

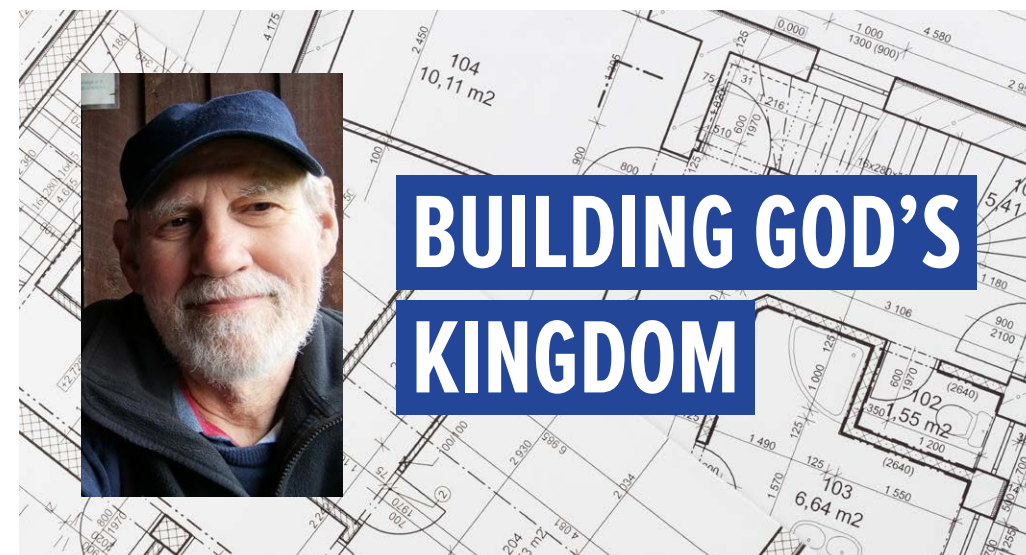
You ARE GOD'S PLAN

When we think about gifts and skills in the Bible, we often jump to people uniquely gifted, placed and set apart by God. People like David, Deborah, Priscilla or Paul. We are quick to place them in a special category; one we quickly exclude ourselves from.

However, look more closely and you will see that every Christian is gifted, placed and set apart. Maybe you find it hard to believe. 'God couldn't use me, I am not good enough.' Yet when we think like this, we limit the ways God chooses to work and count ourselves out of his plans.

Sadly, our focus in church can inadvertently do the same thing. We celebrate evangelists but overlook engineers. We pray for church planters, but not tree planters. We rejoice when our church sends a missionary, whilst overlooking the vital role of mothers.

God's vision is far bigger than ours. As the God of every nation, he has unending love, draws near to the downcast and seeks the lost. May these examples help you see your place in his global purposes, give thanks for your gifts, and delight in him.



After years of engineering experience across various specialities and locations, Paul shares his excitement to join the building project for a mission hub in Uganda.

SERVING WITH MY SKILLS

I applied to Tearfund in the mid-1980s to work on micro-hydro projects in Nepal. However, at that time, most of my civil engineering experience was on large building projects. In God's wisdom, I was asked to lead the construction of a rural development training centre in north-west Uganda, associated with AIM.

By then, after more than ten years as a Christian, I'd learned that when God says 'go', you go. So, I arrived in post-Amin Uganda, not knowing quite what I'd find, but sure I was called by God to use my skills to help the church there live the gospel and not just preach it.

TRUSTING IN THE CHANGE

In 1987, I returned to the UK with my wife, Jan, and a young family, not having completed what I went to do, but confident that the local men and women I'd trained could. I'd also learned to trust God in challenging circumstances and been greatly blessed in my life and faith by Ugandan colleagues and friends.

One outcome of that was sensing God's call to continue in international development, but in the water and sanitation sector, rather

than building. God enabled me to obtain a scholarship to study this specialism, but sadly no mission opportunities arose for us as a family. I therefore worked as an international expert until 2021 to improve services for the poor and marginalised and build the skills and capacity of individuals and organisations.

STEPPING BACK OUT

It was therefore with some excitement, at an age not much less than when God called Abram, that I saw AIM's call for a short-term expert with building experience in rural Africa, to supervise the building of a mission hub in Kotido, north-east Uganda.

I've a better idea about what I'll find this time, and once again I believe it's a call of God. So, how can I refuse?

PRAY FOR PAUL

- A listening ear, and a humble, servant heart.
- Safety and good health, to make best use of the short time available for each 2-3 week visit.