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Fred narrates

For five years, two couples in the 50s; lives a peasant life in Mubende district rural sub county of Butologo.. Hardly could they cater for the family because of low income of about 0.8 USD per day. They have lost 2 of their children (son and daughter) to TB and HIV and AIDS unknowingly but discovered later .They live in a sickly life of two, Fred the husband became an addict. Months later, he developed TB symptoms including fevers, night sweats and weight loss. To Fred, the symptoms came as a blessing in disguise. He discovered the hidden part of his life, which has turned him to live positive live with hope to blow more candles.

“While seeping local brew with friends in the evening during the month of June 2014, I happened to listen to a Radio Health programme “Heart Doctor” sponsored by SORAK. The programme sunk in my mind because most of the issues that were being addressed were happening in my life then,” he says, adding “I was only taking Panadols-Paracetamol; for self medication against the constant fever and cough.” At one time, Fred revealed to have consulted a witchdoctor over his sickness. He said during the programmes, SDA staff and health professionals elaborated a number of issues related to TB/HIV and were encouraging persons with any of the TB symptoms to reach the nearest health unit for screening.

Following this call, Fred says, his local bar friends started making fun of him saying he could be the best person in need, they had realised the he had a constant cough.“Although there was fun making about me, I did not take it as a joke because surely I realised my life was in danger and more dangerous to others.” Fred narrates. He says to have proceeded to the Health Unit the following day, only to discover that he was not only infected with TB but in bad state with HIV/AIDS. He also took her wife Jane who took was diagnosed with TB.

“I’m so happy with SORAK, had it not been the health programme and the encouragement to us, my wife and I would be dead by now,” he commends.“I have already completed the TB dosage and I am happily living a positive life on ARVs,” Fred concludes his testimony. He contemplates moving to fellow villages and encourage them seek TB testing.