



PATHFINDER MABLE TWINAMATSIKO

# Retired teacher empowering girls

After retiring from teaching in 2015, the former Ntare School teacher started serving her society by nurturing and mentoring girls in Christian ministry.

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Everyday Mable Twinamatsiko wakes between 4am and 5am says a prayer, reads the Bible and posts a prayer on her Facebook page.

In 2015, Twinamatsiko retired from active service. But the former English, Literature and Christian Education teacher at Ntare School, Mbarara was not tired. So she started on another career-journey in changing the girl-child's life. She was inspired by a realisation that the family is under threat because parents are busy working to make ends, some even living apart due to work obligations.

"Children are tomorrow's family make up. When they are not brought up in well organised families, they don't commit themselves into permanent relationships. Instead they prefer casual or temporary relationships and cohabitation. In many marriages, unfaithfulness is the order of the day leading to conflict in homes and domestic violence. Others get married but stay together for a very short time. We are joining efforts to save future families," says Twinamatsiko.

Given that she had prayed about it and her husband Prof. Amos Twinamatsiko had given her his full support the former Ntare School Scripture Union was ready to roll.

## Background

Born in July 1955, Twinamatsiko is the sixth child to the late Dorika Kabusimbe and Asansio Rwanyabahija of Kasherere, Kaharo Rukiga County, Kabale District.

She first dropped out of school due to school fees but was later



Mable Twinamatsiko (centre) with some of the girls under her mentorship. PHOTOS BY ZADOCK AMANYISA

helped by her sister's husband. "At some point before going to school, my father thought I should not. But my uneducated sister and her husband instead sent me to school helped by my brother who was a teacher," says Twinamatsiko.

She started school life in 1970 and attended Hornby Girls Primary School, Kaharo Primary School in 1975 and Bishop Kivengyere Girls School, Muyebe in Kabale for O-Level in 1979. She later joined Kyebambe Girls School in Kabarole, for A-Level in 1982 thereafter joining National Teachers' College -Kyambogo for a diploma in education majoring in Literature in English and English Language. She graduated in 1984, and joined Makerere University where she graduated with a Bachelors in Education.

Twinamatsiko got married shortly after her diploma in 1985 to Dr Amos Twinamatsiko who was at that time working at Kisiizi Hospital in Rukungiri District. They are blessed with four biological children, Joshua, Ruth, Jonathan and Joseph, a son-in-law Bronson, and a granddaughter Ashley.

She has taught in Kigezi High School in Kabale District, Rubirizi Secondary School in Rubirizi District and Ntare School in Mbarara.

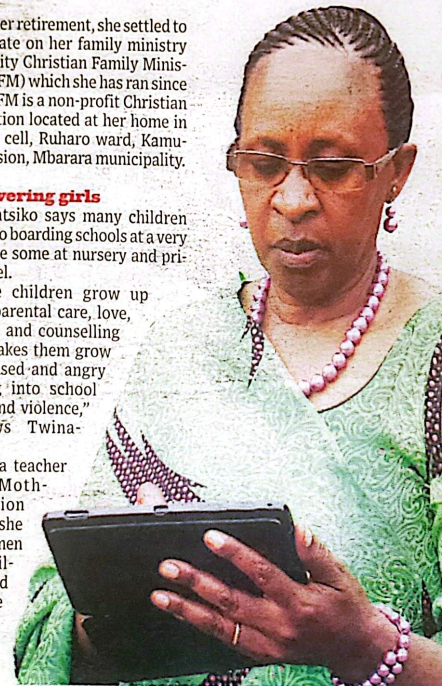
Upon her retirement, she settled to concentrate on her family ministry Community Christian Family Ministries (CCFM) which she has ran since 2010. CCFM is a non-profit Christian organisation located at her home in Mbaguta cell, Ruharo ward, Kamukuzi Division, Mbarara municipality.

## Empowering girls

Twinamatsiko says many children are sent to boarding schools at a very young age some at nursery and primary level.

"These children grow up lacking parental care, love, guidance and counselling which makes them grow up confused and angry resulting into school strikes and violence," she says Twinamatsiko.

Being a teacher and Mothers Union worker, she says women and children used to come to her for counselling



and because of this, she realised there was need to address the society's basic unit.

CCFM operates mainly in the south-western part of Uganda in Ankole and Kigezi sub-regions. Inside CCFM, there is Girls Empowered to Serve (GETS) which involves mentoring girls who just have completed high school and are waiting to join higher institutions of learning.

Girls are coached in practical skills including home management, Christian ministry, handicrafts, baking and computer literacy. The girls are contacted through elders such as patrons of Scripture Union and Christian headmistresses.

These are requested to identify girls who have the potential to be trained and mentored to serve God. Training is carried out by the host family as well as a number of volunteers, both local and missionaries who happen to be in Mbarara on other missions.

Prof. Twinamatsiko has also given a helping hand to CCFM ministry by heading Men of Valor Group, which encourages men to rise up to their tasks as heads of families.

## WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT MABLE

"She is among the few committed, jealous, and passionate, women who have contributed

to the upbringing of the girl-child. Her ministry has helped save girls in this modern permissive generation."

"She is doing great work of nurturing young girls. I learnt how to bake cakes and make beads and clothes to make me self-reliant because of her. She also introduced me to living a Godly life."

REV. AUGUSTUS BYABAGAMBI,  
PARTNER IN MINISTRY

