

## STORIES FOR HOPE

<http://www.storiesforhope.org> • ph: 734.678.5512 (US) / 0788260317 (RW) • email: [ppasick@gmail.com](mailto:ppasick@gmail.com)

### Transcript of an Audio-Recorded Conversation in Post-Conflict Rwanda

---

#### **Participants:**

- Mukagakwaya Beatrice **Relation:** Sister
- Murindahabi Canisius **Relation:** Brother

#### **Facilitator:**

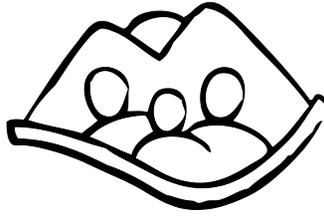
**Date:** May 2010

**Recording Location:** Byumba

**Story Number:** SFH0113

#### **NOTICE:**

- This transcript contains personal reflections and remembrances of Rwanda's culture and history and is exclusively provided with the participants' permission.
- Alteration or manipulation of content (which includes the creation of derivative works) is expressly forbidden.
- Individuals may copy this transcript solely for personal, noncommercial use and must provide full attribution to Stories For Hope and include Stories For Hope's contact information with any reproduction.
- Parties interested in other uses of this material please contact Stories For Hope.



## STORIES FOR HOPE

<http://www.storiesforhope.org> • ph: 734.678.5512 (US) / 0788260317 (RW) • email: [ppasick@gmail.com](mailto:ppasick@gmail.com)

### Mukagakwaya Beatrice & Murindahabi Canisius

SFH0113

---

I am called **Murindahabi Canisius**, It is a privilege to have you as my old sister. Can you tell me more about my family; I need to know more about my father since he is no longer alive, I will be glad to know more about his integrity.

I am called **Beatrice Mukagakwaya**, I am glad to talk to you as my young brother, our father was a reliable man, and he lived with others peacefully. In the morning he used to milk, he had a nickname: SHENGE, for he was good and honored. He welcomed people from different areas, from Uganda and they spent long time. Our father was loved, and he loved others including brothers and sisters in different places. He was a leader until he died; you have no clue since you were young. He was a trader until his old age, he helped people from our village, and he gave a hand to other children. My father taught to love and help; "You can have not many things but whatever little you have you can share with others" this was my father's saying. I inherited it as well as my children. I had a chance to live with my husband and children since 1984. My children are Christians and intellectuals though I didn't have a chance to go to school. The generosity of our father can be seen even in the people that were to our family.

**Canisius:** I have another question to ask you; I would like to know about riches of our father. Had he a car or any other asset?

**Beatrice:** Our father was a farmer; breeder; he was intelligent in our entire village. He used to save money. He traded cows and sheep.

**Canisius:** Thank you, apart from being rich, did he use workers only?

**Beatrice:** No, he did everything manually, he used to teach us to work and in his agricultural activities he would sometimes use workers as well. It was really fun because we were always busy at home!

**Canisius:** Thank you

**A conversation between Mukagakwaya Beatrice & Murindahabi Canisius**

**Beatrice:** He worked hard, and he loved hardworking children, but sometimes you enjoyed sitting home with neighbors.

**Canisius:** Another question, since we didn't have chance to live long with our father, he always woke up early. Do I have some characters from our father? There are two things that I can ask you like living alone with all your children without your husband. Was it not a challenge to have them get responsible as they are today? What's your secret? Something else every time I come back home even though I own my home, there are always more than eight people living in your home! I really think you were the beloved child of our father!

**Beatrice:** Yes he loved me, though he did not send me to school. He used to send me for milk and food and taught me how to treat other children. And about young people in need of advice, I am really helpful. And every time I think about my father I thank him!

**Facilitator:** There is something that you said that he possessed many things like cows, farms, and other fortune... what was the source of that integrity and hard working

**Beatrice:** His father was rich and since he was most loved, he inherited it. But he was hard-working too.

**Canisius:** I don't know much about our grandfather, what can you tell me about him? Is he the source of that integrity, courage?

**Beatrice:** Our grandfather died in 1990, he was a good man, and as generous as your father he used to welcome people.

**Canisius:** I remember when I was young, a gentleman was hidden home and grandfather forbade us saying anything about him. Do you know anything about it?

**Beatrice:** Yes, there was a young boy who came everyday home to listen to the radio, but he had two sisters who lived home from Rukara, they spent a long time and worked at the farm, they also had sheep.

**Canisius:** Why all those people lived home?

**Beatrice:** He escaped from Uganda, and when he went back and they shot him

**Canisius:** Was it about ethnic problem?

**Beatrice:** Yes, even we had taken a refuge for two days! When they destroyed Tutsi's houses, it was in 1959. Our neighbors reported that we were Tutsis. But since my family was leaders, they let us back.

**Canisius:** As I told you there was always many people home from our village feel free in all house. Why that character?

**Beatrice:** The place where I was married there were many young girls and boys which we lived together, and as long as we pray I feel that love to welcome everyone.

**A conversation between Mukagakwaya Beatrice & Murindahabi Canisius**

**Canisius:** Thank you, you have answered a lot of my questions about my father and grandfather as I know you as my old sister who has had many problems in life, and being widow, as you know my wife has been died last days how can you advise me about how to live without my wife. Even if I am planning to get married again.

**Beatrice:** It is not easy but you have to be patient, courage, and pray God will help you, when you are in time of sorrow, pain, take your time, cry to God, he will answer you, sometimes I went in my bedroom and cried but after a certain time I finished to cry feeling well.

**Facilitator:** In those times why were you crying although your children were grown up, responsible? How did you escape it without affecting your children?

**Beatrice:** Once I was with my neighbor then her child who was with my child saw his father and began to call his father and my child also called that man his father and the wife said my child that he is not his father then the child asked me why that man is not my father? It hurts me because they weren't able to understand where their father was! But now they know that their father was died. I remember one day my child was suspended at school and their teacher told them to come with their fathers and those who don't have fathers had to stay home and the child didn't tell anything about the school and other child told me that. When I went to their school I told the teacher that his father is God. Something to add is that where I live I try to advise other women that we are in same choir, and I tell them that they have not to wait for people to help them before they help themselves.

**Facilitator:** As we live in Rwanda nowadays, people become selfish, what is your secret of your generosity, your integrity?

**Beatrice:** Even in 1994, he hid many people in my room, but all integrity, generosity come from my father. I was born in 1953 I had learnt to live in good moments and bad moments.

**Facilitator:** What do you think your testimony can help other people?

**Beatrice:** Integrity is something you get with time and will.

**Canisius:** It will help us to get together as family.

**Beatrice:** When we will sit together it will help many of them!

**Canisius:** What our grandfather and our father liked to eat?

**Beatrice:** Our grandfather liked to eat whit food and beans, and our father liked to eat toast potatoes and black tea.

**Facilitators:** What advice can you give to widows, so that they may live well?

**Beatrice:** Integrity is a process, but great advice is to love, and learn to manage their lives, and I can advise them to love their children, to pay for them school fees, and also pray!

A conversation between Mukagakwaya Beatrice & Murindahabi Canisius

**Canisius:** Thank you for your advice.

