

## Bridging the Gap between Academia and Ministry to the Community

Square Ministries Africa is a non-profit organization established in 2006 with the mission of assisting church leaders in East Africa to holistically transform their communities toward self-reliance while continuing the core task of making new disciples. Our work centers on practical, community-focused ministry.

### *What we do & why it matters*



One of our most important efforts is the Theology of Work training. Rather than formal seminary education, this is informal—but deeply impactful—training: three modules, over two years. We bring the teaching to the trainees’ own environments; we stay close, move into their communities, and mentor them

in ways relevant to their local culture and realities.

Past participants tell us they have grown in both commitment to God and in their work, using their own skills and resources locally rather than relying on outside help. Their projects have helped to send children to school, support families, and sustain ministries.

When COVID hit, God gave us vision and strength. In the Diocese of Eastern Uganda



alone, we trained over 150 clergy and lay readers across two years. Beyond teaching, every participant launched a personal project to sustain themselves and support their families. None regret stepping forward.

One of these individuals, Patrick Nicholas Barasa, stood out. Square Ministries supported him to pursue a Master of Divinity at Uganda Christian University. In October 2024, he finished. In January 2025, he was made a Deacon. Today, Patrick serves as assistant parish priest in St. Micheal Osukuru COU a church in a remote area of Eastern Uganda and serves as General Secretary of FOCUS Uganda. Even though he is paid in town, part of his income is committed to planting churches in rural areas where the Gospel is most needed.



### *The gap we seek to fill*

While our informal training has borne fruit, there remains a *gap*: many pastors and lay leaders lack formal theological qualifications. Formal credentials often open doors for leadership, recognition, and more effective ministry. Yet traditional seminary or theological schools can be inaccessible—due to cost, distance, or requirements that don’t align with rural realities.

We see an opportunity: to build on our successful informal training and develop a pathway to formal recognition or certification for those who have gone through our Theology of Work modules. Such a program would bridge the gap—honoring the work already done, raising standards, and empowering leaders to serve more effectively.



*A personal story*



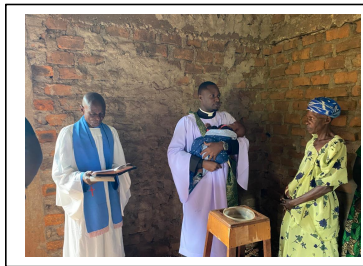
Consider Patrick's journey: chosen from among many, he committed to further studies despite challenges. When he finished, he was ordained, called to leadership, and now splits his income to support both his family and church-planting in remote villages. This outcome illustrates what is possible when informal and formal training merge, and it underscores the long-term impact of investing in people.

*What we ask of you now*

Please consider assisting us in any of these 3 ways:

- Will you consider becoming a **sustaining partner through monthly giving of \$ 25,\$50, \$75 of \$100** —to come alongside us financially, as well as in prayer, to help us launch this formalization program?
- Might you help us with an **initial grant or pledge to cover the first cohort of formal education?** The total cost is \$ 1,000 for a student per semester - They study 6 semesters.
- Could you assist us in **connecting with theological institutions, donors, or networks** that share our vision for accessible and contextually relevant theological training?

*Your support will mean many things:*



Leaders like Patrick Nicholas Barasa will thrive, not only informally but recognized, qualified, and equipped.

Remote rural communities will gain access to better-trained pastors.

Families of clergy will be more stable, better able to sustain education and livelihood.

The Gospel will be proclaimed effectively—with integrity and relevance—in places often neglected.

*Closing & Thanks*

Thank you for taking the time to read about this vision. We believe that together we can help bridge the gap between informal ministry and formal qualification, so that pastors and church workers all over East Africa can serve with deeper knowledge, greater recognition, and more lasting impact.



We are grateful for your prayer, your encouragement, and any support you might offer. May God bless you richly as you consider this appeal.

*Ephesians 4:11-13 "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherd and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."*

In Christ,

**Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Mukeshimana (Ph.D.) Theology/Development, CEO/Square Ministries Africa**

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