

Mr. Charles Kironji Gatebe, Ph.D:

Charles' journey from childhood to his station in life now is very intriguing indeed. Charles Kironji Gatebe was born in Nyeri, Kenya. As a young boy growing up in rural Kenya he became very curious and started asking many questions about things, about life, and about anything. Charles' mother, a Catholic, seeing a young boy eager to learn, encouraged him to attend catechism classes, probably as a way of diverting his curiosity. From there Charles's Catholicism journey started and he went on to be an altar boy and receiving his church sacraments.

In School, at the same time he was being transformed into a faithful catholic at Mweiga Parish, the ambitious Charles enjoyed learning science subjects more than any other subjects because they allowed him to investigate and experiment, to answer and satisfy his curiosity on the many questions he had on things and life in general.

Mr. Charles Kironji Gatebe proceeded on to Nairobi University where he attained his B.Sc. degree in meteorology, mathematics and physics in 1990 and in 1994 M.Sc. in Meteorology. The ambitious Charles didn't stop there he joined the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, which boasts famous alumni as Nelson Mandela, from where he received a Ph.D degree in atmospheric physics in 1999.

Currently Charles is a climate scientist at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in MD USA. If I can quote Charles' words, "I overcame many hurdles on my way to becoming a scientist at NASA, the world's leader in space exploration". Yes, a devoted catholic from humble beginnings is a scientist at NASA.

Mr. Gatebe has received many awards including the prestigious World Meteorological Organization Young Scientist Award (2000) and NASA's Robert H. Goddard Award for Outreach (2013). For more information, visit: <https://www.nasa.gov/content/charles-gatebe-pushing-the-limits-of-curiosity>, <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2016/charles-gatebe-and-his-not-so-maniac-talks> and <https://science.gsfc.nasa.gov/sed/bio/charles.k.gatebe>.