

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
**PONTIANO OGEN**

# PONTIANO OGEN

Pontiano Ogen was born to Gabriel Olowo s/o Opengele P'Ouno of Amor Kagulu Adundo Clan and Katalina Ayunda d/o Nyandeyi of the Bendo Clan.

He was born on the 30.06.1932.

He was the second born of the couple. The first born who was called Ochieng, died as an infant. He was named Ogen, because after the untimely death of their first child, the couple strongly believed that their next child would be a baby boy. When on his birth, he was indeed a boy, he was immediately named Ogen. Ogen means he/it was expected or he/ it was hoped for.

In 1938, he attended catechism lessons at the Catholic Church at Nyangole (where St. Peter's College, Tororo is today) and he was baptized as a catholic.

In 1939, Rev. Fr. Van Graven who had been a close friend of Gabriel Olowo, picked him up from Kisoko Dida village and took him to live with him at St. Thereza Catholic Parish, which had just been started by him in Achilet.

In the same year, he was taken to start P1 at the Junior Secondary School in Achilet, which was just about one hundred metres away from the Catholic Parish Headquarters.

In 1945, he joined Nyenga Seminary located in Kyaggwe County in Mukono District then (it is in Buikwe District today). Among his old boys and classmates at the Seminary were to name but a few who were his friends were:

The late His Grace James Odongo, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Tororo.

The late Right Reverend Erasmus Wandera, Bishop Emeritus of Soroti Diocese.

The late Right Reverend Kiwanuka, Bishop Emeritus of Moroto Diocese.

The late Hon. Rev. Fr. Christopher Okoth, former Minister of State for Internal Affairs in the Uganda National Liberation Front (UNLF) government (1979 - Dec. 1980).

In 1952, he joined St. Aloysius Teachers Training College in Ngora.

In December 1954, he qualified as a Grade 11 Teacher.

In 1955, he was posted to St. Joseph's Junior Secondary School in Nagongera Subcounty, as a teacher.

In 1957, he was appointed Ag. Headmaster of St. Joseph's Junior Secondary School, where his father had been the Headmaster in March 1937 before he was poisoned and died.

In December 1957, he attended the first National Scout Masters Training Course at Kaazi.

In 1958, he was appointed Headmaster of Barinyanga Primary School in Paya Subcounty.

In 1963, he was transferred as Headmaster to Morkiswa Primary School in Kisoko Subcounty.

In 1977, he was transferred as Headmaster, to Mwello Primary School in Mulanda Subcounty.

He was transferred as Headmaster, to Abongit Primary School in Kisoko Subcounty.

He was transferred as Headmaster, to Mbula Machar Primary School in Kisoko Subcounty then (it is in Petta Subcounty today).

He was transferred as Headmaster to TICAF Primary School in Tororo Municipality.

In December 1994, he retired as a Headmaster, at the age of 62 years.

However, he decided to serve as a class teacher on contract for six more years. He completely retired from the job of a teacher in the year 2001.

At some point he was even appointed as the District Commissioner for Scouts in the Bukedi Sub-region.



**Born:** 30. June. 1932  
**Mother:** Katalina Ayunda  
**Father:** Gabriel Olowo  
**Clan:** Amor Kagulu Adundo

**Wives:**  
Matilda Adikini (late)  
Anyango Daliya  
Akoth Nakitasiya

**Sisters:**  
Akumu Teresa  
Akello Serena  
Achola Francis (late)  
Nyapendi Magdalena (late)

## CHILDREN

- Charles Owuor
- Col. John Okoth(late)
- Esther Mende
- Jacinta Abbo
- Paul Ochieng
- Catherine Andera(late)
- Jane Rose Achieng(late)
- Hudson Peter Ogeni
- Ponsiano Ogeni
- Barnabus Ogeni

## GRAND CHILDREN

- James Okoth
- Saviour
- Arley Ochieng
- Arletty Ochieng
- Oledo Isaac
- Meshack Anthony Higenyi
- Zelder Miriam Kadondi
- Shadrack Gerald Gaula
- Amal Elizabeth
- Gabriel Olowo
- Matilda Athieno
- Mariah Katrina
- Catherine Adongo
- Njose Augustine
- Ponsiano Mageno
- Isaac Ouno
- Martha Akello

## GREAT GRAND CHILDREN

- Krystian Baruch
- Kaylan Mbabazi
- Glen Jakisa
- Seth Olowo
- Claret Asaba Elizabeth
- Elijah Musinguzi
- Paul Calvin Ochieng
- Ayunda Catherine
- Ogen ponsiano
- John Okoth Martin
- Brian Akansimiire
- Ponsiano ogen
- Jonathan ogen
- Owuor Charles Gabriel
- Parker Marriott

## BROTHERS TO MR. PONTIANO OGENI

- Peter Ochieng.
- Gabriel Olowo whose father was Matias Okuni
- John Onyango Bare whose father was Matias Okuni.
- They were all given birth to by Katalina Ayunda, the widow of our grandfather Gabriel Olowo.
- Matias Okuni was elder brother to Gabriel Olowo and he is the one who took over as the spouse of Katalina Ayunda after Gabriel Olowo's death.

## IN - LAWS TO PONTIANO OGENI

- Angela Athieno  
(This is Auntie Amoris' mom)
- Ephraim Odoy Sule.
- Owor Patrick
- Obbo Patrick
- Rosemary Achieng  
(This is Auntie Akello's mom)
- Frances Anyango  
(This is Auntie of Mombasa)
- Teddy Akongo (late)
- Speciouza Akoth (late)
- Erasmus Othieno
- Jane Rose Nyapendi

## Charles Owour :

Dear Dad,

What an exceptionally wonderful father you have been to me. I sincerely lack the words to express my utmost gratitude to you for the extraordinarily excellent and special treatment I have experienced from you since I was born. My dear mother told me of the puddings which I was fed on in my baby years. I remember you taking me to join Primary One pupils in class for three days, when I was still not of age. Then in 1962, you took me to join P1 at Morkiswa Primary School. You would drop me at the School early in the morning and then you rode your Raleigh bicycle to Nagongera where you were still Headmaster at one of the schools there. After midday, I would go with my age mate and friend Dominic Othieno to their home. The home of the good vernacular teacher who was then the widow of the late Owino Owalagala. In the evening, you would pick me up and ride me back home to our Kisoko Dida village. Mrs. Owino Owalaga was my P2 class teacher the following year.

I vividly remember you taking me to visit Reverend Sister Raphael at the Convent of the Sisters of St. Francis by Bus in 1962. Rev. Sister Raphael had joined Congregation of the Order St. Francis through the influence of your father, the great Gabriel Olowo, my grandfather. She was the biological daughter of Apiyo, who was the first born and only daughter of your grandfather, Opengeleu P'Ouno and your grandmother, Maria Nyapendi. While in the bus, you bought a cluster of sweet bananas for me to eat all alone, as you watched me, because you did not want me to feel hungry. In 1963, you were transferred to Morkiswa Primary School, as the Headmaster. As I was then seven years old, you left me to start walking to school early in the morning with my uncles Okello, Omal, Osinde and my aunts Akumu and Akello. With me in the same class was another uncle called John, the son of my grandfather, Odongo whose father was called Angopa P'Ouno. Angopa and Opengele were brothers. You were paying the school fees for all of them. I would return from school in the evenings under the guidance and protection of my uncles. In 1967, you decided to take me to St. Pius X Seminary at Nagongera, where I joined P6.

I will never forget the fact that in the first term, you gave me pocket money of UGX 100. That was too much money at that time, because despite the fact that I was buying thirty sweets and one packet of family biscuits every day, I failed to spend it all. This fact confirms the kind of love you had for me. You always wanted me to have the best of everything which was available. During the second term holidays, as I kept on feeling abdominal pains, you took me for check up at St. Anthony's Hospital in Tororo, where the European doctor who was in charge confirmed that I had appendicitis and I had to be operated upon after my body had been prepared through some medication he gave me. On the 8th of October 1968, Rev. Fr. Valley, the Rector of the Seminary who had also extended special favours to me and who loved me very much too, instructed Rev. Brother Peter to drive me to the Hospital by the Seminary van. You brought my aunt Frances Anyango Posta, who was living with us at home and whose school fees you were paying, to attend to me at the hospital.



I returned to the Seminary after one week. The Rector, who had earlier in the middle of the second term, chosen me who was in P7 to join those who were in Senior 2 in their geographical trip to the Source of the River Nile and other places of importance and interest in Jinja and Mukono areas, again decided to do me another special favour. He told me that I had been sick, I should not sit for the Primary Leaving Examinations, because he was going to direct that I be promoted to Senior 1 in the Seminary without any consideration of those examinations. You left me free to make my own decision on the matter. Then I confirmed to you that I was ready to sit for the Primary Leaving Examinations and when you told the Rector my personal decision, he had no objection too. I passed in Division One.

Indeed your unwavering love for me, was tested when I was dismissed by the first African Rector of the Seminary, Rev. Fr. Opolot, in the second term in 1971, when I was in Senior 3. You received me home calmly and never scolded me. Two weeks later we set out to look for a new school for me. The first school in your mind was Namilyango College where my grandfather had studied. When the Headmaster refused to admit me there, we set off for St. Henry's College, Kitovu in Masaka. After the Headmaster there also rejected me, you decided to go and try Kako Secondary School, which was in Masaka too and the Headmaster was called Mr. Okecho, who was a Japadhola. Mr. Okecho also rejected me, may be because it was a Protestant founded school.

From Masaka, you decided to proceed to Soroti, where we went to Teso College Aloet where I was rejected too. After Teso College Aloet, you decided to take me to St. Peter's College in Tororo. Surprisingly, after reaching the College, the Headmaster, Mr. Gumikiriza, immediately admitted me, on reading my recommendation from the Seminary. It stated that I was very cooperative, very hardworking and very intelligent, but unfit for priesthood. However, since it was close to third term, he advised me to home, revise my notes and return for studies at the school at the beginning of the first term in 1972.



I had to repeat Senior 3. At no moment did you ever show any anger at me or frustration with me. You continued to make me feel your warm love for me. Looking back at that period today, it is very amazing indeed. What a loving father, you have truly been for me. Fortunately, I excelled at the East African Ordinary Level Examinations of 1973. Again despite pressure from my loving maternal uncles who wanted me to take a combination of science subjects which would lead me to train as a medical doctor, you left me to decide on the subjects which I wanted to do. I zeroed on Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. In fact I had wanted to do Double Mathematics and Physics which they had stopped offering at the school, the previous year. Every year and every term, you ensured that I reported at school on the first day of the term, with adequate pocket money. Throughout my days at school, I generally viewed as a boy from a rich family.

In July 1976, you escorted me to the Uganda Transport Company bus station at Tororo Town then, as I left for Makerere University. In Kampala, the second year students who volunteered to receive Freshers were waiting for us, the first year students at the Uganda Transport Company Main Bus Park in Kampala City. It would take me another three years and three months away, before I returned home in a hired vehicle with a bag of sugar, a bag of rice, a bag salt and washing and bathing soap. That was the beginning of the show of some of the return of the investment you had made in me via enabling me to have education. I thank you very much indeed for the education.







This photo was taken in 1960. P.Ogen & Matilda are seated on the chairs. Charles, Mary and John seated on the mat.

## Uncle Paul Ochieng

Baba ,we thank God for blessing you with long live, may he continues to be by your side. I thank you for your earlier guidance and teaching at home.its my duty to pass it on the younger generation who honour your voice each time they hear you talk. Your life has been that of love even when many were looking for your down fall. Viva! Viva! Bye uncle ochieng Paul.



Late Jane Rose Achieng .  
Daughter tp Ponsiano Ogen



## Esther Mary Mende

*You Are The Best Dad Ever*

Thank you for showing us that charity begins at home. You gave us the best foods as if we were living in town. Everything was in plenty including both powdered and fresh milk as well as varieties of fresh fruits. Besides giving us the best life only a father gives, you extended your charity to your own brothers, sisters and cousins not forgetting the wives that later joined the family. Indeed you were a God sent saviour. You became the saviour of anyone you knew that needed help. Relatives and non relatives. How about those parents who had no school fees to send their children to high schools.

Thank you for being you. May God continue to bless you and extend your life. We love you so much.

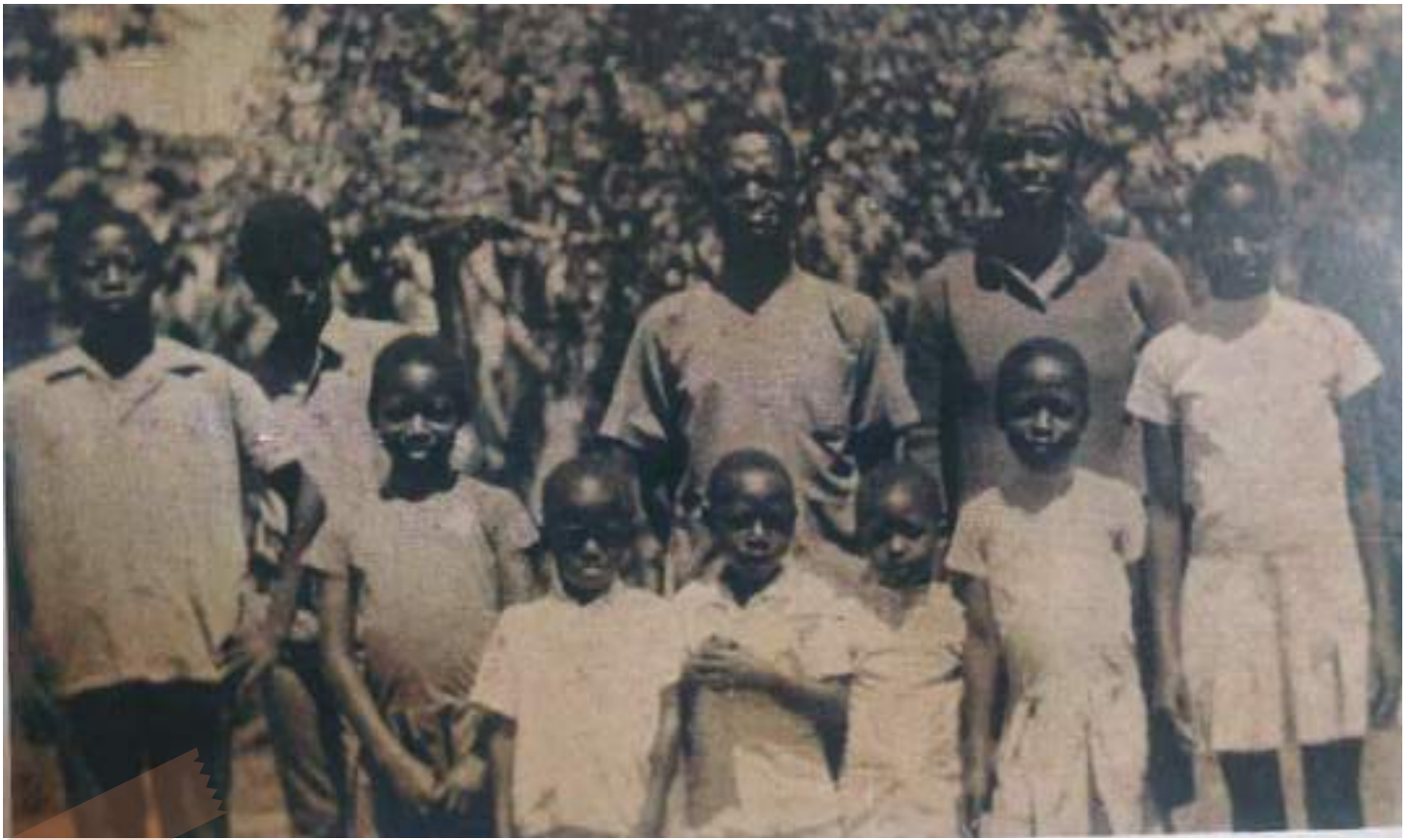
HAPPY 92 ND, BIRTHDAY.



## Ogen Barnabus.

Daddy thank you so much for paying my school fees. I remember those days when daddy used to wake me up at 500am to garden then go to school and thats what made me what I am now.

He used to teach me how to respect my Elders etc and I thank him so much for bringing us together with my elder brothers. Daddy I wish you long last-ing life, that you see grand, grandchildren. May God bless you.



The family of seven children with the parents and one nephew in December 1970.



Standing with a wrist watch and a hat is Gabriel Olowo. Standing in the middle is Oledo and standing on the extreme right is Stephano Okecho. Seated is Rev. Fr. Van Graven, then Deputy Parish Priest and close friend of Gabriel Olowo. Seated next to him is Matias Okuni.



Ponsiano Ogen Recovering from hospital early September 2024



This photo was taken in 1960. P.Ogen & Matilda are seated on the chairs. Charles, Mary and John seated on the mat.



Ponsiano Ogen Arrival at hospital early September 2024



## Ponsiano Mageno

Happy Birthday Quara MR. PONTIANO OGEN. Truly grateful to be in your legacy and I intend to continue with the expansion of it. Thankful to you for adding Senior Ponsiano Ogen to my names that I recognize even if I wasn't able to add the others on my Identification card. Athatha (Mathilda Adikini) also mentioned to me that I should add Ponsiano Ogen to my names but I remember you told me Mageno and Ogen almost have the same meaning though slightly different. I sincerely appreciate and pray that I live, remain strong, healthy and energetic for long as you have done at your age in Jesus' name. Amen. God bless you and keep you well until I get you atleast 2 great grand children that you will bless. Enjoy your 92nd Birthday Celebrations.





Uncle Odooy, Uncle Obbo, Mum, visiting lady, Dad,  
Patrick Mabs on 25.12.2018 at Kisoko.



**Gabriel Olowo**

**Happy Birthday, Grandfather Ponsiano Ogen!**

On this special day, I want to celebrate the incredible person you are and the wonderful legacy you've built. Your wisdom, kindness, and love have touched all our lives in the most profound ways.

May this year bring you joy, good health, and all the happiness you deserve. Thank you for being a guiding light and an inspiration to us all.

With all my love and warmest wishes,

Gabriel Owuor Olowo and family



## Njose Augustine.

I am very grateful for the beautiful home that you created with our Grandmother. I have experienced much of your love through the children you raised and I want to thank you for this.

I'm thankful for the time we spent together, those memories are priceless.

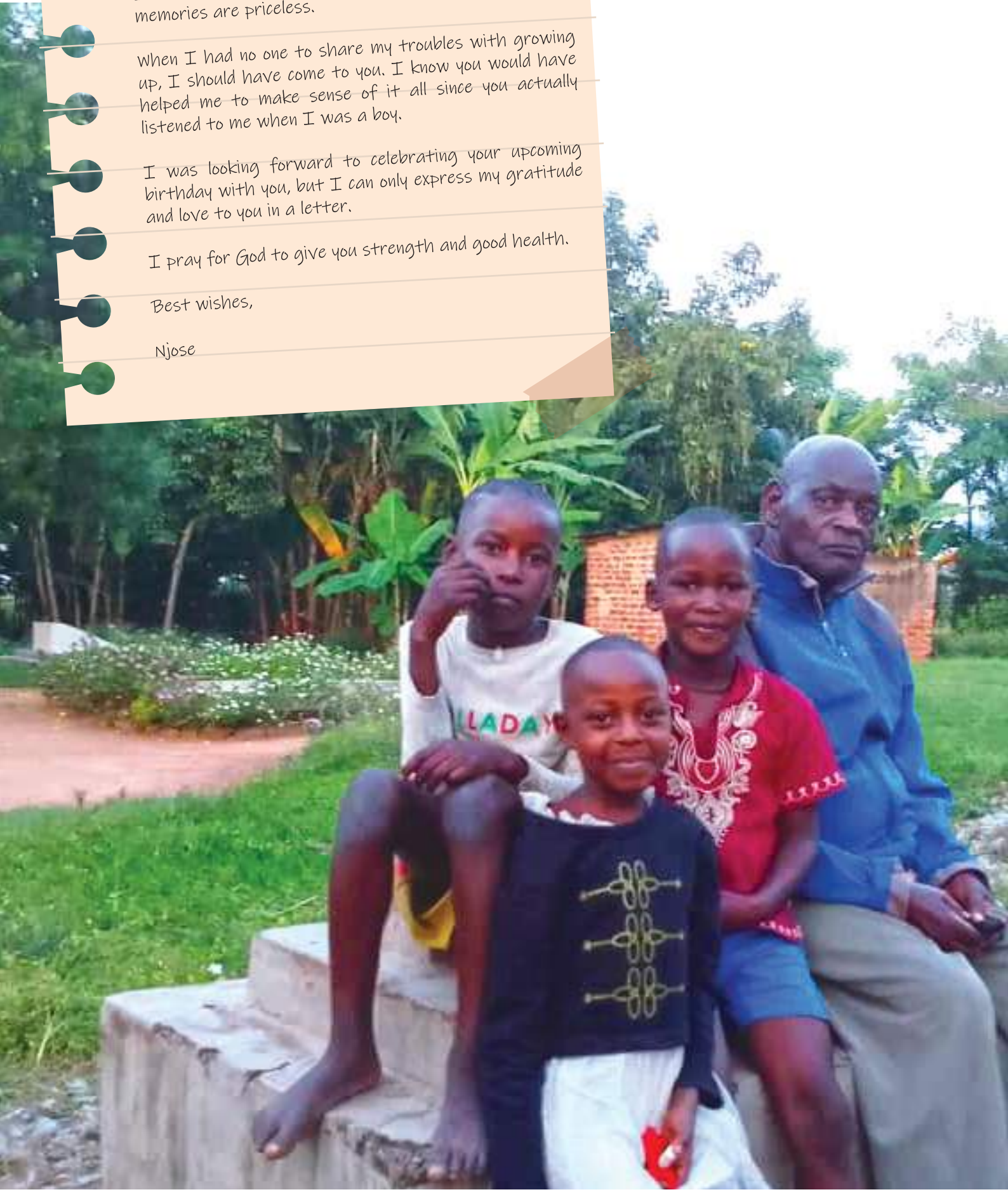
When I had no one to share my troubles with growing up, I should have come to you. I know you would have helped me to make sense of it all since you actually listened to me when I was a boy.

I was looking forward to celebrating your upcoming birthday with you, but I can only express my gratitude and love to you in a letter.

I pray for God to give you strength and good health.

Best wishes,

Njose



## Amal Elizabeth

To my only Grandfather, with Love; Know that you are loved, I will always cherish the moments we spend together listening to your interesting stories and wisdom and laughter that comes with each one. May God continue to Bless you with long life and good health....



## Isaac Ouno

•Son•Father•Grandfather•Great-Grandfather•

Congratulations Kwara.

Keep sipping from the Fountain of Youth.

I'm with you on your to 100+ years (1 century)

Ouno Isaac Owuor



## Meshack

Hello Kwara

Sorry we have never met.

This is Meshack

I am Zelder's young brother

I was born in Nairobi at Kijabe hospital. I was 1 year and 3 months when we landed in Canada.

May God continue to give you life. I would very much like to meet you.

Happy Birthday Kwara



## Mariah Katrina.

I celebrate you Kwara,

You are the best grandfather in the world...God could not have chosen better!

I fondly remember the stories you read with me on your lap and the the songs you sang to us growing up.

As you celebrate another year i want you to know that I appreciate you.

Your hard work and resilience does not go unnoticed. Thank you for setting the pace for us.

I am so blessed to carry your blood and be your grand daughter I pray you live to see the lord's goodness in the remaining years of your life.

May the lord satisfy you with his peace, health, contentment, mercy, joy, laughter and goodness this year and for more to come!

Happy birthday to the best grandfather in the world.  
I love you so much!

Mariah!



## Arley Ochieng

Kwara, You are now 92 years of age. Your wisdom, kindness, and love have been guiding lights in our family for generations. May your special day be filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments surrounded by those who adore you. We pray that you continue to live a long life. April on the 22nd.

I still remember the chickens and eating boiled eggs

## Catherine Adongo

Dear Kwara,

I thank God for you and for being part of this great lineage and legacy that you have lived these 92 years. You will be remembered for being kind, honest, very bright and humble. I thank God who has preserved your life, granted you great health and a very good memory. My prayer is that God will grant you longer life so that you are able to live enough for me to take care of you and give you the comfort you have always deserved.

God bless you so much my Grandpa. I love you.





## Zelda

Happy 92nd Birthday Grandpa Quara!!! We love you and will be celebrating with you in spirit. We hope to see you one day soon. God bless you

This is Parker, Your great grandson. He turned 3 years old last

April on the 22nd.

I still remember the chickens and eating boiled eggs



## Martha

He is a hardworking gentleman who is highly favoured and loved I love u so much granddad and I pray for long life for u

## James Okoth

Everyone has a long come from far in this world there's lot of challenges ,everything but i will always thank God for the long life he has given my grand-father he is such a great person that everybody likes him and he was always thier for his family long live Kwara Ogen.



## Matilda

Kwara,  
We always adored you from our childhood!  
We trusted you!  
We loved your charm and attitude!  
Kwara please share the stories!  
Share the History!  
Some things we still wonder about!  
Oh my God - your bicycle.....  
We loved to see you ride! So proud of the  
fact that riding kept you young!  
Jafonji as everyone referred to you.....so  
respected in our community!  
We thank God for you! Bless you for your long  
life!  
You are the best kwara there is - I wouldn't  
ask for another



## Dear Jadwong Pontiano,

I want to express my deepest gratitude for all the support you have provided me with while I was growing up at your beloved Home. Your unwavering belief in me and constant encouragement have truly shaped me into the person I am today. Your words of encouragement that kept me going til now and forever it will were "with Education Poverty won't be near" I am forever grateful for your guidance, love, and care.

Thank you for always being there for me, for believing in my potential, and for helping me navigate through life's ups and downs. Your support means more to me than words can convey, and I will always hold a special place in my heart for you. Am Glad to be among millions you shaped and continue to shape with your love for Education. I Will continue to celebrate your life and legacy  
With sincerest thanks,  
Ayese Valentine





Ponsiano Ogen attending grand daughter, Catherine  
wedding..October 31 2015







Great grand child. Seth Olowo



Great grand child, Kaylan Mbabazi



Great grand child Ogen Jonathan



Great Grand Child, Glen Jakisa



Great Grand Child,  
Gabriel owol charles



Great grand child  
Ogen Ponsiano



John Marti Okoth  
Great grand child



Great Grand child,  
Catherine Ayunda



Parker Marriott....Great grand child.



Great grand child...Elijah Musinguzi.



Great grand child  
Asaba Elizabeth Claret.



*Paul Calvin Ochieng, great grand child*



*Great grand child Arletty Ochieng*



*Great grand son...Krystian Baruch*

## Joseline Banura

I met Kwaara when I first went to Tororo with Gabriel as a baby. He welcomed me to his home with lots of love and respect. He is a loving Grandpa

---

He is a very smart impeccable person always in his suit. He is always smiling, telling stories to his grandchildren as you can see in the photo below.

---

He has been to my village in Rwenkuba Fort Portal and shared meals with my sisters and the rest of our family. He mixed freely with my relatives not forgetting to thank them for taking care of him. Many of them still ask me about him. Everyone who met him has not forgotten him. Thank you for showing me a good heart Kwaara ☐.

---

He represented his family at the burial of my late Father Dr.H.K Banura Atwooki. That time your father was out of the Country this gesture was very much appreciated. Thank you. God bless You.

---





**I am Abiya Margaret Muloki Mother to Okoth James.**

Thank God for bringing me into this family.

I pray for God's protection upon this family and that he may grant us this greatest gift in life, which is salvation

We are thankful for Strength and mobility. He moves freely on his two legs. (no wheelchair use  
Sight He is able to read and write See things, grandchildren and people around him.  
His hearing and speech He can ask and answer questions. Listen to music and have a merry  
heart

Storytelling (valuable book to be cherished.)

For the hard work, dedication, generosity and charity we learnt from him.

List of things to thank God for...Kwara life Long life of 92 years

Gift of marriage For the inherited land and that he bought for himself, his wives, in the different  
locations Great health, bones and breathe.Divine connections Abundance in the earlier years as the  
children grew up.

For the gift of grand children, children and the great grand children. For blessing the work of his hands,  
to this day, he can still get pension. For restoring him to great health For the great memory at 92  
years..

The gift of family.

Let's add to this list family...



