

19 ❀ Papa Daniel, a nurse in service to all

A first-generation Christian born in 1918, Daniel Kidinda was the eldest of a family of five children. Later he would take an older brother's responsibility for his younger siblings, but Papa Daniel would serve many others besides his immediate family.

He was an exemplary child by all accounts: modest, sociable, and kind. He completed five years of primary education at the Mennonite mission of Mukedi, followed by two years of evangelical studies. This certificate enabled him to be accepted as a student nurse at the Mukedi hospital. He then added two years of nursing courses. His nursing studies concluded with a board examination, which he passed, obtaining a certificate in nursing science. After being truly converted to God, he followed religious instruction and was baptized at Mukedi in 1937.

Daniel Kidinda married Henriette Khajia, and they had two children before she passed away. He married Mama Denise Foto in 1947 and had ten children with her.

He rendered many services to the population. First he served as a nurse at several places, ending up at the Mukedi hospital. He believed that nothing is impossible with God and that all healing comes from God, despite the existence of medicines. His manner of care gave his patients total confidence in him. They preferred to be treated by him rather than by others, because of his knowledge, competence, and experience.

To practice his faith, Daniel never began work without telling the good news to his patients. Because of his teachings of the word of God, some of these patients came to faith.

The esteem of the local population propelled him to membership on the council working with the chief administering the Lozo sector. At this level he came to judge people with justice. After having exercised the functions of sector counselor, he went to work for himself, opening his own private clinic.

In his clinic he cared for the sick with confidence without staking too much on money matters. He treated patients even if they didn't have money, hoping they would pay their bills when they could. What was important for him was to save people first and ask for payment later.

The family of Daniel Kidinda has been blessed. After the death of his first wife, Daniel Kidinda and his second wife did their best in bringing up the two motherless children as well as their ten. His children are employed in various capacities. One of his children is in France.

He was a man who brought others together, a kind man, social and obliging. Papa Daniel Kidinda, eldest of his family, carefully nurtured his younger sisters and brothers. He showered affection and esteem on the youngest of the family, Philidor Mukedi, who graduated from teachers college and is currently director of one of the schools of the denomination and an elder as well.

The irreproachable merits of Papa Daniel Kidinda and his good works made him a man of great worth. He passed away in 1982, leaving behind in the social sector a private health center.

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