

Choosing family first: Why our wedding had to wait

Guided by faith and sacrifice, Francis and Sarah put marriage on hold to educate her orphaned siblings, believing the right time for their union would come after their responsibility was fulfilled.

BY OLIVIER MUKAAYA

In Bududa Town Council, Bududa District, love did not begin with grand declarations or wedding plans. It began almost unexpectedly, between Francis Masaba and Sarah Mutuwa, and slowly grew into a bond shaped as much by responsibility as by affection.

What started as a simple meeting soon deepened into friendship, and then into a love story neither of them treated lightly. But from the very beginning, Sarah's life came with a burden that would define everything that followed: she was an orphan, raising her younger siblings on her own.

For Francis, that truth changed everything.

He did not rush in with promises of marriage. Instead, he chose presence, patience and responsibility. He supported Sarah to return to school, believing that love should not compete with survival, but strengthen it. She went back to study for four years, while life gently tested what their bond was made of.

During those years, love did not disappear; it simply learnt restraint. Their meetings were few, mostly during school holidays. Distance became part of their rhythm, but not their separation. Education came first. Growth came first. Life had its order.

"After completing Senior Four, that is when we started meeting more often. What attracted me most to my wife was her good behaviour, faithfulness, hard work and fear of God. We dated for some years before finally making it official," Francis says.

Sarah remembers those years with gratitude. Even when they met, she never stepped away from her responsibility. Her siblings remained her first commitment, and Francis respected that completely.

Love, for them was refined by waiting.

A meaningful proposal

After years of walking that careful road together, Francis made his decision. He proposed, not as a beginning of uncertainty, but as an acknowledgement of everything they had already survived side by side.

It was a quiet yes, but one that carried the weight of years.

"After the proposal, Sarah started staying with me, and while we were living together, she later trained as a seamstress, which gave her a career,"

Francis explains.

Even then, they did not immediately rush into marriage. Something deeper still anchored their decisions; the responsibility Sarah carried for her siblings.

Love that carried a family

Sarah had no parents. Only her younger brothers and sisters, four children who looked to her for everything. And Francis, by then, was no longer only her partner; he

had become part of that responsibility.

"We could not rush the introduction because Sarah had no parents. She only had two younger brothers and two younger sisters, whom she was taking care of," they explain.

What followed was not obligation, but devotion.

"I had to take care of the four orphans by feeding them and paying their school fees until they grew up. Some returned to their home,

while others got married. I concentrated on educating them before making the introduction," Francis says.

In those years, their love matured most profoundly, not through ceremonies or public declarations, but through sacrifice, patience and shared purpose.

Marriage could wait. But the children could not.

When love finally

made room

Only after that responsibility was fulfilled did they allow themselves to move forward.

Their introduction took place on September 16, 2023, followed by their wedding on December 16, 2023, two moments that felt less like a beginning and more like the long-awaited completion of a promise already lived for years.

The introduction alone cost about Shs30m, made possible through support from friends in church and clan members who had watched their journey unfold with admiration.

A union anchored in faith

Throughout everything, Francis and Sarah held tightly to their faith, believing that their story was guided by something greater than themselves.

They draw strength from Genesis 2:18, which speaks of companionship, Proverbs 18:22, which honours the gift of a good spouse, and Mark 10:9, which affirms the permanence of what God unites.

For them, these were just verses; they were the language of their journey.

Trials that tested their patience

The road was not without strain. There were moments of discouragement, financial pressure, and times when planning felt overwhelming. Francis recalls poor turnout at some meetings, while Sarah speaks of coordination challenges that tested their patience.

But even then, they never lost sight of each other or of what they were building.

Priceless memories

For Francis, one memory stands out above all: the moment they exchanged rings, and the sight of friends who had travelled from Australia to witness their union.

"I felt so loved. The turnout of guests was big, and I especially remember the moment when the pastors were praying for our marriage. It was so wonderful," he says.

For Sarah, the memory she holds closest is walking down the aisle with her brother beside her, surrounded by the people who had carried her through every difficult season.

But above everything, she remembers the vows; the moment they stood before God and finally said 'yes' after years of waiting, working and believing.

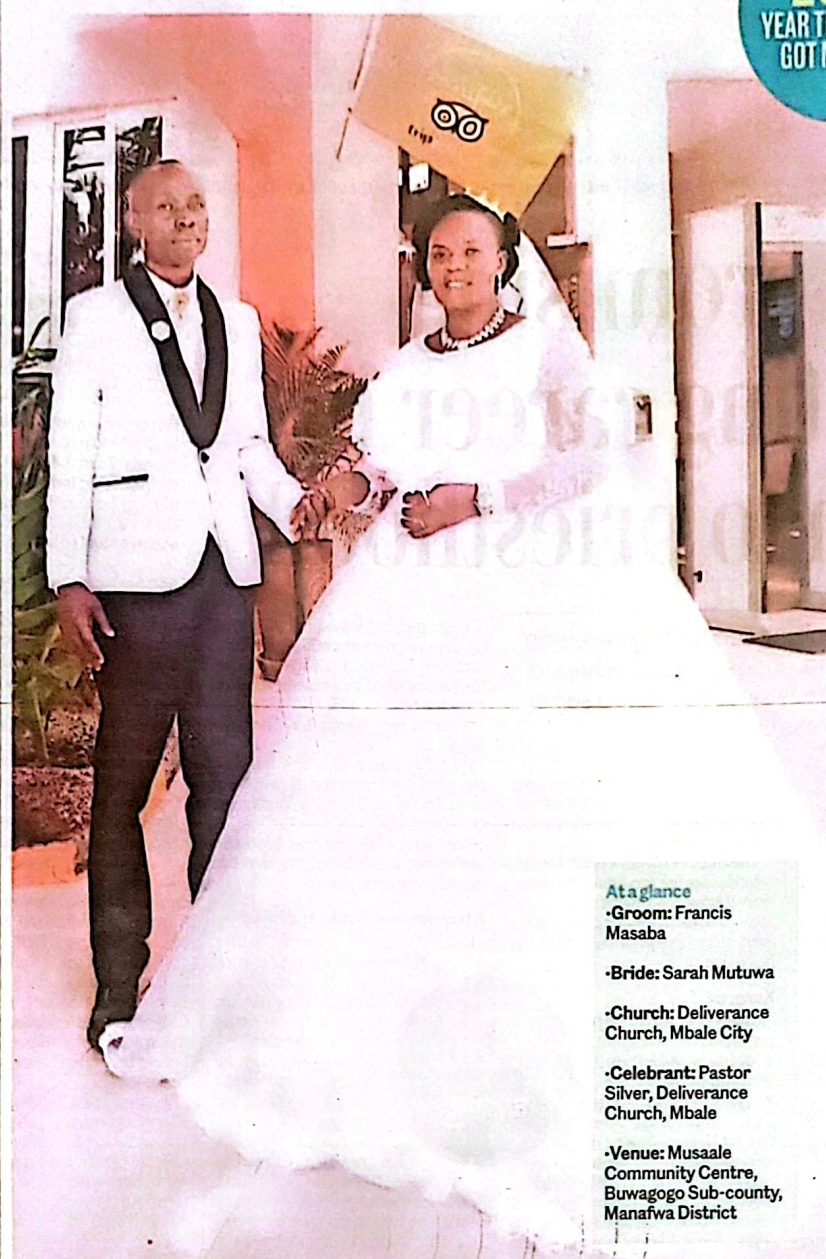
Advice

Francis speaks to young men with calm conviction.

"Seek first the Kingdom of God and everything else will follow. Pray as you wait patiently for God to give you the right partner. Take time to prepare and also help others in their weddings; they may be of help to you in future," he says.

Sarah encourages women still waiting for marriage not to lose hope. She urges them to remain prayerful, open to life, and patient with God's timing.

"Be part of social networks that allow you to mix and mingle. Pray to find a good man, because it is a good thing, and both of you will obtain favour from God," she says.



At a glance

•Groom: Francis Masaba

•Bride: Sarah Mutuwa

•Church: Deliverance Church, Mbale City

•Celebrant: Pastor Silver, Deliverance Church, Mbale

•Venue: Musaale Community Centre, Buwagogo Sub-county, Manafwa District

After years of sacrifice and waiting, Francis and Sarah finally seal their love in marriage, celebrating a union that came only after her siblings were educated and their shared responsibilities fulfilled. PHOTO/COURTESY