



# **PASTORAL LETTER**

**From Archbishop of Church of Uganda**

**On**

**“Responsible procreation”**

**1 Timothy 5:8 basically we have to provide for our family and if not we are worse than unbelievers. Therefore have manageable family that you are able to provide for. Have the number of children that you can feed, educate, cloth and yourself remain healthy.**

## **Vision**

A Faster Growing Sustainable Christ-centred Church'

## **Mission**

To proclaim the Gospel in accordance with Christ's commission to make disciples of all nations

## **CORE VALUES**

- **Godliness**
- **Faithfulness to Holy Scriptures**
- **Integrity**
- **Selfless Service**
- **Unconditional love**
- **Unity in Christ**
- **Upholding Biblical family values**

**Pastoral letter**  
**From Archbishop of Church of Uganda**  
**on**  
**“Responsible procreation”**

**Preamble**

Fellow citizens and people of God,

I bring you greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As your leader, I want to remind you that God gave the earth into the keeping of human kind. He made man and woman “*masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild animals and all the creatures that creep along the ground*”.

As stewards of God’s creation, we human beings must carefully consider how our choices and actions affect the earth. Decisions regarding reproduction—when to give birth, and how many children to bear—affect the well-being of individual couples, as well as the earth’s ability to thrive and support life. Brothers and Sisters, when the population grows too fast, the earth’s natural bounty is bound to be depleted.

Today, evidence shows that Uganda’s high fertility at 5.4 (number of children a woman is able to bear in her life time), combined with our limited services to support the healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies is causing our population to grow rapidly.

While our population continues to grow, the availability of natural resources does not.

We are farming the same land and fishing the same lakes as our ancestors, but there are many more of us today. This is resulting in environmental degradation, with significant impact on health, education, and the economy. Moreover, the high fertility that is causing our population to grow so quickly is also harming the health and well-being of women, children, and families.

Brothers and Sisters, as we commit our families to God, let all remember that responsible parenthood includes planning and spacing of pregnancies to maximize the health and well-being of mothers, children, and families. When couples are able to better plan their families, it can save the lives of mothers and children and improve families’ overall health and economic situation. Better planning of families also helps slow population growth. A smaller population will help ease the pressure on natural resources, putting our country in a better position to address the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation. A smaller population will also enable our country to provide more social services (such

as health and education) and jobs for its people.

However, as people of faith, we should not be discouraged. Instead, through God's grace, we can make Uganda's future better by coming together to address population and development issues.

Planning of families takes place within the context of marriage, and a good marriage is a foundation for responsible planning of families. Likewise, planning of families can contribute to healthy marriages by reducing the stress that can be placed on marriages when couples struggle to meet their children's needs.

Finally, be reminded that God expects humankind to add value to the earth. If we have so many children that we cannot meet their needs and help them flourish, we are then failing to add value as God intended. Let us ask God for His abundant mercy on our past failures, our present families, and our future efforts.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanley Ntagali', written in a cursive style.

The Most Rev. Stanley Ntagali  
**ARCHBISHOP OF CHURCH OF  
UGANDA**

