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Testimonies of Uganda's Leaders

CHRISTIAN IN BUSINESS

Mr. William Ndawula

MAN TO MAN

The Serial Entrepreneur
and Fearless Influencer

PROFILES OF FAITH

From Hopelessness
to Grace!

WOMAN OF FAITH

Home school turns
into an International
Academy

PIONEERS OF FAITH

Successful Service and
Retirement



"MIRACULOUSLY HEALED BY GOD FROM CANCER"

DR. KENNETH CHAPMAN

FREE COPY

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Editorial

Inspirational Stories



Christian Post continues our 15th edition to share with you inspiring and heart warming stories about how faith in Jesus brings victory in personal life. But the great news about this edition is that we have been joined by Mr. Joseph Kalinzi who is doing most of the writing

and interviews. We know him and trust for the time he is here he will do a good job.

In this issue there are quite a number of these stories. Our lead story of Dr. Kenneth Chapman who came to Uganda as a missionary Dentist on a two year contract in 1980 but is still here serving God with a passion.

Another interesting story of Mr. Isaac Ruccibigango - A serial entrepreneur and a fearless influencer of society for the glory of God.

For the Christian in Business, read the amazing story of Mr. Ndawula William Ssempe who at a very tender age started business.

Meet Mr. Bunjo Stephen Musisi, who had a very challenging start in life but God used all things for good to prepare him for the times ahead.

And finally, there is an amazing story of how Mrs. Lorna Magara conceived the idea and developed an International Christian Academy while she was home schooling her children.

Please take time to enjoy these stories, pass them to friends and loved ones. Send us your story too about how faith in Jesus brings personal victory.

Martin.M. Lwanga

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DR. KENNETH CHAPMAN

Miraculously Healed By God From Cancer



Dr. Kenneth & Lynn Chapman during interview

The Luganda speaking Mzungu!

With a good command of the local dialect Luganda language, it is more of a surprise to find out that it is an American who blends English and Luganda so well during a phone conversation to confirm an appointment for the **Christian Post** interview. Born and raised in the southern part of Texas, U.S. in a Christian home where his father was an active Church member and mother was a Choir Director, Dr Kenneth Chapman is one of those interesting characters you would love to meet. He has been living in Uganda for the last 34 years and has even been adopted into one of Buganda's clans. Today he oversees the Mengo hospital Dental department where they take care of a monthly average of 1,100 patients. The Dental department has tremendously

grown from 2 staff and one dental chair to 31 staff and 10 dental chairs.

This humble man of many accomplishments describes his childhood as a happy one. The eldest of the three children in his family – two boys and one girl- his father was an Engineer while his mother, a teacher. “Ours was a happy and stable-family.” As a kid, he shared to **Christian Post** that Church was regularly attended and during one Sunday, the teacher challenged him to read the Bible regularly. But even with such a background, sailing as a Christian was never smooth. As a teenager he had doubts about God.

He often wondered if he died suddenly whether he would go to heaven or hell. So, one day, at age 13, Dr. Chapman, who is locally known as Kigozi, of the Baganda Fumbe (Bush back) clan accepted Jesus as his personal Lord and Savior (John 3;16). “Since then I have never looked back,” he notes.

Becoming a Missionary

Growing up in Texas, “Kigozi” wanted to become a Medical doctor. However, his father did not think this was a great idea. “My Dad thought that the lifestyle of doctors who were on call for duty 24/7 was horrible,” he shared. “So he kindly asked me to consider other options of which I settled on becoming a dentist. Once I finished high school, I went for pre-dental school and thereafter joined the Texas Dental School. After graduating as a dentist, I joined Campus Crusade Ministries started by the Evangelist Bill Bright to embark on a lifelong career as a missionary.”

His first posting was to Korea where he worked for 2 years and then on to Liberia. But how did you get to Uganda? **Christian Post** asked him. “Campus Crusade later sent me for missionary work in Uganda in January 1980 for 2 years. But as you can see up to now I am still in Uganda!”

Living in Uganda at the start was not easy because Dr. Chapman was here in January 1980 during the turbulent days when the country was just recovering from the devastating repercussions of the military regime that had been overthrown the previous year but God saw him through it safely.

Finding a soul mate

Throughout all this time “Kigozi” was the only practicing dentist at Mengo hospital. He was a single man and it became a regular case for too many of his friends to wonder aloud if marriage was in his plans. But one day on a

bus while going to Mombasa for a mission’s conference, he met a lovely girl called Lynn whom he offered to carry her heavy luggage.

Lynn had come to Uganda in 1988 as a Nurse on a missionary expedition and was posted to Hoima for 2 years where she got a local name – “Ateenyi” and 1 year in Mengo Hospital where she got the local name “Nampijja”.

After a long courtship, in 1997 they got married in Orlando, Florida. Today they have one biological daughter – Brianna “Nakimuli” born in the December of 1999 and an adopted daughter – Sophia “Nanteza” who became part of the family in 2009. The children attend Vine International Christian Academy.



Dr. Kenneth & Lynn Chapman on their wedding day



Challenges in Life

Although Dr. Ken's face reveals a peculiar calmness, trials have not been unfamiliar. In 2003, while on duty, he was diagnosed and travelled to U.S.A for cancer treatment which was eliminated for good – a cancer survivor. Praise the Lord Jesus!

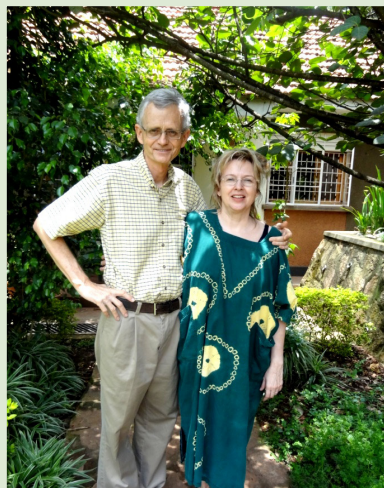
"Among the fears I have," Dr. Ken intimates, "ageing is one of them but as someone wrote a book – 'Getting old is not for cowards' I do not fret about it that much. There is also an anxiety about our children's future wondering what type of world they will find when they grow up?"

To strengthen his faith, Ken offers, "I read the Bible regularly, pray often, attend fellowships like the Executive Ministries that meets on Wednesday at Nommo Gallery and the Revival Brethren at Namirembe Cathedral on Friday. These numerous activities and responsibilities have encouraged me to persevere in the Christian walk."

Life Mission

"My life mission is to glorify God and help reach as many people as possible for Christ." He adds, as we come to the end of the interview "how I go about it is through sharing one on one with the patients that come to the dental clinic."

My message to other Christians is; "Keep in mind that this life is short, we are here for a short time and the future is glorious, good things are still ahead. Don't be weighed down by the challenges you face, just follow Jesus because joy lies ahead of us."



Dr. Kenneth & Lynn Chapman outside the house



Dr. Kenneth & Lynn Chapman & family in sanctuary



L-R: Dr. Kenneth Chapman, Sophia, Lynn & Brianna

MAN TO MAN

The Serial Entrepreneur and Fearless Influencer



Daddy, Isaac Rucci and the Daughters – Tona and Keza at a Hawaii beach.

He is a renowned Gospel Artist who traversed the world with Limit X and is now a serial entrepreneur. Isaac Rucci, is a man of many talents. But even as he has risen to the top, one thing that is clear is that he has never lost his focus on Jesus. “God is my Compass,” he muses. “Wherever I go, what He tells me to do, I abide. As long as my conscience is clear, nothing else matters – It’s all about God!”

Small beginnings

The son of a Pastor who was a founder member of Makerere Full Gospel Church, Rucci grew up in church. Like all church kids, he regularly attended Sunday school where he started playing musical instruments at an early age. When during President Idi Amin’s

reign evangelical churches were banned and closed, Rucci fled with his family to Kenya where they lived for 3 years



From Right to Left - Isaac Rucci, Paul Serukenya, Paul Mutebi, Dennis Sempebwa. — in London, United Kingdom.

till the collapse of the regime in 1979. Upon return, he was admitted to Kisubi Savio Primary School then to Kitante Hill School for O-level and Kampala High for his A-level education.

“However,” Rucci narrates, “during this stage I was rebellious, adventurous and experimented with all the things my parents told me not to do, I walked away from the things of God though I had been raised in church. I got involved with drugs, in disco music and played in a couple of music bands until one night when I felt so empty and realized that the worldly things could not offer me the satisfaction I was searching for. I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour in 1988 at the end of my Advanced Level.

Storming the World

After committing his life to Christ, Rucci says, he never looked back again. “I joined Miracle Center Church and we formed the New Wave music band with colleagues that later transformed into Limit X in 1989. By 1992, Limit X had become a household name in the U.K.

In 1993, I felt God calling us to shift to America and it became a spring board to travel the world. We had a busy schedule and for about 15 years, we boarded a plane on Thursday and were returning home on Monday. In 1994, we travelled to Japan which had less than 1% Christian population. It was a fruitful experience because by 1997, the first people we had impacted had taken up roles in Christian leadership. We also travelled to Phillipines, Singapore, Hong Kong and Africa.”



Daddy's Girls – Tona and Keza.

Returning to Africa

As his schedule got more and more busy Rucci felt he needed to settle down in family life. “In the year 2000 on a visit to Rwanda I met a lovely Francophone lady Flora Rukundo whom I fell in love with. A year later, we got married and in 2002 we were blessed with our first daughter, Keza and Tona, our second born arrived in 2005. We travelled to U.S.A for the birth of each one of our lovely daughters.

But after the second birth Rucci felt restless. God wanted him to return to Uganda. However, his wife was not willing. When, he eventually returned, his wife did not accompany him. Fortunately, he was joined by the children a year after and he has raised them single-handedly ever since.



How do you manage to raise girls all by yourself! Are you a super Dad? **Christian Post** asked him. "Of course not! I just manage by God's grace. I finish my daily work by 4 p.m and collect the girls from school to go home I do homework with them, play, have dinner with them and put them to bed."

Serial entrepreneur

Rucci's extensive stay overseas opened up his eyes to many opportunities. Rucci is very thankful to God that after returning to Uganda he has put his many talents to use. "I would like to refer to myself as a "Serial Entrepreneur" – I have a special knack to spot business opportunities."

When I returned to Uganda after over 20 years in the music career, I saw a need and a gap to organize Gospel / Church events from a mediocre to an international level. So, I started an Events Management company which organized shows like Papa San, Cece Winans, Kirk Franklin, Passion tour - Kampala and Gospel Crusades like Benny Hinn and Creflo Dollar. I also started a music studio – FishNeXt and supported Gospel music groups like First Love, Milele, Sauti and Gospel artists like Exodus. For a multiple stream of income, the studio ventured out into activities like Radio Adverts, Jingles, T.V.Cs (T.V Commercials) and serial radio programs for Organizations.

I was also able to start a media company – Oxford Digital Media which owns the electronic billboard located at the round-about next to Nakumatt - Oasis Mall.

This helps to simplify advertising because it hosts more than one billboard/ advert at a time. I also helped to start the Maybach Automobile Company along Ggaba Road and spearheaded the "Kampala City Yange" campaign."

"I want to be part of the movement that brings as many people as possible to Jesus Christ through the avenues of music and business," Isaac continues, "At Mavuno Church, every last Saturday we have an outreach – Lock down. We carry out business outreaches in schools about entrepreneurship to students to inspire and encourage the young people to write their own stories. A message to my fellow Christians is to trust in the Lord and have a real relationship with God.

Let Christianity be a lifestyle, an everyday experience, not something like a shirt you put on and later remove."

Looking Ahead

Christian Post asked Rucci how he sees his life ahead. "I should say not yet arrived because success is journey and am seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, but if you ask me how I rate, I can say 8 on a scale of 10."

"I want to be part of the movement that brings as many people as possible to Jesus Christ through the avenues of music and business."

CHRISTIAN IN BUSINESS

Before you invest, investigate!

At a very tender age, he carried out business without prior training or even the parents' permission. Whenever empty bottles and tins were called for, he was always at the roadside ready to transact and later on as he grew he found his way to the market to sell food he had gathered from the family garden.

This was but just a start of the entrepreneurial ventures of Mr. William Ndawula Ssempe the proprietor of numerous investment vehicles among which is Plate Café'.



William on a business trip.

Tell us about your business.

"My business is in catering." We have the best snacks, barbeque and buffet meal in and around town.

How did you get started in this business?

After working with the International Committee of Red Cross for seven years and a Norwegian business company for three years, I acquired the work ethic and solid foundation and one time as I attended a financial talk at Church where the key note speaker Mr. Patrick Kagoro referred to the book "Rich Dad, Poor Dad" by Robert Kiyosaki which I read and turned my world around. My eyes were opened to the need we had at my work place, there was no place to offer meals to the many offices in the area.

I gathered a team of three well qualified experts because I believe in teamwork especially with people who are better than me and put our heads together and came up with Plate Café' which was spot on and embraced by the people at the very first day of operation.

What do you like about your work?

There are numerous things I like about my work; Freedom to do what I want with my time, I can plan different activities of my day without any imposing restrictions. Secondly, I like to make decisions and influence outcomes at the work place.



Thirdly, I love to apply creativity when solving problems and when I do, employment for people is put in place.

What has been the most challenging aspect of running business as a Christian?

The major challenge has been centering on the human resource department. The attitude of the workers sometimes leaves much to be desired. It is one thing to get the job and another to do the job well and also the integrity and honesty when it comes to handling the business resources. And unfortunately, these issues are not taught in the lecture rooms but at home which some fail to do.

Is your family involved in your business?

Definitely, my wife is a business lady in textiles and she provides the necessary support and our children actively

participate in the kitchen whenever they are on holiday and they love it. And I regularly pass-on business insights to them whenever we are together as well as check on their progress – savings.

Tell us more about your family?

I am married to only one lovely wife Deborah – we shall be making 22 years in October and we have been blessed with three sons Gideon, ... and two daughters Joyce,

When did you become a believer in Jesus Christ?

Although I was born and raised in a Christian family, it was on a particular Christmas Eve that I seriously pondered about Salvation and I asked Jesus Christ into my life. This news was a surprise to my family the following day which was Christmas; it is now slightly over 30 years.



L-R; William, Deborah, Irene and David – Miami, Florida

How do you practice Christian faith as a business person?

I view business as a calling and consider myself as a market place minister. Christianity is a way of life; in everything that I do I seek to honour and glorify God.

Do you employ only Christians?

No at all, I consider business as work which involves solving problems. So all that I look for are problem solvers and I view work as mentorship grounds where the workers are taught different aspects of business. Our main reason for working should be to learn first and after mastering your work then you start to earn.

What is your life mission?

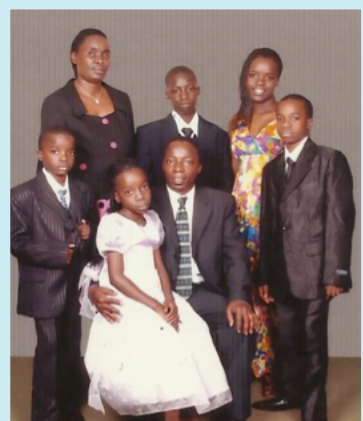
To be healthy, wealthy and wise. How – I seek to know God and enjoy Him fully in everything I do.

What advice do you have for Christians in business?

- Be willing to take risks, not gambling but calculated risks. Before you invest, first investigate! Always ask yourself what is the worst that can happen?
- Be innovative / creative. Do new things don't copy
- Take full responsibility and own the blame.
- Have high expectations in business. The higher the goals, the higher the returns.
- Maintain a positive attitude. The word

is maintain - amidst the challenges and stressing factors maintain a positive attitude. "It is not the facts that are important but what you do with those facts and how you interpret them." - Dr. Wayne Dyer.

- Lead from the front. The followers will have more confidence if they see you leading.
- Think Global, Act Local. We are living in a global village, look at international solutions and focus on how to apply them locally.
- Value your customers and always give them value for their money.
- Don't be greedy! Put to death the "me"



Standing: L-R; Gideon, Mum, Saul, Deborah and Daniel. Sitting: L-R; Joyce and Dad



William and Deborah on holiday - New Jersey



Mr. & Mrs. Musisi at the 40 year (Ruby) Anniversary

PROFILES OF FAITH

From Hopelessness To Grace!

It has never been correct to judge the destiny of anyone based on the beginning, even so Mr. Stephen Musisi and Mrs. Marjorie Bunjo would have been written off had it not been for God's intervention with His divine plan to bring them to the current status.

The Uncertain Beginning

Mr. Stephen Musisi Bunjo was born on the 12th May 1947 to Mr. Ezekyeri Musisi (R.I.P) and Mrs. Cecilia Musisi (R.I.P) in a banana plantation on Kibuye near Kakiri in Busiro County, Wakiso District.

"I am the 7th of 12 children, 5 boys and 7 girls," Stephen 'musomesa' (teacher) narrates, "While growing up I did not experience the love and care of my parents, instead my late paternal Aunt Erina Namusoke Nabunjo filled in the

gaps and this gave me love for children and this upbringing later inspired me to work with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) of Uganda for over thirty years now where I joined as Vice Chairman of CEF National Committee from 1998 and presently as the National Director."

He started school in Lukwanga African Model School; 'Musomesa' went on to complete his Primary education at Kavumba Primary School in 1962. His first grade helped him join Makerere College School but amidst the financial struggle, he received a bursary and he obtained a second grade at the O-level.

He joined Nabumali High School for the A-level education in 1968 and when he completed, he was offered a teaching opportunity at Masulita Secondary School as a Geography and History teacher.



Among the students he taught, Musisi - Bunjo's eye was caught by a one Marjorie but since she was still in school, he never made a single move at the time. At the end of vacation, he joined Makerere University in 1970 to pursue a degree in Arts and diploma in Education.

After completing the three year degree in 1973, 'Musomesa' was posted to Gayaza High School as a Geography/History teacher and as a young fresh graduate it was a challenge teaching these bright young girls being a single man.

Marriage



Mr. & Mrs. Musisi Bunjo on 22nd December, 1973

'Musomesa' followed up Marjorie and found out she had joined Mengo Nursing School after her O-level and at her completion of the course, Stephen had also graduated and was teaching at Gayaza High School.



Mr & Mrs Musisi giving speech on their 40 year (Ruby) Anniversary

Mrs. Marjorie K. Musisi was born on 21st September, 1952 at Kiboga Hospital to Mr. Sedulaki and Mrs. Lovina Nakate Katalemwa as their first born. "I was followed by many siblings and as a baby," Marjorie recalls, "I did not breastfeed but was fed on cow milk and Gates' powdered milk. I grew up with my parents who were farmers cultivating both cash and food crops.

We were assigned duties of cultivating the coffee plantation during the weekend and holidays. I attended Kisojo Primary School, Katikamu SDA Secondary School and then Masulita Senior Secondary after which I joined Mengo School of Nursing from where I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I qualified as an Enrolled Nurse after two years and eight months. I started working at Kasangati Dispensary in 1974 and moved to Uganda Transport Company from 1976 to 1993. I retired from public service and set up Mukama Kyakuwa Clinic in Gayaza in 1993 which is where I still serve the community to date."

"When I met Marjorie," shares Mr Musisi, there was an underlying conviction and it took us 3 years to make the marriage a reality. My brethren joined me in prayer," Stephen confesses,

“and as soon as my wife completed her Nursing course at Mengo Hospital, we got married on 22nd December, 1973.” It was a simple wedding with a budget of UGX 10,000/= (Uganda Shillings Ten thousand) but it glorified God. We started our marriage in a humble way and we had our honeymoon at Gayaza High School in the school house.

We made 40 years on 22nd December, 2013. And God has blessed us with five children; four boys – David Sukka Kirabo, Michael Kizito Kisakye, Apollo Bunjo Kyakuwa and Kefa Kuteesa Nsubuga and one girl Erina Nabunjo Namusoke. God has availed to us a home at Kasangati and a number of lovely and beautiful grandchildren.

Work Life Track Record



Child Evangelism Fellowship

In August 1973, ‘Musomesa’ was posted to Gayaza High School as a graduate to teach both Geography and History where he spent five years. The following year, the East African Council appointed him Assistant Examiner for History and this came with the opportunity to travel in Nairobi and flee the insecurity that was in the country.

In 1977, President Idi Amin appointed him as an Inspector of schools (Geography) for a period of ten years

and this helped him travel widely to places like the United Kingdom (UK), Ireland and Kenya. After his service at the Central Inspectorate Ministry of Education, he became the headmaster of Mengo Senior School for five years.

At 47 years of age, he voluntarily retired from the Public service and served as an administrator at Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau (UPMB) then as Country Director of UWESO UK Trust.

With dissatisfaction from the above jobs, he resorted back to teaching and went to Makerere University in the School Education. He eventually left Makerere University to join Ndejje University to train Geography teachers and he has served for 12 years and will retire in August 2014.

“I have served at several committees in the Christian circles,” Musomesa says, “and currently am the National Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Uganda. A ministry still under development which started in 1998 with only 2 workers and currently it has 28 workers with local areas.”

However, the road has not been all smooth because challenges have been encountered. We were put at gun-point some time in our life together. Working with other Christians has also been a challenge because they sometime neglect their responsibility to contribute as team members in joint projects. Due to the extended family, we have had a challenge of dependents which has strained the resources a little. Time management has been difficult due to the juggling of different roles like home, ministry at Child Evangelism Fellowship



and lecturing at schools and university.

Despite the challenges the first reason that gives us courage to stand is knowing Jesus as the personal Saviour and Lord of our lives.

The second reason is the marriage vows that we made on the wedding day, they always bring to memory the commitment we promised each other and this keeps us moving forward amidst all the friction along the way.

A Christian marriage with God at the center is good despite the challenges that come. God will help out and you become closer to each other and develop into better individuals.

“Knowing that we are all different,” Musomesa continues, “we always have tolerance for one another and accept each other the way we are. And whenever things go wrong, we forgive each other and move on.”

Advice for the young couples today

- They should avoid giving birth before marriage.
- They should make simpler ceremonies because the emphasis needs to be put on the marriage itself not the introduction or the wedding functions.
- They should be careful as they live on this earth, watch out for the diseases ready to kill them.
- Hard work should be appreciated and avoid time wasting activities like betting and conning.
- They should responsibly take care of the resources like land which are left behind by parents and not sell them for short-lived luxurious lives.
- They should team-up with parents regularly and help each other as they progress in life.



Mr. & Mrs. Musisi, Friends & Family on their Ruby Anniversary

WOMAN OF FAITH

Home school turns into an International Academy

What started as a fulfillment of the mothering role to instruct and raise the children in the home setting, later turned out to be the humble start of what now stands as an International Christian Academy.

Vine International Christian Academy (VICA) is one of the leading Christian schools following the Accelerated Christian Education (ACE) curriculum. From its humble beginnings with a class of 23 students it has now grown to a student population of 174. Early in 2014 the higher grade school moved

to a new campus in Ntinda leaving the elementary school in Mengo, Kampala. **Christian Post** was happy to catch up with the founder of this school, Mrs. Lorna Magara to share with us her vision.

The last born of ten children to Mr. and Mrs. (R.I.P) Kakuyu, Lorna, spent most of her childhood time in Jinja where her Dad was a civil servant. She attended Victoria Nile Primary School, Gayaza High School and finally graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Education at Makerere University Kampala.



Dr. James and Mrs. Lorna Magara and Family





Dr. James and Mrs. Lorna Magara

Marriage and Family

It was during her first year at campus that Lorna met her future husband, James, who was then a third year student in dental school. By then James, a striking brown skinned gentleman was the Chairman of the Makerere University Christian Union.

He stood out and soon the two got involved in a number of activities, like acting, which drew them closer to each other. Finally, when Lorna completed her bachelor's degree level, James proposed and she accepted. They were married in 1989 and have been blessed with three sons, David, Timothy and Joseph and a daughter, Jemima.

A Subtle Beginning and a Successful Business Run

After working with NSSF for eight years, Lorna decided to stay home and home school their children for three years. "As I was home schooling our children," Lorna says, "God impressed it upon my heart to extend such a service to other families.

When I shared this with my husband, he stood with me and we sought God about the necessary steps to achieve this calling. In 2005, doors started opening, we received 23 children from other families, we acquired land and other necessary resources and so we started Vine International Christian Academy. We now have a population of 173 students (from infants to Grade 12)."

Vine Christian Academy Philosophy

With a vision of creating a generation of disciples through Christian education, the school philosophy is built on the following principles:-

- Education should be communication of wisdom, knowledge and understanding for all of life
- God's character is the source of wisdom
- Education of children is primarily the responsibility of parents
- The earth and everything in it belongs to God

- The Bible is the revealed Word of God
- Real success in life is founded on a relationship with God through the work of Jesus Christ.

Christianity and Conduct

How does such a busy lady keep going, asked **Christian Post**. “It was in 1979 during my senior one at Gayaza High School that I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour,” Lorna responded. “Obedience to God is the first principle which continues to direct my life. It was the reason that helped me start this school and I continually follow God as He directs me on how to minister to the children at this educational facility.

“I also attend Christian fellowships, Church activities and belong to Christian associations like Intercessors for Uganda, African Kingdom Business Forum and S.A.L.T to mention but a few,” Lorna continues, “I employ only Christians in this school because we need to impart Biblical values to the children and the instructors ought to be Christian.

This helps us to disciple the next generation in the ways of God through Academic instruction and partner with parents because I believe the responsibility to educate the children primarily belongs to them.”

Challenges and Concerns

“As we fulfill this duty we are faced with challenges. There are some resources that I desire to provide to the children but I get restrained by finances.

Am also concerned with the moral level of society values which have decayed and this makes it difficult to pass on the Godly values because the children are continually bombarded with secular world views,” Mrs. Lorna continues, “I get so concerned with a desire to enable children to grow holistically in terms of intellectual, spiritual and be socially confident; I am sometimes faced with fear of failure to make it happen in the lives of any individual child.”



Mrs. Lorna Magara in office

Life Mission

To train the next generation in the fear and knowledge of the Lord while providing an education that is biblically based, promotes academic excellence and is individualized to meet the needs of each child.

How I achieve this is by spending time with children during school and providing them with an individualistic instruction program in a non-teaching environment.





Mr & Mrs Sentongo

PIONEERS OF FAITH - (Repeat)

Successful Service And Retirement

The Alter Call asking those who wished to receive Jesus as personal Lord and Savior had just been made. The occasion was at St. Paul's Cathedral Namirembe on Friday 13th, September, 1985, the closing day of that year's week long Uganda Keswick Convection. The message was delivered by Mr. Zebulon Kabaza on Zachaeus' encounter with Jesus as recorded in the Gospel according to St. Luke 19:1-10.

I had heard the message before but had held back in shyness hiding in myself given holiness and righteousness. Suddenly, this time by the Holy Spirit moving me, I boldly stood and walked up the aisle as a sinner to receive Jesus Christ as a personal Savior and Lord. That was a momentous life-defining decision for me. I was welcome home. It was a time of overwhelming relief, joy

and peace in my heart which only Christ the Prince of Peace, gives to those who by faith come to receive Him.

I came to know more than ever before that He knew me, was looking for me the lost to save me. I came, received, and there is no turning back. TUKUTENDEREZA!!

When **Christian Post** met Rev. Canon David Sentongo now safely in retirement his was a tranquil picture of a man content with having made the right decision for the rest of his life. "I do not think I would be seated here comfortably," he muses in his living room filled with pictures of his family of five children and nine grandchildren. He went on to add that "I have received so many blessings from knowing, obeying the Word and doing whatever I do as for the Lord." And who can doubt that!

In 1987, it was after moving through the ranks, with a reputable track record, appointed to the position of Makerere University Secretary: in corporate terminology Chief Executive Officer of the University. Prayerfully, with faith and trust in His Savior Lord Jesus, he served the University with singular distinction, wisely facing and overcoming the challenges of the time until his retirement in 1994, building for the future.

“Reflecting on my service at Makerere University and a career that started in 1957 as school teacher at Nyakisura School, plus all the other places where I have been privileged to serve spanning forty nine years, I have never lost sleep. I ran the race, kept the rules, and honored those to be honored in all not seeking for personal gain but the gain of those I served. And in this regard, the testimony of my conscious is very clear. I give thanks and glory to the Lord for His spirit and power at work in me.”

After 23 years of service, he retired from Makerere University in 1994. His services as an accomplished university administrator were such sought after. In 1995 he was approached for appointment as the first University Secretary at Nkumba University. Aware of the presence at that University of Uganda’s eminent educationist and university leader, Professor William Senteza Kajubi as its first Vice Chancellor, with whom he had closely worked at Makerere, he gladly and confidently accepted the call. It gave him fresh opportunity and challenges to team up with his former close colleague

and mentor, purposefully to develop and nurture that infant University from its extremely humble beginnings in 1994. By the grace of God, the impossible was possible, the task was carried out, and the assignment was accomplished. Nkumba University stands as a living testimony of the era of Professor William Senteza Kajubi as its first Vice Chancellor and Rev. Canon David Sentongo as University Secretary. In 2006 after ten years of service to Nkumba University, he chose to retire and let others carry on the work. He is settled at his home in Lungujja, where he has lived with his wife Margaret and raised their children since 1970. He looks back with happy memories and gives thanks to God for the blessing of teamwork and more so the relationship and friendship he enjoyed at the institutions he served.

But how did he get that far, **Christian Post** asked him? “All was not that easy, but it was worthy as a preparation for my future. I am the eldest child of the family of the Late Besweri Nyonyintono of Katale, Busiro County. I have five surviving sisters and one brother. All my siblings are established each in their own way, four of them at Katale where we were born. My brother is a pastor at one of the evangelical churches not far from his home.

My father was a small scale farmer of food crops, and some cash crops like coffee, sugarcane and cotton. He very much put a premium on the education of his children although he himself for lack of school fees did not complete primary school. He developed





Mr & Mrs Sentongo with their children

himself through self improvement and association. He worked very hard to raise money and at times many other things had to be given up. In addition, he made it a rule to see that we learnt how to do all domestic work at home and in the garden.

A bad report from school, or a neighbor or failure to do well what was expected of us was Christian discipline, there was character and our father and mother's love, crowned all and planted all in us for our future. And from time to time throughout the year, we held family meetings rotating at members' homes to pray and share together to build one another. Thanks be to God!"

What about your education? My father spared no coin for my education and indeed for all my siblings thus four of us attained university education. In 1941, he sent me first to Kayanja Primary School which was located at Namirembe, St. Paul's Cathedral grounds. Thereafter, I joined Mengo

Junior Secondary School where I earned my Junior Leaving Certificate in 1947. During that period, I joined and became a member of St. Paul's Cathedral Choir a fellowship and experienced which lives in me and I greatly cherish to the present day. After Mengo Junior Secondary School, I travelled for the first time, miles and miles away from home to join Nyakasura School near Fort Portal in the then Toro District.

It was an enriching experience which brought me into contact and friendship with many students from other parts of Uganda who became my friends to this day. The discipline at Nyakasura School was regimental. Numbers were small and each student knew others by their first names. Purely academic subjects were topped up with practical courses such as metal work, tailoring, carpentry and gardening. Attendance at Chapel services and participation in games were a must. So equipped and brought up by Nyakasura School of my time, I greatly value and put

into practice whenever possible the School Motto, “To minister and to be ministered unto.”

After earning my Cambridge O’Level certificate in 1951 at Nyakasura School, I joined Makerere University in 1952 where I graduated with a B.A in Geography, Economics and Mathematics and did a Post graduate Diploma in Education successfully completing my studies there in 1957.” How was life at Makerere University then? “Life was great, exciting, enjoyable, recognizable, uncrowded, respectable, very affordable, collegial and complete” he recalls fondly, “Makerere was the only University in East and Central Africa and we were a highly selected group of students.

The facilities were in top conditions both for residence in the Halls of Residence, games and socialization. Allowances were paid to us for scholastic materials and living expenses. I lived on the second floor of Northcole Hall and up and down the stairs and in the corridors, I would meet and chat with fellow students one of them, Mwai Kibaki who is a former President of Kenya. Among many, I had two very close friends from Uganda, Sam Odaka who became a very successful businessman and Nkambo Mugerwa who became Solicitor General and one of Uganda’s leading Attorneys. After Makerere, each one of us took his own route but to this day, the bond of friendship forged at University remains unabated and we regularly phone and visit each other. This is one of the blessings among many, from my pleasant exposure at Makerere University.”

Meeting Margaret

God planned that well ahead of me. I was in my third year when she joined the University in 1954 to pursue a Diploma course in Education. She made headlines in the news of that era, first as the sole female student from Gayaza High School that year, and then as the first child of a former Makerere male students to enter the university. This greatly tickled my attention to focus on her. I purposed to look for her at the campus fast enough to nurture a friendship. By the grace of God, her parents Born-Again Christians were well known to my parents who were also Born-Again Christians and knew each other from their Revival Fellowship meetings. She was the first born in her family and so was I.

Our friendship steadily evolved through encounters in the library, meetings and other avenues on the campus and elsewhere. My two friends Sam Odaka and Nkambo Mugerwa got to know my interest in Margaret and greatly fuelled the fire of love up to the wedding day and to date. “After graduation in 1957,

I was posted to Nyakusura School as the first African graduate teacher there. Margaret was posted to Gayaza High School. The growing love affair knew no long distance between us. We closely kept in touch. One weekend to my pleasant surprise, my two friends Sam Odaka and Nkambo Mugerwa, came with her to visit me at Nyakasura for two days. After a stay of one term at Nyakasura, I was posted to King’s College Budo.



I greatly missed my students and fellow staff members at Nyakasura, but was pleased to come to Budo nearer to Gayaza where my heart in Margaret resided. In 1958, with the firm support of my parents' and friends I proposed to her. An introduction ceremony was held at her parents' home in Najemba, Wakiso District. There were six of us who travelled in two saloon cars with all the things we took to the ceremony. By the Grace of God, all went very well. On Saturday, 17th January, 1959, David Sentongo and Margaret Bbosa were wedded two to become one at St. Paul's Cathedral, Namirembe. "My close friend Professor Sentenza-Kajubi with whom I was a teacher at King's College Budo, was my best man and Hon. Joyce Mpanga, Margaret's schoolmate at Gayaza was her maid of honor. I give thanks and praises to God for graciously sustaining us bonded together in love to the present day."

A Successful Working Career

"I want to say that it has been very challenging and fulfilling, variegated, honorable, spanning a period of forty nine years from 1957 to 2006, when I retired from Nkumba University service. I have already mentioned my work as a school teacher at Nyakasura and King's College Budo. My subjects were Geography and mathematics. At Nyakasura, I also started teaching Luganda as a subject for O' level to Baganda students and others who joined the class. Let me say something about my post graduate training. Shortly after our marriage in 1959, I was after an interview offered a



Mr & Mrs Sentongo with children

University where I qualified with a Master of Science in Economics Geography. I came to learn that I was the first Ugandan student at that University and was much on call by churches and groups of Americans who wanted to see a Ugandan, and hear about the country and Africa generally. By the grace of God, in 1961, my wife Margaret also received a scholarship to study at the same University for a degree in Home Economics or what in schools they used to call "domestic science." She earned the degree and went on record as the first Ugandan to do so.



with their grandchildren

On return to her country in 1963, she rejoined the teaching service as Home Economics teacher till her retirement in 1998. After earning a Master of Science degree in Economic Geography at Ohio State University in 1961, I received an Andrew Mellon Fellowship in the Department of Geography at the University of Pittsburgh, in the state of Pennsylvania, USA, for doctoral studies in Geography. In mid 1963, I decided to return to Uganda for my fieldwork for the doctoral dissertation. After three weeks of stay back home, I attended an interview for a Civil service job which I passed very well and was posted to the Ministry of Education as an Assistant

Education officer. This appointment marked a fundamental life defining decision as my career path totally shifted from a vision of an academic in University to that of an educationist administrator.

When I look back at what I have gone through and become, I kneel down and give thanks and praise to the Almighty God for timely decision made for my career path and service. My stay at the Ministry of Education was in the first instance short because in the same year 1963, I was identified and recruited as an Administrative Assistant in the Academic Registrar's Office, under the then Makerere University Staff Africanisation Programme of post independence Uganda.

After a year at Makerere, I returned to the Ministry of Education appointed as Senior Education Officer to head and build up the Planning and Statistical Unit. The land mark achievements included the preparation of loan request to the World Bank for the financing and the reconstruction, renovation and equipment for 39 secondary schools in the whole Uganda. Included in the Project were the new classroom blocks, science laboratories, technical subject workshops, Home economics rooms, libraries, administration blocks, staffrooms, staff houses, assembly and dining halls and kitchens and ablution units.

All the new facilities were fully appropriately equipped. School buildings constructed under that World Bank Project, stand unique with their pre-fabricated walls and portal frames,



special rust and paint free roofing sheets and so on. I recall travelling to Washington D.C. World Bank Office with Dr. Joshua Luyimbazi-Zake the then Minister of Education, to present the loan request and secure the funding. This was the most successful pace-setting nationwide secondary schools development project, with no parallel to date. Another land mark project I worked on among many was the location and acquisition of a site from Kampala City Council and funding from the British Government for the construction and equipping of a new Primary School in Kampala: Kitante Primary School.

Now tell us about your Ordained services, **Christian Post** asked; “As I grew up, I came to admire and respect priests. I admired the way they led the services and preached and sometimes I thought I could do the same. My father had trained at Bishop Tucker College, Mukono, as a Lay reader (Omubuulizi). His first posting was to Ssesse Islands and then after about a year and half was transferred to a Parish in Kungu on Bombo Road. He was very dedicated to his job and deeply impressed me in a way that he prepared himself for leading the service, delivery of the sermon and above all his faith and trust in God. Going to church on Sunday and other worship days was expected of me.

In December 1981, I was ordained as Deacon in a service at Namirembe Cathedral and many friends of mine came to see in order to believe. God enabled me to minister to all and a record was sent for me to be the first

Reverend to serve as a university Secretary in a Public University with no parallel known to me to date.

After the ordination, I was posted at Namirembe Cathedral as a Tent Maker (part-time) non-salaried curate. I was priested in December 1983 and moved to a position of Assistant Vicar again on a part-time basis. In 1989, I was promoted to the rank of Canon in the Church of Uganda. Service in the Ordained Orders has been and is my most humbling and enlightening experience in my life. Equally so, it is the most excellent service to deliver as one by faith and service draws near to God and invites others to do so for eternal life.”

The Sunset Years

Rev. Cannon Sentongo told **Christian Post** that since retiring, he has never been short of what to do. He now programmes himself instead of being programmed by an employer. “I enjoy fixing things around the house applying my Nyakasura School training. I have time to catch up with personal and family matters which I had to set aside while at work in full time employment. There are things acquired and kept over a period of time which I now have time to sort out and clear the shelves and other places in the house.

I find and value quiet time to study God’s Word and related literature and prayer, spiritually equipping myself and preparing myself for eternity. I rejoice in each day which the Lord my God makes and this is my prayer for all.”
Glory Be To God In The Highest!!!

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