

EATBETA

Evangelize Africa Through Business Empowerment
and Transforming Agriculture (EATBETA)

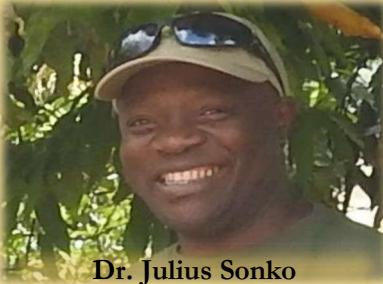


Fall 2018

**Inside:
2018 Summer
Mission Report**

Cover Photo: Launch of EATBETA's first hand-dug water well in Arua district during the 2018 summer mission

EATBETA's Summer 2018 Mission Volunteers



Dr. Julius Sonko

Dr. Julius Sonko is the founder and visionary of EATBETA. He is a native of Uganda but currently resides in Fort Worth, Texas. He works as an Adjunct Professor of Finance at Dallas Baptist University. Raised up in Africa, Dr. Sonko knows firsthand the various challenges facing the people who live in rural sub-Saharan Africa. He believes that empowering smallholder farmers with skills in business acumen and modern agriculture, will help transform rural livelihoods in sub-Saharan Africa.



Mr. Robert Erger

Mr. Robert Erger is the Technology Director at McKinney Christian Academy in McKinney, Texas, where he also teaches Business Information Technology. Mr. Erger spent two years as a District Mathematics Coach. He was an Assistant Principal in both elementary and secondary environments. Mr. Erger has a degree in Civil Engineering and a Master of Education degree in Secondary and Higher Curriculum with a minor in Physics. He believes that the Lord has gifted him uniquely to help with EATBETA's vision for Africa.



Mr. Rhyne Cureton

Mr. Rhyne Cureton was born in Monroe, North Carolina. He attends North Carolina A&T State University as a Junior Agricultural Education major. He was a USDA Student Diversity Program essay winner of the 2016 USDA World Outlook Forum (in Washington D.C.), and was selected as one of twenty undergraduates from among all land grant universities. He is excited about his goal to educate rural farmers in sustainable agricultural practices. This is Rhyne's second time volunteering with EATBETA.



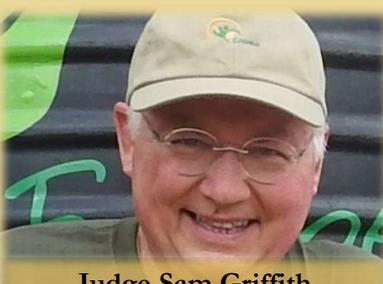
Ms. Praise Benson

Ms. Praise Benson is a student at Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View, Texas, where she is studying Agriculture with a concentration in Animal Science and a minor in Entrepreneurship. Her goal is to get a master's degree in Poultry Science and use the acquired skills to become an entrepreneur. She also desires to use her skills to make an impact on the lives of the less privileged. During EATBETA's Summer 2018 Mission, she motivated students at Winners High School in Katosi, by sharing her life/school experiences. She also interacted with various rural farmers and exchanged farming-related ideas.



Ms. Eva Sonko

Ms. Eva Sonko is a graduate of Dallas Baptist University in Texas, where she completed her MBA in Management. She is married to Dr. Julius Sonko, and their marriage has been blessed with one girl and three boys. As a native of Uganda she has a passion to help change the status quo in Africa, by using her earned skills—through education and work, to add value to rural lives in Africa. Her desire is to see that rural farmers in Africa have an opportunity to a better livelihood. She is therefore committed to providing unwavering support to the vision and mission of EATBETA.



Judge Sam Griffith

Judge Sam Griffith is a retired Judge on the Texas 12th Court of Appeals. He has instructed law at Tyler Junior College, Texas; Koya University, Iraq, and Yunnan University School of Law, China. As a civic effort, he helped create a food production ministry, grew and delivered over 230,000 pounds of vegetables in five years (2010-2015) to the East Texas Food Bank. He has tremendous farming knowledge and he is passionate about training farmers to adopt better farming techniques. He attends Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas. This is Sam's second time volunteering with EATBETA.

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EATBETA Team

USA Team:

Julius Sonko (CEO/Founder); David Hightower (Secretary); Walter Guillaume (Board Member); Jaime Fernandes (Board Member); Aaron Newman (Board Member); Moses Akitwine (Board Member); Tim Hayes (Board Advisor); Bill Krisher (Board Advisor); Judge Sam Griffith (Board Advisor).

Africa Team:

Jasper Safari (Chairperson); Robert Kawuma (Treasurer); Brian Lubowa (Secretary); Meria Kiyaraganise (Board Member); Franco Kijambogo (Coordinator); Raymond Kisekka (Coordinator); Emmanuel Mugaju (Coordinator); Frank Mcha (Coordinator); Francis Madaha (Coordinator).

2018 Summer Mission in Brief

Highlights and accomplishments of EATBETA's Summer 2018 Mission

Glory be to God! EATBETA's summer 2018 mission was successfully accomplished. Below is a summary of the highlights and accomplishments of the 2018 summer mission which took place from July 23 through August 15:

- Six volunteers from USA participated in this year's summer mission, up from three who participated in 2017.
- Mr. Robert Erger conducted interviews among rural farmers and high school students/teachers to determine how effectively EATBETA can serve them. Data collected from the interviews will be valuable for future missions.
- Judge Sam Griffith and Dr. Julius Sonko participated in opening EATBETA's first hand-dug water well in Arua district. A second water well is under construction at EATBETA's demo-center in Kiruhura district. These water wells will provide clean water to the two rural communities hit hard with water scarcity.
- EATBETA partnered with a vocational institute in Mbarara district to provide welding skills training to over 20 youths. Judge Sam, who was the lead trainer, also showed the youth how to make their own welding helmets—which are much safer for the eyes compared to the sunglasses most Ugandan welders use.
- Judge Sam Griffith demonstrated, to over 30 rural farmers in Kiruhura district how to use a hand push-plow and a seed-planter—which are more efficient farming tools than the traditional hand-hoe.
- Mr. Rhyne Cureton trained over 50 rural farmers, at various rural locations, in practical piggery farming practices.
- Ms. Praise Benson motivated and inspired students at Winners High School in Katosi village, by sharing her life/school experiences. She also interacted with various rural farmers and exchanged farming-related ideas.
- Ms. Eva Sonko, Mr. Rhyne Cureton, and Dr. Julius Sonko visited Tanzania and introduced EATBETA to two avid farmers who have agreed to partner with EATBETA in reaching out to Tanzanian rural farmers. So, Tanzania will also be on the mission schedule for future EATBETA's summer missions in Africa.
- EATBETA is galvanizing partnership relationships with two major universities in Africa; Makerere University in Uganda and Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania, whose faculty members would provide supervision for students, from US-based colleges or universities, who volunteer to go for summer missions to train rural farmers.



Hand-Dug Water Well Launched

EATBETA launches its first hand-dug water well in rural Uganda

Access to potable drinking and irrigation water is a big challenge in most rural areas of Uganda, so helping to overcome this challenge fits well with EATBETA's fundamental mission—which is to transform rural livelihoods by alleviating unemployment and food shortage in sub-Saharan Africa. Since access to clean water is so critical in the transformation of rural livelihoods, EATBETA began promoting and sponsoring hand dug water wells to make clean water readily available to rural farmers. This became a reality during the 2018 summer mission, when EATBETA opened its very first hand-dug well at Ewafava village in Arua district. A second water well is under construction at EATBETA's demo-center at Kashongi village in Kiruhura district. These water wells will provide drinking and irrigation water to those two rural communities that have been hit hard with water scarcity.

You are humbly invited to participate in this noble cause by financially sponsoring a hand-dug water well in one of the rural areas in Uganda. A fully constructed and equipped hand-dug water well roughly costs about \$3,000.



Happily using water from the new water well to irrigate a crop garden

The water from the new water well is amazingly sparkling clean

Youth Trained in Welding

EATBETA partners with a vocational institute to train rural youth in welding skills

EATBETA has partnered with a vocational institute in Mbarara district, called Heavenly Bridge Vocational Institute (HBVI), to provide training in welding and metal fabrication skills. HBVI has about 80 students and half of them are enrolled in the welding course. During the 2018 summer mission, EATBETA joined efforts with HBVI and helped to train over 20 youths in welding skills. The youth were also shown how to make their own welding helmets—which are much safer and protective to the eyes compared to the cheap sunglasses most Ugandan welders use.



Judge Sam training youth in welding skills and how to make protective welding helmets, during EATBETA's summer 2018 mission

Background: During EATBETA's summer 2017 mission in Uganda, when seeking welders to fabricate push hand-plows, the team was dismayed by the poor quality of welding services. To help overcome this dilemma, EATBETA decided to reach out to the youth and train them in quality welding and metal fabrication skills. Training welders will help to combat youth unemployment, while at the same time enhancing the infrastructure to support rural agriculture.



Trainees display their achievements after participating in the training session, during EATBETA's summer 2018 mission

Challenge: The welding school needs more equipment for training support; there is currently only one arc welder and metal grinder, making it difficult to provide fast-track training to the 40 students currently enrolled in the program.

Rural Farmers Trained

EATBETA continues its mission of training rural farmers in quality farming

As depicted in the following pictures, EATBETA's summer 2018 mission was not short of activities; prospective farmers, rural farmers, and high-school students participated in the various training opportunities suited to small scale farming. Among the training opportunities included: farm tools (hand-plow & seed-planter) demos, livestock nutrition, beekeeping, business skills, and general gardening skills. EATBETA primarily solicits volunteer trainers from the USA, including college students, to provide training to rural farmers each summer.



A rural farmer trying out a hand-plow during a garden session



A rural farmer trying out a seed-planter during a garden session



At a beekeeping training session rural farmers were taught not to fear bees but to harness them for various economic benefits



North Carolina A&T University student (Rhyne Cureton) giving a lecture on piggery nutrition, during a training session for rural pig farmers

Rural Farmers Trained, cont'd ...

EATBETA continues its mission of training rural farmers in quality farming

Besides being trained in farming skills, rural farmers were also taught good sanitation techniques, and were challenged and encouraged to dig their own water wells instead of solely relying on the increasingly unreliable rainfalls. In most rural areas of Uganda, access to clean water for drinking, personal hygiene, and irrigation is a daily struggle. Promoting rural water sanitation and digging water wells is therefore a key part of EATBETA's mission.



Robert Erger and the EATBETA team explore a stagnant water source used by villagers for household water. This is why EATBETA is promoting rural water sanitation and digging water wells.



Sam Griffith, at a hand-dug water well, echoing the importance of water wells and encouraging rural farmers to dig water wells—similar to what farmers in his hometown (Tyler, Texas) have done in the past.



Prairie View A&M University student (Praise Benson in white tee) pose with the students she interacted with during the 2018 summer mission.



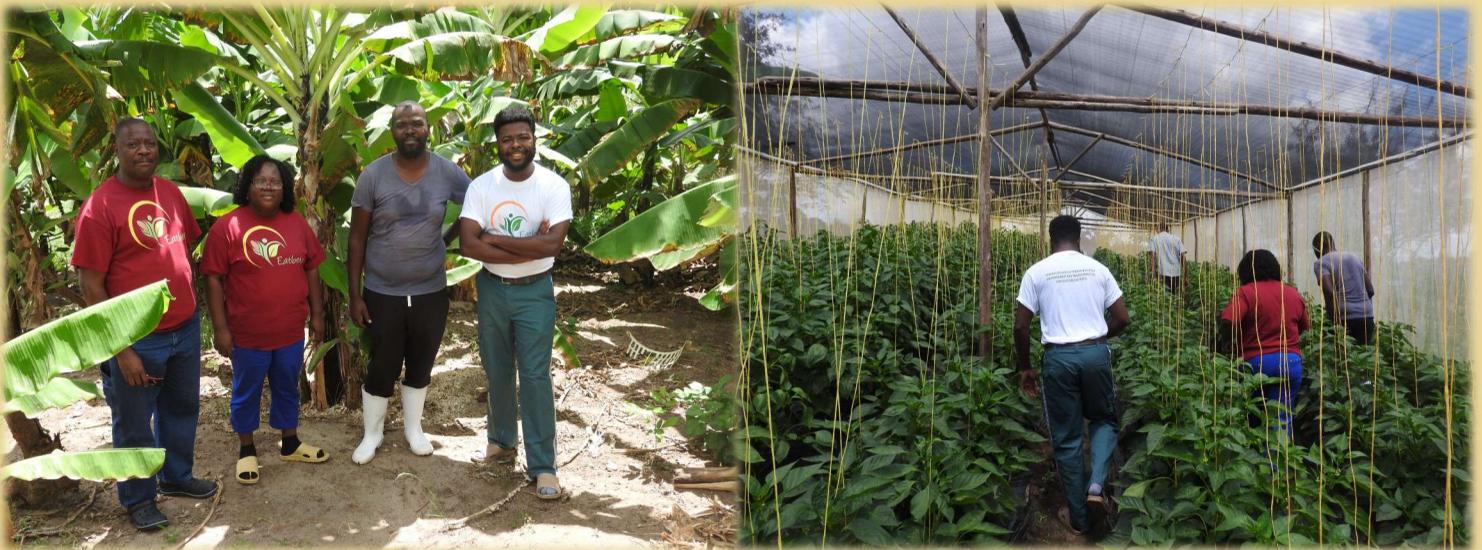
Julius Sonko giving a business lecture at a rural seminar for church pastors and farmers in Arua district, during the 2018 summer mission.

Invitation: Mission work can indeed be fulfilling and life transforming if you personally participate. More volunteers are needed to join us during EATBETA's Summer 2019 Mission (July 29 - August 9, 2019) in Uganda and Tanzania. We need you to join us mainly because, in quoting scripture, "the harvest truly plentiful, but the laborers are few" (Matthew 9:37). All skill sets are needed regardless of educational background. College student volunteers may qualify for extra course credit, if approved by a participating US-based university. Evangelism and outreach opportunities are also available for church-based mission groups.

EATBETA Co-opts Partnerships

EATBETA has co-opted farmers and universities for partnerships

Upon completion of the 2018 summer mission in Uganda, a team visited Tanzania and introduced EATBETA to two avid farmers who unreservedly agreed to partner with EATBETA in reaching out to Tanzanian rural farmers. As a result, Tanzania will also be on the mission schedule for next year's EATBETA summer mission in Africa. Since most rural farmers in sub-Saharan Africa experience similar challenges, we believe that extending EATBETA's efforts to Tanzania is not a fruitless endeavor. Additionally, we believe that this extension will give future volunteers an opportunity to have a choice for their mission destination, i.e., between Uganda, Tanzania or both countries.



At a farm in Kibaha, Tanzania owned by Mr. Francis Madaha (gray tee); his farm will be used as a model to train local farmers

EATBETA is galvanizing cooperation and partnership relationships with two major universities in Africa; Makerere University in Uganda and Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania, whose faculty members will be providing supervision for students from US-based colleges or universities who volunteer to go and train rural farmers.

Established in 1922, Makerere University is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in Africa. Makerere University is a collegiate university with the following colleges: Agricultural & Environmental Sciences; Business & Management Sciences; Computing & Information Sciences; Education & External Studies; Engineering, Design, Art & Technology; Health Sciences; Humanities & Social Sciences; Natural Sciences; Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resource & Bio-Security (<https://www.mak.ac.ug/about-makerere/historical-background>).

Established in 1984, Sokoine University of Agriculture is a public university based in Morogoro, Tanzania, specializing in agriculture. Sokoine University is best known for offering a wide variety of courses and programs in the fields of Agriculture, Veterinary Science, Forestry, Animal Science, Wildlife Management, Tourism Management, Environmental Science, Food Science, Natural Resources, Nutrition, and Rural Development (<https://www.sua.ac.tz/about-sua>)

A sustainable cooperation and partnership with these two universities, which are extensively involved in agriculture education, would mean a solid foundation for support and supervision for EATBETA, while pursuing its important objective of “enhancing farmers’ skills in quality crop/livestock farming and in using farm equipment.” Additionally, the supervisory role fulfilled by these universities would be critical for enabling US-based college students to earn extra course credit when they volunteer to participate in training rural farmers.

Ongoing EATBETA Campaigns

EATBETA has embarked on major campaigns to enhance and strengthen its mission of transforming rural livelihoods by alleviating unemployment and food shortage in sub-Saharan Africa. The campaigns include: Hand-Plow Campaign, Beekeeping Campaign, Welding Campaign, Hand-Dug Water Wells Campaign, and the Demo-Center Campaign. More detail about these campaigns is provided at www.eatbeta.org/campaigns

Hand-Plow Campaign

Although EATBETA is pleased to have introduced and demonstrated the hand-plow to rural farmers in Uganda, a majority of those farmers cannot financially afford imported and expensive hand-plows, which retail for around \$100. To help offset this cost and make hand-plows more affordable, EATBETA has engaged the youth in Uganda to help fabricate hand-plows at a subsidized price of about \$40. However, EATBETA must still shoulder much of the cost of fabricating and distributing hand-plows to the rural farmers. EATBETA humbly invites you to partner with us financially as we invest in mass production and distribution of push hand-plows to rural smallholder farmers in Uganda.

Beekeeping Campaign

Since modernizing Uganda's beekeeping industry could increase the income potential of rural farmers, EATBETA has embarked on training and helping rural beekeepers to use effective and modern beehives. As modern beehives are often beyond the financial reach for most rural beekeepers in Uganda, EATBETA is partnering with an experienced beekeeper to find ways of making inexpensive modern beehives utilizing locally available resources. We humbly invite you to join EATBETA's campaign to improve beekeeping in rural Uganda. If you are a beekeeper, your skills and expertise are especially needed to help train Ugandan beekeepers.

Welding Campaign

EATBETA has partnered and joined efforts with a vocational institute in Mbarara district to provide training in quality welding and metal fabrication skills to the youth. The welding school needs more equipment for training support; there is currently only one arc welder tool and one grinder, making it difficult to provide fast-track training to students.

Hand-Dug Water Well Campaign

EATBETA is promoting and sponsoring hand-dug water wells in order to make drinking and irrigation water readily available to rural communities. You are humbly invited to participate in this noble cause by financially sponsoring a hand-dug water well in one of the rural areas in Uganda. A fully constructed and equipped well costs about \$3,000.

Demo-Center Campaign

A training demo-center is planned to be constructed on a 25 acre tract leased at Kashongi village in Kiruhura district of Uganda. A demo-center makes it easier and more effective for the training programs to be carried out in a central setting. The demo-center is expected to sustain itself through income generated from selling crops and animals raised on farmland. The demo-center is planned to be constructed in phases; the first phase will involve electing a tool storage building, a water well, an animal pen, a crop garden, and a bee apiary. The second phase will include the construction of living quarters for the farm keepers and trainers.

Get Involved!

We humbly invite you to invest, financially or in-kind, in the above-mentioned campaigns.

For a financial donation, please visit www.eatbeta.org/donate

EATBETA International Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization

Volunteers' Feedback About EATBETA's Summer 2018 Mission

The most satisfying virtue of EATBETA is that EATBETA welcomes, encourages, and then fosters and facilitates the visions, the new ideas and the innovations suggested by EATBETA participants and partners. In 2017, at EATBETA's inception, I wanted to introduce, promote, and fabricate push-plows across Uganda. EATBETA immediately embraced the idea and began fabricating push-plows in Uganda. Then EATBETA set up teaching opportunities across Uganda for me to introduce and demonstrate the push-plows. Far more significantly, this year, I wanted to provide hand-dug water wells for Ugandan farmers. EATBETA immediately coordinated and began digging the first two hand-dug water wells, in Arua and in Kashongi, Uganda. And then, when I wanted to use those water well projects as teaching opportunities, to use the water wells as "hand-dug water well schools" to show Ugandans how they could dig their own water wells and to encourage the farmers to provide for themselves water wells on every farm in Uganda, EATBETA set up speaking opportunities at the dedication of those two water wells, where I expounded on how every Ugandan farmer could have his/her own water well on their farm. That vision (Proverbs 29:18) of a hand-dug water well on every farm in Uganda will be transformative! But then, the "TA" in the EATBETA acronym stands for "Transforming Agriculture." I had a vision for transforming Ugandan agriculture by providing hand-dug water wells and by teaching Ugandans how to dig the water wells for themselves. And by facilitating my vision of hope for Uganda, EATBETA fulfills the promise in its name: "Evangelizing Africa Through Business Empowerment and Transforming Agriculture."

—**Judge Sam Griffith, Retired Judge, Texas 12th Court of Appeals.**

Words cannot describe my experience in Uganda. Although, I trusted in Christ and my brother Julius I wasn't sure what to expect on my journey. Before our trip I inquired about interviewing and gaining insight from the local people about Eatbeta's impact in Africa. Our Western European/American viewpoint seems to create solutions without fully understanding the impact and the insight from the local people. We must obtain "buy in" from the people and be patient with our efforts to impact change. We must also trust the Holy Spirit and God to provide change that gives Him all the Glory. We must concentrate on teaching a man to fish verses feeding him a fish.

—**Mr. Robert Erger, Technology Director, McKinney Christian Academy.**

My Uganda experience was a very interesting one. I was in Katosi for a week where I was lodged in Hotel Cross City. I was also hosted by an amazing family of Pastor Timothy Kakooza, they were really welcoming. My stay there was amazing; I got the chance to gain new agricultural skills from rural farmers. I visited the family farm of Pastor Timothy, where I got the chance to see their pineapple plantation and later I visited a church member's banana field. I also visited an elementary school called Winners School, where, besides sharing my life experiences with the students, I learned about their educational system; though I was rather dishearten by the appalling poor conditions under which the students studied. I could see that these students were willing to learn and become successful, but the government has not provided them with its due support. Hopefully, during my next visit, I would be able to help and put a smile on those students' faces.

—**Ms. Praise Benson, Student, Prairie View A&M University.**

The 2018 Mission proved to be somewhat more challenging than the previous year, however, I felt that this year's mission was one of the most rewarding missions I've ever experienced. I made it an effort to train farmers who raise livestock, to view and believe that "Farming is Business". Training them to look at their practices as business decisions has been helpful in establishing an appreciation for efficiency and productivity. By having them see their farm as a business rather than just a farm, I was able to relate the economic benefits of practicing proper and sufficient animal welfare, feeding, breeding, and overall care. It was an improvement on my part from my last visit and I believe that it resonated with the farmers in a way that empowered them to take ownership of their success through proactive measures in better business management. I was blessed to have been contacted through social media by farmers in Tanzania prior to the 2018 Mission. God had opened a door for us that we felt in our hearts would lead towards the spread of his gospel and the improvement of agriculture throughout Africa. Our efforts to expand into Tanzania has, in my opinion, been a blessing from God himself. Our journey in Tanzania did not come without doubts or challenges, but God gave us wisdom and guidance to proceed with faith. We meet farmers Frank and Francis, who had amazing diversified small farms and had a love for Christ. Their farming practices and faith were beyond my expectations and it made me overjoyed that God would confirm this expansion of the EATBETA mission with such favor.

—**Mr. Rhyne Cureton, Student, North Carolina A&T University.**

Vote of Thanks

EATBETA wishes to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all those (donors, partners, and volunteers) whose invaluable support and participation made EATBETA's summer 2018 mission successful. Special thanks go to Judge Sam Griffith who, besides volunteering during the summer missions, generously donated towards the construction of a water well in Arua district. That water well will provide lasting clean water to the grateful people of Ewafava village!

Contact Us

For more information about EATBETA's efforts and programs, please contact us:

P.O. Box 1190, Euless, TX 76039; (214)226-8249/(214)884-5114; info@eatbeta.org; www.eatbeta.org

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EATBETA International Foundation
Evangelize Africa Through Business Empowerment and Transformation of Agriculture (EATBETA)

****Plan to join us for****

EATBETA
Summer 2019 Mission



July 29 - August 9, 2019
Uganda & Tanzania

Join us in outreaching and training
rural farmers, students, and the youth!

To register & for more details visit
www.eatbeta.org/summer2019



Evangelize Africa Through Business Empowerment and Transforming Agriculture (EATBETA)

Cover Photo: A hand-dug water well at Koo village in Arua district, Uganda, sponsored by EATBETA

Summer 2018 Newsletter