

1. WHAT (AND WHEN) FIRST BROUGHT YOU TO USA, I.E. WHAT WAS THE CONDITION/SITUATION THAT PROMPTED YOU TO LEAVE UGANDA? DATES? This might be where you tell us about your families.

Bishop Ben and Alice are originally from Uganda, East Africa. Uganda is about the size of the State of Oregon with a population of 36 million people. Uganda gained her political Independence from Britain on October 9, 1962. Since then Uganda has been through many political changes in governments. Some were elected governments and others military dictatorships. Uganda is now ruled by military dictatorship under the cover of elected democratic government, which has been in power for almost 30 years. In December 1986, Bishop Ben had a strong personal disagreement with the Ugandan President for not seeking a peaceful resolution to the rebels' activities in Northern Uganda. It was after the disagreement that our family fled to Nairobi, Kenya, where Bishop Ben was interviewed by a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reporter. In one of his statements, Bishop Ben said, "President Yoweri Museveni was worse than Idi Amin." This statement alone was enough to make the President's blood boil and was ready to silence us. When the Episcopal Church Center heard about this, they sent representatives to Uganda through Nairobi, Kenya to discuss what was going on. When they returned to Nairobi from Uganda, we were told that it would not be safe for us to go back to Uganda. The memories of living under the era of Idi Amin, the murder of the Archbishop Janani Luwum and the fleeing with our lives to Canada in 1977 became fresh in our minds. So, the Episcopal Church made arrangements to immediately rescue us from Nairobi and we arrived in New York the first week in April, 1987. We were then taken to a Non-Denominational Christian Training Center, Ventnor, NJ. While here, Bishop Ben did some confirmation/services for the Bishop of New Jersey.

Our family (Bishop Ben, Alice, and the children: Patrick, Peter, Jessica, Gladys, Janani and relatives: Nancy – Bishop Ben's sister and Baby Alice – Nancy's daughter) lived in Ventnor, NJ, for about 5 months. As of now all the kids are grown and some with their own families.

Children:

- Patrick – Deceased. He left us with a grandson, Patrick Jr., who is 22 years old and is in the US Air force.
- Peter – Married to Lydia and they have a daughter and live in Middletown, NY. Lydia is a Nurse and Peter works for Westchester Community College in New York while pursuing his Master's/PhD degrees in Higher Education.
- Jessica – Divorced and have a daughter and a son. Jessica is a Nurse and works for Emory University Hospital, Atlanta, GA.
- Gladys – Single and completing her degree in Nursing. She is the only one who lives with us.
- Janani – Married to Shaunelle and they have a daughter and a son. They live in Fort Mill, SC. Shaunelle is a Graphic Designer/Marketing Specialist and Janani is a supervisor with an International Shipping Company.

Relatives:

- Nancy – Deceased
- Baby Alice (Not a baby any more) – Single. Bishop Ben & Alice sponsored her education and she is a Nurse in Gulu, Northern Uganda.

After the five months in Ventnor, NJ, we answered a call to R.E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church in Lexington, VA.

2. HOW LONG WERE YOU AT R. E. LEE MEMORIAL; HOW DID THAT ASSIGNMENT/CALLING HAPPEN?

In July/August 1987, after a conversation with Rev. Tyree about how/why we came to America, he contacted his Bishop Heath Light and soon after we got a telephone call from the Episcopal Church Center staff Ms. Judy Gillespie about Bishop Heath Light's interest in inviting us to be Bishop-in-Residence attached to

R.E. Lee Memorial Church, Lexington, Virginia. After that initial contact, the conversation shifted to between Bishop Heath Light, Rev Canon David Cox and us. Bishop Ben accepted the call to be Bishop-in-Residence at R.E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church for a period of 1 year and working on behalf of the Bishop one Sunday a month. Once a date for relocation was confirmed, the courageous and loving Mrs. Elise Sprunt (RIP) and another gentleman came in two separate cars to pick us up from Ventnor, NJ. When we arrived in Lexington, there was a big and warm welcome and we were led to this well decorated and furnished single home. The beautiful work was led by spirit filled Ms. Adelaide Simpson and the members of the ECW. This was like walking into a 5 star hotel. Alice has very high regards for members of the ECW for their faithful commitment to God, one another and their generous financial and moral support for her when she went back to College. She now has a Master's Degree in Business Administration and a Doctorate in Christian Theology.

We were later introduced to the rest of R.E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church family and everyone received us warmly. This made us feel at home away from home. It did not take long, with the help of the church community, to find our way around Lexington. By this time Bishop Heath Light had given us a car. We all loved every moment of the one year stay in Lexington. Our children adjusted very well in the Church – Patrick, Peter and Jessica were confirmed at R.E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church. They also actively participated in the school and community sports. The Cox, Riethmiller and Ogwal children became good friends. Lexington was also the place where our Immigration Status was adjusted to Green Card. A lawyer/priest from Episcopal Church Center in New York, worked with Bishop Heath Light, and R.E. Lee to petition for us.

Alice and Bishop Ben were invited to attend the Curscilio Weekend and later Bishop Ben was invited to join the Men's Prayer Group, which met at 7:00 a.m. every Thursday. God has done amazing things in Bishop Ben's own spiritual life since he joined the group which has turned out to be a Life time friendship, brotherhood and prayer partners connected to R.E. Lee. Bishop Ben even shares a birthday with one of the members. What a connection!!! God's love and their support for each other saturates through to the members, family and friends. In 2003/2004, the same prayer group organized and raised more than \$23,000 to complete a building for Bishop Ben's Mom, Mama Gladys Lawino Otto, who was displaced by war in Northern Uganda.

While still in Lexington, Bishop Heath Light sponsored Bishop Ben and Alice to attend the Lambeth Conference in August, 1988. Attending Lambeth Conference empowered Bishop Ben to present a Resolution to the Conference condemning the violation of human rights in Northern Uganda and appealing for a peaceful resolution between the Ugandan Government and the rebels. Bishop Ben met with strong opposition from some Ugandan Bishops, but he did not withdraw resolution. The resolution was later passed by the majority of the Anglican Bishops. During the closing service of the Conference in Canterbury Cathedral, the Bishops from Uganda rejected Bishop Ben from processing with them into the Service. However, Bishops Heath Light and Charlie McNutt of Central PA really shielded him and he processed with the Bishops from the Episcopal Church, USA. Bishop Ben and Alice were so much in pain because of the rejection. They cried during the full length of the service. How could hatred raise its head so high in the Cathedral? The Presiding, Bishop Edmond Browning preached the sermon appealing to the Anglican Communion to be in the front line protecting the rights of every child of God just as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., marched for Justice and Archbishop Janani Luwum making the ultimate sacrifice! Those words touched us so deeply, that God was internally encouraging and comforting us to not give up but to believe in Him. The presentation and the passing of the resolution could not have been possible without the support of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia and R.E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church. We thank God for you all for having lived up to your Mission around the world.

During the Lambeth Conference, Bishop Charlie McNutt, a good friend to Bishop Heath Light invited Bishop Ben to be rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Harrisburg, PA after the necessary process and interview.

3. WHERE DID YOU NEXT GO; TELL US ABOUT THAT "CALLING?" DATES?

We relocated to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Martinsville, VA in the fall of 1988. A number of things happened while we were there. There is also another Episcopal Church in Martinsville, VA within a short distance from each other. St. Paul had a Lay Eucharistic Minister from Christ Church was the one taking services and helping with whatever St. Paul wanted done. We will always remember many of those in Martinsville such as the School Principal, Mr. Vickers and his mother and family for their dedication to God and their small Church.

We knew the rector of Christ Church, so Bishop Ben met with him and they organized a joint Bible Study, which was held in Christ Episcopal Church. Our Bible study discussions expanded to standard of living/unemployment and fellowship with one another. As a result of the Bible Study and interaction, some of St. Paul's unemployed and yet highly qualified members got help from some executives from Christ Church and were employed. Out of this fellowship, for the first time, Bishop Ben and Alice were able to get credit cards. This happened after Alice was not allowed to write a check without a major credit card to pay for the children's back to school shoes and the banks had already closed.

After serving in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Martinsville, VA, for about six months we responded to God's call to go and continue serving Him in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Harrisburg, PA.

In February, 1989, we arrived in Harrisburg, PA, where we were warmly received. Bishop Ben was installed as Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Harrisburg, PA. We grew the congregation and relocated to another larger facility which used to belong to a Lutheran Church. We had an agreement with the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA, The Lutheran Synod of Lower Susquehanna and the Congregation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church that all St. Paul's parish had to do was to pay for expenses of maintaining the facility and allow the dying Lutheran Congregation to participate together with St. Paul's Church in Outreach Ministry called, St. Barnabas' Center for Ministry. This ministry was to cater for Inner City children and other programs for the community. Later, some of the parishes in the Diocese got involved in the Children's Rainbow Summer Program. In October 1995, our 23 year old son Patrick was brutally murdered as he tried to break off a fight. This was devastating to the whole family. However, God in His own saving grace pulled us out of the hole. All we can say is what the enemy meant for evil, God turned it around for good. We came out stronger and continue to serve the Lord. We were able to forgive Patrick's killer. Also, out of this tragedy, God is blessing us through the ministry of healing, deliverance, and forgiveness. Glory be to His Name.

We served in Harrisburg for 12 years and later God called us to go and serve at St. Simon the Cyrenian, New Rochelle, NY.

We arrived at St. Simon the Cyrenian, New Rochelle, NY on September 1, 2001, and ten days later we were faced with the 9/11 devastating terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, which claimed some lives from the community. In November of 2001, Bishop Ben was installed and warmly welcome as Rector. While there, God blessed our ministry amongst members of the congregation and the community as a whole. The religious community of New Rochelle (Jewish, Islamic and Christians) were actively involved in issues which affected the community, such as, homelessness, hunger, and Diversity.

Our grandson, Patrick, Jr. joined us in 2001 and later we were honored to adopt him as a son. He adjusted and excelled in academics, sports, church and the community. He knew the Book of Common Prayer inside and out. Each time people asked him what he wants to be when he grew up, his answer was he wants to be a Bishop, but he is presently in the US Airforce.

After serving in New Rochelle for 8 years, Bishop Ben retired in May 2009, and the family relocated back to Harrisburg, PA. Now, we are being called to go and serve Him in Kitgum, Northern Uganda.

4. WHERE WAS YOUR NEXT CALLING? DATES?

The Diocese of Kitgum is one of those dioceses where God sent us on a mission trip in 2013. The instructions for the mission were as follows:

- Go and assure my people in Uganda that I love them very much
- Preach on the importance of forgiveness in order for the people to reconcile with God and one another. The Lord wanted us to share our testimonies on the pains, anger, and struggle we went through when our son Patrick Dennis Olal-Ogwal was mercilessly murdered in Harrisburg, PA, and how God in His mercies healed and delivered us.
- Do not worry because I am your God the Provider

When we arrived in Uganda, we knew we were going to be faced with God's many people who were hurting from the 28 years of war and abduction of their young children, who were later used as killing machines on their own parents and relatives. In addition to what we were expecting, it is hard to express in words what was waiting for us at the other end. Witch doctors are offering what most Christians think are better than what they would get from churches. Basically we were dealing with those who had one leg in witchcraft and the other in church. We experienced witchcraft at its highest regardless of age. During the services, we had school kids and adults come forward for prayers to be delivered from chronic headaches, dizziness, hands that could not be straighten pass their heads, blindness, chest pains, stomachaches, joint pains or arthritis, HIV/AIDS, marital problems, alcohol and drug, land dispute problems. Just to mention a few. Even with these numerous conditions or bondages, nothing was impossible or too big for God. The Holy Spirit was at work and healed ALL we prayed for in the name of Jesus Christ. The only sad thing was that we were only there for 1 month, which was not even enough. In three months we were only able to barely cover 3 dioceses.

As if that was not enough, we then learned of Bishop Benjamin Ojwang's 13 year conflicts with a group of Christians in the Diocese of Kitgum. After hearing from both sides, they agreed to sit down with us to try and reconcile. After three meetings the team of the Bishop and that of the Christians reconciled and agreed to celebrate their reconciliation in a timely manner. You have to understand that several attempts had been made with different individuals and groups, but all was in vain. Anyway, in God's own timing, the two sides were able to celebrate the Reconciliation on Sunday, May 25, 2014. Bishop Benjamin eventually agreed to retire on Sunday, December 14, 2014

This time we are called to go and serve in Kitgum Diocese for a longer period of time. Bishop Ben is called to serve as the interim Bishop effective December 14, 2014, and Alice will continue with the Healing and Deliverance Ministry and teaching/training where needed. With these new developments, Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, The Most Rev. Stanley Ntangali, has requested us to be in Uganda before December 14, 2014. Again, like what we did in 2013, we are taking this trip by faith because the Diocese and the region is very poor and cannot even afford our air tickets, living expenses or transportation around the diocese. We are also believing what St. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, "He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." 1 Thessalonians 5:24 (NKJV)

Some may ask, what are your financial needs? Our budget for the first year will be roughly \$60,830.00. The following is the breakdown of the budget:

5. WHAT ARE YOUR FINANCIAL NEEDS? BE AS SPECIFIC AS YOU ARE ABLE, E.G.,

Travel for two (round trip Air tickets)	\$ 2,630.00
Multiple visas	\$ 200.00
Living for two (the necessities, e.g., housing, food, etc.)	\$15,000.00
Discretionary funds	\$ 5,000.00

Vehicle – strong for the bad roads	\$24,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 2,000.00
Training Clergy, Catechists, Lay Leaders And Community Leaders (10 Regional Meetings A year)	\$12,000.00
TOTAL	\$60, 830.00

The budget is high at this initial period but we believe that in the second year it will be much lower and there will also be more contribution from the Diocese itself.

6. DO YOU EXPECT TO RECEIVE FINANCIAL HELP FROM UGANADA/NEW YORK/PENNSYLVANIA/SOUTHWESTERN VIRGINIA?

The fact that we have served in Uganda and under three different dioceses in USA, some might wonder if we are expecting to receive financial help from them? Our answer for the dioceses in the USA is “No” because no communication has been initiated at the diocesan levels.

Uganda: This is very difficult to predict, but, like anything else, we believe that God has prepared or assigned some people to take care of us by contributing in terms of food and overnight accommodations every now and then.

Dioceses of New York, Central Pennsylvania, and South Western Virginia: At the moment, No, may be at a later date once we are on ground and they can see the results of the work.

7. ARE YOU FEARFUL FOR YOUR SAFETY?

No, we are not afraid because we know that the God who called us will also protect His anointed messengers. We are going in His Name and will proclaim in words and deeds the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people. The Word tells us in 2 Timothy, “God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind.” 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

8. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS WHY YOU HAVE BEEN CALLED?

We see that God is calling us at this time to go to Uganda to continue the work He began in us to proclaim the Good News of Christ Jesus, usher in healing and wholeness from wounds of wars, diseases, revenge and hatred. We saw troubled families reconciled to God and to one another. The Lord performed miracles in terms of opening ears, eyes to read again, arthritis left people’s bodies, some healed from HIV/Aids, people delivered from chronic headaches, chest pains, stomachaches. When the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda was looking for an Interim Bishop for the troubled Kitgum Diocese, he heard of the good reports of what God did through us in reconciling Bishop Benjamin Ojwang and the group of Christians, God led him to decide that we are the neutral people who can rebuild the Diocese because the people in the region listen, trust and respect us. It is important to know that we did not campaign for this position and we believe that it is God’s Divine Appointment. We also believe that when God’s hands are on the calling, He opens all locked doors and no man can shut them.

9. WHERE WILL YOU LIVE WHILE IN UGANDA? UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS?

We will be staying in the Diocesan Guest House, sleeping under mosquito nets and having cold showers from the collected rain water. After sometimes we know Bishop Ben will get used to the cold water, but it will take Alice a longer time to get used showering with cold water. The conditions are probably the most difficult in the whole country, water source is hard to get. There are millions of mosquitos and malaria is prevalent. We believe God will sustain us and the people to His glory.

10. WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH.

We believe that our mission is cut out for us: To bring healing, reconciliation, forgiveness and peace in the Diocese of Kitgum and beyond.

11. WILL YOU SEND YOUR SUPPORTERS REGULAR UP-DATES?

Yes, we will make sure that we submit quarterly reports to our supporters. We also commit ourselves to pray and give thanks to God for the Supporters as we also assured of their prayers for us. We will hold ourselves accountable for the support's financial.

12. Will, as bishop, most or all of your work be with clergy or will you have active contact with members of the individual churches in the way of pastoral/individual concerns, education and preaching. In other words, would your activity as bishop be pretty much the same as our USA bishops or, if different, in what ways?

As bishop in Kitgum Diocese, my work will be with clergy – visiting parishes and congregations centers, preaching, meeting to hear their concerns and see how best to resolve them; attend religious local, regional and national meetings; running quarterly workshops and training to equip the clergy and Lay leadership (administration, financial management, human resource management, conflict resolution, pastoral care, and spiritual growth retreats). Alice will be a great asset in facilitating some of the training and workshops. In addition, the ministry of healing, deliverance and forgiveness will be part and partial of the diocesan activities.

To answer your question, my work will be basically same as the Episcopal Bishops. However, of the necessary resources might hinder the work. The differences will be as follows:

- Lack of reliable vehicles and resources to travel around the diocese.
- Lack of funds to pay the Bishop and diocesan staff salaries.
- Accommodations during the visitation are with different Christians and not in hotels.
- Poor infrastructure that makes travelling very long and tiresome.

13. WHAT IS THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN UGANDA? ...IN THE AREA WHERE YOU WILL BE LIVING?

There is relative peace prevailing in the whole Country under the same President Yoweri Museveni, who has been in power for the last 28 years. He changed the constitution to have no term limits that is why he has ruled for this long. From our experience last year 2013, there was relative peace and people are able travel day and night. The only problem is the poverty level, violence and robberies. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. So there has to be a way in which we can empower our Youths to focus on positive things for the sake of their good future.