

# Watoto

Saturday 10 December 2022

## **WATOTO ANNOUNCES TRANSITION IN LEADERSHIP FROM FOUNDERS TO ASSOCIATE TEAM LEADERS**

Watoto Church Ministries is pleased to inform its congregation, friends and partners around the world, and the public of its transition in leadership from the founders, Gary and Marilyn Skinner to the Associate Team Leaders, Julius and Vernita Rwotlonyo.

Announcing their retirement from full-time ministry, Gary and Marilyn Skinner said: "Over the past ten years, with the blessing and endorsement of the Watoto Church leadership, we have, very intentionally, been preparing and mentoring our successors. And, so it is with joy and delight that we announce that Julius and Vernita, who have served as Associate Team Leaders for Watoto for the last five years, will succeed us."

The change in leadership will be celebrated in a special Watoto Leadership Transition Service on Friday, 3 February 2023 at Watoto Church Downtown in Kampala, Uganda where Watoto founders will commission Julius and Vernita Rwotlonyo to be the new Team Leaders of Watoto Church and Watoto Child Care Ministries. Gary and Marilyn Skinner have been the Team Leaders since inception in 1984. "We celebrate this new season of what God is doing and ask you to extend to Julius and to Vernita, the same love and support you have always accorded to us," they said.

"Since 1984, our founders have walked in obedience to the call of God, faithfully pastoring Watoto Church as well as reaching the most vulnerable children, women and communities. We have been blessed by their visionary and exemplary leadership for almost four decades. Vernita and I are humbled to be stepping into this role to continue with the mandate of our vision to see healing come to the cities and the nations. We are grateful for the mentorship that we have received from Gary and Marilyn and are committed to building on their legacy," Pastor Julius Rwotlonyo said.

"We are excited about God's faithfulness to Watoto and where He is taking us in the future. As a ministry, we have been and are undergoing transition in leadership, where our founders have been preparing the Associate Team Leaders for this historic change. This process started more than five years ago and will officially come to an end at the beginning of 2023. We are confident about the stability and sustainability of the ministry amidst leadership transition," says Fred Kawuma, an Elder at Watoto Church and the Head of Leadership Transition Management Committee.

In 2024, Watoto Church will celebrate 40 years of existence while Watoto Child Care Ministries will celebrate 30 years of reaching orphaned and vulnerable children and women in Africa.

*-ends-*

**Watoto Church Ministries - UGANDA**

P O Box 2311 | Plot 87 KAMPALA RD | EMAIL: [INFO@WATOTOCHURCH.COM](mailto:INFO@WATOTOCHURCH.COM)

# Watoto

## About Watoto Ministries

### Watoto Church Ministries

Watoto is a local church that is committed to celebrating Christ and caring for community. In 1984, Uganda was a broken place in the midst of a civil war. Watoto Church (then, Kampala Pentecostal Church) was planted with the vision to bring healing to cities and to rebuild the nations. Close to 40 years now, the church meets collectively every weekend with over 27,000 people at 15 different campuses across Uganda and South Sudan. The church has demonstrated the love of Jesus Christ in action, transforming thousands of lives by embracing those hurting in the world and helping communities rebuild the beautiful African continent. Go to [watotochurch.com](http://watotochurch.com) for more.

### Watoto Child Care Ministries

Watoto is a family made of people from all over the world who are working together to ensure that the forgotten have a place to belong. In 1984, during a time of civil war, Gary and Marilyn Skinner planted a local church in Kampala, Uganda with a clear vision to transform lives in Africa with the love of Jesus. Not long after our first church service, HIV/AIDS devastated the continent. People began dying, turning children into orphans. It was clear—how could a church say they love Jesus and not do something about the pain and suffering around them? So, our work began. Since then, we've rescued over 5,500 orphaned and abandoned children, placing them in loving families. We've come alongside more than 6,000 vulnerable women, equipping them with skills and empowering them to be the mothers and leaders God has called them to be. And we've sent over 100 children's choirs across six continents. Over the years, the challenges of Africa have changes, but our goal remains the same. We come alongside the most vulnerable in our society, embracing them with the love of Jesus as we work to give each baby, child, and woman a chance at a better future—a future full of promise. To learn more, visit [WATOTO.com](http://WATOTO.com)

For inquiries, contact: Esther Agwang, Tel +256 772 989 026 or email [esther.agwang@watotochurch.com](mailto:esther.agwang@watotochurch.com).