Kakwi, Samuila Yinwa (1920–1979)

MANOAH D. YOHANNA
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Samuila Yinwa Kakwi was the youngest of the four brothers of the Kakwi family who were ordained ministers in North Nigeria.

Born in 1920, Yinwa converted into the Adventist the faith much later than his three elder brothers. His wife died before his conversion to Christianity. After his conversion, he wedded Ziriya Adda, the daughter of Elder Habila.
Magaji. He had the following seven children: Mrs. Maryamu Egumusi, Jedidah, Appolos, Mrs. Sintiki Joshua Hassan, Assa, Mrs. Lois Manoah Yohanna, and David.

Samuida was educated in the adult literacy program of J. J. Hyde. He understood and spoke English, though he seldom used it in communication, preferring any of the local languages. He attended the Adventist College of West Africa (ACWA) ministerial school in Western Nigeria, for only six months and had to terminate his studies because his weak educational background made it difficult for him to cope with the mounting pressure of quizzes and assignments.

He began his ministry under the tutelage of his brother Bulus Mallum at Tidere. After some years, he was posted to Wabba, where he began to work independently. In December 1958, he was elected as a delegate from the Northern Nigeria Mission to the West African Union Mission constituency meeting at Accra, Ghana. He was ordained on March 9, 1963. Before going to ACWA, he served in Jos, Jengre, Maigamo, and Kayarda. After returning from ACWA, he was moved between Jengre, Jos, and Gombe. During his service as the chaplain at Jengre Seventh-day Adventist Hospital, the Plateau State Government forcedly took over the administration of the hospital in 1976.

While serving at Gombe, he became severely sick and was rushed to the University of Ibadan University College Hospital in Ibadan, where he was diagnosed with advanced cancer of the intestine, which had damaged part of it. The damaged part was removed and replaced by a plastic device. The success of this operation was one of the great medical feats of that time. Though he continued to live, he was compelled to retire early in 1977 on account of his ill health. While on his retirement, he was in charge of the Jengre Hospital and Fadaman Shanu churches until his death in December 1979.

Samuida will long be remembered for many contributions to the church in the north. He was a man of many skills, including a craftsman, mason, and linguist. He personally constructed churches at Wabba, Rafin-Paa (Laranto Jos), Gombe, and Gwadon and rebuilt the Kadamo church, to name a few. Samuida is best remembered as a skillful handicraft man who used his carvings to illustrate most of his sermons. He was a crowd gatherer. Because of the practical and vivid illustrations he made using carvings and puppets, there was never a dull moment during any of his sermons. On his deathbed, he vehemently rejected a blood donation from a donor known to be drinking beer. Like his older brother, Filibus, because of his ability to learn and master new languages, Samuida fluently spoke several tongues wherever he was posted to. He and his wife are buried with Bulus Kakwi in the family cemetery behind the Jengre Seventh-day Adventist Hospital.

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