

Meet Our Church – Sister Church Relationships

Greetings from the Lead Pastor

Dear friends at First Congregational Church of Christ

Greetings from Uganda and PERM Banda Church.

We are very excited to share with you our first exchange as we move towards building a mutual relationship between the two churches. This is indeed going to be a very interesting journey for both of us as we learn from the various contexts and experiences.

In this issue, we would like to “walk” you around our church, sharing with you our different ministries, experiences and community. We have also included a story about one of us just to give us a “close-up” view of what happens within our church communities. Our vision as a church is to be “a Caring, Christ-like Community.” We want to see this modeled in our worship gatherings, discipleship programs and community response.

As a reflection of the Ugandan population, ours is a young church with the average age being around 27 years old. The oldest person in our church is 56 years old. For this reason we are consciously reaching out to the young generation as evidenced in our children ministry – Tumaini Christian School.

We will also launch a campus ministry soon [this August] starting with one of the universities [Kyambogo University] near our church.

Again, we are so excited to have you as fellow travelers in this wonderful journey of serving our Lord Jesus Christ.

You possibly have heard of this African Proverb, “if you want to go very fast walk alone; if you want to go very far walk with someone.” We [you and us] have made a better choice.

All Blessings,

Rev. Emmanuel Akatukunda

Lead Pastor, PERM Banda Church.



Lead Pastor, Emmanuel Akatukunda and his wife Hellen



A Bible Study Session during the week.

The church meets two times in a week besides the Sunday Worship Gatherings: - on Wednesday for Bible Study and Friday for Prayer and Intercession

PERM Banda Church at a Glance

- ❖ **Full Name:** Pentecostal Evangelical Revival Church, Banda
- ❖ **Short Form:** PERM Banda Church
- ❖ **Location:** Banda Zone, Nakawa Municipality, Kampala City, Uganda, East Africa
- ❖ **Our Vision:** To be “A Caring, Christ-like Community”
- ❖ **Official Language:** English
- ❖ **Other languages used at Church:** Luganda, Ateso. There are **two worship gatherings every Sunday** English/Luganda @ 8.30 am and English/Ateso @ 11.30 am.
- ❖ The Church is composed of mostly young people — a reflection of the young Ugandan population
- ❖ **Tumaini Christian School** is a children ministry that concretizes our ministry philosophy of Christian discipleship and Community response

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Stories of Grace:

Emmanuel Obore is a year and half years old. His mother Anne is 52 years old. Yes, you read it right: 52 years old. Anne has no regular job, except for making local pan-cakes which she sells to university students who live near her house.

Emmanuel is a miracle-child. He was abandoned – actually thrown away - when he was barely one month old by his biological mother at a garbage collection site near a local market in a Kampala city suburb. It so happened that Anne, who had gone very early to the market to buy vegetables, was attracted to the garbage site by a sizable group of curious onlookers. With no one willing to take the baby, Anne volunteered to take him. She went to the police station and she was subsequently granted permission to take custody of Emmanuel.

Everyone who knew Anne thought that she had made a grave mistake. How could she take care of this abandoned child when she is very old and with no job?

But almost 18 months later, Anne is very grateful to God for having given her the opportunity to give this precious child a chance to live. Anne’s story is a great encouragement to our church on how all it takes to care is a big heart and not a huge wallet [having lots of money]

Emmanuel
and his
mother
Anne



Our Church Choir during a practice session



Our Co-pastor, Gideon and his wife Jessica



Joyful: One of the Praise sessions in a worship gathering

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Community Response

On Good Friday, most Christians in Uganda carry crosses of various sizes and march around towns and cities to observe “the way of the cross” in commemoration of our Lord’s death on the cross. Our church decided to observe this year’s Good Friday differently. Instead of carrying crosses, we carried hoes, spades and other tools and went to clean up a community well.

Most people in the sub-urban and rural parts of Uganda have no access to piped water in their homes. They, instead use communal well to access safe water and also do their laundry. Often times the wells [and other public facilities] are left uncared for due to poor local governance.



A Child fetching water from a community well

Such wells are a source of safe water for the community



People from different households doing their laundry at the community well. In the Background the church members are cleaning the drainage channel for the well.



Church members clearing the water channel.

Due to poor maintenance sometimes the community wells become blocked with debris and overgrown grass thus blocking the water from flowing freely [see above picture]



Women and some children working at the stone quarry.

Because of lack of employment many people within the Banda Community work in such places for their livelihood.

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More of our ministries

60% of Uganda's population is below 20 years of age.

50% of the total population is children below age 14.

We are intentionally structuring our ministry priorities to reach out to these critical age-groups because we believe that the future of Uganda lies on what society, especially the church, does with them now. Just as the strength of any building is dependent on its foundation, so the future of Uganda depends on its children and young people.

Kyambogo University has a student population of about 20,000. In August we will launch a campus ministry here, which will involve evangelism, discipleship and training in various life-skills.



A savings group. Our church has two savings groups, each one comprising of about 15 people. We encourage people to save and use money to develop their families. We hope to start a micro-credit scheme if funds allow.



Above: Children of Tumaini Christian School.

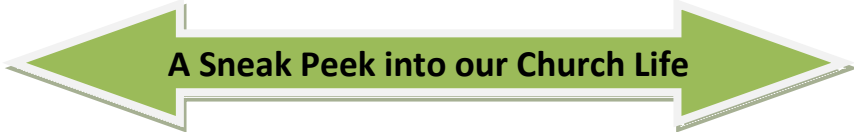
“Tumaini is a Kiswahili word meaning “hope”. Against the backdrop of HIV/AIDS, disease and wars that have left many children orphans and hopeless, we envisioned a children's ministry that would give hope to this hopeless generation.

Tumaini Christian School is one of the ways we are doing this. Right now we have a kindergarten but we plan to have a complete primary school in future and, God willing, a high school. Our vision is to nurture first-class Ugandan and African leaders through our school system.



Tumaini School children celebrating their friend's birthday

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A Sneak Peek into our Church Life



Paper Necklaces: One of the women projects in our church aims at boosting their family incomes



Jessica our church's women's leader making necklaces at her home. Jessica mobilizes women in the church and the community to participate in various women activities



One of the baptism sessions when we welcome new believers into our church family



Baby dedication during one of the services: We celebrate life in such moments as these.



Children dancing in one of our worship gatherings. Children ministry is a core ministry in our church



One of our Sunday School Sessions

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The congregation praising God during a Sunday worship gathering



Dance for the Lord: A Youth group worshipping in an African Dance



Part of our church leadership team poses for a photo after service.



A slum in our church neighborhood. Kyambogo University is in the back ground



Our church building. It is planned to be a 3-storey facility. We have put a temporary roof as we raise more funds to continue the project



The front view of Tumaini Christian School