



A Celebration of Life

Mrs Veronica Aina Elizabeth Bankole

18th May 1946 - 17th October 2013





SERVICE OF SONGS

Mrs Veronica Aina Elizabeth Bankole (nee Agboh)
1946 - 2013

Thursday 31st October 2013
at
The Sacred Heart and Mary Immaculate Church
Mill Hill, London NW7 2RR



ORDER OF SERVICE



1. Entrance Hymn - Lord of all hopefulness
2. Opening Prayer
3. First Reading: Job 19:23-27 | Mrs Tosin Salako
4. Hymn: I the Lord of Sea and Sky
5. Fourth Reading: Romans 8:31-39 | Mrs Doyin Akanbi
6. Hymn: Give me joy in my heart
7. Fifth Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 | Mr Omar Taylor
8. Hymn: Majesty, worship His majesty
9. Gospel Acclamation
10. Gospel: John 6:37-40
11. Homily
12. Prayers of the Faithful
13. Tributes
 - Dr Bose Johnson
 - Mr Femi Osunde
 - Mr Abraham Oikilome
14. Closing Prayer
15. Hymn: In Christ Alone



1. Lord of all Hopefulness

¹ Lord of all hopefulness,
Lord of all joy
whose trust, ever child-like,
no cares could destroy,
be there at our waking,
and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord,
at the break of the day.

² Lord of all eagerness,
Lord of all faith,
whose strong hands were skilled
at the plane and the lathe,
be there at our labours,
and give us, we pray,
your strength in our hearts, Lord,
at the noon of the day.

2. Opening Prayer

3. First Reading - Job 19:23-27

³ Lord of all kindness,
Lord of all grace,
your hands swift to welcome,
your arms to embrace,
be there at our homing,
and give us, we pray,
your love in our hearts, Lord
at the eve of the day.

⁴ Lord of all gentleness,
Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment,
whose presence is balm,
be there at our sleeping,
and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord
at the end of the day.

4. Hymn: I the Lord of Sea and Sky

¹ I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:
Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night.
I will go Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

5. Second Reading: Romans 8:31-39

² I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have born my peoples pain.
I have wept for love of them, They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them,
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

³ I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save
Finest bread I will provide,
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them,
Whom shall I send?

Refrain

6. Hymn: Give me joy in my heart

¹ Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
Give me joy in my heart, I pray,
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising,
Keep me praising till the break of day.

Refrain:

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
Sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
Sing hosanna to the King.*

² Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,
Give me peace in my heart, I pray,
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting,
Keep me resting till the break of day.

Refrain

³ Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
Give me love in my heart, I pray;
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving,
Keep me serving till the break of day.

Refrain

7. Third Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

8. Hymn: Majesty, worship His Majesty

¹ Majesty, worship His Majesty
Unto Jesus, be all glory,
Power and praise
Majesty, Kingdom authority
Flow from His throne,
Unto his own, His anthem raise.

² So exalt, lift up on high
The Name of Jesus
Magnify, come glorify,
Christ Jesus the King
Majesty, worship His Majesty
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all Kings.

9. Hymn: Gospel Acclamation

10. Gospel - John 6: 37-40

³⁷ All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰ For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

11. Homily

12. Prayers of the Faithful

13. Tributes

Dr Bose Johnson | Mr Femi Osunde | Mr Abraham Oikilome

14. Closing Prayer

15. Hymn: In Christ Alone

¹ In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

² In Christ alone, Who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—
Here in the death of Christ I live.

³ There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory,
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

⁴ No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.



TRIBUTES



My Mummy

Mummy, I keep asking myself whether it is true that you are not physically here with me. I miss you terribly and it hurts so very much. It hurts. Bawo l'osele je wipe eesi nibi pelumi?..... eyin te je ibora mi?

Amidst this feeling of emptiness and despair, I give thanks to God for I also feel a sense of peace from the confidence that you are with God. May God bless you mummy for I believe that by His grace, you ran the course He set you well; giving the very best of yourself each and every day. I thank God for the privilege of being your daughter. Mummy, words cannot express how much of an inspiration you are to me. I pray for the strength to take forth your strong faith in God, loving and caring nature, gentleness, resilience, generosity, humility and strong work ethic.

Mummy thank you for loving me wholly and without restraint. I am in no doubt of your unconditional love for me; and just as it was a source of strength to me whilst you were here, it remains a source of strength to me now that you are gone. Mummy you always led by example, thank you for the values you instilled in me and thank you for being the great teacher that you are. I am so very proud of you mummy.

You would say to me, at least once, on a daily basis: "I love you very much but God loves you most". I really miss hearing your voice and I miss hearing those words. But I give thanks to God that I am able to say whole heartedly: "Mummy, I love you very much but God loves you most..... rest in peace my darling ma.

Father above, I thank you for my mother. Lord, she came from You, and I believe she has returned to You. I cannot thank You enough for giving us both to each other. Father thank You for giving her the strength and grace to be the person she is. I thank You for Your faithfulness over the years Lord. Father this is an extremely difficult time, but I know that You are with us all who are bearing the pain of mummy no longer being with us - thank you. Father please give us the strength with which to trust and hold on to You through this difficult time, and through each day of our lives help us to do our best by You. My mother would say -'whatever you do, do it for God, and not for man' - Father, help us to live this daily. I love You Lord and I thank You.

Omo Aina (Olawunmi Bankole).



"Fondly called "Sister",

Veronica lived, a person of Unquestionable Integrity.

She was ever Principled And Real.

And in all of these, We experienced her Tender unconditional Love.

This is a Sad Loss for us.

And We Love her dearly.

--- ***The Agboh Family***



Mama Ola, your truthfulness is our zeal. Your principles are the reins of our life. Your simplicity is our adornment. And your prayers, our existence. Know that you will never be forgotten and always loved by all of us in the family.

We accepted when we remembered what a Psalmist said "what man is he that liveth and shall not see death?" (Psalm 89v48). It is easy to think of others having to keep the appointment with death, but difficult for us to remember that we too must keep the same appointment.

Death is appointed for all and the question of its occurrence is merely a matter of time. Adieu, Mama Ola. You worked hard and your achievements are profound. Your departure is a great loss. We love you but God loves you most by taking you to Him to come and have eternal rest. Mama Ola, rest in the bosom of Almighty God. May the Almighty God grant you Eternal Rest (Amen).

We your cousins (Mama Benin, Mercy, AB, & Edna) and all our children will deeply miss you greatly.



I met Aunty Aina sometime in August/September, 1981 when my late father and I visited her at the University of Ife during the follow up to my admission process at that Great Institution. My Dad informed me at that point that we were related. She provided me accommodation in her quarters at the University when I resumed as a student in December, 1981 until I was able to settle down in school and find a space in the hostel. I found her to be a very kind-hearted person and more than a BIG SISTER. She was in fact, a CONFIDANT. We kept in touch over the years and I found her to be someone who was very large-hearted and she always put the welfare of others first before her own welfare. She always took time to find out how everybody was doing and she made it a point of duty to call from the UK on Saturday mornings to check on us. I had a very strong bond with her and would always discuss issues with her because she was always available to discuss whatever matter you had to discuss.

She was also a very good daughter to her mother (Mama) Mrs. Comfort J. Agboh and always ensured that Mama's affairs were well looked after. She was also a dotting mother to Olawunmi. Whenever I arrived in the UK for a visit, she was one of the first people I called on the telephone and she always made sure she found time to visit us whenever we were in the UK and she always ensured that she called us on the telephone the day we were leaving the UK to wish us a safe-journey.

She was indeed a SELF-LESS and KIND-HEARTED person. We will SURELY MISS HER. We however take solace in the fact that she lived a good life and she has now gone to be with the LORD.

Joseph O. Akhigbe (Mr)

We know that you're dead and you're gone for good
It's hard to accept but now we've understood
Nothing lasts forever, even if it's good or it's bad
Now you up in heaven it makes us feel glad
At this time you're standing at those big golden gates
Up in heaven your new life awaits
We know you're looking down on us wanting us to be strong
And we know you have been all along
We all miss you and that's definitely true
When we think of all the times we had with you
For now you've gone up high in the sky
Because this is your time to say goodbye

THE AWEFADA'S

OUR MUM, COUSIN, AUNT, SISTER, DAUGHTER AND FRIEND

An Angel

An angel lived among us,
A gift from God above.
She showered us with kindness
And shared with us her love.
She cherished every moment
Of her truly inspiring life
She saw the best in others and
Guided us through strife
She loved all of us dearly,
And kept us close within her heart.
And now, though she's far away.
With God's love, we're never apart
She's gone to live with Jesus.
But she's here with us, today,
Smiling down on every one,
And telling us she's OK.

The Osunde Family

Alas death came calling on the 17th day of October 2013 like a "thief in the night" and our dear daughter, sister, mother and friend had to answer the Supreme call.

My first contact with "sister" Aina was in 1960. Yes 1960.....53 years ago!!! It was love at first sight because she immediately took me as a member of her family. The love and affection she showed to me was no less than she showed to Francis (now also deceased) who was my class mate at St. Gregory's College and a true brother.

Aina was a mother to all her siblings and a very fair and compassionate lady. Earlier this year we met in Lagos with mama and she said to both of us; "Aina you and John (that is me) must make sure that when I pass on you both do the best to keep the family together". Both of us responded by telling her that she still has more years to be with us. Two weeks ago, may be three now, she was counselling me on my own health challenges. That is the sort of person she was. She was a very good and practicing Catholic. Let us pray that the ALMIGHTY GOD will grant her ETERNAL REST and to those of us left to mourn her, FORTITUDE to bear the loss. To OLAWUNMI I say, yes you have lost a mother, friend and confidant. The one legacy she has bequeathed to you is LOVE and that is what we all need at this time of trial. ADIEU my beloved sister.

John A.V. Scott



TRIBUTE TO A WONDERFUL WOMAN -A DESTINY CHANGER

My adorable aunty, my meticulous mother, my inspirational role model. My heart has been sunken since I heard the news. How do I begin to describe your involvement in my destiny?
You were the mother I didn't have at the age of 10 when my Dad needed someone to look after my sister (Tola & myself). You took us into your home and brought us up with your own daughter. As a child, I thought you were too firm and too much of a disciplinarian, but as an adult, I can only look back and thank God for the role you played in my upbringing. The things I learnt from you as a child are still part of my life experience today. They cannot be bought!
How do I explain to my children that Grandma Colindale will no longer call to pray for them or send vouchers on their birthdays? I remember still speaking to you during Ife's birthday to thank you and ask how you remember all the dates! You never missed a birthday in the past 10 years! Oh Aunty!

I remember how you have always been there. Ever since I and my family relocated to England, you were always ready to help; giving encouraging words when things were not so good, calling to ask after our welfare even when I failed to reciprocate.

You were so instrumental to my attainment since my childhood, as Dad always sought advice from you regarding major decisions concerning us.

Aunty, I am lost for words but I take solace in the fact that I know for sure you are resting in the bosom of the Almighty where we all will meet to part no more.

Your natural beauty, the richness in your laughter and most importantly, your inspirational legacy will forever be my sweet memories of you. ADIEU MUM!

Oluwatomisin Odumeru

TRIBUTE TO MY AUNT AND MOTHER

I cannot believe that you are gone auntie.

I still clearly remember the last time I spoke with you - on my daughter's birthday.

You had called as you always do every year, with all your grandchildren, in order to wish her happy birthday and to pray for her.

I did not know that would be the last time I would speak with you.

Now I have to tell my children that grandma in England will never call again, that she has gone to be with Jesus

Can I forget all that you taught me when I was growing up.

You made a tremendous impact in our lives [Tomi & mine]

Thank you for the discipline.

Thank you for the training.

Thank you for your very gentle and kind words of encouragement

Thank you for your motherly love & care

Thank you for the prayers

I can very well look back and say that you were God sent.

I want to tell the whole world that I just lost my mum

A loving and caring mother

A very special woman of God,

A woman of faith

A woman of great courage

A God fearing woman

A true virtuous woman

A woman full of wisdom

A woman in whose tongue lies the law of kindness

Who can find a virtuous woman for her price is far above rubies? Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excelled the most.

Rest in perfect peace mum; till we meet to part no more in Jesus' name.

I love you so much

Omotola Oguntolu



To my dearest aburo,

When devout women are taken away, it is difficult to us to understand that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. The bible says "Those who walk uprightly enter into peace and they find rest as they lie in death" - Isaiah 57: 1-2. Indeed it is painful that you have crossed over, but the bible says we should rejoice forevermore, that in everything we should give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us. Aburo you have fought a good fight, you have finished your course, you have kept the faith; and according to God's word, from now on there is locked up for you a crown of righteousness.

Mrs B.B Dada



A GEM

O dear Vero! It was with the greatest shock that we received the news of your passing on to join the Saints Triumphant and we know that you will be the gentlest of all saints.

This was very untimely but who are we to question the will of God. Hence we keep on saying that ‘God, Thy will be done’. And we must remember that it is God who giveth life and who also taketh.

My dear Vero, it was your beauty and angelic nature that drew me to you when we were at Our Lady of Apostles Primary and Secondary School, Yaba, Lagos and we were able to stay close till date.

You demonstrated your angelic nature by getting me to join the Legion of Mary and Guide Guilds groups in our school through which we did some corporal work of mercy by visiting The Poor People’s Home etc. Your kindness was very wonderful.

I thank God that I was able to see you last year in London when I was on my way to Edmonton, Canada. Thereafter I trusted in God that I shall always see you and your family whenever I visit London, England. However, I was not prepared for this untimely departure from us and it is also most agonizing for me to write this tribute at the time when we are still experiencing the deep loss of our dear Sister Christy, but all we can say is that may the will of God be done in our lives.

Your kindness to me and my children, and siblings whenever we visited London will always remain cherished and indelible in our hearts. You are a gem and unforgettable sister we have. You are a mother and friend in a million and you will be greatly missed.

I know that you are in Heaven with the saints and I pray that you continue to sleep peacefully in the bosom of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Agatha E. Williams – Omole (MRS)



How and where do I start? Vero u left just like the wind, after 60 years of our friendship. We spoke about four days before your parting, you even sent my newborn grandchild a present, which was received about a week before you left us - they did not have time to thank you. O ga o, your passing away is still a big shock. We thank God for you were beautiful both inside and out. You were always very caring and you were steadfast in your faith. My darling friend I am going to miss you dearly rest in peace till we meet to part no more. May God console us, especially Wunmi, your siblings and Remi’s children. Rest in peace until we meet to part no more. I thank God for letting me know you..



Sister Aina, it has been a great honour and privilege to have known you over the past 42years. To me you were a sister and a friend and to my children a dear mother and only God can bridge the gap that you have now left. You were a woman of great wisdom, an excellent listener and always offered reassuring words in every situation.

I thank God for your life as you were a blessing and an inspiration me. Thank you for being there for me and your children, as there was never a bad time to call you with our issues. I can still hear one of your favourite phrases “Aa da ‘lagbara Olorun “. You have left a great legacy and we will surely miss you, but we are comforted knowing that you are now with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sister mi, Aina Orosun, elediye laba, elepo nikolo, e sun re o...

Bosede Ojuluwayo

Sisi Aina. Yes, Sisi Aina! That is what everybody called her while she was working in the faculty of Health Sciences in the University of Ife, Ile-Ife in Nigeria. I am struggling with tears in my eyes to write this short tribute to a lady who normally should be writing about me when I am gone. But God is Omniscient, and I must take this opportunity to pay tribute to this woman of unusual goodwill, kindness, industry, discipline, generosity and faith in God.

Sisi Aina was like a younger sister to my late wife, Christiana Abiodun Adebajo (nee Benedict).

I was a single parent in Ife. Sisi Aina saw my plight and willingly decided to take care of my two daughters in her flat, Tola and Tomi who saw her as their mother and see themselves as senior sisters of Olawunmi, the only daughter of Sisi Aina.

Tomi is in London where she delivered her three children. Sisi Aina was always around her during pregnancy and delivery, offering professional and motherly care. She never forgot to send presents for the children on their birthdays and to visit Tomi’s family regularly. She also kept in touch with Tola who is now in the USA with her husband and children.

Early this year, Sisi Aina was in Lagos to visit her mother and siblings. I was always a welcome guest in their house in Lagos, where her mother treats me as a member of the family and Aina’s uncle.

Oh, Sisi Aina, you did not tell us that that was a farewell visit. You even spared time to go to Ibadan to visit my friend. Mr. S. O. Owolabi, also an octogenarian like me, who retired as Bursar of University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University). What is life without you to Tola, Tomi and Olawunmi. But we thank God that you lived a good life. You were a pillar of strength to the family. You demonstrated to all of us how to live a purposeful life. How can I console your mother! Our consolation is our belief that the Lord has received you to His bosom. Rest in Perfect Peace.

ISOLA ADEBANJO



Tribute to A Rare Gem- Mrs Veronica Aina Bankole

What can I say? Where do I start from? And when do I stop thinking of and talking about a very dear friend-indeed much more than a friend- a cherished sister: Veronica Aina Bankole(fondly addressed as Mama Ola by me)?

I have known Mama Ola as far back as the early eighties. I got to know her through my “little sister” Ruthé, known to many as Bose/Mama Tosin. Since that time Mama Ola has been part and parcel of my family. She has played significant and active roles in my family affairs since knowing her and she has been like a mother to all my children-a role she played faithfully until her sudden and unexpectedly shocking home call to be with the Lord for ever. We were all devastated when we heard the sad news on that fateful Thursday 17th October 2013.

She was dependable, kind, generous, loyal, helpful, always full of encouragement and most importantly of all, God fearing! She was a great woman of prayer. A woman of character and great faith!

My thoughts and condolences go to Mama Agboh (a great mother-in-Israel), As Mama has clutched the “hem of Jesus’ garment, may our good Lord comfort, uphold and strengthen her in Jesus’ name. Amen. I share the pain of this great loss with her siblings and other relatives. May they all be comforted by the Lord in Jesus’ name. Amen.

I am saying to Olawunmi: You are always in my thoughts and prayers, most especially at this sad and difficult time.My daughter,do not let your heart be troubled;just focus your gaze on Jesus,the Author and Finisher of your faith. He will see you through. Your dear mum touched many lives and she was a great blessing to all she came in contact with. She has sown many good seeds and by God’s grace you will reap great harvests,in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Veronica Aina Bankole will be sadly missed,but we thank God for the privilege of knowing such a rare gem of human kind. I pray and believe that she is resting in the bosom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Good night dear sister.

Gloria A Soetan(aka Mama Fehintola)

It is with sadness in our hearts but with gratitude to God for a distinguished Nursing career that we write these few lines to appreciate the life and times of our dear friend and confidant of several years, Mrs Veronica Aina Bankole. Veronica touched many lives not only in Nigeria but also in UK and Saudi Arabia, where she practiced as a Nurse. After qualifying as a Certified Nurse and Midwife in UK she returned to Nigeria and quickly rose to the top of her profession and distinguished herself as a caring, meticulous and diligent nurse whose care of her patients was always paramount in her mind. She had a soft speaking voice with which she calms and reassures her anxious patients. Any one meeting her for the first time will not help being impressed by her humility and warm affection, which leaves a lasting impression.

After many years of practice in Nigeria she took an appointment in one of the tertiary Medical Institutions in Saudi Arabia. There I had the pleasure of working with her and appreciated her sterling qualities as a professional and dedicated nurse. She soon had accelerated promotion to higher nursing positions. I recall that she was singled out to care and nurse members of the Royal family, where her services were greatly appreciated. When she decided to leave the Kingdom for the UK for family reasons and to continue her nursing profession there, accolades and encomiums were showered on her by all who came across her then. Veronica will be greatly missed not only by family members, but also by friends, colleagues and countless patients. She will be remembered with great affection, deep respect and sincere gratitude for services to humanity.

May her gentle Soul rest in perfect peace.

PROFESSOR. A.O. OSOBA



I met my dearest friend and sister Mrs Veronica Bankole in Jeddah Saudi Arabia, What struck me about 'sister' was how friendly, full of love and giving of her time and herself and being very happy whilst doing what she did. She loved God and People and was generous in everyway. She had the most delightful laugh, a true Christian in every sense and a Child of God. She had an ability to say the right word and give the right advice that stuck in one's mind, in that she was also a mentor to me. The bible says 'owe no one anything but 'love'. Sister Veronica's kind of love was special beyond what words can describe. It was love followed by actions. Although I am grieving for her loss, in equal measures I thank God for creating such a wonderful human being and for bring her my way. Adios SISTER till we meet again. Ola my beloved, your mother is and was unique. She will forever be in our heart and mind as we journey through life and believing that we will all meet again partaking in God's kingdom. Amen.

Mrs Lola Egbase

Mummy Olawunmi, shock, disbelief, lack of concentration, dripping sweat, all gripped me, when my daughter Toyin, crying profusely, broke the news of your sudden demise. In Nigeria and Saudi Arabia you were a nurse per excellence. In the latter, many princesses wanted you and only you to handle them to the extent that you virtually worked very late, indeed, slept in the palaces. I know your answer to that is, it is the will of God and I am convinced that He needs you more than we do. How can it be that you would leave your baby, your pet, your joy, your confidant and closest companion without handing her over to someone on whose shoulders she could cry? Yes, I can hear you say you have done your bit as she was (AFUNNTO) to you and you have now handed her over to the One and Only, Who is able to look after, provide for, protect, comfort, enable, raise, and dwell with her, that is, THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE COMFORTER. I know He has taken over from where you left so Olawunmi needs not fear and will not be alone in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen. Yet, one more question, how can it be that the one you always spoke about, every time we met or chatted on the phone (Mama in Lagos) will be left to mourn you? Of course, God's plan, order or ranking, programme etc is not the same as man's and since we can hear Him say "It is I be not afraid" He will minister to Mama Himself.

Finally, my dear sister and friend, it will be stating the obvious if I say that my family (particularly Toyin and I) will miss you. Our consolation is that, in view of the humility of Christ that was in you, your forthrightness, simplicity, hard work, honesty, transparency, decency, kindness and generosity, (especially to your patients) and your service to God, a crown of glory definitely awaits you. May you reign with Christ forever and ever, Amen. ADIEU till we meet on that glorious morning.

PROF (MRS) ADENIKE M. OSOBA

Dear Mummy,

It is with the heaviest heart that I write this tribute. Following the loss of my mum, your very close friend, you not only consoled my siblings and I, you also ensured in every way that we did not miss mummy. You were always ears to us, source of wisdom and advice for us, present at the usual milestones and just as we started to get used to having another mum, our heavenly Father decided it was time to come to him. There is so much more I want to share with you!

You were so gentle and yet steadfast, a good listener and with wise words ever so fair and loving. Yet another huge hole in my heart but I believe you are with our heavenly Father where we will meet one day.

Adedoyin Akanbi

Mathew 5: 8,9,16

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

To my family Mrs Bankole was a blessing and I give thanks to God for the life she has lived. Mrs Bankole was a kind-hearted woman, and as simple a virtue that is, it one that we most all hold dearly, endeavour to imitate, and praise God for all those who possess it. For it as simple as it is rare.

In life we each of us face trials and tribulation, and through the things we each have going on in family life, it is easy for us be so weighed down or simply distracted that we forget others. I don't believe Mrs Bankole's life was any different to many who are striving to make it through the daily trials and tribulations we all face; the difference in her character was that she still took time to be an amazing friend and to be a blessing.

Mrs Bankole was a Christian, and she endeavoured to ensure that her life reflected the Fruits of the Spirit; love, joy, peace, forbearance, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. In this sad and painful time; as Mrs Bankole was a Christian she was also a; mother, daughter, sister, aunt and friends, we who are affected by her love and light can find comfort in the one knowledge that she is alive in Him that is the way, the truth and the life.

1 Peter 1: 3-5

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved I heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Mrs Dupe Adewale



Dear Grandma Colindale,

We love you and will miss you so much.

Gabrielle and Moshood Akanbi

Tokunbo Egunjobi and Family



GRANMA COLINDALE

Quiet but effective, firm but never stern. You had a calming manner about you worthy of emulation. You were simply graceful. I thank you for your constant love and support to our family. You were a part of our family and no family function was complete without you and Olawunmi present. You were a true and constant friend to our mother until she departed this world nine months ago. Words cannot express our gratitude for the support you gave my siblings and I especially during the past nine months. Your constant words of advice and encouragement, as well as the insight and direction you gave us; Granma you made a very dark time in our lives bearable. You put the roof back on for us but now you are gone and that roof has been blown away again. The feelings of despair and loneliness cannot be described. However, I am accepting of the fact that you been called to a place of greater glory. Where there is no more pain and suffering. A place where one day, we hope to meet again never to be parted no more.

I feel sad we never had that chat as you suggested at the weekend, but I can however imagine the conversation we would have had. I pray that God grants you eternal rest in his bosom and console our sister Olawunmi. Although you are gone from her physically, she will never be alone. I pray God will strengthen and uphold her. I want to remind her that she has always been a part of our family and so will it be forever by God's grace. So Olawunmi you now have 5 siblings, 5 siblings -in-law and countless nephews and nieces!!! Rest in peace Granma Colindale, we love you but God loves you more. Rest in peace until we meet to part no more. You will be forever cherished in our thoughts. So our Sweet Granma Colindale this is goodnight but never goodbye.

Olutoyin Oduyemi (nee Egunjobi).

Tribute to a Loving Mum, Grand Ma.

It is so hard to believe that only a few weeks ago, you were celebrating Dara's birthday with us and now you are peacefully resting in the Lord's bosom. Grandma Colindale as we fondly called you, you were the embodiment of love and will never forget all your words of wisdom, advice and support you gave to me and my family in the most challenging of situations.

Mum, though you are gone, we derive great joy and comfort knowing you are in a better place and your memory will continue to live on in our hearts.

E sun re o.

***Your Children & Grand Child,
Jide, Toyin & Dara Egunjobi***

In Loving Memory of our dear Mum and Colindale Grandma

Selfless, dependable, loving, reliable, caring, wise, quiet, easy-going, full of strength, hard working, pillar of support, counsellor, great listener, un-assuming, impacting lives... these are but few words to describe you, mum.

For as long as I have known myself, you have always been there. I cannot believe you are gone. You were such a wonderful example of a humble and strong woman. You were a true mother and grandmother to us. I would like to say a profound "Thank You" to you for everything: for paying for my wedding dress, for our lengthy chats, for the birthday cards and gift vouchers you sent us unfailingly, year in, year out, (I still do not know how you kept that up every year)... Oh mum, how we would miss you so much!!! We are comforted, knowing that you lived a fulfilled life and you are now resting in the bosom of our Lord, where there is no pain or sorrow. Till we meet again, mum, it is goodbye for now - O digba o!

***Tosin & Damola Salako
and 'The Girls'***



Dearest Aunty

Our earliest memories have always had you in them. As young children you cared for us like your own in your home as we played alongside Ola, our partner in crime. I fondly remember one particular day when I (Tara) had another small toy stuck in my ear and I had to be taken to the clinic to have it removed. Another time I and Ola got 'drunk' on too much coca cola and got very hyperactive at a party, and even as adults you teased us about it. You were always so gracious and so incredibly kind and allowed us the freedom to roam with boundaries without being too strict. I (Dami) will never forget when you first met Ibukun, and how she took one long look at you and then straightaway feel asleep peacefully in your arms. I also with a smile recall you saying you should have come to bathe her 'African style'.

We fondly remember how organized you were. Everything had its place, meals were scheduled, and you were meticulous about creating a clean peaceful atmosphere. Even your notes were always dated and beautifully written. As adults you have always been there for us, at every event and milestone of life. Your quiet assurance and presence was always comforting. Aunty, you will surely be missed, by us and so many others. We know without a shadow of doubt you are in heaven with your maker.

Your memory will always remain with us. We love you very much and miss you sorely. Adieu to our auntie, mummy and grandma.

***Love always
Tara, Damisi, Damola, Ibukun***

Dear God,

If you're listening, my granny died last night. Mum says she's gone to heaven, And dad said, "Yes, that's right!". So, God, if you should see her in heaven, up on high, tell her I shall miss her and I'm trying not to cry

- First Prayers

Oreoluwa Salako

Auntie Aina you've gone, I can't believe you've gone to rest, gone but never forgotten! I remember meeting you when I came to England when I was twelve years old, you were there to guide and encourage me with your kindness and loving smile, oh your smile I will never forget your smile. You would always listen to my inner most thoughts, I also remember that you would appear at Birthdays and Christmas; your generosity was amazing.

If we could have a lifetime wish
A dream that would come true,
We would pray to God with all our hearts
For a yesterday and you.
A thousand words can't bring you back,
We know, because we tried;
And neither will a million tears,
We know, because we cried.
You left behind our broken hearts
And happy memories too.
But we never wanted memories,
We only wanted you.

Rest in Peace Auntie Aina.

Adegboyega Dada



Mama Ola, Mrs. Bankole, Auntie V, Grandma Auntie V, where do we start to remember you? We cannot begin to recount all that you have done for us and our families, if we did there just won't be enough space.

To sum it up, Mama Ola was an absolutely special person and someone that we hold so dear. We cannot think of anyone like her who has added to our lives the way that she did. She had an air of gentleness and kindness about her that was palpable. She was thoughtful in every gesture, full of love and always ready to help. Her advice and help, which she was generous with, was always very practical, extremely useful and given with so much love. Her humility was truly a blessing from God. She has always been there to support us, at every major milestone in our lives, weddings, the birth of our babies (she gave the first bath to every single one of our children), birthdays (we always got a card and gift from Mama Ola and Ola, even for some of us that live in Nigeria). For those of us that lived/ live in the UK, she was like our second mum, making us feel that we had family, even so far away from home. Mama Ola was there for us and has always helped in such practical ways. We are forever grateful.

Mama Ola left a legacy of kindness and love which we will miss, as well as her bright personality and heart-warming smile, there was literally a glow about her that nobody could miss. Our last memory of Mama Ola was at the naming ceremony of the most recent addition to our family. Mama Ola went out of her way to be there, in Cheshunt. She was the only one of our aunties that was there but that surmises her completely. Always there, always kind and never too busy to help. We thank you O God for Auntie V and for how you impacted our lives, we love you and miss you dearly. Our confident prayer is that her soul rest in perfect peace and her spirit lives on

Okikiola, Bobe, Fehintola, Tunde, Laolu, Fariba, Yemi, Yinka, Bimbo, Ayomide, Abis, Bethabel, Boye and all your grandchildren.





BIOGRAPHY

Veronica Aina Elizabeth Bankole (nee Agboh) was born in Lagos on the 18th of May 1946, the first child of Mr and Mrs Agboh.

She attended our Lady of Apostles Convent School, Yaba, Lagos for her primary and secondary school education. She was an extremely bright pupil who excelled at the top of her class and, as a result, a lot of children within the neighbourhood often sought her out as a tutor. After completing her secondary school studies she worked for a while before proceeding abroad in order to further her studies as most aspiring Nigerians did in those days. She did her nurse training in England and excelled at it, becoming a state registered nurse. She proceeded to achieve further qualifications as a state certified midwife, family planning nurse practitioner and a health visitor.

At the insistence of her family she later returned to Nigeria and was appointed as nurse tutor at the then University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University). At the university of Ife, through sheer determination and hard work she turned around the fortunes of the Enuwa Health Centre in Ife turning it into a satellite centre for the training of undergraduate doctors and nurses. Some of the people she trained in midwifery now occupy important positions such as Deans, Professors and even Governor of one of the States of Nigeria. She threw herself into academics obtaining a Master of Arts in Education and also embarked on a Ph.D.

Not long after her marriage to Professor Bankole, the family moved to Lagos. They later both moved to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to work. Her diligence and attention to detail brought her to the attention of Royalty and she was head hunted to initiate and lead on a Health-Visiting Unit within the Royal household. She later returned to the UK. She worked initially in general nursing and then returned to what she loved most, Health Visiting.



*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

