



What is BUILD?

BUILD is a theological training course that develops Bible handling and Christian leadership skills for people serving in local churches in any kind of leadership capacity – from church leaders and preachers to home group and children's group leaders. It was developed in the Church of Uganda with a specific focus on eliminating the traditional barriers to such training including finance, geography and prior educational achievement.

The training can be run anywhere, in local church contexts, is very low cost, and doesn't require a formal secondary education to take part. The training has expanded across East Africa, into Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia, as well as courses being run more widely across Africa, and one in the UK! More information about BUILD can be found on the website: <https://buildtraining.education/>

What will Michael be doing with BUILD?

Michael will be joining BUILD's work to help expand it and to help strengthen the network of trainers who are running the courses in different contexts and often alongside other ministry roles. He will be UK-based with regular contact with, and semi-regular travel to, East Africa, but focusing on strengthening and expanding the work from here in the UK.

Michael's role is a new one for BUILD, and so the specifics of the role will take shape as he begins it, but there is an ever-increasing demand for training church leaders in a grassroots, cost-efficient, biblical and practical way, not just in East Africa but more widely across the continent and beyond.

Why invest in expanding the work of BUILD?

BUILD wasn't developed with expansion in mind – it grew out of a need in the Church of Uganda – but the training has grown organically as other individuals, churches and countries have seen the quality and impact of the training and have brought it into their own context. There is increasing demand for the training, with a need to preserve the quality of the materials and the trainers whilst also making the training as widely accessible as possible – and this requires extra person power!

The fruit of the training can be seen in the impact it has had in different contexts. In Ethiopia, the training was brought to a location where two different ethnic groups were refusing to meet together or use shared church facilities in the context of much conflict. As a result of the BUILD training, and a particular focus on knowing our shared identity in Jesus that comes before any other difference we may have, the communities are now mixing, worshipping and eating together. And in Tanzania, bishops have been keen to appoint BUILD-trained ministers to churches, as they have observed greater stickability and longevity in their ministries due to being equipped with a realistic view of the challenges of ministry as well as the tools to meet Jesus in Scripture.

What does the training include?

There are 10 BUILD training modules, and each one looks at a particular Bible book, how to understand that type of biblical literature (gospels, prophecy, wisdom literature etc.), as well as a theological theme and a leadership issue linked to those books. For example, Module One is titled: 2 Timothy and the Pastoral Epistles: Preaching the Gospel and Godly Leadership.