

Beyond Church Walls

Where Work and
Worship Intersect

Inviting His Presence
John William Kasirye

Praise for Beyond Church Walls

The following voices represent pastors, professionals, educators, and ministry partners who have witnessed and affirmed the message of Beyond Church Walls. Their words testify to a growing Kingdom movement that calls believers to live out their faith beyond the pulpit—seeing their workplaces as platforms for transformation and their daily work as worship.

Pastoral Voices

“Beyond Church Walls presents Bible-based tools to integrate work and worship with a mission mindset in the 21st century. It is laced with testimonies of Christian workers in the trenches of real-life situations, inspiring scholars, practitioners, and ordinary believers alike to live out their faith in the workplace. This book is a must-read for anyone studying or interested in spirituality in the workplace.”

Dr. Fred Wantante Setttuba-Male

Senior Pastor, Makerere Full Gospel Church

“*Beyond Church Walls* is a powerful call to live out faith with authenticity and purpose. Blending spiritual insight with practical wisdom, it challenges believers to move beyond the pews and bring Christ’s love to life through service and godly influence. A must-read for those ready to make faith a daily reality.”

Dr. Joseph Serwadda

Presiding Apostle of the Born-Again Faith, Uganda

“Rev. Kasirye is a prophetic voice in the marketplace, revealing how God has guided his professional and spiritual journey. His book testifies to a life of integrity, vision, and obedience lived across cultures. With depth and authenticity, it shows how faith thrives amid modern pressures. An inspiring work that offers hope, strength, and purpose against all odds.”

Rev. Peter Kasirivu

Founder and Team Leader, Gaba Community Church & Africa Renewal Ministries

“Beyond Church Walls is a powerful call to live out faith with authenticity and purpose. Blending spiritual insight with practical wisdom, it challenges believers to move beyond the pews and bring Christ’s love to life through service and godly influence. A must-read for those ready to make faith a daily reality.”

Rev. Jotham Mutebi (Retired)

Overseer, Full Gospel Churches of Uganda, and Senior Pastor, Makerere and Masaka Full Gospel Churches.

Ministry Partners

“Beyond Church Walls is timely and transformational, restoring the believer’s understanding of calling and showing that ministry extends to every sphere of life.”

His Worship Elias Kakooza

Chief Magistrate, Nakawa Chief Magistrate’s Court – Uganda

“This book restores the sacred connection between faith and daily work, calling believers to live with integrity, compassion, and excellence wherever God has placed them.”

Dr. Olivia Kasirye

Public Health Physician & Ministry Partner – Sacramento, California

“In a generation searching for identity and purpose, Beyond Church Walls shines as a beacon of truth and hope—guiding readers to live with significance in God’s service.”

Elizabeth Baleke

Global Outreach International

“A timely call to bridge faith and daily work, Beyond Church Walls equips believers to see work as sacred service and live with purpose, faith, and excellence.”

Mr. Samuel Turyahikayo.

National Director, Scripture Union Uganda

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Foreword

I have had the privilege of knowing Rev. John William Kasirye as both a trusted friend and a devoted ministry partner. Our friendship began in 1981 when we were young members of Makerere Full Gospel Church in Kampala, Uganda. From those early days of campus fellowship to his decades of service across continents, his unwavering faith has become a living bridge between past obedience and present relevance—proof that the seeds sown in one generation can bear fruit in another.

In 1987, he moved to the United States, where he was joined by Olivia, and together they lived with their son and daughter for many years, faithfully serving God in both ministry and professional life. In recent years, our partnership has flourished as William returned to Uganda several times. The Lord has graciously opened doors for him to preach and teach in diverse settings, and I remain profoundly grateful that he has obeyed the call to write this book.

Beyond Church Walls is far more than an intellectual exercise or a quest for personal recognition. It is the genuine testimony of a man who has lived the message he proclaims—one passionately devoted to Jesus Christ, steadfast in his calling to minister and share the gospel, while excelling in the corporate world. For generations, the perceived divide between faith and work—the sacred and the secular—has weakened the Church's witness. Rev. Kasirye stands among the few voices today speaking with clarity, conviction, and lived experience to this urgent issue.

When this message is embraced and acted upon, it will awaken a great army of believers to see their workplaces as their mission fields—the very places where they spend most of their time from Monday through Saturday. As a minister who has led a congregation in Kampala and overseen hundreds of churches across Uganda, I believe this book delivers a timely and prophetic summons to the African Church. We can no longer overlook the thousands of believers called to serve as ministers in the marketplace. As this book insightfully explains, it will require deliberate effort from Church leaders to disciple and equip God's people to recognize their daily work as ministry.

To every marketplace minister reading this: approach this book with care, study it prayerfully, and share its message widely. May the legacy of Rev. Kasirye's obedience inspire a new generation to carry this torch forward—linking faith and work until the nations see Christ revealed beyond church walls.

In Christ,

Rev. Peter Kasirivu

Senior Pastor, Gaba Community Church

Founder & President, Africa Renewal Ministries

Chancellor, Africa Renewal University

Kampala, Uganda

Preface

Every book begins as a seed—an inspired thought that grows through reflection, experience, and commitment. *Beyond Church Walls* was born out of years of witnessing a silent divide between faith and the workplace—between Sunday worship and weekday responsibility. Throughout my life, I have carried a burden to help believers rediscover that work is not separate from worship; it is one of its purest expressions.

The journey that shaped this message began decades ago in Uganda and continued through years of ministry and professional service in the United States. From my early encounter with Christ in 1971, to ministry at Makerere Full Gospel Church, and nearly twenty-seven years at the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS)—the nation's largest public pension fund—I have seen how God transforms ordinary assignments into extraordinary platforms for His Kingdom.

After moving to Ohio, I received a clear call to prepare people for the Lord's return mission to serve as a spiritual catalyst and help others activate their divine purpose, rather than build my own reputation. Since that calling in 1971, I have served wholeheartedly, viewing ministry as a lifelong commitment, not a part-time role. My dedication extends beyond any single job or location—it encompasses every part of my life.

In September and October 2025, while visiting Uganda, I was invited to speak in several churches. As I shared the message of this book and the vision for restoring God's voice in the marketplace, something remarkable happened: hearts were stirred, leaders expressed gratitude, and believers caught a fresh fire. Three leading pastors told me they had been moved to tears; one wrote, "I held my tears of joy back but felt so emotional."

That moment confirmed what I had sensed for years—this message is awakening the sleeping lion within the Church: the vast, untapped potential of Africa's believers rising to roar with Kingdom purpose across every sphere of society. "The lion has roared—who will not fear? The Sovereign Lord has spoken—who can but prophesy?" (Amos 3:8).

In reflecting on this, I recall my senior, Pastor Joshua Kamy Musoke, whose words have guided me for decades: *“There is one life to live, and it will soon pass; only what*

You do for the Lord will count.” His charge still echoes today—let us heed the trumpet’s sound, take our positions, and boldly carry God’s voice where it belongs: into the streets, shops, classrooms, hospitals—into every moment and every task.

I have been deeply inspired by faithful men and women who embody this message within their spheres of influence—Mr. Eric Settuba, pastor at Petra Full Gospel Church, Kira, and a certified accountant in Uganda and Kenya; Mr. Godfrey Mwanje, consultant, entrepreneur, and ministry leader at Makerere Full Gospel Church; His Worship Elias Kakooza, chief magistrate, pastor, and founder of Christian schools; and Peninah Tibagwa Kasule, Bible teacher and retired attorney.

Together, they represent a growing movement of believers who carry their faith beyond the pulpit and into the marketplace—living proof that ministry and profession can unite to advance God’s Kingdom.

As you read, may these pages rekindle the flame of calling within you. May you see your daily work as worship—not apart from your ministry, but as the very place where it begins. And may this message awaken the Church to serve God boldly—not only within the walls of the sanctuary, but beyond them.

With gratitude and faith,

Rev. John William Kasirye

Author — Beyond Church Walls: Where Work and Worship Intersect

Dedication

To my beloved wife, Olivia, and our children, Victor and Anna, whose love, prayers, and patience have been my anchor through every season of writing and ministry. You have modeled faithfulness with quiet strength and reminded me that true ministry begins at home.

This book is dedicated to the faithful servant in the marketplace—the teacher, the doctor, the entrepreneur, the leader. May your daily work become a sacred worship, your professionalism a clear witness, and your steadfast purpose an offering to God.

“And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...”

— Genesis 3:8 (NKJV)

Your work is holy ground...*where
God's presence meets your daily tasks.*

Introduction

Early mornings and late nights. Tight schedules and demanding deadlines. Work, whether in an office, at home, or remotely with a laptop, is where most of life's activities occur. It is the space where we spend most of our waking hours building, selling, teaching, and serving, or simply showing up.

What is work?

Work according to the Bible is defined by why you are there and not where you are. By purpose, not by position.

The bible calls us to see every role, whether public or private, celebrated or unseen, as an opportunity to reflect God's will and glorify him.

Colossians 3:23 reminds us: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

So, for those who are still searching for employment, when someone asks, "where do you work?" The answer "I am unemployed" is not wrong, but it risks being incomplete if it is reduced to location or status. The exact role becomes transformative when understood as a season and a calling.

For example:

"Right now, I'm in between blessings – This is also my God-given season to build new connections, learn, and be faithful while I wait on His open door."

And for stay-at-home parents, especially mothers, "I'm a full-time mom investing in raising and discipling my children, this is my current assignment from God."

History affirms the eternal impact of purpose-driven motherhood:

Timothy, a key leader in the early church, was grounded in Scripture by the faithful teaching of his mother Eunice and grandmother Lois (2 Timothy 1:5).

Augustine of Hippo (African), who became one of the greatest Church Fathers, ministered in Hippo Regius (modern-day Annaba, Algeria).

After years of rebellion, he was mainly converted through the persistent prayers and steadfast faith of his mother, Monica.

Susanna Wesley, though never famous in her day, trained her many children at home with Scripture and discipline. Two of her sons, John and Charles Wesley, would go on to spark a revival that transformed Christianity across continents.

These lives remind us that when done for the Lord, even the most hidden roles become significant. Surrender whatever God has placed in your care – your work, your business, your family, your life, and see what God can do.

At a picnic of the Sacramento Uganda Community, Rhoda, a stay-at-home parent, was asked, "What do you do?" She gave a surprising but clear answer: *"I am a parent taking care of my two young children at home. This is what the Lord wants for me in this season."*

Whatever your role, whatever season you are in, God is interested in your work.

In June 2025, the opportunity came to serve as guest speaker at Daniel's Prayer Fellowship, an online Christian group led by Rev. Peter Kasirivu. After the message on 'Biblical Relevance in the Workplace,' Pastor Peter encouraged that it be turned into a book. The idea did not originate here, yet his counsel—and the persistent prompting of the Holy Spirit—could not be ignored. What began as a sermon soon became a divine assignment. This book invites readers to rediscover how God's original intent for work, from the bustling marketplace to the quiet home office, was always meant to be woven together with worship, service, and devotion.

Defining Crossroads

As I began writing, I realized the whole story started long before I ever put pen to paper. Three pivotal crossroads—Conversion, Community, and His Call—marked the places where God's hand guided me and forged the path ahead. This was a divine assignment God had prepared for me.

Conversion Experience

In July 1971, when I was ten years old, I was walking to church near my grandmother's home in Busega—a village six miles outside Kampala, Uganda—when I noticed a bus parked by the roadside. It was filled with people singing praise and worship songs and praying. I had never seen anything like it—worship happening openly, outside the walls of a church. Their joy drew me in, but it was God's presence

that won me over. I stepped onto that bus, rode to Elim Church in Mengo, and stepped off a changed person. I was born again, and my faith journey had begun.

Commitment to the Christian Community

In 1974, I was admitted to King's College Budo, a school known for its strong academic and Christian heritage. There, my faith deepened through active involvement in the Christian fellowship. I joined the choir, learned to play the piano, and found joy in worship and service. During this season, I sensed a growing call to serve God fully—to live out faith not as a compartment of life, but as its very center. Every task, from study to song, became an act of worship.

Just before the Easter break in 1978, my classmate and fellow believer Barbara shared that her church—one of many closed under Idi Amin's regime—had received permission to reopen. That Easter Sunday, I visited Makerere Full Gospel Church for the first time. Within months, I was baptized, joined the fellowship, and began serving in ministries such as outreach, hospitality, and youth leadership. Those years taught me that community is God's training ground for character and calling.

I later came across Psalm 92, which says, "Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing." That truth became an anchor in my walk with God—reminding me that spiritual growth and fruitfulness come from being rooted in His house. Amen.

Looking back, I now understand that this was more than joining a fellowship—it was learning the discipline of belonging. Commitment to Christian community grounded my faith, shaped my service, and prepared me for a lifetime of ministry *beyond church walls*.

Obedience to His Call

Upon moving to the United States to study in 1987, I joined Bible Temple in Toledo, Ohio, where Rev. Mike Brewer, the senior Pastor, provided me with opportunities to share. In 1990, I moved to Oregon, Ohio, and served under Rev. Grace Roberts as an assistant pastor at Nations Full Gospel Church. I pursued formal Bible education, and that same year, I was ordained.

Those years were rich with ministry, yet they also stretched me deeply. I was homeless for a time, having just completed college, unemployed, and preparing for actuarial profession entry exams—all while navigating new responsibilities. It was a

refining time—one where God was shaping my understanding of ministry gifts, especially the prophetic.

Vocation in the Marketplace

From preaching in taxis, buses, street evangelism, and crusades in Uganda to pastoral training in the U.S., God was weaving a consistent thread through every season— a call to see work and worship as one. This book explores that journey, offering pragmatic, real-life examples of a powerful new movement—the marketplace ministry. It is an invitation to move worship *beyond church walls*, to live out your calling wherever you are, and to transform your workplace into a place of worship. You are about to enter the story of marketplace ministry. Your time to step in has arrived.

Part I

Foundation of Work as Worship

The definition of “work” lays the foundation for understanding that work was God’s idea from the very beginning. Before sin entered the world, Adam was placed in the garden “to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15). The Hebrew word *avodah* (עֲבוּדָה) used here carries the meaning of work, worship, and service. This foundational truth undergirds the message of this book: work itself is sacred.

Through these chapters, you will return to God’s original design and find that work is a form of worship. Three vital themes emerge: God’s intent for work, the distortion created by the sacred–secular divide, and the call to see the marketplace as a harvest field. Together, these chapters remind us that work and worship were never meant to be separated, and that God’s voice still belongs in the marketplace—His presence active in our daily labor.

Congratulations on completing the *Beyond Church Walls* 10-Module journey! This is more than a study — it's a call to live your faith daily. Let what you have learned become visible in your work ethic, relationships, and influence.

Next Steps:

- Revisit the WISE Framework and your Faith Relevance Index regularly.
- Share your testimony with your group or workplace.
- Consider starting a new small group to multiply this message.

Remember, the world is your mission field. Your work is your worship.

About the Author

John William Kasirye is a seasoned professional, teacher, and ordained minister of the gospel whose life bridges the worlds of faith and work. Drawing from over four decades of ministry and professional service in both Uganda and the United States, he passionately teaches that the workplace is not separate from ministry but an essential platform for living out one's calling.

His journey of conversion, community, and call began in 1971 with a life-changing encounter with Christ on his way to church in Busega, deepened through discipleship at King's College Budo and later at Makerere Full Gospel Church, and matured into a lifelong mission to serve God in every sphere of life. That early encounter shaped his conviction that faith must find expression beyond church walls—in classrooms, offices, and nations.

A highly respected and frequent teacher at church services and events during visits to Uganda, and a seasoned speaker at Daniel's Prayer Fellowship, an online prayer group, William has inspired many to bring God's presence into their daily work. His message —**"Faith isn't just for Sundays; it's for your 9 to 5"**—captures the heart of his ministry and the vision behind *Beyond Church Walls*.

After 26 years of service, he retired from the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) in November 2022 and now lives with his family in El Dorado Hills, California, where he continues to write, teach, and mentor believers to live out their faith with excellence, integrity, and purpose.