



Dear friends,

I welcome you all to share with me my early life in SALEM. I came to know SALEM when part of the SALEM staff came to our village to look for grass for thatching the houses in SALEM. During that time, I was still at school. After school, that when one of the staff came in looking for some girls who had finished school. Then we registered ourselves and we were asked to come to SALEM.

I started from the orphanage home because many of the children were speaking Ateso and it was difficult for the staff to understand and most of these children were from Teso. I worked there for 3 months then they asked me if I can help in the Hospital because there were many children with malnutrition and they needed a nurse who knows the language, so I was transferred to the Hospital to work.

I worked as a Nursing Aid, then because of the urgent need for nurses we were trained first as Nursing Assistants. I worked for some time then the need for trained Nurses was realized, and the organization – Salem-Uganda management decided that they would build the capacity of the hospital by training their own staff. So, five of us were sponsored for Nursing training and the agreement was after training we come back to work in SALEM Hospital.

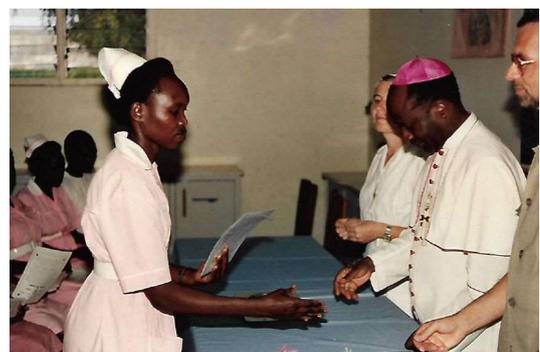


We were taken to Matanyi Nurse training school under leadership of Sr. Gertrud and Mr. Medeyi Denis.

Training was for 2 ½ years. We completed the course and came back to work in SALEM.

During the training we worked in the different wards and a lot of skills were achieved.

I passed very well and graduated.



While in SALEM, we also had community activities;

- Nutrition out reaches
- Immunization outreaches
- HIV/AIDS outreaches
- We had Salem Kolonyi day care where the youth and school dropout were being trained on different skills e.g. training in bead making.

The purpose was to help the youth who were child headed families to earn a living and to help their siblings.

Salem day care center was sponsoring most of the child headed families by paying their fees in Primary and secondary.

Salem had a day for the staff. Recreation e.g., women could ride bicycles and the winner would get gifts like bicycles, jerricans, radios, playing football etc.

I would love to thank SALEM German staff under leadership of;

1. Samuel Muller, the Managing Director Germany
2. Sr. Gertrud Ehrler
3. All our development partners



May the Lord bless you all.

Grace Akol