



Stanley Mliwa: A Legacy Demanding a Conscious Response^a

For his entire life, Margaret Mliwa's late father, Stanley, had given his time and money to serve people in need. Margaret, who was the eighth of his 10 children, had chosen to follow in his footsteps. But it had not been an easy choice, and now, in her mid-50s and on the eve of her birthday in April 2019, she wondered about how to keep her philanthropic activity in balance with the rest of her life.

A (Relatively) Ordinary Man

On the face of it, her father's life had been relatively ordinary. He was born in 1926, the thirteenth of 15 children, in the village of Kiweto in Taita-Taveta, a small county in the south-east of Kenya. It was an area of extreme poverty and he was the only of his siblings to go to school. He got this opportunity because his father, an elder in the village and a traditional healer, had needed someone to read the letters that came to him from the colonial regime for the information of the villagers. Stanley was not very close to his father, but he was close to his mother and sisters, speaking often of their influence on his life.

After completing school, he went on to qualify as a teacher in 1948 and in that same year, during his first teaching assignment, he met his wife Irene. They got married on 31 December of that year and were married for just over 55 years when he passed away in January 2014. Irene suffered from depression and regularly had to seek treatment away from home. Margaret therefore did not remember her mother being present in their home for much of her childhood, which meant that her father had to look after his children with the assistance of other family members. Some of his children went to stay with other family members while his wife was recovering. The other children stayed at home with him, with the elder children taking on some of the parenting responsibilities.

He formally retired as a teacher in 1968 and went on to pursue a range of business activities, some of which he had started while still a teacher. He opened three general dealers: one in his father's village Kiweto (which he moved to Mrungua Village in the Rong'e Juu location when the family moved there in 1950), one in Sagalla (which he opened in 1961 while he was teaching in that village), and one in Voi (which he opened in 1965). He and his family moved from Rong'e Juu to Voi in 2000. (See **Exhibit 1** for a picture of Stanley outside of one of his shops, and **Exhibit 2** for a map of the region in which he and his family lived.)

^a All of the information in this case was obtained from the following source: Beswick, C., (2019) Group interview with Margaret and Newman Mliwa, as well as Frank Walongwa and Mwandwiro Mghanga, 5 June.

This case was prepared by senior lecturer Dr Bhekinkosi Moyo with research associate Claire Beswick. It is intended for classroom use only. It is not intended to demonstrate effective or ineffective handling of a business situation.