

“One for all, all for one.”

In countries with precarious pension systems, people who leave the workplace sometimes see themselves as though they are sent home to await death. With their bodies weakening, diseases kick in and most don't live long. With the low wages they received during their working life, most have saved almost nothing and therefore have nothing to sustain their lives.

But in the highlands of the Bututsi region in Burundi, a group of elderly is challenging the status quo. They are telling different stories about their after-work life. Stories that only the power of God can write in a person's life.

Their motto is ***“One for all, all for one.”***

Stories of hope...

“I served in the Army. But when I retired, I didn't know what I was going to do and I was already suffering from diabetes. I could not stay in the city; it's expensive to live in the city with no income. Thank God who used his servants to come and teach us how we can use what we have to generate an income. We decided to form an association and we have different projects. We started by growing potatoes, and we are also rearing pigs. You know the life of retirees in this country. Today we are harvesting potatoes we planted a few months ago. Hadn't we opened our eyes, we should be sitting in our homes doing nothing.” Mr. Charles one of the members of the Gatanga association



Stories of multiplication...

“We had a bigger association and as we were becoming many we decided to start another association. Projects are ongoing in the bigger association in another village.

But here also we are doing projects. All this is because we learned to see the things we have and use them to develop ourselves. When we decided to grow potatoes, a member of the association gave us his land, Charles gave us a place to store the harvest, and the other members are contributing their time and money.”

Thierry, the leader of the Gatanga association

Stories of generosity...

“We don't want to leave anyone behind; we will start other associations, in other villages. Since we learned that God uses what we already have to bless us, we know we are richer than we think.” Says Chantal, the secretary in the association.

...and more generosity.

“We just want to bless you for bringing us this vision. Today our lives are different and we have hope now.” Says Mr. Charles as he hands a rooster to Christian and Florent, the Jars of Love members who were visiting them after sharing with them a meal made of the potatoes they just harvested.

