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# Balya, Aberi Kakyomya and Ketura Byanga

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## Sources:

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Kisembo, Rev. Reuben, principal of Bishop Balya Theological College, who edited the book on the "Life and Ministry of Bishop Balya 2001." Interview by author, June 14, 2008.

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This story, received in 2010, was written by Rev. Canon John Kateeba Tumwine who was director of Global South Institute at Uganda Christian University and coordinator of regional theological colleges in the Church of Uganda.

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## **Balya, Aberi Kakyomya and Ketura Byanga**

**b. 1881**

**Church of Uganda (Anglican)**

**Uganda**

[TORO]

Rt. Rev. Aberi Kakyomya Balya was born at Matiri in eastern Toro. As a child he was taken to Bunyoro by Kabarega's armies. He was brought up in Kabarega's

enclosure because his aunt was one of Kabarega's wives. He returned to Toro in 1896. He served in the Mukama's enclosure where he started to receive Christian teaching. He was baptized by the Rev. A. B. Fisher in 1901 and confirmed by Bishop Tucker in 1903. His first teaching appointments were in Kayaka and Nyakabimba. In 1905, he went as a teacher to Kyagaju in Ankole. In 1907, he married Ketura Byanga, also a church teacher, who had been in the service of the *Nyina Omukama* (Queen Mother). The same year, he was sent to Mboga (now in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) where Apolo Kivebulaya had worked. In 1908, he was transferred to Kitagwenda on the Toro/Ankole border, and was the first Anglican teacher to make any headway there. From 1910 to 1911, he and two others worked with the Rev. H. E. Maddox on the translation of the Bible into Runyoro/Rutoro. He then went to Bishop Tucker College, Mukono, and qualified as a lay-reader. On his return, he was posted to Ngoma, sent by the *Nyina Omukama*, and worked up towards the Ruwenzori, concentrating on the Bakonjo. After a further period at Mukono, he was ordained priest in 1922 and returned to Ngoma, this time concentrating on Butuku. In 1923, he was put in charge of Busongora, a huge area in southern Toro, where he again worked among the Bakonjo. From 1931 to 1934, he was again at Mboga and was there when Apolo Kivebulaya died. In 1934, he was appointed vicar of St. John's Church, Kabarole. The following year, he was made a canon of Namirembe Cathedral. In 1938, he was appointed an honorary life governor of the CMS. In 1947, he was consecrated assistant bishop with special responsibility for Western Uganda—the first East African to be consecrated by the Anglican episcopacy. In 1952, he was awarded the O.B.E. In 1960, he retired to Bunyonyi, sixteen miles from Fort Portal. In 1964, when the Lost Counties were returned to Bunyoro, he was invited to preach the sermon at the service of thanksgiving. In 1966, he played a prominent part at the coronation of the new *Mukama* of Toro.

Louise Pirouet

**Notes** (short form; see [List of Sources \(https://dacb.org/stories/uganda/pirouet-appendixa-sources/\)](https://dacb.org/stories/uganda/pirouet-appendixa-sources/) for complete citations):

Based on his own information.

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This biography, written by Dr. Louise Pirouet, was included in “Appendix A: Biographical Notes,” on pages 371-2 of “The Expansion of the Church of Uganda (N.A.C.) from Buganda into Northern and Western Uganda between 1891 and 1914, with Special Reference to the work of African Teachers and Evangelists” (PhD Thesis: University of East Africa, 1968). Pirouet published this thesis as *Black Evangelists* (London: Rex Collings, 1978). However, *Black Evangelists* does not reproduce the detailed biographies, complete with references to sources, found in Appendix A of the thesis. Print copies are available at Africana Section, Makerere University Library (U 02 P57); The Centre for Christianity Worldwide, Cambridge; and a microfilm copy at the School of Oriental Studies, London. [information from Angus Crichton]

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**Moshi, Stefano Reuben**  
**1906 to 1976**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Tanzania**

Stefano Moshi was a Tanzanian clergyman, elected first president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanganyika (now Tanzania) (ELCT), at its formation in 1963.

Born into a Christian family in Kotela, Mamba division of Moshi district, on 6 May 1906, he went to school at Gonja where his father was teaching. His family moved to Kotela where he continued his education until 1922.

That same year he began teaching in a local school, remaining there for four years. In 1927, he did a two-year course at the Marangu Training College. He later taught at the college while studying for the London University entrance examination. He obtained admittance but chose instead to enter the theological college in Lwandai in Tanga, Tanzania. He was ordained pastor on December 26, 1949. Between 1952 and 1953, he studied at the Lutheran Bible Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota, in the United States. He returned to Tanzania and continued to work as a teacher, later becoming principal of the Marangu Teacher's College.