 'We are not human beings here to have a spiritual experience. We are spirit beings who have come here to Earth to have a human experience.'

I like it because it forces me to reframe my entire perspective on life according to the true, big-picture nature of Reality. We came from God, we belong to God and we will return to God. But this saying also implies that the physical dimension provides a special kind of experience we as souls have purposefully come into - as part of our eternal growth and advancement.

So, it reminds me that life is for living and we need to fully embrace the best of the human experience - including the fun, laughter, love and savoring the wonders of it all. Therefore, I have come to believe that "mastering the art of living" is knowing how to enjoy this life to the full, despite the challenges it contains, while always keeping the bigger picture in mind (the lessons of life we came here to work through and the missions that we came here to carry out.)

One of the "Top 5 Regrets of the Dying" from the popular book by Bronnie Ware, a nurse who spent years working with patients in the last weeks of their lives is, "I wish that I had let myself be happier." Jesus had this to say on this topic, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (Jn. 10: 10) "In this world you will have trouble. But be of good cheer! I have overcome the world." (Jn. 16:33)

Life is an adventurous journey filled with joys, hardships and everything in between. But, there is no escaping another fundamental fact of human experience, around which we would be wise to structure our entire attitude toward life. It is simply this: Within a fairly short time this journey will end. So, as the ancient Hebrew shepherd king David wrote:

"Teach us oh Lord to number our days, so that we might incline our hearts unto wisdom." (Ps. 90:12) Compared to the 14 billion-year-old system we live within (the Universe) and the 4.5 billion-year-old planet we live upon (the Earth) - a single human life span, even if it reaches 90 years, is really nothing. No wonder St. James wrote: "What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." (James 4:14)



Therefore, it's only prudent to take seriously the principle of: "Begin with the End in Mind" - one of the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" that we teach in our academies. When we teach it, we ask the students to fast-forward 60-80 years, to the day of their

funeral and ponder this

question: "What do you want people to be saying about you on that day?" And then, "Can you begin to become that person today?"

For each of us, our entire DNA comes from just 8 people, that is our great-grandparents. Yet, today almost none of us can recite all their names. This is a stark reminder, that in the same way, after a few generations we ourselves will largely be forgotten. The houses we owned or built will be occupied by people who don't know us, the business or organizations we developed will be non-existent or taken over by others, the cars we owned will be junk.

All of this underscores the point that, it is vital to live our lives with the larger, eternal perspective in mind and make sure that we clearly understand what is of heavenly value - what we will be able to transfer from this world into the next chapter of things. Yet, the truth is, even when we know all this, the day-to-day demands pressing on us right now can be so urgent and stressing that we easily lose sight of the bigger picture. And, on top of all this, even after we have covered basic needs for ourselves and our dependents - we all seem to get completely drawn into