

MIGISHA MUSHENGA STEVE

My Story



I was born on 9 January 1976 in a small rural village of Tongo in the district of Rutshuru, in North Kivu province, Eastern of the Democratic Republic of Congo. I am the fourth of nine children. I am 43 years of age. Our father and mother were both in pastoral ministry. Our father graduated from Rwankuba Baptist Bible School in 1979, was ordained and leading a church as Assistant Pastor from 1980 up to now. He has now 39 years in ministry leading the church and has served as Director of a Bible School in SINGA after the Baptist missionaries left in 1990. Our father was bi-vocational. He was a farmer. This was the job that provided for the needs of the home and family. He also built a house for his family and bought some lands for us while pastoring the local Baptist church.

Our mother has not given the opportunity to go to a Bible School. She had not get her primary education either because of the african mindset that girls had no right to study at that period, only boys could be sent to school. However she learned how to write and read the Bible when my father was at the Bible School for 3 years. I honor both my father and mother for their hard work to provide for us all we needed in life and especially their faithfulness to the service of God for all these years and still counting ...

Not all my siblings (3 brothers and 5 sisters) are involved in the work of ministry but they have professed their faith in Christ Jesus and serving in their churches with the gifts God has given them. Safari Mushenga Today, One of my brothers is serving in the army and he is a Christian. We praise God for that.

I was born in a small rural village in Tongo, in the District of Rutshuru but was raised and grew up in another village called Singa in the same district of Rutshuru and it is here where I did my primary and secondary education. Here we grew beans, maize, sweet potatoes and many other food that we enjoyed. We had also some goats, pigs and cows but when the tribal war broke out we lost all this wealth and fled to a safe city. Later we came back in this same place and we continued to live there. From the time I was small until I was 17 I lived a normal Christian life, born in a Christian home but there was little taught concerning Christian living or the claims of Christ upon one's life. Nevertheless, as my affiliation with the church (the Baptist church, where my father was the Assistant pastor) and the moral teaching from my mother and regular advices from my father must have made some impression on my conscience. As a pastor's son, I did not get involved in sexual practices or drunkenness.

In 1993, I got a serious disease on my body mixed with malaria. During this time we were displaced at Rutshuru city starving there as we had run away from tribal war which occurred in our territory since 1990 ; and when I was at the door of death I committed my life to Jesus and accepted Him as my personal Lord and Savior, it was latter on that I confessed publically my faith and repentance in the church after the Lord had healed me and we had returned to our mother church in Singa Village. I thought even though I could die I will be received by Him in heaven. I started reading my French New Testament Bible during that time and later I was baptized in June 1995 after my secondary school education.

I continued receiving help and fellowship from friends. After getting my national Diploma, I thought that the Lord was calling me into Law or into medical studies but later I realized that the Lord was calling me into His ministry.

In 2007 I was sent to study theology in Uganda and my friendship with other Christian brothers at All Nations Theological College in Uganda (Brother David Taban Oliver a South Sudanese student

and brother Waibera MAHAMBBA (Congolese student) and the late Joseph MUWONGE (a Ugandan Reformed pastor who is now with the Lord) together with Rev. Steven Kinuthya (a Kenyan friend) whom I met at Westminster Theological College in Kampala, Uganda were also instrumental in my growth as a College Christian student. Their commitment to Christ has been a great encouragement and challenge to me.

On September 1998 Vestine and I were married and God had blessed us with 8 children. Unfortunately three of them have gone to be with the Lord while still infants (one girl and a boy died when they were 2 years young and another boy went to be with the Lord after my graduation from the College while he was 5 years young). These are the saddest moments we have had in our marriage. Though it is normal for all but it is very sad to lose children. We are renting a small house in the city of Goma where we are living and learn to serve our God, His Church and the people around us.

Our elder daughter Consolate Uwiringiye Mushenga is now 20 years old and she will be completing her secondary education by next year 2020. She is doing social sciences (Nutrition medical). Esther Uwamahoro is 8 years young and she is in Primary 3 by this school year 2019-2020. John Calvin Nsanzimana is 6 years young and has began his primary education this year September 2019. Jonathan Hatangimana who is 4 years young and lastly Micah Bright (a boy 4 months young). I am serving as pastor and church planter since 2016 but has served before as elder for 3 years soon after my graduation from the Westminter College in Uganda in 2011.

I graduated from All Nations Theological College and Seminary in Uganda (ANTS) and was awarded a B.A Equivalent in Missions studies and then I went to Westminster Theological College (WTC) and was awarded a B.A in Theological studies in 2011.

Soon after my theological college training I did not become pastor until I was about 35 years when I started an Evangelical Presbyterian church in Goma. After 3 years serving that local Evangelical Presbyterian church, today Kivu Presbyterian Church where I decided to exercise the gift of preaching, teaching and servant leadership. I also serve orphans, widows and victimized women who live around our church plant in Mugunga and Goma city.

Goma Theological Institute (GTI)

Last year I named the Study Center **Goma Theological Institute** and with MINTS (Miami International Seminary) sending teachers to the Bible school that is being developed step by step. We have now 15 serious students in the Francophone Program.

Kivu Presbyterian Church (KPC DR Congo)

I am serving the Lord in the Kivu Presbyterian Church in Goma DR Congo as its senior pastor and church planter. This is a denominational church registered in the DRC department of Justice since March 2017.

Community Action Project (CAP)

Apart the preaching and teaching in the pulpit and at the Bible Study Center, I am also reaching, with the gospel of Jesus Christ **Orphans, widows and victimized women with special needs** and who are living around our church plant in Mugunga and Goma city.



Timothy Two Project International

I am also serving with this ministry to train key pastors in biblical and theological foundations so that they are equipped and able to train others. 2Tim.2:2

Education

Singa Primary School-got national certificate in 1988

Singa Secondary School- From S1 up to S4 (1989-1992)

Katwe Institute – from S5-S6 (192-1994) graduated with National Diploma

All Nations Theological College and Seminary- 2007 until May 2010 graduated with B.A in Missions studies

Westminster Theological College in Uganda-2010-Dec 2011 –B. A in Biblical Studies.

Today I am pursuing Masters Degree with Miami International Seminary.

Prayer Request and Personal Comments

For the past three years, my wife Vestine and I have been involved in planting and strengthening a local church in Goma. After my graduation at Westminster Theological College in Uganda, we came back to DRC to plant a local reformed church in Goma and open a Bible Study Center in order to make pastoral training more accessible to larger numbers of pastors in the region.

I plan to help plant local churches but my hands are tied behind my backs. I have no source of income to provide for my family while I lay the ground work for the local church. As pastor I am actually not supported by my congregation for my labor, and nothing is given to me except prayers offered which I greatly appreciate. I have been looking for a payed job for years but I have found none. I still struggling to earn my life for my large family of 7. I wish the full benefit of my education be realized for the benefit of the church so that the local congregation is strengthened and equipped... I need people of willing hearts like you to pray for my ministry in DRC and provide any \$200 per month so that I am able to feed my family and take care of the sheep of Christ.

This is my story per now and this will continue as I learn to serve my God in the capacity He will be giving me.

Pastor Migisha Mushenga Steve
Cell- +243972492958
E-mail- usestevelord@yahoo.com

GOMA DRC