

CELEBRATION OF A LIFE WELL SPENT



Engr.

**BABAJIDE**

**Julius Osahon Benedict**

**AKINWUMI**

1 9 5 0 - 2 0 2 1

*Order of Memorial Mass*  
*for*  
Engr.  
**BABAJIDE**  
**Julius Osahon Benedict**  
**AKINWUMI**  
1 9 5 0 - 2 0 2 1

**Date:** Saturday, 30th October, 2021

**Time:** 12:00pm **WAT** | 7:00am **EST**

**Venue:**

St. Patrick's Catholic Church,  
Basorun, Ibadan

**Ministering:**

Reverend Father Julius Akinyode



## *Order of Mass*

1. Opening Hymn
2. Penitential Rite
3. Opening Prayer
4. First Reading
5. Responsorial Psalm
6. Second Reading
7. Gospel Acclamation
8. Gospel Reading
9. Homily
10. Prayer of the Faithful
11. Offertory Hymns
12. Sanctus
13. Pater Noster
14. Agnus Dei
15. Communion Hymns
16. Prayer after Holy communion
17. Celebration of Life
18. Vote of Thanks by the Family
19. Songs of Farewell
20. Blessing
21. Closing Hymn



## Opening Hymn

### How Great Thou Art

Oh Lord, my God  
When I, in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

And when I think that God, His Son not  
sparing  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died to take away my sin

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

When Christ shall come, with shout of  
acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration  
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou  
art

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art*

## Penitential Rite:

Kyrie Eleison	Lord, Have Mercy
Kyrie Eleison	Lord, Have Mercy
Christe Eleison	Christ, Have Mercy
Christe Eleison	Christ, Have Mercy
Kyrie Eleison	Lord, Have Mercy
Kyrie Eleison	Lord, Have Mercy

## Opening Prayer

Grant we, O Lord that the soul of **Pa. BABAJIDE OSAHON BENEDICT JULIUS AKINWUMI**, your servant may exult forever in the glorious home of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever, Amen.

## First Reading

### Wisdom 4:7-14

**7** But the righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest. **8** For old age is not honored for length of time, nor measured by number of years; **9** but understanding is gray hair for men, and a blameless life is ripe old age. **10** There was one who pleased God and was loved by him, and while living among sinners he was taken up. **11** He was caught up lest evil change his understanding or guile deceive his soul. **12** For the fascination of wickedness obscures what is good, and roving desire perverts the innocent mind. **13** Being perfected in a short time, he fulfilled long years; **14** for his soul was pleasing to the Lord, therefore he took him quickly from the midst of wickedness.

## Responsorial Psalm

### PSALM PS 22. RV.1

**His goodness shall follow me always  
till the end of my days.**

- The Lord is my shepherd ;  
There is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
Where He gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me  
To revive my drooping spirit.
- He guides me along the right path;  
He is true to His name.  
If I should walk in the valley of  
darkness no evil will I fear.  
You are there with your crook and  
Your staff.  
With these You give me comfort



## *Responsorial Psalm*

3. You have prepared a banquet before me  
In the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
My cup is overflowing.
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall  
Follow me  
All the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
Forever and ever.

## *Second Reading*

### **2 Corinthians 5:1, 6-10**

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven. So we are always courageous although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yet we are courageous, and we would rather leave the body and go home to the Lord. Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at home or away. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

## *Gospel Acclamation*

Alleluia, Alleluia! Glory & Praise to You, O Christ

I am the resurrection and the life, says The Lord. Whoever believes in me will never die, Alleluia!

## *Gospel Reading*

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel According to John 11:17-27**

On arriving at Bethany, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathize with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had

come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, He will grant you'. 'Your brother,' said Jesus to her, 'will rise again'.

Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day. Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord', she said, 'I believe that you are the Christ, the son of God the one who was to come into this world'.

THIS IS THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

## *Homily*

**Response: Feti si adura mi o Oluwa**

## *Prayer of the faithful*

Let us pray with faith and confidence to God our Father who raised His Son, Jesus Christ from death, that He may give comfort to the living and eternal rest to the dead.

For our departed father **Pa BABAJIDE OSAHON BENEDICT JULIUS AKINWUMI**, who received the grace of baptism: that he may reap the full fruit as he enjoys the vision of God in the happiness of eternal life. We pray o Lord: Lord hear our prayer.

For the forgiveness of sin: as we remember with love and affection the life of our departed father **Pa BABAJIDE OSAHON BENEDICT JULIUS AKINWUMI**, may he always be in our prayers as we ask God in His mercy to forgive all his sins & grant him a place in the company of the saints.

For the family, relations, friends and



## *Prayer of the faithful*

colleagues who are left to mourn their loss: May they be thinking today not of the darkness of death, but the brightness of the resurrection. And of the day when they will meet again **Pa BABAJIDE OSAHON BENEDICT JULIUS AKINWUMI**, whom they have lost a while. We pray O Lord.

### **Priest:**

Father, because You are the lover of life, in whom there is no darkness or death, we make our prayers, confident that You will answer them, through Christ our Lord. Amen. Amen!!!

## *Offertory Hymns:*

### **Praise, My Soul King of Heaven**

- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet your tribute bring.  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore his praises sing.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise the everlasting King!
- 2 Praise him for his grace and favor  
to his people in distress.  
Praise him, still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Glorious in his faithfulness!
- 3 Fatherlike he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows.  
In his hand he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Widely yet his mercy flows!
- 4 Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise with us the God of grace!

### **Take And Sanctify**

Chr: Take and sanctify for your honour  
Lord, and sanctify these gifts  
Take and sanctify these gifts  
For Your honour Lord.

1. All that I am, all that I do  
Everything I will ever make  
Take my life and take my all  
Everything I will ever have.
2. All that I need, all that I pray  
Everything I will ever have  
Take my life and take my all  
Everything I will ever have.
3. All that I dream, all that I crave  
Everything I will ever be  
Take my life and take my all  
Everything I will ever be.

### **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**

- 1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they  
fail not  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

### *Chr: Great is Thy faithfulness*

#### *Great is Thy faithfulness*

*Morning by morning, new mercies I see  
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me*

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and  
harvest  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love
- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to  
guide  
Strength for today and bright hope for  
tomorrow  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand  
beside



Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning, new mercies I see  
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided

Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Lord, unto me

### *Sanctus*

Chr: Mimo, Mimo o Mimo/2ce  
Mimo, Mimo o Mimo  
Mimo l'olorun Olodumare

1. Orun Oun aye  
Won kun fun ogo re  
Hossana l'oke orun  
Mimo l'olorun Olodumare
2. Ibukun ni f'eni to nbo wa  
L'oruko Olorun wa o  
Hossana l'oke orun  
Mimi l'olorun  
Olodumare (Mimo ni)

### *Pater Noster*

Our Father, who art in Heaven  
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil

### *Agnus Dei*

AGNUS Dei qui tollis peccata mundi dona  
eis requiem  
AGNUS Dei qui tollis peccata mundi dona  
eis requiem  
AGNUS Dei qui tollis peccata mundi dona  
eis requiem sempiternam

### *Communion Hymn (3 Hymns)*

#### **Nearer, My God, to Thee**

1. Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer to thee!  
E'en though it be a cross  
That raiseth me.  
Still all my song shall be  
Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer to thee!
2. Though like the wanderer,  
The sun gone down,  
Darkness be over me,  
My rest a stone,  
Yet in my dreams I'd be  
Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer to thee!
3. There let the way appear,  
Steps unto heav'n;  
All that thou sendest me,  
In mercy giv'n;  
Angels to beckon me  
Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer to thee!
4. Then with my waking thoughts  
Bright with thy praise,  
Out of my stony griefs  
Bethel I'll raise;  
So by my woes to be  
Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer to thee!
5. Or if, on joyful wing  
Cleaving the sky,  
Sun, moon, and stars forgot,  
Upward I fly,  
Still all my song shall be  
Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer, my God, to thee,  
Nearer to thee!



## Communion Hymn

### As the Deer

1. As the deer panteth for the water  
So my soul longeth after Thee  
You are all that my heart desire  
And I long to worship You
2. You alone my strength my shield  
To you alone that my spirit yield  
You alone that my heart desire  
And I long to worship You
3. You're my friend  
And You are my brother  
Giver and God You are the King  
I love you more than any other  
So much more than anything
4. You alone are my strength my shield  
To You alone be my spirit yield  
You alone that my heart desire  
And I long to worship Thee...

### Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch; like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!
3. The Lord hath promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.
4. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we first begun.

## Prayer after Holy Communion

Having received the sacrament of salvation. We employ Your kindness o God, for **Pa BABAJIDE OSAHON BENEDICT JULIUS AKINWUMI**, Your servant that as You made him a steward of Your mysteries on earth, so You may bring him to be nourished by their truth and reality as unveiled in heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

### VOTE OF THANKS BY THE FAMILY

## Songs of farewell

### It is Well With My Soul

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot Thou hast taught me to say,  
  
*"It is well, it is well with my soul!"*  
*It is well with my soul!*  
*It is well, it is well with my soul!*
2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials  
should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,  
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
3. My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious  
thought—  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to His Cross, and I bear it no more;  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
4. For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live;  
If dark hours about me shall roll,  
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life  
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.







# Biography

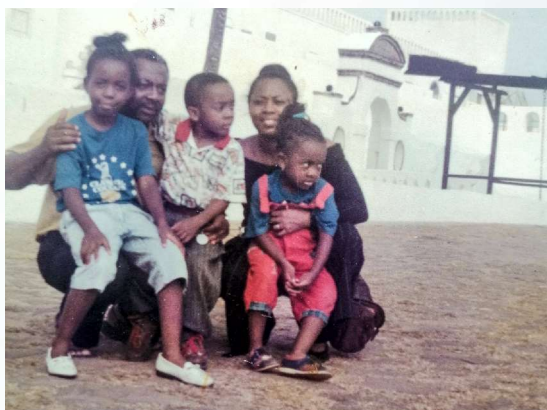


**E**ngineer Julius Babajide Osahon Akinwumi, the son of Sir Emmanuel Oluwole Akinwumi native of Kemta Kobiti Compound, Abeokuta Ogun State and Lady Margaret Esohe Akinwumi neé Okundaye who was a daughter of an Iyase, a traditional High Chief of the Benin Kingdom, was born on the 11th July 1950 at the Benin General Hospital (now Benin Central Hospital), Sapele Road Benin City. His parents were in Benin for the burial of his grandfather, the Iyase, when the child was born, hence the name Babajide (Father has come back). Babajide, or Bob as he would go on to be widely called, was the fourth child and first son of the couple.

He had his primary education at Saint Peter's Anglican School, Ake, Abeokuta, Ogun State from 1955 to 1960 and his secondary education at the renowned Aiyetoro Comprehensive High School, Ogun State, then run by the USAID. Babajide was a technical wunderkind, building his first radio set himself in his preteens. This passion and curiosity for understanding how technologies worked led him to study Physics Engineering at the Fachhochschule Wedel in Hamburg, Germany from 1976 to 1981. After obtaining a master's degree in Engineering, he would later go on to obtain a graduate diploma in International management at Kuebel Stiftung gGmbH from 1983 to 1984. Babajide financed his education working as an electro-technician at a Nuclear Physics Research Centre (working on High Energy Physics) among other places. Between 1982 and 1983, he worked for Volker von Sengbush & Partner on a UNIDO project that sought to promote industrial joint venture activities between EEC and ACP countries.

With a passion to help build and change the trajectory of the African continent, Babajide returned to Nigeria with a sense of duty and purpose. Upon his return, he served as a Youth Corper and Project Manager at the National Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER). At NISER, he worked on a joint venture between the Institute and the German corporation BioCarbon on the production of STTP (Sodium Tripoly Phosphate) in Nigeria. He also facilitated workshops on the integration of local raw materials into the Nigerian Automobile industry.

On the 4th of April 1986, Babajide married Genevieve Ngozi Akinwumi née Anosike, a journalist and media person in Ibadan. Their union was blessed with three children, Yewande (Ivie), Segun (David) and Adjua. He is survived by all of them.

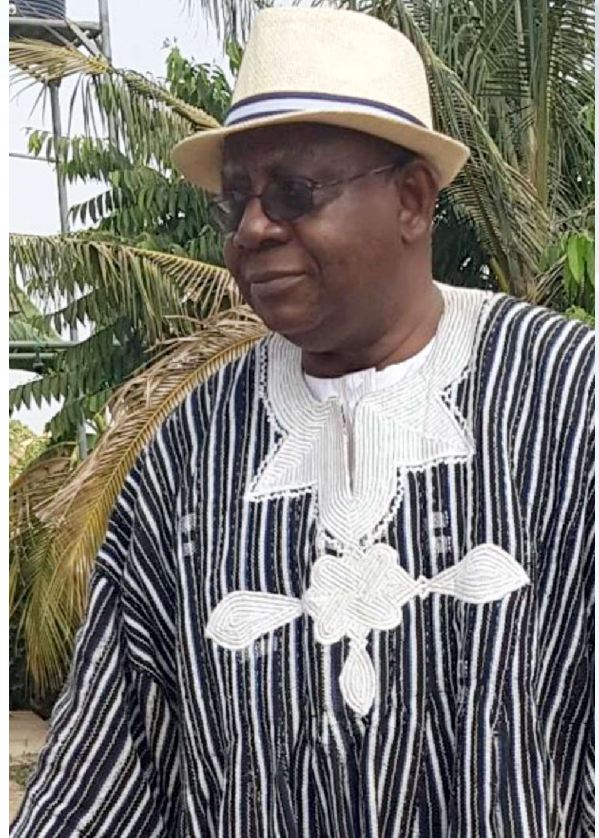




## Biography

He continued his career at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, starting out as a Project Engineer in 1986 and quickly moving on to become Chief Engineer in 1988 for the newly created Cotonou branch in the Republic of Benin. For the next 18 years, he worked within this capacity to help establish the new bureau and develop technical expertise at the station, serving as a mentor and friend to many young engineers and technicians under him. 'Monsieur Bob' soon became a widespread moniker that many fondly remember him by.

An entrepreneurial man with an unrelenting passion for African development, Babajide established numerous private enterprises, which saw him work on government farming contracts and set up a biological soya oil factory in Cotonou. In 2008, he established the consultancy firm NG YASA serving as CEO and consulting Engineer on energy management, alternative energy, electrical, and instrumentation. His clientele included Lagos State University, Niger Delta Exploration & Production Plc, several West African government departments, among many others.



He extended this passion to communities around him, donating his time, skills, and resources to many nonprofits such as the psychiatric hospital, Jacquot hospital, orphanages for physically challenged children among others. He was a devout Christian and served on various committees at his church.

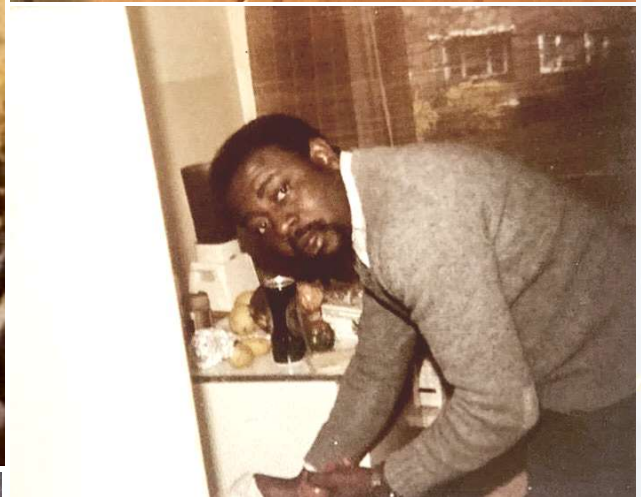
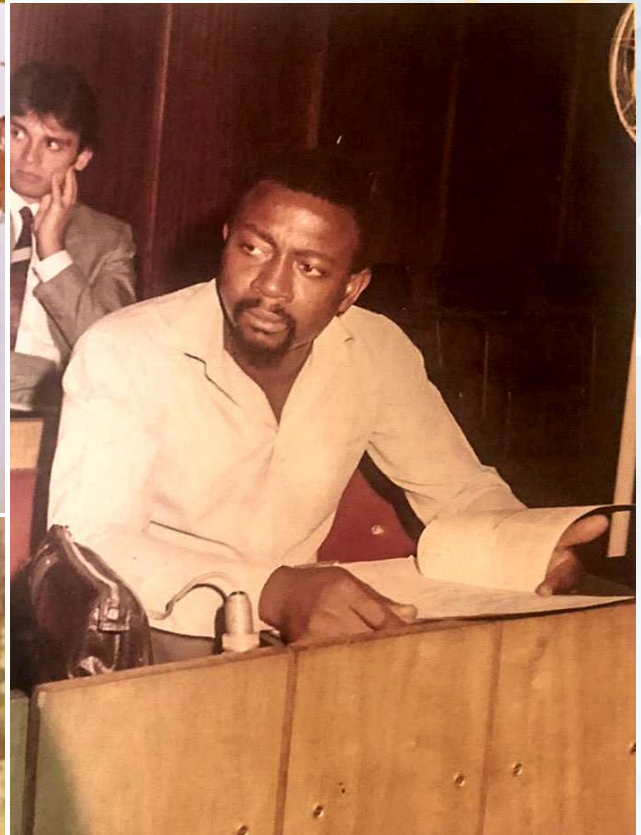


In his personal life, Babajide was an adventurer and avid learner. He was a music enthusiast who taught himself how to play the guitar. He taught himself photography and videography. He earned a boating license in his youth and would later spend many a Sunday afternoon driving his young family in his boat. He began a scuba diving certification in his 60s. He championed traditional medicine and Naturopathy, eagerly sharing with friends and family alike.

Although he was called to glory sooner than his family and friends would have hoped, Babajide lived a full life and his absence is greatly felt by all those he left behind.



# *Pictures* (Early Days)



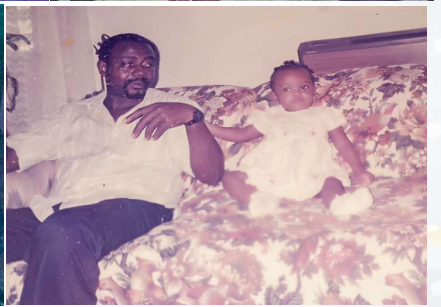
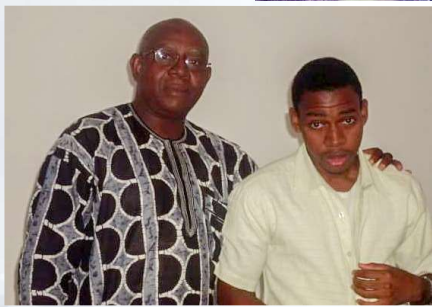
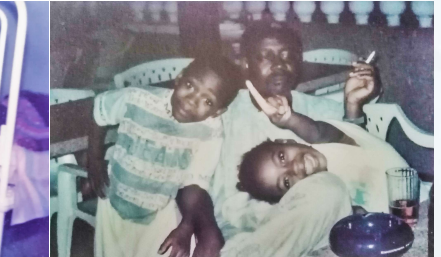


# Pictures (With Family & Friends)





# Pictures (With Family & Friends)





## Pictures (@IITA)



## Pictures (Man of the people)





## Tributes

### Yewande Dosda

"Welcome my son",  
Remember this joke? You had just come home from work and we, in our usual excitement, rushed out to greet you and carry your bag when I playfully gushed "Welcome my son". Confused, you narrowed your gaze at me and I giggled reminding you that I was born on your late mother's birthday so technically, that made you my son. Your cheeks lifted in amusement and you laughed heartily before telling me how you got the name "Babajide". A name given to you because of your birth on the day your beloved mother's father was laid to rest. And just like that, I was back to being your daughter again, this time sharing yet another common trait with you. Our hands, our feet, our left leg with the same birthmark on the exact spot, our premature grey hairs, our intense love of water, adventure, daddy jokes, design, and the simple pleasures of life are now all beautiful reminders of who I am. Your descendant. Your baby girl, as you so often called me. You have left a void that can never be filled but you have also left a great mark on us all. A mark that calls for integrity, intentionality, and ideals. Even in death, you are inspiring. It is an honour to be your descendant and an honour to be called your daughter. As your loving mother now welcomes you home, I achingly bid you farewell until we meet again. Goodbye, my father. Your baby girl,  
Yeye

### Segun Akinwumi

Mr. Akinwumi Snr.  
All I want to do is take you fishing - to make that exception for you and share a bottle of wine together like we were going to. What my heart feels, my head cannot yet make sense of. We were looking forward to so much. You were going to be our accountability partner on the numerous projects Bethanny and I had just embarked on. You gave me so much perspective in our last conversations. Whoever thought they would be our last. We talked about fatherhood.

There's an image, in my head, of Yewande, Adjua, and myself, all hanging from both of your arms, in mid-air.

I've thought about this image quite a lot lately.

Thank you for always being strong enough to carry us.

You loved to carry us everywhere.

Thank you for giving us front-row seats to observe what it means to live a life filled with passion, a life in pursuit of one's dreams, and a life dedicated to helping others.

"Mr. Akinwumi Snr." - as I loved to call you.

Today, the name represents the big shoes that I strive to fill:

It represents integrity, hard work, being prepared, showing up for the ones you love, and never standing on the sidelines.

I love you with all my heart, daddy.

The legacy continues.

Till we meet again.

### Adjua Akinwumi

Moments like this, one is reminded of how limiting words are. How does one express the visceral emotions that come with the loss of a father, protector, role model, counsel, and friend?

You were many things and everything to me, daddy. You know this. When I think of you, I think of laughter first of all. Conversations lasting for hours on end, stories being shared, and so much laughter shared between us. I also think of duty, of what it means to live a meaningful life. I think of your heart that bled for and loved so many; a heart that never stopped seeing beauty in our flawed world. "Remember to stop and smell the roses", you repeated these words so often to me that I now carry them as a mantra.

You lived an exemplary life full of courage, integrity, purpose, a sense of adventure, and so much kindness. You boldly forged your own path and navigated life on your own terms. You were the master of your fate, the captain of your soul. Yet, you were always there to lend a hand to many around you. You gave and you gave and you gave. In every sense of the word, you were a father to me. A father to so many. You have left impossible shoes to fill, a painful void in the lives of those left behind.





## Tributes

There is so much I want to say, so much I wish I told you. I am proud and blessed to walk through this life as your daughter. Every iota of my being will forever love you.

Till we meet again,

*Your last born, your baby girl*

### **Simon Dosda**

Bob,

Your unexpected passing has left an enormous void.

Even though I was lucky to have had met you once, I will never forget my short stay with you.

I am deeply inspired by your generosity, fervent adventure-seeking, sense of purpose, and constant drive to better the lives of those around you.

I am, particularly, a great admirer of the way you lived your life - according to your own values and rules; always giving the best of yourself and inciting everyone to do the same.

In my sadness, however, I remain grateful to have had met you in person.

You are a father to me, a remarkable and exemplary one that will continue to guide me for the rest of my life.

For even if heroes die, the memory of their deeds is immortal.

Rest in peace.

*Simon*

### **Bethanny Akinwumi**

To my incredible father-in-law,

It was truly an honor to call you my father. Your love, kindness, wisdom, and generosity will never be forgotten.

You were a shining light that helped guide me through this journey called life. And although you've been called up to heaven your impact will remain.

Just like a star shines well beyond its existence in the sky; your light will continue to shine for generations on this earth.

I cherish every conversation we had and I'll cherish my memories of you for the rest of my life.

Until we meet again.

### **Bukola Soji-Taiwo**

An ode to my beloved Uncle Bob.

While growing up, I fondly enjoyed the company of my Uncle Osato. Yet, I learned I had another Uncle, his brother, abroad, Germany, to be precise.

Eventually, we "met", I marveled at his style. We, his nieces and nephews, ALL looked up to him. There was just some unique air around him.

Earlier periods, I knew him as Uncle Jide. But when I visited in Benin Republic, I teased him, calling him Monsieur Bob, as most people around called him. He would always carry out conversations with me in French whenever I so initiated (though yapping my street French, but I would in defense say, I had little or no chance to practice). Hmmmnnn.... C'est vrai Oncle? Vous avez parti?

He was one to encourage you to be the best version of you.

Modestly describing him in two words: DISCIPLINE & ADVENTURE, does anyone wanna dispute this?

My husband and I pitched our honeymoon close to him at Hotel de la Plage. He took my daughter and along with my aburos, his children, swimming in the Atlantic waters and taught us the techniques to move with the waves. This gave me confidence to do same when I visited Manila.

When he learned about my interest in Naturopathy/herbal remedies, himself being a staunch practitioner of same, he not only encouraged me. He physically took me to herbal stores in Cotonou and Lome, in order to show me where I could buy products for my herbal shop.

He gave me my first car - a cute Volkswagen which I repainted into a pastel yellow colour and my hubby and I christened it "Rhema".

Jevous manque, mon chère Oncle

Space and time will not permit me to document our Ouidah pouponnière journeys... Phew!!

Though an internationally acclaimed Engineer, he was (did I just use past tense?? Lord have mercy), a man of many parts with a magnanimous heart.

If you, reader, ever hear someone called, 'lover of children' and/or 'lover of the less privileged', you can be sure its my Uncle Bob that is being referred to.

Recently, when I told him I was studying Spanish

My imaginary conversation with my Uncle, whom my children fondly call Grandpa Bob:

Me: Are you truly no longer with us?

Him: Yes Bukkie. I am resting. All is vanity. Keep up the good work of the Lord.

..... *signed Bhoockey #EnFreYoSpa*



## Tributes

### Seyi Alade

Where do I start from? Uncle Bob was like a father to me ... ever so patient and understanding. As your "official ADC" you taught me so many things about life and these are things that I will cherish forever. I always admired how you enjoyed thinking outside of the box when we confronted all types of situations and this has helped me become the person I am today.

I have so many stories of our times together and those memories I will always hold dear to me...

You will be greatly missed Uncle Bob by myself and my family.

Rest in perfect peace!

### Funmilayo Olopade (Niece)

Dear Uncle Bob,

I can never forget when I first met you as you returned from Germany. We developed such a bond that earned me the place as your 'first girlfriend'. It has really been a pleasure to know you, a smart, solution-oriented, very practical, yet so caring and generous person. You have touched, so so many lives and we shall all never ever forget you.

Thank you for sharing your life and love with us.

You will be sorely missed!!

### Rotimi & Abiola Alade

It still feels like a dream you are gone to soon Uncle Bob. We are at loss for words and cannot express how we truly feel.

"Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal," they say.

We will always cherish the beautiful memories we have of you today and forever.

May your gentle soul rest in perfect peace.

We love you Uncle Bob and miss you always.

### Leke Alade

Uncle Bob,

It's taken me so much to write this tribute. It still feels so unreal. No words can express how great a man you were. You were a good man. Kind, hard-working, selfless, full of life...are some of the attributes that describe the life you lived.

I really do miss you, and I pray that you are happy wherever you are.

Thank you for all the amazing memories and support. You are loved and truly missed.

Good night, till we see again.

### Niyi Olagoke

Dear Uncle

It's hard to accept this sudden reality, everything seems like a temporary moment that I anxiously await to pass. I constantly play back all our conversations, jokes and arguments, hoping to find something I may have missed and wishing we spent more time before this rude shock.

Without a doubt you made me a better man and your impact in my life will outlive me.

I will forever miss you Uncle.

Love beyond words.

Niyi

### Damilola Adesina

Dear daddy,

It has taken me weeks to process and to finally accept that you have gone to rest, Do I miss you? yes so much it hurts. Your laughter keeps ringing and I can still clearly see your face each time we talk on the phone or sit down to have a conversation, Daddy, like I fondly called you, you were the true definition of what a father should be called, so intentional and compassionate. Thank you for the years you loved me like your own, thank you for the years you opened your home to me, thank you for accepting me in totality and loving with no reservations.

Daddy, wish you had stayed a little longer, I was going to bring that bottle of wine.

I promise to keep making you proud. I promise to achieve all I told you when I was leaving Nigeria, I promise to be there always for your baby, Adjua, and I promise to still bring that wine when I come home.

Till that day, daddy, keep resting and laughing with the angels. You will forever be in my heart.

Your Daughter,

Damilola.

### Ilesanmi Francis

Bob, yes you thoroughly were worried and you missed me while I was hospitalized in the UK. You called regularly to check on me and wished me well. I returned and you were very happy.

After I returned, we spoke regularly as I recuperated. When I called few days before your demise, to tell you that I will soon visit you, you said, as usual, I will expect you when I see you. This first attempt to pay



## Tributes

you a surprise weekend visit to Ibadan on Sunday was not successful as I called on arrival in Ibadan your phone rang until it rang no more. I suspected you had traveled to Cotonou. It was to be a wonderful reunion after over one year of missing ourselves. You never called back as you normally would. I got more worried but never suspected any danger. When I got a call from our associate on Monday morning, I laid my complaint that I could not reach you the previous day in Ibadan. To my great surprise, I was told you were in UCH and critically ill. Within 30mins I got called back that you passed. It is regrettable that we never got to see even for once.

We missed ourselves for one and a half years and painfully never had the opportunity to reunite again. Now I have missed you Bob forever.

We got along because we both have some common traits and you already were comfortable with me as an EGBON that can be loved and I loved you too which you know.

The members of the All saints' Catholic church Ipetu-ijesha will miss you.

Bob, this your "Egbon" as you call me and my entire household will miss your presence in Ipetu.

The members of the Board of TITILAYO ILESANMI FOUNDATION will miss you.

Our consolation, by our faith, is that we shall meet again.

Thank you, BOB for being a GOOD AND TRUSTWORTHY BROTHER AND FRIEND.

Sleep well BOB.

### **Bisi Soboyejo**

I still cannot find the words to write a tribute since getting your email address from Dr. Tamo. I am still in shock.

Bob and I have come a long way, since our days at the Comprehensive High School, Aiyetoro, Nigeria, in 1965-66, where I did my advanced level course.

I did not get to see him till 32 years later, in 1998.

My ten years at IITA-Benin were most memorable because of him. He was my first port of call. He always had my back and I always had his. I recall the days of the "Legba" attack at the PPS, our Works Department, when a big fetish, with a goat-head, on which had been generously sprinkled some fresh palm-oil, was dropped in front of his office, with some palm-fronds on his car as well. He ran to me and

together we strategized to handle it in a diplomatic style, by involving the Nigerian Mission to Benin. Meanwhile, I gave him a temporary office in the Administration Office to facilitate his work and it took us two weeks to dislodge the attack, quite peacefully.

Bob was never daunted by challenges, be they engineering, technical or social. In fact he courted challenges and always came out swinging when so confronted. He was always reliable, however short the notice.

We remained in contact even after we had left Cotonou and I was extremely delighted to see him at my daughter's wedding in Abeokuta in 2016, with Adjua, his daughter. Little did I know that it would be for the last time.

I pray that the Good Lord grants him eternal rest and comforts the family he has left behind.

He will be sorely missed.

Paix à son âme.

### **Chuks Onianwa**

He was Monsieur Bob to his staff at IITA but to us Nigerians who worked with him in a foreign land, he was papa Bob, our big brother.

He supported and guided us through some of the most challenging times of working in a foreign land, amidst the different cultures, languages and the politics. He was a true friend, an elder states man who stood up for us when we needed a helping hand. My relationship with Monsieur Bob grew steadily as I learned more about him. We shared some common experiences and I soon began to rely on his wisdom and seek his advise on many occasions.

Bob was an "open book", a straight shooter. Bob was always sincere with no apology and I respected his simple approach to life.

Bob left us a trail of good examples to follow, his kindness, love, compassion for others, joy and his faith in God inspired those who knew him.

I will miss him dearly. Each time I think back to the times we shared together, a smile crosses my face. He was a good man, a great friend and father.

May God wipe the tears from the eyes of his family members and replace it with wonderful memories...

Amen!

May God bless the soul of my special friend, my mentor BOB AKINWUNMI, who gave such love and



## Tributes

care willingly. AMEN...

*Chiweta Onianwa*

*(Former, IITA- Ibadan and Benin Rep)*

*Coney Island Hospital,*

*Brooklyn, New York*

### **Nicole Tayo**

Sir Bob Akinwumi is a kind man. Thank you for your words of encouragement and advices during my college years. Thank you for extending financial assistance when we were in dire need of funds for my brain operation. Your monetary help and prayers of healing are greatly appreciated. Thank you touching the lives of many through your kindness and generosity. May your soul rest in peace. Thank you.

*Engr. Nicole Tayo*

*Philippines*

### **Hans Heren**

Dear Akinwumi Family,

It is with great sadness that I learned of Bob's passing this morning. Bob was a friend, colleague and respected staff member of the Africa-Wide Biocontrol program. I can't remember the year I did hire him as our engineer, to manage all aspect of the very biocontrol program, from insect rearing equipment to the mechanical workshop and labs. He fulfilled his duties with skill and dedication to work well done and was appreciated by all staff for his friendliness and readiness to assist.

He will be missed as a great colleague and key supporting staff member of the Biocontrol program.

Let me send my deepest condolences and thoughts to his family in these difficult times.

*Hans*

### **Oyinlola Sylvia**

Engineer Bob,

I met you during your second tour with IITA Benin. However, you were God-sent. A significant project and the success of taking over from AfricaRice would not have been possible without your expertise, counsel, and advice of an elder. I wish we had more time to talk about your love for farming, fishing, and Benin, but I guess it is time for you to take you to a place in the realm of angels.

Rest Well, Sir.

### **Gabriel Heviefo**

Bob is a highly regarded former figure of IITA-Benin with fruitful collaborations. Peace to his soul.

*Gabriel*

### **Steve Yaninek (Purdue)**

Bob was a great colleague, and more importantly a valued friend. He will be missed. My sincere condolences to the Akinwumi family.

*Steve*

### **Christian Borgemeister**

Like so many I have very, very fond memories of Bob. For me he was the perfect combination of a very devoted and practical engineer, always eager to find a simple solution for supposedly complicated problems. And more so he was a very good friend and excellent colleague. Please convey my heartfelt condolences and best wishes to his family. He will always stay in our hearts.

### **Francois Tosse**

Bob is one of the pioneers of Benin Station. We can never forget him.

That his soul rest in peace.

### **Gontran Honfoga**

He was very important in the technical and practical training that we received after the studies, with his rigor and his sense of work well done followed by proactivity. He is unforgettable.

May his soul rest in peace.

*Gontran Honfoga*

### **Robert Asiedu**

Bob was indeed a great colleague and an excellent professional.

May his soul rest peacefully.

*Robert*

### **Manu Tamo**

Old-timers like me will remember Bob in earlier days of the Biocontrol gang, and more recently, he was instrumental in resurrecting our old generator which was decommissioned by the former administration and left in the rain in Ibadan for several years. Bob was a great colleague, a professional engineer with a passion for details,



## Tributes

always trying to find practical solutions to difficult problems.

He will always be remembered for his great heart, enthusiasm, and courage.

May his soul rest in peace.

*Manu*

### Soeur Sabine M. Glélè

Je suis très peinée d'apprendre le décès de notre cher Papa Bob Akinwumi.

Pendant près de 15 ans, notre ami notre bienfaiteur, notre Papa-Bob comme l'appelle les enfants poly-handicapés du centre les Archanges de Dékanmè.

Papa-Bob nous rendait visite aux grandes fêtes avec des cadeaux, des vivres du savons pour le centre selon ses moyens. Il était généreux et très paternel avec les enfants. Le 11 juillet de chaque année, jour de son anniversaire, il venait avec tout ce qu'il faut pour un bon petit déjeuner pour les enfants et cela pour un bon mois et ils étaient une vingtaine. Il venait avec ses enfants: Yewande, Adjoua, Shégun qui avait à peine 9 ans. Il a voulu que chacun d'eux choisisse un filleul parmi les handicapés .il leur communiquait déjà son sens de générosité et de partage avec les plus pauvres, les moins nantis.

Grâce à Papa-Bob, nous avons beaucoup d'amis nigériens, Associations et groupes de prière qui nous visitaient avec des dons pour les enfants.

Un de mes grands souvenirs, est la belle fête que nous avons vécu le jour de ses 50 ans avec ses enfants, sa famille ses amis venu du Nigeria, de Cotonou.

Papa-Bob est un homme de prière, un homme de coeur, un homme qui a connu la souffrance, un homme de foi.

De son temps de service à IITA, il nous a replanté tout notre champ de manioc sur notre ferme et nous jouissons encore de cette bonne qualité de manioc. Nous avons profité de son huile de soja pour la cuisine du centre lors de son initiative pour la création d'une huilerie de soja.

Même en service au Nigéria, papa -Bob nous rendait visite et restait en contact avec nous.

Son départ brutal nous touche profondément. Messes et prières seront dites pour le repos de son âme, afin qu'il entre vite dans la béatitude éternelle.

Papa-Bob, pour nous tu es vivant chez le Bon Dieu et nous n'aimerions pas que ton départ de cette terre soit la fin de votre amitié, de votre soutien paternel

avec tes enfants: Les Archanges de Dekanmé. Continue de la -haut de les soutenir comme tu le ferais pour les enfants et petits enfants et toute ta famille.

Toutes nos condoléances à la famille particulièrement à Yewande, Adjua, Segun et leur maman.

Papa-Bob merci pour tout.

Repose en paix.

Au nom des enfants du Centre les Archanges de Dekanmè, et de tout le personnel .

### Tribute To Engineer Julius Babajide Akinwumi

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (KJV) *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.* Eng. Bob Akinwumi as fondly called , is the younger brother to Mrs Remi Alade , the Proprietor of ESOHE MEMORIAL KINDERLAND NURSERY/PRIMARY and STARLITE COLLEGE IBADAN.

We testify that you were a man of integrity, kind hearted, friendly , industrious, philanthropic and father to many in need. You were a great supporter of quality education, creativity and Sports..

How can we forget how you sponsored a workshop on the art of turning "Trash to Treasure?"

You brought an artist from Abeokuta who trained the students on how to recycle empty cans to create beautiful wall decorations .You supported all our Schools Interhouse Sports Competitions.

The Visit by the SCI final year Students to your Fish ponds for practical Fishery demonstrations and lectures on the importance of Science Education, were so much appreciated and will be greatly missed.

We , the Management, Staff, Parents and Students of EMK & SCI are blessed to have known you. You have come , done your bit and we are sure you are resting peacefully with the Lord Jesus Christ , the Hope of our glory. Goodnight Engineer Bob. We will always remember your words of encouragement and contributions to our generation.



## *Appreciation*

*Your comforting presence at our father's funeral service is appreciated more than words can fully express. We cannot thank you enough for your generosity, love and prayers. We pray that God will bless you and take you back to your various destinations safely.*

*Thank you so much.*