

Mgina, Stanford Nkoronko (1950–2026)

MAGOMA MASAU

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Stanford Nkoronko Mgina was a Tanzanian Seventh-day Adventist lay evangelist, Church elder, Church planter, counselor, and community spiritual leader whose ministry significantly contributed to the expansion of Adventism in Kakonko and Kibondo districts in western [Tanzania](#). For nearly four decades, he devoted his life to evangelism and the establishment of new congregations. Although he never served as an ordained minister, his influence on the growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in western Tanzania illustrates the indispensable role of lay members in advancing the Church's mission work.¹

Early Life and Background

Stanford Nkoronko Mgina was born in 1950 in western Tanzania during the final decade of British colonial administration in Tanganyika. His childhood coincided with a period of significant political, social, and religious transformation that culminated in Tanganyika's independence in 1961. Growing up in a rural environment, he experienced firsthand the challenges faced by many families in western Tanzania, including limited educational opportunities, inadequate infrastructure, and restricted access to health services.²

Despite these challenges, Mgina developed qualities that would later distinguish his ministry. Family members and Church associates remembered him as a disciplined, respectful, and hardworking young man who demonstrated unusual concern for the welfare of others. From an early age, he exhibited strong leadership tendencies and willingly participated in community activities designed to improve local living conditions.³

His formative years coincided with the expansion of Seventh-day Adventist work in western Tanzania. During this period, Adventist missionaries and local evangelists were establishing churches and schools throughout the region, creating opportunities for spiritual growth and community development. These developments would later influence Mgina's own understanding of Christian service and mission.⁴

Education and Family

Mgina pursued his formal education between 1964 and 1968 at Kumshindwi Kifura. Although educational opportunities in rural Tanzania remained limited during this period, he embraced learning with enthusiasm and determination. His education helped develop communication skills, organizational abilities, and critical thinking

capacities that later enhanced his effectiveness as a church leader and evangelist.⁵

In 1983, he married Regina Joachim. Their marriage became an important foundation for his future ministry and community service. Regina proved to be a supportive partner who shared her husband's commitment to Christian service and evangelism. Together, they established a home that became known for hospitality, prayer, and encouragement. Throughout their marriage, the couple demonstrated values of faithfulness, mutual support, and Christian stewardship. Regina's encouragement enabled Mgina to devote considerable time and energy to evangelistic work while maintaining a stable family environment.⁶

Ministry

Particularly influential in his spiritual development was the Adventist teaching concerning the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. He became convinced that preparing people for Christ's return represented one of the Church's most important responsibilities. This conviction would become the central theme of his evangelistic ministry for the remainder of his life.⁷

Like many influential Adventist lay workers throughout Africa, Mgina responded to what he understood as a divine call to service without seeking formal employment in denominational ministry. Instead, he embraced the role of a self-supporting lay evangelist who dedicated his time, resources, and talents to advancing the mission of the Church.⁸ His ministry reflected Ellen G. White's emphasis on the importance of lay involvement in evangelism. White wrote that "the dissemination of the truth of God is not confined to a few ordained ministers. The truth is to be spread by all who claim to be disciples of Christ."⁹

Mgina's organized evangelistic ministry began in 1988 at Cherabulo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kakonko District. At the time, the congregation served as an important center for Adventist outreach in the wider region. From this strategic base, he launched a ministry that would eventually influence numerous communities throughout Kakonko and Kibondo districts. Mgina combined public preaching with extensive personal ministry. He visited homes, conducted Bible studies, organized prayer groups, and mentored new believers. This integrated approach contributed significantly to the effectiveness of his evangelistic efforts.¹⁰

Mgina traveled extensively, often under difficult conditions, to reach communities where Adventist witness remained limited. His willingness to sacrifice personal comfort for the advancement of the gospel earned widespread respect among church members and community leaders. He encouraged converts not only to accept Adventist doctrines but also to demonstrate Christian values through daily conduct, family relationships, and community service. This holistic approach strengthened the credibility of Adventist witness in the areas where he labored.¹¹

Perhaps Mgina's most enduring contribution was his involvement in church planting and congregational development. Among the congregations associated with his ministry were Kitanga, Rusohoko, Kigogo, and

Nyange. These congregations often began as small groups meeting in homes or temporary structures. Through consistent visitation, Bible study, evangelistic meetings, and leadership development, they gradually matured into organized Church companies and eventually fully organized Churches. The continued vitality of these Churches after his death demonstrates the lasting impact of his church-planting efforts. Many leaders currently serving in the region trace their spiritual heritage to congregations established or nurtured through his ministry.

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In addition to evangelism and church planting, Mgina developed a reputation as a compassionate counselor and pastoral caregiver. Although not formally trained as a pastor, he possessed remarkable interpersonal skills and spiritual discernment that enabled him to minister effectively to people facing personal and family challenges. His pastoral influence extended across numerous congregations, including Malenga, Busunzu, Kibingo, Mkabuye, Kichananga, Kisogwe, Nyaruyoba, Kagezi, and Kibuye. In these communities, he provided spiritual guidance, conflict mediation, family counseling, and encouragement to Church members experiencing difficulties.¹³

Later Years and Legacy

During his later years, Mgina remained actively involved in evangelism, Church leadership, mentoring, and pastoral visitation. He devoted considerable attention to mentoring younger church leaders and lay evangelists. Recognizing the importance of leadership succession, he shared his experience and encouraged younger believers to embrace responsibility for advancing the church's mission.¹⁴

Stanford Nkoronko Mgina died in 2026 after nearly four decades of active evangelistic service. His death marked the conclusion of a ministry that had profoundly influenced Adventist growth in western Tanzania.¹⁵

Stanford Nkoronko Mgina's legacy illustrates the crucial role of lay members in the growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. His ministry demonstrates that effective mission depends not only on ordained clergy but also on committed lay believers who dedicate themselves to sharing the gospel.

SOURCES

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Kumshindwi Kifura. Educational Records, 1964–1968.

Memorial Service Reports for Stanford Nkoronko Mgina, 2026.

Western Tanzania Conference Archives. Historical Reports on Adventist Expansion in Kigoma Region.

White, Ellen G. *The Acts of the Apostles*. Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1911.

NOTES

1. Oral testimonies of Church members from Cherabulo, Kakonko District, collected by the author, 2026.
2. Government of Tanzania, Tanganyika and Tanzania Historical Population Records.
3. Church elders' testimonies, Cherabulo SDA Church, 2026.
4. Western Tanzania Conference Archives, historical reports on Adventist expansion in Kigoma Region.
5. Kumshindwi Kifura educational records, 1964–1968.
6. Regina Joachim Mgina, interview by author, 2026; Church members' testimonies, Cherabulo SDA Church, 2026.
7. Ibid.
8. Western Tanzania Conference lay evangelism records.
9. Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles* (Mountain View, CA: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1911), 110.
10. Cherabulo SDA Church historical records; Local Church mission reports, Kakonko and Kibondo districts.
11. Ibid.; Western Tanzania Conference Church planting records.
12. Western Tanzania Conference Church planting records; congregational records from Malenga, Busunzu, Kibingo, Mkabuye, Kichananga, Kisogwe, Nyaruyoba, Kagezi, and Kibuye churches.
13. Ibid.
14. Memorial Service Reports for Stanford Nkoronko Mgina, 2026; Obituary information, 2026.
15. Ibid.

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