



A Tribute To Simon Samutala (1954-2026)



Simon came to the Falconer Home when he was just two days old, and was cared for by Liliias Falconer. As he grew, Liliias saw great potential in Simon, who was able to turn his hand to many practical skills. In a booklet published in 1983, Henry Webb described Simon as “A brilliant mechanic, driving and maintaining the vehicles... He has installed a laundry and shower blocks with a pump... More recently he has

installed a 3-phase generator, providing power and light... He has taught other boys to drive...”

Liliias chose Simon to be her successor when she was no longer able to continue the work, and he was true to her legacy of never turning away a child in need.

Simon was responsible for overseeing the construction of all the buildings at the Home, including the main house which continues to be the main hub of life at the Home. He was on top of every detail of every task to be carried out, and commanded the respect of everyone who worked under



Miss Falconer and Simon



his direction. He was often referred to as ‘The Big Man’, not for his physical stature, but for his immense presence as one to be admired and respected, not just at the Home, but in the wider community of Kabulamema and the Kabompo District.

Simon’s Christian faith was a great example to us all. His conversation was always full of expressions of love for Jesus, and of faith that God would provide for the Home’s every need. This faith was unwavering even in the most challenging of circumstances. His Christian love for the children, and for those

working for him, was always very evident.

In Simon’s final days in hospital, his words to his nephew Clarks were always about ensuring that the children continued to be cared for as he had always done.

Simon’s funeral was attended by thousands - past and present children of the Home, representatives of all the churches in Kabulamema, the school children, local chiefs and dignitaries, and representatives of local and national government. This was surely a testament to the wonderful life and legacy of ‘The Big Man’.

