



Rwanda: Pascal Imana



Pascal's Story

My Early Family Story

I was born and raised in a non-Christian family and I don't remember a single day when my parents took me to church during my childhood.

Unfortunately, when I was one, my parents divorced; my mother remarried immediately but my father took me and waited until I turned 5 to remarry. But the wife that he had married was very rude to me because according to our culture,

stepchildren were always seen as threat to their stepparent. This pertained only to boys because they were viewed as heirs of their father's wealth. Unfortunately, my father was killed right after the genocide and my only hope was gone—he was my only hope in the world. After his death, the stepmother took advantage of that and she sold off everything that my father had acquired. My father had been a very successful entrepreneur in the city. (he owned bars, a restaurant, a cab company, and



a forex bureau). After selling off everything, my stepmother relocated us to Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda, and she kicked me out the family—I was only 14 years old.

A Kind Muslim Man, my Christian Cousin and a Loving Missionary



I went back to the West where I grew up and I became a street kid for about 3 years. While on the street I met a Muslim man, who used to work for my dad. He put me back in school but never forced to become a Muslim. It was during this time that I met my cousin who had become a Christian. My cousin invited me to go to church with him and the first time, I gave my life to Jesus. My

desire for ministry grew more and more. Then a team on a mission trip from North Carolina came and they were training people in evangelism and leadership. My goal was to be an evangelist in the church, not a pastor. I was sent by my church to participate in this training for 7 days. After spending 7 days with one of the ladies on the team from North Carolina, she said “Pascal, God wants to use you in ministry. Would you consider going to seminary for more training?” I looked at her and said I am interested in going to the seminary, but I don’t want to be a pastor. Upon the end of her trip she gave her email and told me to make up my mind and when I was ready, I should email her. To cut the story short, I never wrote to her because I wanted to pursue a career as a civil engineer. Because I had done some training in construction, I started hunting for a job, but I kept receiving the same answer “we are reviewing your application, we will give you a call.” This lasted for about 18 months when I realized I was going against God. You cannot fight Him and win the battle.



You Cannot Fight God and Win

I wrote her an email and she immediately responded. She took me to Uganda where I did my undergraduate at GTS in 4 years. In the middle of my schooling in Uganda, I met Emmanuel and we co-planted Rugerero Village Church. When the church was 3 months old Emmanuel left for Wheaton and I was left alone at church with 45 members. I was there for two years and by the time Emmanuel graduated, the church had over 300 people. Two years ago, this church planted another church in Mahoko Village with 215 members. Later I completed an M.A in Evangelism and Leadership at Wheaton College, IL with a Billy Graham scholarship.

Reach Out Youth Solutions has played a big role in the growth of the two churches because 85% of the membership of both churches is under 35 years. I am now married to Peace, and God has blessed us with two children. Currently, I serve as the President of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Rwanda, which is an indigenous church movement with 45 churches in Rwanda and 25 churches in Congo. The Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry strategy has significantly helped us grow these churches in terms of creating sustainable discipleship. I also serve as the country Director of Jesus-Focused Youth Ministry in Rwanda.



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