CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
CAMILLUS OMONDI
OSUNDO AHUYA
1952-2020
**THE EULOGY**

**CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF A GREAT AND GENTLE SOUL**

Camillus Omondí Osundo Ahuya was selfless and frank, honest and dedicated, compassionate and loving. He was a great father, and above all a wonderful and devoted husband. He was born on the 9th of September 1952; the first son of Edward Ahuya Osundo and Paulina Washika, in East Uhólo location, Mung’ao sub – location, Uluthe village. He was a brother to the late Peter Agutu Ahuya, the late Patrick Okoyo and the late Frederick Odhiambo. Camillus lived his life in service to humanity, always willing to extend a helping hand to anyone in need and giving his very best to his wife and children with utmost humility.

**FAMILY LIFE:**

Camillus married the love of his life Beatrice Achieno Ahuya in 1979 and they were blessed with their children: Jeffrey Otieno Ahuya, Catherine Achieng Ahuya, Antony Onyango Ahuya, Maureen Achieno Oluoch, Nelly Achieng Juma, Pauline Washika Ahuya, Duncan Robert Ahuya and Brian Omondi Ahuya.

**EDUCATION:**

Camillus started his educational journey at Sidindi Primary School. Upon completion of his primary education, Camillus joined St. Mary School, Yala in 1971 till 1974. He then joined Egerton University (Njoro, Kenya) for a Diploma in Farm Management, 1978. Later on he proceeded to Texas A&M University, College Station, USA, for a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science, a Post graduate Certificate in Artificial Breeding of Livestock, Texas A&M University, College Station, USA, 1985 and an MSc in Animal Breeding Genetics, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA 1987. He further attained a Post Graduate Certificate in Development Studies, Selly Oak College,
Birmingham, United Kingdom, 1999. Camillus was a PhD Finalist in Animal Breeding and Genetics, University of Nairobi

PROFESSIONAL LIFE:

Camillus worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and later the Ministry of Livestock Development’s Scientific Research Division at the then National Animal Husbandry Research Station, later Kenya Agricultural Research Institute - Naivasha initially as Technical Officer at the Dairy Research Section from 1978 to 1980. He then joined the Small Ruminants - CRSP Project until 1993 and later at the KARI- Kiboko National Range Research Center for another 3 years. FARM-Africa Kenya came calling in 1993 when he joined them as the breeding expert for a successful Dairy Goat Improvement Project in Kenya for 12 years (1996-2009). He led a practical and sustainable community-based, goat breed improvement program that eventually led to the formation of vibrant Meru and later Kitui Goat Breeders Associations which are still operating to-date. He then joined Egerton University as a Team Leader and Principal Consultant, Animal Resource Consultants (ARC) from August 2009. He served as a Member of Egerton University Council in 2010, and later as the Managing Director, Egerton University Investment Company till 2017.


AWARD: Between 2000 – 2005, he was awarded a grant to work on Productivity improvement in indigenous goats through crossbreeding with imported dairy goats in the Eastern Highlands of Kenya

RELIGIOUS LIFE:

Baptized in accordance to the Catholic faith, Camillus was commissioned a member of the Catholic Men Association (CMA) in 2019 at the St. Francis Catholic Church, Sigomere.

ILLNESS:

Camillus suffered a stroke on the 19th of January 2020 and was taken to Matibabu HealthCare. He was later transferred to Avenue Hospital Kisumu on the 20th of January 2020. Camillus was moved to the ICU in the same facility on the 28th of January 2020. He showed signs of improvement and on the 2nd of February 2020 he was talking and jovial.

DEMISE:

Camillus went to be with our Lord at 2:30 am on the 3rd of February 2020.

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“May the Angels carry you to God’s abode”
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OSUNDO AHUYA

1952 - 2020

"May the Angels carry you to God’s abode"
TRIBUTE FROM HIS WIFE BEATRICE

My husband was such a wonderful man. The best husband anyone could have wished for. Words cannot fully express the pain I feel for losing him or just how much I will miss him. Not only was he a wonderful husband, but also a wonderful father, grandfather, son, uncle, friend, and colleague. It has been over 40 years since we got married; we built a life and a home together, the foundation of which was based on true love and respect. I look back at those years with so much love and happiness. We shared dreams, hopes, love, friendship and much more. Camillus was always a gentleman, well-mannered and polite. Treated me like a queen with a crown.

His good nature attracted people to him and he had the ability to make everyone to feel comfortable, secured and loved. No one could forget his contagious laugh. Camillus was a wonderful father to our children always there to guide, love, provide and protect them. They respected and loved him dearly, always running to him for advice. Camillus was a hardworking and generous man. He always ensured that his family had everything they needed. He was also committed to giving back to the society, positively touching so many lives in the process. He brought out the best in us.

Camillus was my soul mate and my inspiration, my steadfast rock that helped me through thick and thin. Loved me unconditionally and stood by me. He supported and loved us and was always there to navigate through life’s challenge.

You gave us your best now it is your time to rest. Rest in peace my dear, sweet husband.

TRIBUTE FROM HIS CHILDREN

Jeffrey:

There is a special bond between father and his son. That bond builds strength over time. As I reflect back over the years, you were a great Dad. I know the pain of losing you will never leave me, saying goodbye to someone who has been there since before you were even aware of yourself is devastating. Dad you taught me what it means to be a man: The true measure of a man is how much love he gives, how muchselflessly he shares whatever he can to help others, how constantly he lifts up those around him with a kind word and a humble ear. You always led by example.

No matter how far we were, we always knew where home was: where mum and you were. You raised us with lots of love and a sense of belonging. You were our anchor, our lighthouse. Thank you Dad for all that you have done for us. We will carry your light in our heart and our lives will be a reflection for all that you were and the values that you instilled in us.

Catherine (Baby):

Dad as I struggle to accept the painful truth that you are gone, I want to thank you for giving me the best home, best education and more so the best healthcare. You stopped at nothing to ensure that I was well, always there to encourage me through my struggles. It is so painful to accept that you will no longer be here to talk to. You were the first person I could see whenever I came home because you were always there to pick me up from the bus stop. Never in a million times did I imagine that saying bye to you on 2nd February will be the last time I will ever speak to you. And it only gets more painful by the day. I am here because of the sacrifices mum and you made for me. You were always there for me, comforting, guiding, protecting and providing for me. You always told me to trust God and now I thank God for giving me such a beautiful, precious and priceless gift of you being my dad. It is an honor and the greatest privilege being your daughter. In my heart you will always be.

Thank you dad, I love you beyond words. May your soul through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Antony:

Dad words cannot express the pain that is in my heart. It is so difficult to believe that we have to go on without you; this world has never felt so alone. I do not know for how long our tears will flow for you but even when our tears dry up, our souls will forever bleed for you. You gave us the very best of yourself. In your arms there was never a shortage of love, always there to provide, guide and comfort us. Mum and you created a safe haven for us, a place where no matter what the world threw at us, our dad’s house was where we ran to. We fondly remember you telling us “don’t suffer yet am here” when we moved out.

Our world came at a standstill on the 3rd of February 2020, we are yet to grasp the fact that the world still moves on and you are not here. I wake up every day to the pain of not having you with us here. We will forever cherish the life you gave us and continue to provide, protect and comfort what you loved most in this life – mum.

Thank you for all the sacrifices that you made so that we can have the best of life, thank you for the many times you held our hands when we fell, thank you for the many times you carried us on your shoulders so that we can reach our dreams, thank you for the many times we leaned on you when this life knocked us down. We love you dad.

Maureen:

Words can never describe who you were, a man with a big heart who gave me an opportunity to call you father. God put His arms around you and whispered “Come with Me”. Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay. A golden heart stopped

“May the Angels carry you to God’s abode”
TRIBUTE FROM COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS:

**Okeyo Mwai**

“Obange” as I fondly called Camillus was an extremely honest, dedicated family and highly professional person who took friendship, work and relationships seriously. Obange was very generous, lively and had proclivity for fine finishes. Whenever we met, we would always first share a jig and mumble a few lyrics of one of our many preferred Franco songs; Obange would approach with a broad smile, which was followed by the “Ahuya-only” thunderous right-handed handshake.

Over the forty years of close friendship, we worked and published productively together; travelled many miles driving together, and in one of those many trips, we once cheated death, but killed the vehicle that I was driving, and from there I thought death would never separate us, but being a human being, I was dead wrong—just when, you gave us hope, your heart stopped. Although you had never let me down over the 40 years, in your demise I felt immediately “orphaned” as the grand plans that we agreed only a month and half ago would now never be realized. I and my entire family will forever cherish your love and we will dearly miss you-Jayadha, may the Almighty rest your loving Soul in Eternal Peace.

**Christie Peacock**

I have known my dear friend Ahuya for a little over 40 years. We were both passionate about the power of the humble goat to transform the lives of Africa’s rural families. When I was recruiting for the Meru goat project there was only one man I wanted to work on the project and that was the gentle giant, Camillus Ahuya. Ahuya had that rare combination of being a highly knowledgeable professional but also a very practical man. When that was combined with his big heart and hard work, he became a powerful force for change among the rural communities he served. I will never forget his kindness to me and my family and also of his gentle dancing in my home in England. For me he was kindness in human form. Rest in Peace Big Man.

**David Abwonji**

We first met with Ahuya in 1977 at Egerton College Njoro as students. I wonder what brought us closer but as I look back to my psychodynamic life, maybe we had very similar traits in our inner selves. Ahuya mixed well with anybody at all times. His open slap greeting opened people’s hearts to him, with a humble smile and warm sense of humor.

We met and worked at Naivasha Research Station; we worked again and lived together in Olmago Station near Ilke. We lived close in Nakuru town for many years. All this time, we enjoyed very close relationship as friends and enjoyed it. As a workmate, he was intelligent, knowledgeable and a hard worker. He was caring, considerate and passionate to all. This he extended to his family who came first—his wife Betty, his children, his late brother Peter’s family and his extended family. He
shared a lot of his passion and concerns with me as a brother, which was very inspiring.

We have maintained a close relationship all the time, sharing, advising and guiding each other on a lot of things. We sometimes shared issues of our very deep hearts together. He was a friend whom I felt most comfortable with. He was quite, humble, honest, steadfast with me and always focused on our positive values.

I have seen Ahuya close to me in the whole of my adult life at various stages. This stretches from my marriage, family life, work life, enjoyment and even at bereavement. I remember in 1990 when I lost a close member of my family, Ahuya and Betty were my rock as I went through the most difficult time in my life. Unbelievable commitment from a friend. In Kathomo my village, he is referred to as my brother, not my friend. My family is devastated.

To Betty, Jeffrey, Kate, Nelly, Tony and Peter’s Children. I pray that God looks after you to the end. For the young ones, please emulate some of what has been left behind by this great man.

Jothurwa, losing a friend like Ahuya is very painful to me and I am still struggling to accept it. I know God’s plans are ultimate. Because he made us meet on the 29th December 2019 to say bye. I therefore have to release him to the Angels.

Till we meet again!! BYE BYE MY FRIEND!!!!.

**Paul Gamba**

We never thought at any one moment that we would be writing about you in this manner, this soon. The last time we were beside you, we were indeed full of hope and had no inkling that you were actually bidding us farewell. You even whispered “Ero kamano kuo lima” and, in retrospect, we are thankful you did. Nonetheless, we have, with heavy hearts finally accepted the will of the Almighty.

We will remember and cherish the time the Lord gave you to us and especially recall the great moments with everlasting nostalgia. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. It is well Brother, Go in peace.

**Rev. Canon Jared Indetie**

Camillus, God called you to glory at such unexpected time. I can’t hold my tears, but since God can’t make mistakes, I have just to accept it. It is my prayer that God will abundantly bless your children, their mother Betty and Peter’s children who have been left behind. May your soul rest in eternal peace. AMEN

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**Dr. Ed Rege**

Although I first met Ahuya in the 1980’s, it was from his work with Farm Africa in the 1990’s on goats that I got to know him more deeply and intimately. A humble and practical man, Ahuya did not have much time for theory. He was in hurry to cut through the ‘technical talk’ and propose and implement things which would directly help the goat keepers in Kenya and the region solve their problems and improve their livelihoods. His focus on this mission was intense, almost infectious. We have lost a great livestock scientist. We have lost a friend. May God rest his soul in eternal peace.

**Joram M. Mwacharo**

I called him “The Big Guy” he called me “Mwanangu”, with a big handshake that is how close we were!! He is one of the very few people from the Lake region I ever met who spoke grammatically correct Swahili with a highly polished accent. I remember two phrases which I first heard from him and which he always mentioned to me whenever we met “Mwili haujengwi kwa mbao mwanangu” and “Jenga taifa nawe ujijenge pia”. My relationship with Camillus was special, though we came from two extreme ends of Kenya, the Coast and the Lake region. His death is a personal loss and has robbed me a person I was always at ease with whatever discussions we had. He taught me to be happy, because he was always happy and jovial no matter the circumstances. I remember one time travelling with Camillus from Kiboko to Nairobi; it was a trip out of this world which I cherish to date. Rest in peace The Big Guy, I will forever hold in great esteem the professional, social and spiritual moments we shared the few times we were together.

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“May the Angels carry you to God’s abode”
**ENDA NASI**

Tunaomba uwepo wako uende nasi
Ewe Bwana wamajeshi utusikie
Kama huendi nasi, hatutaki kutoka hapaa
Hatwezi pekee yetu, enda nasi
Tu watu wa shingo ngumu tusamehe
Hatufai mbele zako, turehemu
Tusafishe ee Baba, tuonyeshe usowako
Twaleti neema yako, enda nasi

Ruoth ting’a malo mondo achung’,
Kayie wecheni dutu,
Med ting’a malo moloyo,
Abed kapakoi pile.

Adwaro loyo gik me piny
Ma Satani diwuondago;
Loch mwalogo pinyenye,
Genona ni kuomi pile.

Pamoja na wewe, pamoja na wewe
Heri nikute mashaka sawasawa
nawewe.

Niongoze safarini Mbele unichukue
Mlangoni mwa Mbinguni, niingie na wewe

**MWAMBA WENYE IMARA**

Mwamba wenyeimara, kwakonitatijicha
Maji hayonadamu, yaliyotokahumo
Hunisafinadhambi, hunifanyaMshindi.
Kwa kazizote pia, sitimizisheria
Njapofanyabidii, nikilkanakudhi
Hayashimakosa, ni we wakuokoa
Sina cha mkononi, najamsalabani
Nilitupunivike, nimnyongenishike
Nilimchafu...

**BWANA U SEHEMU YANGU**

Bwana u sehemu yangu, rafiki yangu wewe
Katika safari yangu, tatembea na wewe

Pamoja na wewe, pamoja na Wewe
Katika safari yangu, tatembe anawewe.

Chunya ok gomb siko e piny
Ka ma chich gi luoro nitie;
To adwaro loyo gite,
E malami ting’a malo.

**CHA KUTUMAINISINA**

Cha kutumaini sina, ila damu yake
Bwana
Sina wema wa kutosha, dhamb izangu kuziosha

Kwake Yesu nasimama, ndiye Mwamba ni salama
Ndye Mwamba ni salama, ndiye Mwamba nisalama

Damu yake na sadaka, nategemaa daima
Yote chini yakaisha, Mwokozi atanitosha.

Njia yangu iwe defu, Yeye hunipa wokovu
Mawimbi yakinipiga, nguvu zake ndiyo nanga

Nikiitwa humuni, rohoni nina amani
Nikiivika haki yake, sina hofu mbele yake

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“May the Angels carry you to God’s abode”
COME THOU FOUNT

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I’m fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Here there by Thy great help I’ve come
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

Oh, that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Clothed then in the blood washed linen
How I’ll sing Thy wondrous grace
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Take my ransomed soul away
Send Thine angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless days

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I’m constrained to be
Let that goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

IT IS WELL

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well
With my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

SWEET BY AND BY

There’s a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days.

“May the Angels carry you to God’s abode”
With deep appreciation, the Camillus Ahuya family would like to acknowledge the many expressions of love, kindness and support (financial, through your presence and prayers) shown to us during our hour of need following the sudden departure of Camillus. Losing dad is devastating and we are grateful and humbled by your kindness and support, since dad fell ill you have held our hand, visiting him in the hospital, grieving and now as we lay him to rest. You came from far and wide; we do not take it for granted. Thank you.

May God bless and keep you all.
Eternal rest grant unto Camillus Oh Lord and let your perpetual light shine on him.

Rest in Peace!