



FOCUS  
BUSINESS  
SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Greetings dear friends!

I'm just back from a very encouraging trip to Rwanda. There were nine of us who left Sweden to visit FBS teachers, students and schools. We have been working in Rwanda for seven years now and have been moved by how the ministry there has become more stable and developed.



In 2013 I received a phone call from Ola Ekman who is a serial entrepreneur and lecturer at Chalmers Technical University in Gothenburg. He had just been to Rwanda to teach a course on entrepreneurship at a university. While there, he realized that there was a need for a tool that did not just help those with education who had already made strides with their businesses, but also those who are the poorest. Later that year Ola and I travelled there again to present FBS to church leaders and shortly thereafter we conducted a training for soon-to-be teachers. Ever since then the work has been up and running and an estimated 800 people have taken the course. We don't have exact figures for the number of businesses that have been started as a result but local estimates put it at more than 300 – which is an exceptional number.



On our first night we met some of the FBS teachers which was very encouraging! Several of them had taken part in that first teacher training in 2013 and God has blessed and helped so many of them. Some of them didn't have a business of their own back then, being sent there by their pastors, but now all of them were running businesses – and sometimes more than one! They also testified to the number of people around them that had had their lives changed from going through FBS. Later, on the Saturday we took part

in a business seminar with 200 participants, many of which signed up take the next FBS course.

On Sunday there was an FBS graduation ceremony for 28 students in a church called Christian Life Assembly (CLA). This is one of Kigali's mega churches with services in English and many congregants who are well educated, even members of government. This is the second time the course has been given at CLA and another one is starting in April. We were delighted that they had decided to start a ministry for entrepreneurs and business owners – with FBS at the core.



On Monday Zion Temple church started a new FBS course and about 30 students showed up. The church has given courses on a regular basis since 2013 and has seen many new businesses created since then. Based on FBS they have started a ministry aimed at business owners which has made the church the leading church in Kigali when it comes to Christian business. Just last fall Zion Temple gathered 2000 Christian business owners from different churches.



We were also greatly encouraged by the beautiful testimonies from the people we met. One man named Moses was born into a Muslim family but had converted to Christ as an adult. He was so destitute that he could not even afford the bus fare to go to church. His family were wondering what would become of him. In 2015, he took the FBS course and asked God to guide him into a life of entrepreneurship. After he got spent a great deal of effort helping the ailing business of a relative's back on its' feet, his relative gave him the business as a token of gratitude. That allowed him to free up enough money to start a restaurant. Over time, that business has grown, and he started his second restaurant while we were in Kigali. Today, he has 22 employees, four of which from his own family.

Another person told us about one student who could not afford two meals per day who is currently operating a catering business and says her life is changed after FBS. There is so much I could write about all the things we saw but that would make this newsletter way too long – but suffice to say that it was a very strategic trip and we believe that we're shifting into a higher gear in the work in Rwanda.

#### Prayer requests:

- Protection over all our teachers, students and schools in a time like this one. Psalm 91.
- That the corona virus will be weakened and start to disappear.
- That the work in Brazil where a door has been shut closed will see new doors opened that are 100x better
- That those planning to go into the mission field for FBS will get to go
- That we will be able to hire to more staff for FBS in Sweden
  - One person to take over the role of director from me, allowing me to focus traveling, speaking, writing and initiating new things for FBS
  - One administrator

- In order to make this happen, we need to increase the turnover to a total of 3MSEK next year
- That God would release His spirit and power over all of our ministry so that thousands of lives can be changed

Blessings!

Marco Strömberg