

## Biography.

Stella S Sekyondwa was born 10/09/1969 to Eriab Nkurunziza and Serediyo Maria at Mulago hospital, she was raised in Rubaga where her parents lived. She has lived in Kampala all her life until she breathed her last on 20/07/2021.



*Mw. Eriab Nkurunziza and Serediyo Maria*



*Stella as a Teenager*

## Family.

(Words of S Sekyondwa Francis)

Our life with Stella; we met when we were still youth. With the mercy of God we didn't know what he had prepared us to bare so many fruits and gifts that we would become good parents and have a good family, being youth we didn't expect to accomplish a lot of things but I thank God he gifted me with precious gold ,a person full of love, trust and honesty.

Stella in her youthful years she was an intelligent, hardworking, strong and beautiful woman. I didn't know God had blessed me with a woman of knowledge, love and happiness someone who always believed in me and I thank God together we are grateful for the love and life we shared for whatever God sowed is surely blessed as in the bible says in Proverbs 14 :1 (the wise woman builds her family, but the foolish one pulls hers down.) when you read that verse it surely refers to Stella.

A lot of things you can talk about Stella, She was a very intelligent woman all her life who wasn't easily carried away, a person of character and respect despite her kindness and selflessness. Being a man I believe Stella prayed for a man like me as the bible says in Ephesians chapter 5 : 23 (For the husband is the head of the family as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior ) shows responsibility of a man to love, to be honest and happiness. Stella and I have been loving, happy, honest and truthful to each other.

Beginning our marriage we met in 1985 during the transition of governments. That year we faced a lot of challenges but the love and care we had for each other eased our challenges at that time and that made us even stronger. In 1986 December on the 20th God blessed us with our first child then our second child in 1988. We gave birth to our 3rd, 4th and 5th child in all her life God has blessed us with 5 children.



*Stella introduces S Sekyondwa Francis in kigali, Rwanda*

In loving and praying Stella decided to introduce me to her parents in Kigali Rwanda in the year of 1997 in that time the ceremony was a colorful and respectful ceremony which left her parents satisfied and so happy but most especially “her” as I had promised her. It’s not easy to marry out of the country it comes with a lot of challenges but all was possible because of God and Stella’s love, trust and honesty.

Life continued to move on as we handled different responsibilities and business God continued to bless us as we archived our life goals. Stella has been a joyful, happy and kind person with her smile that always showed kindness and love she always welcomed everyone and many people looked up to her the rich people, the poor everyone who knew Stella really looked to her. I always prayed to God to have a blessed marriage and I always promised to Him our way of thanking Him for the gifts of life. I kept on postponing our marriage because of our goals and life but with guidance and knowledge God had gifted me with I decided without fail that I was to marry Stella and have a blessed marriage in front of God with his blessing and on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 we decided to have our holy matrimony and our wedding was a really colorful and cheerful day that this made us really happy as we had our children as maids and grooms. Our wedding really made Stella our children, friends and family so happy.



*The wedding on 2nd February 2012*

Stella has been a really loving and family person that when she was happy she would throw us surprise parties, birthdays so many things she was a person of gifts as she has been our gift and we have learnt all this from her, even in tough situations she always advised for the truth and she always asked to always be truthful and honest in life. Till a time we shifted from Kyebando to Mutundwe and all this has been possible because of her. She has been hard working strong wise and intelligent despite her advocating always for the truth but for her she was more truthful than us as the bible says in proverbs chapter 14 verse 21 (it is a sin to despise one's neighbor, but blessed is the one who is kind to the needy).

Stella has always been respectful kind and welcoming to everyone and when it comes to the needy she was always way to kind and I think she has been so lucky, Because if you refer to proverbs i believe Stella has been a bible reader and I think she got the knowledge of Solomon in proverbs 22 : 1 (A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver and gold) she also chose a good name over riches and she always had a good name she never chose riches because they were not her problem but she wanted a good name. She was so kind.

### **Words from her Sister Margret**

In loving memory of my Sister Stella.

My sister was the most loving person I knew. She was the best Sister anybody could wish or ask God for and more. When our mom passed she took her role as a big sister and she did it well. She used to tell me that I promised Mom to take care of you and guide you all and she did. May God bless her soul. Stella loved family gatherings and always hosted as many as she could -t in to her home. She loved hosting. I will miss her laughter, her big hugs, her dancing she was a good dancer and it was always amazing and fun being around her. I will miss her jokes. For Stella she was happiest when family was around her. My sister a giver she loved giving gifts and helping the needy.

She used to encourage me to do so and pray anytime I get. Every New Year's Eve she would spend the whole day preparing cooking different dishes for her family, then in the evening take a plane to Kigali with her husband to surprise her Dad. Me and all my sisters and brothers our life will never be the same without her. She was our everything.





*Some of Stella's sisters*

We thank God for the time we spent with her. Stella was there for me on my wedding day she did everything for me I was comfortable because I knew she had my back all way. She loved us with heart. We could come to her anytime and she would receive us with open arms. We loved her dearly. I used to send whatsapp messages telling her how i miss and loved her. She would always reply with her sweet voice (nze nsinga ka sis) am happy that at least she knew that she was loved by us all. I have a lot of good memories with her. Death leaves heartache noone can steal. Now i know why you always told me to be strong and grow up. You knew that one day I would need the strength to bear your loss. You may be gone from our sight but you will never be gone from our hearts.

Rest in Peace our lovely Sister until we meet again...

## **Love for Religion**

Stella was a catholic in her teens but later converted to an Adventist in her youth. Stella attended the church of Adventist center in Makerere but her converting was in the 90's with the leadership, efforts and guidance from Pr.Kasumba Richard and was later baptized by Pr.Ndawula. She served the church of Kyebando for a long time. Later she shifted to Mutundwe and she began to serve the church of Busega and later on Wankulukuku SDA Adventist church in the year of 2010. She really made an impact and touched a lot of lives through different missions of the church.



*Stella getting baptized by Pastor Ndawula in the 90'*

While at the church of Wankulukuku, Stella served in different departments of the church.

**1. Family Life:** Here she assisted so many couples to get married, counseled them to stay married, to a point of offering financial support to their wedding ceremonies. Up to her death she possessed many copies of marriage certificates of couples she had helped.

**2. Women Ministries:** She was directly involved in women organizations and projects, SACCO's and women based NGO's.

**3. Developments:** She has been helping the youth start projects including -financing those projects.

**4. Prison Ministries:** Through her personal income, Stella would buy Beddings, clothes for prisons, Food, Sanitary pads for female prisoners and other life basic needs such as soap, sugar etc. She helped many prisoners get bail and others released including giving them capital to startup businesses irrespective of religion, tribe or political party. She also preached to many prisoners and many converted and accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

**5. Hospital Ministries:** She organized visiting the sick and providing them with basic life necessities especially HIV-Aids ward, T.B ward, Cancer ward at Mulago hospital During the service of Stella to the church despite her handwork and devotion she served well the help and guidance of of the lead pastors of the church among these include; Pastor Wilson Ssekago, Pastor David Mpande, Pastor Moses Bogere, Pastor Ezekiel Lubowa, Pastor Joseph Musasiizi, Pastor Joseph Kibuuka, Pastor Paul Mumbere

## Work Life

Stella started out small as the saying goes these days “okweyiya” she started from owino (St.Balikuddembe Mkt) selling clothes for our bosses since we had small but with hard work and love God continued to bless us and we were able to become bosses too from being employed we also became employers still moving with Stella together as she took great care of our family too. In our work life God continued to bless us always and we benefited a lot from owino.

We are grateful to God as people who entered owino so young we were able to build our first home in the year 1995 in Kyebando, God continued to bless us. Stella has always been wise and intelligent both in business and family she always advised in business and other aspects at times I may tend to be stubborn but most times I always went with her advice but truthfully all this came to us because Stella was honest, truthful and settled.

We who started out as employees we became bosses, we used to buy clothes from our friends now we import them ourselves.



*Stella in owino market in the 90's*



*Stella in Guangzhou China*



## Stella's Children



*Namakula Florence*



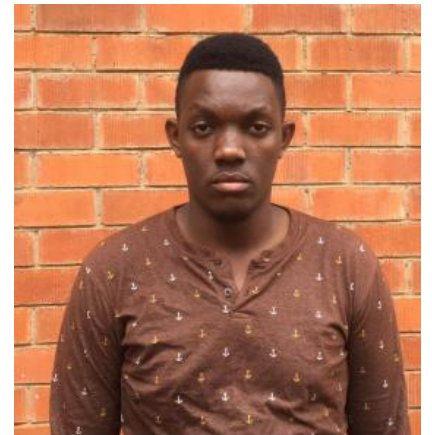
*Lubega Peter*



*Muyunga Francis*



*Bukenya Deo*



*Ssekyondwa Daniel*