



Life in a Refugee Camp in Uganda

I administer a free online course of biblical studies with students around the world.¹ In the context of this course, I have opportunity to mentor and correspond with the students. And through correspondence, I have opportunity to get to know them personally, as well as gain some insight into their life situations.

What I have found of particular interest is that a number of students live in refugee camps in various countries. And I have the most experience with those who live in a particular refugee camp in Uganda – specifically, the Kyaka Refugee Settlement II, Kyegegwa District, Uganda.

My involvement has been mostly with a Congolese refugee, Gulain Mapendano Muissa. Previously, I have shared [*Gulain's Backstory*](#). Here, I'd like to share a little about daily life for he and his family in the refugee camp.

¹ At Christ's Table School, <https://www.AtChristsTable.org/at-christs-table-school/>

The Muissa Family

Gulain Mapandano Muissa is 41 years old. His wife is Kakasi (31).² Joseph (15) is the oldest son.³ Gulain and Kakasi have 5 children: Gilbert (9), Robert (7), Norbert (5), Bienvenue (3), and Betty Vickery (1). Veronica Sangwa (16), Kakasi's younger sister also lives with them.

This family of 9 live in a small house in which they constructed. They use their house also for church gatherings.

In 2018, refugees received a ration of 12 kg of corn and 3 kg of beans per person, with a limit of 7 rations per family. After a while, the food rationing ended. It was replaced with 10,000 Ugandan Shillings per person, which is equivalent to \$3 per month. This provision was

² Gulain's first wife, Elize, was murdered by the Rwandan FDLR in the DRC. She had given birth to Gulain's oldest son, Joseph.

³ Joseph had been tortured by burning when the FDLR in DRC were hunting down Gulain.

obviously very inadequate. Adults and children going without eating for days was not uncommon. The existence of such need in the camp gave rise to crime. Now, both the need and the crime have increased with the stopping of US Aid. The Ugandan government, impoverished itself, has not been able to reintroduce any aid programs. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) is using its very limited funds to transport new refugee arrivals from the DRC into new camps in Uganda⁴, and support for existing refugee camps has waned. Also, support for pregnant and breastfeeding women has been suspended in many settlements. This leaves tens of thousands — including children under two and vulnerable pregnant women — at high risk of malnutrition. It is these people who are the focus group of Gulain's ministry – *Groupe De Mamans Ministres International* (GMMI).

⁴ Newly opened reception camps such as Nyakabande, Matanda, and Kabazana.

There is a UNHCR hospital in the camp, but it lacks medications. All that it has to offer those who are hospitalized is Paracetamol (Acetaminophen - Tylenol). There is no government-sponsored health care for Ugandans and, obviously none for DRC refugees.⁵

The school in the Kyaka camp has about 600 students. Instruction for the Lingala-French-speaking Congolese children is only in the local Ugandan language.⁶ Currently, none of the children in Gulain's household are attending school because they cannot afford the school fees and / or the additional school costs.

With regards to employment opportunities, firstly, the Ugandan economy is very poor, secondly, Ugandan businesses will hire Ugandans instead of refugees, thirdly, the refugee camp is located in a very rural area,

⁵ As I write this article, I am informed of another Christian family in the same refugee camp in Uganda where the husband is hospitalized for Typhoid, Malaria, and other undiagnosed conditions because of no funds to pay for tests. Meanwhile the wife, who has just given birth to a second child, is home alone without sufficient food.

⁶ Runyakitara

and it would require transportation to get to places of work. I am told that some find work locally like digging latrines – Joseph, Gulain’s son, has done this work. There are some parcels of land owned by the Ugandan government which can be leased for the purpose of cultivating and harvesting food.⁷ But the available parcels are relatively few. However, an individual who was leasing such a field had obtained sponsorship enabling immigration to a European country and wanted to sell the lease to the field. With a gift of just \$150, Gulain was able to purchase the lease of this field. With it, he is growing food. At harvest time, he plans to have some food to feed his family, as well as a number of widows and children, and, if possible, others in need. We pray for this project to be increased with the acquisition of more parcels of land for cultivating and harvesting food.

⁷ An effort of the UNHCR working under Uganda’s national framework to integrate refugees (the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, CRRF).

Deliverance

I also am involved with a few other bible students in other refugee camps in other countries where government aid is more available for refugees.⁸ Nevertheless, even in those situations, people are stuck for years not being able to obtain citizenship and not being employed. Hence, my over-all impression of life in refugee camps can be described as both adults and children being in a type of “suspended animation” – stuck in daily survival mode, with nowhere to go.

Gulain often uses the word “deliverance” when speaking about the work of ministry. When I hear that word, casting out demons comes to mind. But Gulain uses the word “deliverance” in its foundational sense of “being set free”. He uses the term “family deliverance” – families being set free. Set free from what? Set free from the life of suffering as refugees.

⁸ For example, a refugee settlement in Dreieich, Germany.

Gulain's desire – indeed the desire of all refugees – is to get to a western nation, apply for asylum, find employment, and send for his family. Obviously, this is a difficult goal to achieve. But that is his faith before God. In the meantime, he and his family continue to live daily life in a refugee camp.

“Bear One Another's Burdens”

For about a year now, the Holy Spirit has been speaking to me – instructing me, convincing me – about “bearing one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ”. (Galatians 6:2) I've been intrigued by the idea that helping bear someone's burden can actually “fulfill the law of Christ”. But I am beginning to understand that is exactly what Jesus did when He came to earth to set us free from sin and death – He took upon Himself all the burdens which sin had put on all of fallen Humanity. When we help bear someone's burden we enter into “what is lacking in Christ's afflictions”: “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh, **I am supplementing what is**

lacking in Christ's afflictions on behalf of His body, which is the church." (Colossians 1:24) Of course, it is not that the work of Christ on the cross is "lacking" anything. The Greek word, *husterema*,⁹ is **not an adjective** describing Christ's afflictions. It doesn't mean Christ's work was not enough for salvation. It is **a noun** – meaning "that which is not completed". God intended for Jesus' sufferings to be "supplemented" by us. This is "the fellowship (participation in) His sufferings". (Philippians 3:10; Cf. Romans 8:17; 2 Corinthians 1:5, 4:10-11; 1 Peter 4:13) This plays an essential part in being "conformed to the image of His Son". (Romans 8:29; Cf. 1 Corinthians 15:49; 2 Corinthians 3:18) It is becoming experientially clear to me that **involvement – be it emotional, physical, or financial – with refugees not only "fulfills the law of Christ" but is a means by which God "conforms us to the image of His Son"**.

In closing: If you are looking for a place to invest finances for the furtherance of the kingdom of God, please consider contacting Gulain directly:

⁹ Strong's # G5303

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/gulain.muissa.2025>

Email: mapendanomuissagulain@gmail.com

WhatsApp Phone Number: +256769245494

* * *

Again, the motivation behind this Missions Project

is the eBook - *[“Doing Good”](#)*

* * *

At Christ's Table - ACTpublications

"Explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words."

1 Corinthians 2:13

© 2025

W.D. Furioso, Writer ~ Frances Furioso, Editor

At Christ's Table Ministries ~ ACTpublications ~ <https://www.AtChristsTable.org>

ACTpublications may be freely shared, reproduced, and distributed - unaltered, in digital or print formats. Any quotations or excerpts must also be unaltered and referenced with the above information. Scripture quotations taken from the (NASB®) New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1971, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Bill & Frances Furioso
At Christ's Table ~ ACTpublications



Bill Furioso and his wife, Frances, have been married for more than 40 years, and have two children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Bill and Frances served as missionaries in South Africa for thirteen years making disciples, establishing churches, and training church leaders. Over a span of 40 years, they also traveled extensively in an itinerant Bible teaching ministry which took them to hundreds of gatherings on four continents ministering in churches, conferences, spiritual formation seminars, and home gatherings. They have shepherded several churches, disciplined many to Christ, and mentored church leaders in the USA and abroad.

Being an avid student by nature, Bill has done both formal and informal study in various fields including Education, Music, Philosophy and Theology. As a writer, he has authored many publications which are distributed worldwide. Because of Bill's disabilities resulting from a spinal cord injury, he can no longer travel, so their ministries of writing, recording, distributing, mentoring, and correspondence are now shared primarily via the Internet... www.AtChristsTable.org

ACTpublications

“Explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.” 1 Corinthians 2:13

A teaching ministry from Bill and Frances Furioso

At Christ's Table

Disciples of the King and His Kingdom eating and drinking of Jesus

THE HEAD

THE CENTER

THE FOUNDATION

of Biblical Christianity

with a view to

REVELATION of Christ

RELATIONSHIP with Christ

REFLECTION of Christ

READ-LISTEN-DOWNLOAD (FREE)

ALL OF OUR MINISTRY RESOURCES ARE ON OUR WEBSITE:

<https://www.AtChristsTable.org>

Other places you will find our written & recorded resources ...

WRITTEN MESSAGES

The Restoration Library: <https://www.therestorationlibrary.com>

Academia.edu: <https://independent.academia.edu/WDFurioso>

RECORDED MESSAGES

YouTube: www.YouTube.com/user/BillFurioso

Academia.edu: <https://independent.academia.edu/WDFurioso>

SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/user-648428572>

Spreaker: <https://www.spreaker.com/user/14502151>

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: www.facebook.com/atchriststable

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/at-christ-s-table-ministries-254b5320/>

Twitter: <https://www.twitter.com/atchriststable1>

WhatsApp: +1 (585) 747-3906

Life in a Refugee Camp in Uganda

12