



PEACEMAKER

Theo Mbazumutima

Theodore Mbazumutima's has a truly extraordinary story. He should be dead, but somehow, on multiple occasions, his life was spared. His life is one of soaring hope in the most hideous of circumstances. As a young man he had to flee his country, Burundi, as his ethnic group was being targeted. After a harrowing journey he arrived in Tanzania. There in a refugee camp, he worked hard but still longed to complete his education. He and a group of other Hutu young men found themselves surrounded by fellow Hutus who demanded that they come along with them, arm themselves, and seek out Tutsis to kill back in Burundi. The alternative, it was made plain, was to be executed themselves. Theo's frightened response was, 'We cannot come with you. We are Christians.' This commitment to peace has influenced his whole life. While living in exile in Nairobi, Theo and a group of Burundian refugees founded Rema Burundi. This is a Peace building, Christian, non-denomination and non-governmental organisation. They work to prevent the forced displacement of people and also work with refugees from other countries who are now within Burundi.

'Peacebuilding is not an event but a life journey'

