

## *In the Shadow – Elisha Kule*

27 April 1981 - 5 May 2022



“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”  
*Philippians 1:21*

I had only met Elisha a bit over a month ago when Grace and I visited the Church of the Brethren Uganda, along with Gordon Hoffert, Marla Abe, Caleb Dakwak, and David and Mary Sollenberger. The picture captures well his personality. Elisha was the sort of person that you instantly like and want to be around. Cheerful, outgoing, and smart. Able to translate my Pennsylvania Dutch version of English into the Kinandi language. Able to interpret local customs and culture for us “muzungus” to better understand what we were experiencing. As a pastor and church leader, he played no small role in the COB Uganda. Elisha’s father, the late Pastor John Kule, had been a powerful influence in this young denomination and his depth of biblical understanding rubbed off on his children and parishioners.

Elisha was a cousin of Bwambale Sedrack, lead pastor of the COB Uganda. I have jokingly remarked that “when two or more are gathered in His name” they’re probably related to each other.

On 5 May, Elisha and Sedrack rode by motorcycle to the Bugando Church of the Brethren. It is a small congregation in a remote rural village. The day before, their small stick and wattle church building had been destroyed in a rain storm. The two were determined to evaluate the situation and develop a plan to help them rebuild. As they were returning, the motorcycle blew a tire and went out of control. In the subsequent crash, Sedrack was injured, requiring hospitalization. Elisha went home to be with the Lord.

It is indeed a tragedy, as Elisha leaves behind a wife and four children. His leadership in the Church of the Brethren will be greatly missed. But he also leaves behind a legacy of loving, giving, serving and sacrifice.

For the Master, Chris Elliott with the Church of the Brethren in the Africa Great Lakes.