

The Standard

UCU COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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Our view

How to work well with *The Standard* in 2018

Welcome to 2018 and new semester.

It may be that you are eager to work with us *The Standard* as the case has been in the past. But this year we would like to make our relationship with all even smoother.

We know that many of you in the past have felt belittled or disrespected when we have tilted and edited your articles to fit the space in the newspaper and keep the relevance.

We say thank you for coming back to us always to discuss your queries. Feedback is very much relevant in this industry.

Besides, those of you who come back with such feedback have turned into a voice for the voiceless.

In 2018, we shall even be more available for you.

We shall offer the necessary assistance to everyone who is interested in contributing articles to *The Standard*.

We shall answer your queries as soon as they come. This way, you will get a better understanding of our profession and respect the way we execute our work.

Also remember that *The Standard* is our community newspaper open to everyone to contribute regardless of the course or department. So please come on board and we work together.

Inform us of any events happening in your departments on time and we give you coverage and space.

This is a year of great service at *The Standard*.
A happy 2018 to you all.

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Nkoyoyo's service and vision from education of the heart

THOMAS FROESE



It's been with surprise and sadness that, recently returning for some teaching at UCU, I've returned at this time of Archbishop Livingstone Nkoyoyo's passing.

Not that I knew Nkoyoyo, who, by all accounts, was among the most remarkable of Ugandans. Unlike many at UCU, knowing him was a privilege that was not mine.

I never heard Nkoyoyo preach the good news of the God he served. I never saw him laughing and playing with the orphaned and blind and lame children he housed and loved. I never had the honour of seeing Nkoyoyo smile, or feel the warmth of his hand.

Even so, as the tributes, along with his many accomplishments moved across Uganda's television screens during his much-lauded official funeral, it seemed to me that the archbishop himself would have been uncomfortable with the display of it all.

This is often the case with people interested in service more than prestige. They're uncomfortable with grand spectacles that wrap them

in anything but the common vestments of the common person.

Sadly, this is not always the case with big men in the Church. Too many are more interested in what's in it for them – the money or power or other trappings – an unfortunate reality not only in Uganda, but around the world.

And so, despite its best efforts to portray itself otherwise, the Church often appears cold and harsh, especially for people who need the love of Christ the most. It's one reason why men like Nkoyoyo, in contrast to these big men, shine so brightly.

It was 2005 when I first came to UCU. It would be a vocational and family home for the next 12 years, back and forth, me and my family with one foot in Uganda, the other in our Canadian home.

It was a remarkable time, a time of ongoing learning, really, more than anything. One of the first things I learned is that Ugandan women and children will at times not only bow a knee, but literally get on their knees to show deference and

respect.

"Please," I said, when this first happened. "Don't. You're making me feel uncomfortable."

But this, it seems to me, is what Nkoyoyo did for his entire life. Like the God he served, Nkoyoyo went on his knees, basin of water beside him, towel in his hand, ready to wash the feet of any traveller in need.

So what I've received from Nkoyoyo is what's been received by many people who have never met him. It's like a ripple from a stone thrown in the water. It's like, as Christ explained, a tree growing many branches for birds to find shade and rest, this after starting as just a tiny seed.

No, without Nkoyoyo's vision to create UCU, none of us travellers, so to speak, would be here. Because there would be no UCU. No School of Law or Business or Mass Comm or Social Work or anything else.

Of course, there would be no *Standard* either. It was Nkoyoyo who convinced UCU's first vice-chancellor, Stephen Noll, to come to UCU. And it was Prof

Noll who pushed for a newspaper, pushed the pioneers, myself included, to get one started.

So imagine everything you're now sitting in the midst of vanishing like a vapour, like a puff in the wind, a university-life never lived.

It's a reminder of the good, multiplied, that can come from the vision of one man, or woman, who serves with bended knee. And for this service, you don't even need to have the highest education – Nkoyoyo didn't – as much as you need an education of the heart.

It's this Holy Spirit-led way of living that gave purpose to Nkoyoyo's life. In turn, many other people have found purpose in their own lives. I'm one of them.

And I'm thankful.

Thomas Froese is a veteran writer from Canada who teaches American Literature at UCU, and is among the founders of *The Standard*. Read him at www.thomasfroese.com