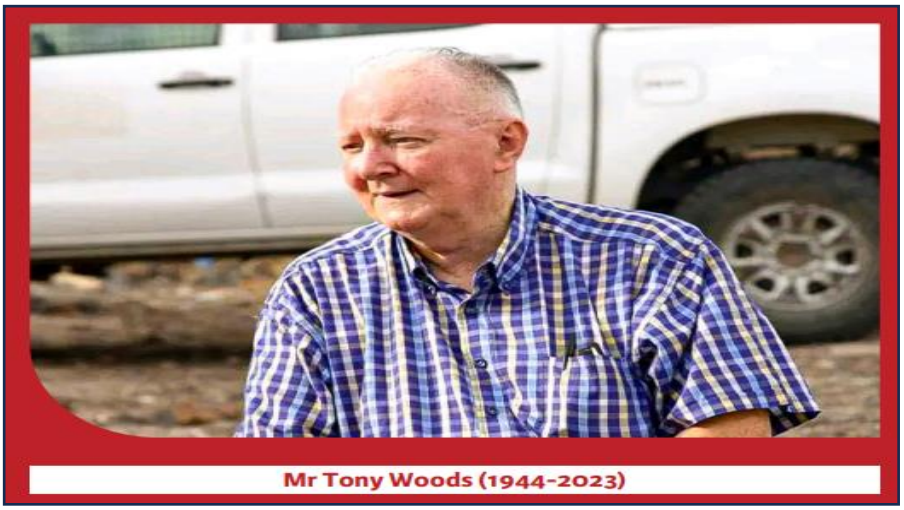
Tony Woods
Lay Missionary



Robert Anthony Woods, or **Tony**, as he was more commonly known, was born on 13th April 1944 in Doon, Co Limerick. After finishing school, he studied at University College Dublin and graduated at the age of 21.

He went to Cameroon where he taught for two and a half years, before moving to Kenya in 1968. Tony lived in Kenya for the next fifty-five years.

For thirty years, Tony was a teacher and then Headmaster at St. Charles Lwanga Secondary School in Kitui. He was a dedicated teacher and enjoyed his work very much. Many of his students remember how he encouraged them to give their best to their studies and how he helped poor students by giving away some of his own money to help them pay the school fees.

In all those years, Tony never owned a house or bought a car for himself, and when he retired from teaching, he donated his pension to help the school build lodging for the teachers.

During his retirement, he helped the Mercy Sisters at their hospital in Mutomo, and then moved to Turkana in north west Kenya, where he spent the next 23 years supporting the education of children with visual and hearing impairments, and working in famine relief.

Tony was a much loved and respected member of the Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM) and a close friend to many Irish missionary priests and sisters working Kenya.

In June 2022, Tony wasn't feeling so well and travelled to Ireland for some medical treatment before returning to Kenya in December 202s. However, he never quite recovered from his illness and died in Eldoret Hospital in Kenya on 25th May 2023.

His lived a good and loving life helping others and is greatly missed by family members, relatives, those with whom he worked, his former students, colleagues and wide circle of friends.