

DWW is an abbreviation for Damiano Wamayi Wadika, the late father of the proprietors. He was a man who deeply believed in education, especially the education of young people. Having been orphaned at an early age, he pursued learning with determination and was supported in his journey by Catholic Church missionaries.

His father had earlier left home with his wife in search of better opportunities, including work on farms, commonly known as *shambas*. Because of his character, he was recognised as a trustworthy person and was later appointed as a chief in present-day Buikwe, where his remains were eventually interred. The family continues to honour the land that was given to him by the colonial administration in recognition of his good governance.

Damiano Wamayi Wadika was born in 1928. Despite being orphaned at a young age, he remained interested in his studies. He became one of the pioneer students of the present-day Jinja College, having transferred from the present-day Budini College.

After completing Junior Secondary School, his good academic performance and the guidance of his patrons led to a decision that he should attend a Teacher Training College. The aim was that, after training, he would return and teach others. He therefore joined Ngora Teacher Training College.

Upon completing his course and after one year of understudy, he took over from a white missionary as Headteacher of Budadiri Boys Primary School. He served in that position faithfully for 19 years.

Thereafter, following the departure of the missionary who had previously declined to release him for higher appointments, Damiano was appointed Assistant Education Officer in 1973 and posted to Tororo, then part of Bukedi District. From there, he was promoted to District Education Officer and transferred to Kumi. Later, due to circumstances involving a colleague who feared being posted to Apac, his home district, Damiano accepted the transfer instead. It was in Apac that he nearly lost his life during the war in 1978.

After the war, he returned and was transferred to Jinja–Njeru as Education Officer. However, after a short period, he chose to move closer to his people and accepted the position of Senior Assistant Education Officer in Mbale, then part of Bugisu District.

He served in that capacity until he was persuaded to take up an appointment as Assistant District Administration Officer, a position he accepted reluctantly and held until his retirement.

As an educationist, Damiano's influence was clearly seen in the schools where he served. During his time in district education service, several schools were strengthened and upgraded. One example is Kalawa Primary School, which had never reached Primary Seven level until the time he served as Senior Assistant Education Officer.

This brings us to the question: Why DWW-CLRC?

Above all, Damiano tried to live according to the values he had been taught and mentored in. He passed on his love for education to his family. Eight of his children entered the teaching profession, and many others also developed a deep respect for

teaching as a noble profession. His life inspired his children to value education and to mentor others through school.

His legacy in education is reflected through the service of his children, including:

- 1. Mrs Mary Gidudu – Mbale S.S.S.**
- 2. Mrs Margaret Khisa – Magwa Primary School, Victoria Nile Primary School, and Iganga PTC**
- 3. Mr Masaba Godfrey – Budadiri Girls S.S., Masaba S.S., and Bumasifwa S.S.**
- 4. Rev. Emmanuel Muduku (Late) – Ngeta NTC**
- 5. Mr Nakisali Wamayi – Budadiri Boys and Bweri PTC**
- 6. Ms Wegosasa Rebecca (Late) – Budadiri Girls/Boys**
- 7. Mr Wasukira Henry – PMM Girls, Iganga S.S., and Jinja S.S.S.**
- 8. Mrs Ochom Drolence Nabukwasi – Main Street Primary School and Buganda Road Primary School**
- 9. Mrs Madaya Norah – St. Paul Memorial**
- 10. Mr Kibuuka Ambrose – YMCA Jinja**
- 11. Mr Wawuya George – Kakindu Vocational School**
- 12. Ms Namono Annet**
- 13. Ms Namalikye Teddy**

This legacy shows the great value Damiano placed on education, even in his absence. As a family, we wish to keep the light he lit burning by passing it on to others.

Through DWW Children’s Library and Resource Centre, we honour his memory by promoting education, literacy, values, and mentorship among children and the wider community. We believe this is one meaningful way to remember a humble man whose life continues to inspire both the young and the old.

May his soul rest in peace.